

President's Message

Carol Myer, RN, BSN, CPHQ

Greetings!

Welcome to 2004. As we struggle through the cold days of winter, we are also facing new challenges. Whoever said the life of a Quality Professional was easy, or calm? Several of us will be experiencing the new JCAHO Survey process this year. Others are contemplating alternative accreditation options. And it seems that no matter which type of health care setting you work in, we are all seeing increased demands for publicly available information. All of these topics and more are on the minds of the members of your Board and the Program Committee as they plan future events including the Annual Conference (see article later in newsletter). Remember IAHQ is your organization. Please share your thoughts, concerns, and yes (!) requests with any of your Board members. We do value your opinions and want to meet your needs.

INTERCHANGE

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Mark Your Calendar



Annual Educational Program Report

Kerry Wrigley, Program Chair

The next Annual Educational Program will be held on Thursday, **April 29th, 2004** at the Holiday Inn, Matteson, IL. Over the next few years, the demand for public accountability and performance measurements is expected to continue to increase. Consumers are seeking information to help them in their healthcare decision making process. The need for process, outcome, and patient experience information is expected to increase dramatically. To help you prepare for these upcoming challenges, IAHQ has brought together experts on these topics to give insight and advice on how to effectively implement these changes.

- American Hospital Association's vision and role in the Quality Initiative
- How hospitals will be held accountable for the "Illinois Hospital Report Card Act"
- Hear from a Master Black Belt on how to implement a Six Sigma project
- JCAHO Periodic Performance Review
- Learn about the hottest topic in patient safety "Crew Resource Management"

Welcome Members

Welcome Members

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Janet Stifter

IAHQ would like to welcome our members who joined or renewed their membership during July - December 2003. IAHQ has 187 active members at this time.

You can check the status of your membership by going to www.iahq.net and click on Member log in. Your Login ID and password will be sent to you via email providing you gave one. You can update your profile on this page.

Lisa Beck	RN	Utlaut Memorial Hospital
Angela Butler	CPHQ	Oak Forest Hospital
Ramona Cheek	CPHQ	Carle Foundation
Marsha Cummings	RN BSN	St. Margaret's Hospital
Jeannette Dragland	RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Vicki Felger	CPHQ RN	Genesis Medical Center
Mary Finley	RN CPHQ	St. Anthony's Memorial Hosp.
Gail Francis		Our Lady of the Resurrection
JoAnne Gasienica	RN	University of Chicago Hospitals
Kathleen Gast	MSN, CPHQ	Rush University Medical Center
Tammy Gray	BA, CPHQ	Childrens Memorial Hospital
Clyde Grooms		CNDNet, Inc.
Marcia B. Hargreaves	MS	Rush University Medical Center
Colleen M. Hoelzer	RN	Valley Home Health Services
Ruth P. Holloway		Sparta Community Hospital
Mary Ellen Kamprath	RN BSN CPHQ	Blessing Hospital
Cheryl Kapacinskas	RN RHIA CPHQ	CGH Medical Center
Glenda Koeller		Freeport Health Network
Leslie J. LaBelle	MSN MBA RN	LaBelle & Associates, Inc.
Janet C. Lane	ART CPHQ	Ill. Foundation for Quality Health Care
Michelle McCarthy	RN MSN	St John's Hospital
Deanna McFadden	CPHQ	
Deborah Miller	CPHQ	Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Susan Murray	RN BSN CPHQ MS	Memorial Hospital of Carbondale
Melinda L. Orlando	RN CPHQ MA	The Mihalik Group
Sandra Otten		Memorial Hospital
Renee C. Potter	CPHQ	
Gabrielle M. Scaccia		RHIA CPHQ MBA
Sandra Schlager	RN BA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Mary Schore	RN BSN MSN	Riverside Medical Center
Kathleen S. Self	RN BSN CPHQ	St. Francis Medical Center
Cheryl Simmons	RN CPHQ MS	OSF St. James-John Albright Medical Ctr.
Tina Spector		Alexian Brothers Medical Center
Barbara Stockton	RHIA	Kathrine Shaw Bethea Hospital
Damita P. Wilson	RN BS BSN MSN MPA	Cook County Hospital

A couple of weeks ago, a colleague and I were talking quality...you know; cool stuff. And a question came up about a situation that she was having at work.

It seems that there is a drug that the hospital is interested in using but there has been debate about how best to convince everyone involved that it will perform as advertised. The long and the short of it is that one group feels that, to statistically test for a significant effect, a sample size of several hundred and maybe as many as a thousand patients would have to be monitored. The down side is that the hospital sees less than one hundred candidate patients in a year. At this rate, by the time they have enough data to crunch, nobody remember why the data was being collected in the first place. On the other side of the issue are those that feel that a much smaller sample size might be used and still provide a solid basis for adopting the drug. I was asked for my opinion.

I usually smile to myself when this happens as I remember a particularly lively session in advanced stats. The professor decided to have some fun with the class and posed a hypothesis test for us to consider. He then asked what we thought the sample size should be. The usual debate ensued and he allowed several "creative" individuals express their opinions. When the din subsided, he very calmly stated, "Sample size is never an opinion...it's a calculation."

I proceeded to ask my colleague a few questions about the drug issue. The first thing I wanted to know concerned the data used to measure whether the drug was effective or not. I found that this was a lab value (continuous data) and that there was a "normal" range with a nominal value. There was also a range and nominal value for patients that are a candidate for receiving the drug.

What I just defined, in statistical terms, is the data classification, the variability and nominal value of the test statistic at both levels of interest and the effect size or the amount of change that will be considered significant. The only thing left to do is to look at some data from each of the two groups (normal and candidate) to determine the underlying nature of the distribution (normally distributed or something else), estimate the variability (standard deviation for normal distributions) and then calculate the sample size.

It really is just that simple. Interestingly enough, based on the information that my colleague had during our discussion, I am confident that our calculated sample size would end up in the tens or less instead of the hundreds or thousands.

So, the next time you find yourself in that situation where people are throwing them around like they were playing the lottery, remember, sample size is never an opinion...it's a calculation!

If you have any questions about this article or any other issue involving QI/PI and Patient Safety, please don't hesitate to call me, toll free, at 1-877-426-3638 or send me an email at ClydeG@cndnetweb.com. Also, don't forget to check out the free resources on my website at www.cndnetweb.com.

www.IAHQ.net

New look and New web address

Check it out!

IAHQ's Technology Chairperson, Clyde Grooms, has redesigned our web page to make it more useful for our members. You can maintain your membership profile on-line under the Members Section. The phone conference and annual program educational materials will be available for download under the Educational Opportunity page. Members will be able to advertise employment opportunities openings for free. If you have any questions about the web site please direct them to Clyde Grooms at clydeg@cndnetweb.com

IAHQ Home Page - Netscape

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PDF Files

About IAHQ

Since 1976, the primary purpose of the Illinois Association for Healthcare Quality (IAHQ) has been to provide healthcare professionals with a forum for education, networking and opportunities for professional growth. IAHQ is a not-for-profit association.

Our Mission

To promote quality healthcare through education and professional collaboration.

Our Vision

IAHQ will be a leader in providing education, networking and resources to promote the development of professionals in all aspects of healthcare quality.

Web Site Hot Links!

If you know of a site with useful information that you would like to share, please email the link to clydeg@cndnetweb.com

Patient Education Tools

If you are looking for some patient education tools, you'll find lots of resources on the patient education web site of the VA Health Network in Upstate New York. Their patient education site includes health education publications designed especially for veteran patients as well as resources of interest to patient educators. In addition, the site includes links to other sites that contain additional patient education resources. The VA patient education web site is www1.va.gov/visns/visn02/vet/ed/index.cfm

www.brownspace.com Brown-Spath & Associates offers health care leaders high quality resources on performance improvement topics. Free on-line resources and a FREE download for Patient Safety Training Resources and FMEA training.

www.MedQIC.org The CMS has created this comprehensive online resource of quality improvement information for Medicare's National Quality Improvement Priority Topics. Information on MedQIC is organized by settings and clinical topics and includes resources for each Medicare Priority Topic. You also may search the entire database for literature, tools, and other information related to improving quality of care.



Illinois Association for Healthcare Quality 2nd Quarter FY03-04 October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003

INFLOWS	
Interest	7.05
Job Posting - Web Site	50.00
Membership	1,100.00

TOTAL INFLOWS	1,157.05
OUTFLOWS	
Administrative	4.95
Administrative - Audio Meeting	334.65
Annual Fee	15.00
BOND	188.03
CONF2003	377.60
Data Processing	29.95
Internet Service	100.00
Postage	0.37
Refund Of IRS Penalty	-248.08
Tax Service	175.00
Telecommunications	45.50
Web Page	825.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	1,847.97

OVERALL TOTAL	-690.92

How IAHQ Protects your personal information

IAHQ receives requests for mailing labels periodically. It is our policy to only release the mailing address you have provided. No phone numbers or email address will be released to anyone. Although the membership information is posted on our website, it is password protected for active IAHQ members only. This information is provided for networking opportunities within the IAHQ association.

Phone Conferences 2004

For more information or to suggest a topic contact Kerry Wrigley at kwrigley@memhosp.com or 618-257-5328

IAHQ will sponsor a phone conference on **March 18th, 2004 at 10:00am** for the "Integrated Clinical Information System and the Impact on Patient Safety".

Donna McHale, Focus Consulting, will discuss the stages for implementing ICIS, roadblocks encountered and the important role that the QI Professional plays in a successful implementation.

Future Phone Conference Topics Dates To Be Announced:

- A Hospital's Experience with changing from the JCAHO accreditation to the American Osteopathic Association Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program.
- The Quest for the Baldrige Award: Foundation for Excellence
- JCAHO Accreditation Survey - A Hospital's Recent Experience

2003 - 2004 Board of Directors

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