



2023

# Quality Care for Surgery Patients

Society for Vascular  
Surgery's Vascular  
Quality Initiative

**SVS** | **VQI**

VASCULAR QUALITY INITIATIVE

- In 2019, Nova Scotia Health joined the Society for Vascular Surgery's Vascular Quality Initiative (SVS VQI). This program includes more than 1,000 hospitals throughout North America, including hospitals in Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.
- This program was developed by surgeons to improve the quality, safety, and effectiveness of surgical care. The program:
  - › makes hospitals aware of issues you may have during or after surgery.
  - › uses information from your 1-year follow-up visit to check for long-term complications.
- Knowing about these issues helps us:
  - › make surgeries safer.
  - › make sure patients have the best possible results from their surgery.

### **How does the VQI work?**


- Surgical Clinical Nurse Reviewers review the 6 most common vascular surgeries done at Nova Scotia Health. These reviewers are Registered Nurses (RNs).

- They collect information about your health and surgery from your health record. For example, they look at:
  - › your health history.
  - › your past surgeries.
  - › any complications you may have had.
- If they need more information, they will contact you 30 days after your surgery to ask follow-up questions. **It is up to you whether or not you take part.** The call usually takes less than 10 minutes, and you can stop at any time.
- Questions may include:
  - › “Did you see a doctor or another health care provider after your surgery?”
  - › “Did you have an infection, a fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F), or breathing problems?”
- They will enter this information in the SVS VQI database to compare to data from other hospitals.
- Nova Scotia Health then gets a report so we can see what we are doing well and what we could be doing better. This data helps us improve, keep up, and set goals for the future.

## **Is my personal information safe?**

- We are committed to protecting your personal health information. **We do not enter any information in the database that could be used to identify you.**

## **Why do you follow up 30 days and 1 year after surgery?**

- Following up with patients after they go home can help us find and track complications. This helps us improve patient care.
  - Vascular patients often need ongoing treatment and monitoring. This is because vascular conditions are often related to other chronic health problems (like diabetes, obesity, smoking, and coronary artery disease).
  - It is important to have a follow-up appointment about 1 year after your surgery to make sure you are recovering well and do not need more care.
  - Your surgeon's office will contact you about 1 year after your surgery to book a follow-up visit. During this visit, your surgeon may:
    - › ask if you have been taking your medications.
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- › ask you to have tests (like a CT scan) to make sure you are recovering well.
- If you do not receive an appointment to see your surgeon 1 year after your surgery, please call your surgeon's office.

## Questions?

- › Email: [ACS-NSQIP@nshealth.ca](mailto:ACS-NSQIP@nshealth.ca)

## For more information about VQI, visit:

- › [www.vqi.org](http://www.vqi.org)

For more vascular surgery patient information, scan the QR code or visit:

- › <https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Vascular-Surgery>



## **Patient/Family Feedback**

- › Phone (toll-free): 1-844-884-4177
- › Hours: Monday to Friday,  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Find the Patient Relations Contact in your area:**

Annapolis Valley, South West, and South Shore Areas

- › Email:  
[WZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca](mailto:WZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca)

Colchester, Cumberland, Pictou County, and East Hants areas

- › Email:  
[NZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca](mailto:NZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca)

Cape Breton, Antigonish and Guysborough Areas

- › Email:  
[EZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca](mailto:EZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca)

Halifax Regional Municipality, Eastern Shore and West Hants Areas

- › Email:  
[CZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca](mailto:CZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca)

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