

## **Missed Opportunities: Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis Among General Surgery Patients**

Joshua D. Billings MD; Alexandra Kovar MD; Thomas Schroepfel MD; Ethan Cumbler MD

### Background:

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a common healthcare complication. Institutional data identified VTE complications as an opportunity for improvement. We explored deficiencies in VTE prophylaxis administration as a surgical quality improvement initiative.

### Methods:

We conducted a retrospective review of patients undergoing general surgery. Demographics, procedure, service, indications, contraindications, pre-operative prophylaxis (Pre-PPX), and post-operative prophylaxis (Post-PPX) were recorded. Patients on surgical and non-surgical services were compared.

### Results:

Of 2243 cases, 71.0% received Pre-PPX and 82.4% received Post-PPX. Pre-PPX was contraindicated in 15.6% of cases and indicated but held 13.4% of the time. Post-PPX was contraindicated in 12.4% of cases and indicated but held 5.2% of the time. Non-surgical services inappropriately held indicated Pre-PPX and Post-PPX more often than surgical services ( $p < 0.01$ ).

### Conclusion:

Non-surgical services are more likely to hold risk-appropriate perioperative-PPX than surgical services and may benefit from education, structured surgical consultations, and care pathways to improve administration.