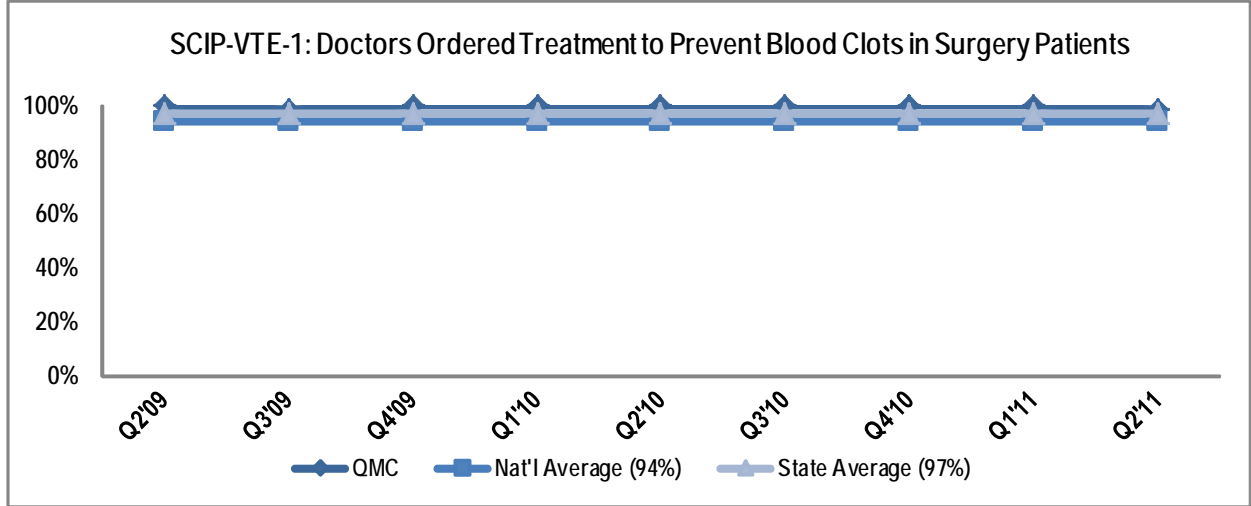


**Core Measure Trend Watch:
 Surgical Care Improvement Project
 (SCIP-VTE-1)**



***Surgery patients whose doctors ordered treatments to prevent blood clots after certain types of surgeries**

Certain surgeries increase the risk that the patient will develop a blood clot (venous thromboembolism). When patients stay still for a long time after some types of surgery, they are more likely to develop a blood clot in the veins of the legs, thighs, or pelvis. A blood clot slows down the flow of blood, causing swelling, redness, and pain. A blood clot can also break off and travel to other parts of the body. If the blood clot gets into the lung, a serious problem can cause death. To help prevent blood clots from forming after surgery, doctors can order treatments to be used just before or after the surgery. These include blood-thinning medications, elastic support stockings, or mechanical air stockings that help with blood flow in the legs.

**Data Source: Hospital Compare Website, National and State Averages are also taken from the Hospital Compare Website for the period October 2009 through September 2010*