



FOUNDATION FOR Health Care Quality

SURGICAL CARE OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SURGICAL COAP) & SPINE CARE OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SPINE COAP)

2026 Annual Conference –*Optimizing in a Time of Change*

Friday, May 29, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

- 7:30 Registration Opens: EXHIBITS & NETWORKING, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 8:00 Welcome & Overview**
Vickie Kolios, MSHSA, CPHQ – Vice President, Clinical Quality, Foundation for Health Care Quality (FHCQ)
Nicholas J. Kassebaum, MD – Medical Director, Surgical COAP & Spine COAP, FHCQ
- 8:15 Stephanie’s Journey**
Chryssa V. Deliganis, JD – Assistant Professor, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA
- 8:30 KEYNOTE Panel: (P)rehabilitation, Optimization, and Standardized Recovery Pathways: Evidence and Opportunities**
Daniel McIsaac, MD MPH FRCPC - University of Ottawa
Jeanna Blitz, MD - Wake Forest University
- 10:00 BREAK**
- 10:15 Spine COAP Updates for 2024-2025: Cervical and Lumbar Fusion, Non-Fusion**
Jean-Christophe Leveque, MD – Neurosurgeon, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle WA; Chair, Spine COAP Management Committee
- 10:40 Spine Research Presentations**
(Presenters are being confirmed)
- 11:15 Emerging Technologies for Spine Surgery**
(Panelists are being confirmed)
- 12:00 LUNCH**

12:45 Surgical COAP Updates for 2025-2026: Small Bowel Obstruction, Colorectal Surgery, Appendectomy, Bariatric Surgery Metrics Review
COL (Ret) Robert M. Rush, Jr., MD, FACS – Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Medical Director; General Surgeon, PeaceHealth St Joseph Medical Center, Bellingham, WA; Associate Medical Director Appendicitis SCOAP
Thien Nguyen, MD – Surgeon, Overlake Hospital Medical Center, Associate Medical Director, Bariatric SCOAP
Vlad V. Simianu, MD, FACS. Colorectal and General Surgeon, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA; Associate Medical Director, Colorectal SCOAP
W. Scott Helton, MD, FACS, Director of Liver, Pancreas, and Biliary Surgical Center of Excellence, Department of General, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA; Associate Medical Director, Small Bowel Obstruction SCOAP

2:00 BREAK

2:15 Surgical Optimization Panel Session
Facilitator: Emily Nudelman, DNP, RN, Director, Implementation and Outreach, FHCQ
BREE Collaborative Recommendations; Primary Care Perspective: Carl Olden, MD. Yakima Memorial Hospital
Perioperative Physician Perspective: Christopher Barnes, MD. Harborview Medical Center
Insurer Perspective: Ty Jones, MD MBA FAPA. Regence BlueShield
Evaluation Framework for Bree Recommendations: Karie Nicholas, MA GC GDip, Director of Evaluation and Impact, FHCQ

3:00 Panel on Computer vision, machine learning, and AI guidance for enhancing intraoperative skill and decision making. (Panelists are being confirmed)

4:00 What Else is Ahead for SCOAP & Spine COAP?
Nicholas J. Kassebaum, MD – Medical Director, Surgical COAP & Spine COAP, FHCQ
RAFFLE & Adjourn

6.5 CATEGORY 1 CME CREDITS APPROVED through PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements of the Washington State Medical Association through the joint providership of Providence Health Care and Foundation for Health Care Quality. Providence Health Care is accredited by the WSMA to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Providence Health Care designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity meets the criteria for up to 6.5 hours of Category I CME credit to satisfy the relicensure requirements of the Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission.

CNE is pending