



## ASA QUALITY REPORTING – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Anesthesia Quality Institute's (AQI) National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry (NACOR) is an approved Qualified Registry (QR) and Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2016 PQRS reporting. Regardless of the reporting option chosen, participating in PQRS can be a challenging exercise requiring coordination and input from multiple parties.

Each practice is ultimately responsible for:

- Understanding PQRS reporting and performance requirements,
- The quality of data submitted to AQI/NACOR
- Monitoring PQRS reporting compliance via NACOR dashboard reports; and
- Meeting AQI/NACOR deadlines.

Because NACOR is dependent on the quality of data it receives from its participants, it is important that each party understand their roles and responsibilities to ensure the highest level of data integrity as well as helping to ensure practices successfully meet PQRS reporting requirements.

### **ASA/AQI Roles & Responsibilities:**

- Offer two methods for CMS PQRS reporting – QR and QCDR
- Support a wide range of anesthesia measures for each reporting option and a variety of practice settings
- Provide resources to help practices navigate the complexities of PQRS reporting:
  - [Website resources](#)
  - [Monthly webinars followed by Q & A](#)
  - Responses to measures questions via e-mail: [qra@asahq.org](mailto:qra@asahq.org)
  - Sample quality capture forms
  - Vendor list - AQI maintains a list of vendors on its website that have tested their ability to meet NACOR's file formatting and content requirements. Because each practice is unique, practices are responsible for verifying a vendor's ability to successfully submit data on their behalf. AQI in no way endorses, certifies, guarantees or warrants the services of any listed vendor
  - Dashboard reports to help practices monitor QCDR/QR measure compliance
  - Submission of QR and QCDR files to CMS in accordance with regulatory requirements.

**Practice Roles & Responsibilities:**

Chose a physician anesthesiologist or other quality champion to manage and oversee the practice quality reporting activities. These activities typically include the following:

- Select a reporting option - QCDR or QR
- Identify measures that are reportable for all of the practice's eligible providers
- Operationalizing the data collection, data formatting, and data submission processes:
  - Determine whether the practice will utilize the service(s) of a vendor(s) or in house IT staff. When making this decision a variety of factors may be considered including the type of IT support available within the practice, the IT systems the practice already has in place and the amount of time the quality champion can dedicate to the project.
- Check TIN and NPI numbers for completeness and accuracy
- Be aware of and meet AQI deadlines
- Take advantage of the resources ASA/AQI provides:
  - Review online QR/QCDR reports on a monthly basis to identify potential gaps. Follow up with your EPs, in-house IT or vendor(s) and take the necessary corrective action
  - Participate in [ASA Quality Reporting Virtual Office Hours](#)
  - Read AQI listserv communications and follow recommended actions

**Responsibilities that often require collaboration between the Practice and its IT staff or Vendor(s):**

- Establish a quality control process with the practice's vendor(s) or in-house IT staff.
- Merge data from multiple sources into one file prior to submission to AQI.
  - If it is not possible to submit one merged file and separate files from multiple sources will be submitted, the champion should confirm with their vendor or in-house IT staff that a uniformly named episode of care ID is located in each file.
- *Prior* to submission of files to NACOR the practice and its vendor(s) or internal IT staff, should verify the accuracy of the file formatting, content, and inclusion of the episode of care ID if applicable.
  - Files that do not contain the necessary episode of care ID cannot be accurately merged and therefore will be rejected by AQI.
  - Files that do not meet NACOR's file format or content requirements will not be accepted (link to [file formatting / content requirements](#)).