

# Perioperative Orthopedic Quality & Safety Newsletter

**A Quarterly Newsletter from the Columbia Orthopedics Quality Team**

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*As fall begins and staff from across the medical center return from their summer holidays, the quality team at Columbia Orthopedics is excited to continue sharing news from the field and updates from the department. In August, we successfully held our annual Quality Retreat and look forward to dedicating our efforts to make care better.*

*As always, we look forward to sharing more stories on our journey to excellence together. Contact [kw2561@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:kw2561@cumc.columbia.edu) if you are interested in learning more.*

*Kevin Wang, Director, Quality & Value  
Michael Vitale, MD MPH, Chief Quality & Strategy Officer  
William Levine, MD, Chairman*



*Vice Chair for Medical Affairs, [Dr. Mark Weidenbaum](#), address the quality and clinical teams at Columbia Orthopedics at the annual quality retreat.*

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### [Best Practices for Preventing Wrong Level Spine Surgery](#)

Despite being a "never", wrong-level spine surgery still occurs in the United States. At the 2nd Annual Spine Safety Summit, the Spinal Deformity Club issued a consensus-based best practice guideline to prevent wrong-level spine surgery. NewYork-Presbyterian has also committed to eliminating wrong-level spine surgery as a 2017 Quality Goal. [Dr. Vitale](#) has adapted this to be an [electronic checklist](#) available to all beginning this week. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### [What Cycling Can Teach Surgeons in Improving Performance](#)

In this HBR article, Sir David Brailsford, the head of British Cycling and Team Sky discusses how the team used lean, and specifically the concept of continuous improvement by 1%, to achieve significant aggregated increases in performance. Similar concepts are now being used at Columbia Orthopedics to achieve quality improvement using lean management and Vice-Chair of Research, [Dr. Chris Ahmad](#) has discussed how continuous improvement could be applied to [improving surgical performance in his latest book, Skill.](#)

### [Implementing Patient-Reported Outcomes Effectively](#)

With increasing importance in demonstrating value, healthcare providers are obligated to improving the lives of patients. But how do you measure symptoms or functions? In this article, Partners Healthcare illustrates how they applied it to their entire health system. In the next few years, this will be critical to demonstrating quality, including in some payment models like CJR for hip & knee surgery. [Important considerations are mastering efficient measurement, minimizing reporting burden, displaying PRO information at the point of care, and using outcomes to inform patient expectations.](#)

### [Controversies in Quality Reporting](#)

In this JAMA Viewpoint, SVP for Patient Safety & Quality, Dr. Peter Pronovost and his colleagues propose creating standards for the public reporting of hospital quality measures. It may be critical for healthcare delivery groups to create these standards before others define it for them. Additionally, [Dr. Ashish Jha points out that many times, hospitals are the targets of hospital reporting but that it is also important to carefully design metrics to measure surgeon performance.](#) Columbia Orthopedics regularly distributes surgeon-specific dashboards in order to drive quality improvement.