



Sustainability Workgroup Meeting

Date: May 12, 2025, 1pm - 2pm EST via Zoom

Attendance

Henrietta Addo, MSN, RN MPOG QI Specialist	Jonathan Paul, MD Columbia University
Kate Buehler, MS, RN MPOG Clinical Program Manager	Anjan Saha, MD, PhD Columbia University
Nick Delasio, MD Johns Hopkins	Nirav Shah, MD MPOG Quality Director
Tony Edelman, MD, MBA MPOG Associate QI Director	Ben Stam, MD Corewell West and UM West
Eva Lu-Boettcher, MD University of Wisconsin	Meridith Wade, MSN, RN MPOG Pediatric Program Manager
Katie O' Connor, MD, MBA Johns Hopkins	

Summary of meeting:

The meeting was focused on discussing several measures related to reducing the environmental footprint of anesthesia practices, as well as planning for an upcoming quality committee meeting.

Agenda included the following topics:

- Review of recommendations from the [April Workgroup meeting](#)
- Review SUS-03 in detail
- Broad Discussion Topic: Sustainable practices related to laryngoscope use and decommissioning nitrous pipelines.

Key takeaways and actions from the meeting included:

1. **SUS-01/SUS-04:** The workgroup proposed an additional measure to assess FGF 1L/min with eventual retirement of SUS-01 (3L/min). Suggested removing the current exclusion for cases under 30 minutes to promote lower flows.
2. **SUS-02/SUS-03:**
 - a. The Cuveele method (see April minutes for calculation) and GWP 20 were discussed for more accurate carbon footprint calculations.
 - b. Presented results from data analysis assessing documentation of minute ventilation as well as % expired for sevoflurane, isoflurane, and desflurane. Most



sites include these values in their MPOG extract. It would be possible to create a new measure calculating carbon footprint based on the Cuveele method. The group recommended mentioning this option at the Quality Committee on Monday to gain their input before considering next steps.

- c. Discussed excluding one-lung ventilation cases due to the necessity for higher flows in such cases. **Will hold on adding a 'one lung ventilation' exclusion at this time as there will be corner cases that cannot be easily identified and excluded.** The threshold of 90% accounts for these corner cases, estimating that ~10% of cases will not and perhaps should not aim to meet the measure's definition of success.
3. **SUS-03: Total carbon dioxide equivalents per induction for cases where halogenated agents and/or nitrous oxide was administered during the induction period of anesthesia.**
 - a. Proposed new adult measure to assess fresh gas flow rates at induction to help identify opportunities for improvement in reducing carbon footprint during induction (SUS-03). A pediatric measure already exists (SUS-06) to assess fresh gas flow during induction. Workgroup reviewed the ASA Fresh Gas Flow Management recommendations and considered a threshold of 6L/min during induction for adults, although recommendations are not clear for set FGF rate during induction for the adult population: <https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/governance-and-committees/asa-committees/environmental-sustainability/greening-the-operating-room/fresh-gas-flow-management>
 - b. Discussed challenge of tracking inhalational vs. IV induction – potential to assess documentation in event notes that identify the type of induction used.
4. **Sustainability practices beyond anesthetic gas management:**
 - a. Discussed environmental efficiency in the context of laryngoscope use: single-use laryngoscopy blade recycling vs. sterilization process for multiple use laryngoscope blades.
5. **Review of Measures and Voting:**
 - a. Dr. Shah (MPOG Quality Director) reviewed the process for presenting measure reviews at the Quality Committee. Dr. Stam and Dr. Lu-Boettcher are on the agenda to present the SUS Workgroup findings on Monday, May 19th. After their presentation and group discussion, the Quality Committee will vote to continue, modify, or retire each adult sustainability measure. The pediatric sustainability measures will be reviewed at the Pediatric Subcommittee meeting scheduled for this fall.
6. **Action Items:**



- a. Dr. Stam will prepare his review of SUS-01/SUS-04 and submit it to the Coordinating Center by Thursday, May 15th for the review to be disseminated and reviewed by the Quality Committee in advance of Monday's meeting.
- b. Dr. Lu-Boettcher will prepare her review of SUS-02/SUS-03 and submit her review to the CC by Thursday, May 15th in preparation for the May 19th Quality Committee discussion.
- c. Dr. Edelman and Dr. Delasio will be meeting to share institutional practices for laryngoscope use and decommissioning nitrous oxide.