

Dr. Ryan Katchky

“The Impact of a Community-Based Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgical Program on Access to Paediatric Orthopaedic Care – a Quality Improvement Initiative”

Access to orthopaedic surgical care is a challenge faced by many patients across Canada, but one of the most pressing challenges is around access to paediatric orthopaedic surgical care. This is particularly problematic because delays in paediatric orthopaedic surgical care can impact a child’s growth and development, and create lifelong impacts on a child’s quality of life. This has generated significant media attention, with several stories highlighting the impact of these barriers to access on patients, families and health systems.

To help address these challenges, Scarborough Health Network (SHN) is developing a new, community-based Paediatric Orthopaedic Program. The goal of this is to ensure that children in the local community can access paediatric orthopaedic care closer to home. In partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), the goal is to direct community-level Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgical cases to SHN, while freeing up resources at SickKids to address more complex cases.

The goal of this Quality Improvement Initiative is to assess the impact of the SHN community-based paediatric orthopaedic surgical program on SickKids access to care and waitlists. The program, and the partnership between the two hospitals, will then be tailored and modified in order to maximize the impact on SickKids waitlists and the needs of the local community. This program should be able to serve as a template for other community hospitals to establish similar programs.