

Calendar Year (CY)
2022 Reporting
Period/2024 Payment
Determination with
2023 Reporting
Period/2025 Payment
Determination Dates

Successful Reporting in the ASC Quality Reporting Program

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Successful Reporting in the ASCQR Program

Overview

Welcome to the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program. Participating in this quality program allows you to showcase the high standard of care and performance your facility provides to the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) community. The information in this document outlines the program requirements and the tools needed to ensure your facility's successes.

This program reference guide is your resource for meeting the ASCQR program requirements. Our goal is your success.

ASCs paid by Medicare under Part B Fee-for-Service (FFS) are eligible for participation in the ASCQR Program. ASCs that do not meet ASCQR Program requirements may receive a reduction of 2.0 percentage points in their payment update for the applicable payment year. Eligible ASCs that meet program requirements will not be penalized under the ASCQR Program and will receive their full Medicare payment update. ASCs that have Medicare FFS claims (primary and secondary payer) below the claims number threshold are not penalized while not having to participate.

Any data submitted for the ASCQR Program may be made publicly available after the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides ASCs with an opportunity to review the data. ASCs will have approximately 30 days during the preview period to review their data before the data are published. This preview period does not serve as a correction period. More information on the public reporting requirements is available in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 42 CFR 416.315.

Eligible ASCs are to follow program requirements as finalized in applicable rulemaking documents, Outpatient Prospective Payment System/Ambulatory Surgical Center (OPPS/ASC) Final Rule with Comment Period, published in the *Federal Register*. ASCs that do not follow these requirements may incur a payment penalty. The most recent changes to requirements are available beginning on page 72117. Requirements from the final rule to-date are included in this document.

Claims Threshold

ASCs that have fewer than 240 Medicare claims (primary plus secondary payer) per year during a reporting period for a payment determination year are not required to participate in the ASCQR Program for the subsequent reporting period for that subsequent payment determination year. This includes all program requirements, both claims-based measures and measure data entered via a web-based tool. For example, an ASC with fewer than 240 Medicare claims in 2021 would not be required to submit 2022 data for the calendar year (CY) 2024 payment determination.

ASCs Newly Designated as Open

Administrative requirements apply to all ASCs designated as operating in the CMS Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting (CASPER) system, Medicare's database for survey and certification purposes, four months prior to January 1 of the data collection period. Upon successful submission of any quality measure data, the ASC will be deemed as participating in the ASCQR Program for the upcoming payment year determination. For example, if an ASC is designated as newly operating on October 17, 2021, the ASC would begin collecting data in calendar year 2023 for the calendar year 2025 payment determination. The ASCQR Program Measure Set for the CY 2025 Payment Determination can be found below.

Program Support

ASCs can contact the ASCQR Program Support Team with questions regarding program requirements. Contact the ASCQR Program Support Team by email using the [QualityNet Q&A \(Question & Answer\) Tool](#) or by telephone at **866.800.8756**.

ASCQR Reference Checklist

Mandatory Steps for ASCQR Program Participation

CMS has established the following requirements for participation in the ASCQR Program and for receipt of the applicable CY's payment update. The [ASCQR Specifications Manual](#), and Security Official (SO) registration form referenced below are available on the QualityNet website (<https://qualitynet.cms.gov>).

NOTE: If your ASC has no data to submit, then the **attestation must be completed, or zeros must be submitted**. If any measure is left blank (with the exclusion of ASC 11), your ASC has not met the ASC program requirements for the applicable payment determination year.

For the CY 2024 Payment Determination (based on the January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, reporting period):

- Collect data to be submitted via a web-based tool to CMS (ASC-9, -13, and -14; ASC-11 is voluntary) and submit these data, either directly or through an ASC agent, via HQR as directed. Reporting dates are available on p.10, of this document and submission guidelines are documented in the [Specifications Manual](#), version 11.0a. Deadlines are subject to change and should be verified on <https://qualitynet.cms.gov>. To submit data for these measures and access reports, the ASC must have an active SO registered with HQR. The deadline for submitting these measures is **May 15, 2023**.
- Collect data to be submitted via National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) web-based tool to CMS (ASC-20 COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel (HCP) measure). Data are reported quarterly through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) NHSN website at: [CDC.gov/NHSN](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn). To submit data for this measure, the ASC must have an active Facility Administrator (FA) registered with Secure Access Management Services (SAMS) to access the NHSN web-based data submission tool.

ASC-12, ASC-17, ASC-18, and ASC-19 are calculated from paid Medicare FFS claims; no additional data submission is required from the ASC for these measures.

National Provider Identifiers (NPIs)

An ASC that shares the same NPI with other ASCs must report for all such facilities. Payment determinations will be made by and applied to the facility's NPI and are applicable to any and all facilities billing under this NPI.

Withdrawing from the ASCQR Program

Submitting any quality measure data designates the ASC as participating in the ASCQR Program. An ASC is considered to be an ASCQR Program participant until the ASC withdraws from the program by submitting a withdrawal form to CMS. Specific instructions on how to withdraw and the withdrawal form can be found on <https://qualitynet.cms.gov>.

Note: Withdrawal from the ASCQR Program **will not prevent** the ASC from receiving a 2.0 percentage point reduction in their payment update for the applicable payment determination year and in fact will cause the ASC to receive a payment penalty for this and subsequent years.

Registration and Data Submission Processes

There are two separate unique registrations needed for submitting the required data for the ASC Quality Reporting Program. Each registration requires completing the specified identity proofing process and may take two to four weeks to complete.

Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) Security Official (SO) Registration Process

The HQR Security Official (SO) of a facility facilitates the registration and account management process for other users at the organization via HQR, can submit data via the web-based tool, and access secure reports in Managed File Transfer (MFT). ASCs should have more than one SO and are strongly urged to maintain the active status of another SO that is in an administrative position less likely to fluctuate. Each facility with a unique NPI must have a SO, but a single SO may be associated with multiple facilities.

To register:

- Enter your HARP credentials and login to the HQR system at <https://hqr.cms.gov/>. If you do not have a HARP account visit <https://harp.cms.gov>.
- In the upper right corner of the screen select “Your Name” and **My Profile**
- Click on Create Access Request
- Search for your Organization by typing the National Provider Identifier (NPI) into the Organization Search bar.
- If your organization is not found, select **Create Access Request**, and submit the form.
- If your organization is found, click on the name of the Organization.
- Select Security Official and click Continue.
- When completing the SO Request, ensure that you provide an Organization Point-of- Contact that is not yourself.
- Review the SO request and select **Submit**.
- Once the request has been approved, you will receive a confirmation email.

If you encounter issues requesting access or have questions about using this new online process, please contact the QualityNet Service Center at 866-288-8912 or qnetsupport@cms.hhs.gov or assistance.

Data Submitted Via the HQR Web-Based Tool

ASCs will submit data via HQR at <https://hqr.cms.gov/>, an online tool available to authorized users. After logging into HQR:

1. Select **Data Submission** from the left side screen Lock Menu.
2. Select **Data Form**.
3. Select **Launch Data Form** to open the submission application.
4. Select **Start Measures** to enter data.
5. Enter data for a measure. Select the **Submit** icon. Repeat this process for each required measure until all required data are complete. (Facilities that do not have data for a required measure should select: **Please enter zeros for this measure, as I have no data to submit**.)
6. Once all required measures are successfully submitted, the screen will display **All Measures Successfully Submitted**, and the data submission process is complete.
7. Select Edit to view or update previously submitted measure data. Once data are edited, select the **Submit icon** again.

The **File Upload** option requires the use of the approved CSV template. File upload may be used by vendors or corporations submitting data for more than one ASC at the same time.

All files and data exchanged with CMS via HQR are encrypted during transmission and stored in an encrypted format until the recipient downloads the data. The HQR website meets all current Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.

REGISTER:

National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Enrollment Process

- Your facility must be enrolled in the NHSN system in order to submit data.
 - If you are unsure of your facility enrollment status, call us at 866.800.8756 before you begin the enrollment process.
- If your facility is not enrolled, begin the five-step enrollment/registration process at <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ambulatory-surgery/enroll.html>

Facility Administrator (FA) Registration Process

- A current FA is required in order to submit data.
- If your facility is enrolled and does not have a current or active FA, complete the [Change Facility Administrator Form](#).
- Registering as an FA is part of the five-step enrollment/registration process.

Data Submitted Via the NHSN Web-Based Surveillance Tool

- To log in to the NHSN Surveillance system enter your SAMS credentials at sams.cdc.gov.
- After logging in, click the “NHSN Reporting” option.
- Be prepared to submit ALL data for the selected week(s) in one login session. If all required fields are not completed upon logging out of the system, the data are not saved.
- Ensure the week you are reporting ends in the month you are intending to report.

Data Submitted Via Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Claims

For information on the claims-based outcome measures ASC-12, ASC-17, ASC-18, and ASC-19, please see the [Resources page](#) available on <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>. No additional data submission is required. Data for these measures are collected via paid Medicare FFS claims.

Extraordinary Circumstance Exceptions (ECE)

If an ASC is unable to submit data or access medical records due to an extraordinary circumstance, such as a natural disaster, the ASC may request an ECE. ASCs will need to complete the ECE form found on QualityNet and submit the form with any supporting documentation within 90 days of the date of the extraordinary circumstance. These documents must be submitted to the ASCQR Support Team via one of the following:

- Email to: QRFormsSubmission@hsag.com
- Secure fax: 877.789.4443

CMS strives to complete its review of each request within 90 days of receipt.

ASCs that are included under a blanket exception by CMS (due to widespread natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) will not be required to submit the ECE form. These ASCs will be notified via the QualityNet Mailer service in the event a blanket ECE is issued. Information on how to receive QualityNet Mailer notifications can be found in the Additional Resources section of this guide.

APU Reconsideration Process

ASCs that do not receive the full payment update may submit a request for reconsideration of the payment decision. Explanation of the reconsideration process, and all necessary forms are available on the [QualityNet website](https://qualitynet.cms.gov). The procedural rules that govern the ASCQR Program reconsiderations are posted on the QualityNet website at <https://qualitynet.cms.gov>. Codified procedural rules that govern the ASCQR Program reconsiderations can be found at 42 CFR 416.330.

The request must identify the ASC's specific reason(s) for believing it did meet the Annual Payment Update (APU) requirements and why the facility should receive the full APU. CMS will officially respond to the reconsideration request submitted by each ASC.

Public Reporting

ASCs reimbursed under Medicare Part B FFS are required to meet data reporting requirements to receive their full payment update. For these ASCs, reported ASCQR Program data for selected time periods will become publicly available as required by section 1833(t)(17)(E) of the Social Security Act. ASCs will have approximately 30 days to preview any such data prior to it being made publicly available.

RESOURCES

ASC Quality Reporting Program Support Team

Support for activities under the ASCQR Program, including providing technical support and feedback to assist ASCs with quality data reporting is available at:

- **ASCQR Program Support Team**

866.800.8756

oqrsupport@hsag.com

- **ASCQR Program Website**

www.qualityreportingcenter.com

This site contains numerous resources concerning reporting requirements, including reference and training materials, tools for data submission, educational presentations, and deadlines.

- **[ASC 101](#)**

This page includes links to essential information for those new to quality reporting for ASCs.

- **[Lookup Tools](#)**

This page allows access to databases that will provide the CCN associated with an ASC's NPI, the status of web-based measure data submitted, and the availability of data reports for other measures on QualityNet.

NHSN Program Website

www.cdc.gov/nhsn

A division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NHSN web-based application provides facilities with a COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel data tracking system.

- **NHSN Help Desk**

nhsn@cdc.gov

- **SAMS Help Desk**

877.681.2901

samshelp@cdc.gov

QualityNet

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov>

Established by CMS, the QualityNet website provides healthcare quality improvement news, resources, and data reporting tools and applications used by healthcare providers and others. The QualityNet website is the only CMS-approved website for secure communications and healthcare quality data exchange.

- **QualityNet Help Desk**

866.288.8912

qnetsupport@cms.hhs.gov

- **ASCQR QualityNet Mailer**

<https://www.qualitynet.org/listserv-signup>

Email notices are sent via the QualityNet Mailer system. QualityNet users are urged to register for these email notifications to receive information on enhancements and new releases, notification of timeline or process/policy modifications, and important alerts about applications and initiatives.

- **ASCQR Questions/Answers**

https://cmsqualitysupport.service-now.com/qnet_qa

CMS maintains the ASCQR Questions and Answers database, which allows users to ask questions, obtain responses from all resolved questions, and search by keywords or phrases.

CMS

www.cms.gov

CMS is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' agency responsible for administering Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program), and other health-related programs.

- **ASCQR Program**

<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/>

APPENDICES

Appendix A

ASCQR MEASURES AND DATES

CY 2022 Reporting Period/CY 2024 Payment Determination

The chart below summarizes the Ambulatory Surgical Center Measure Reporting dates as outlined in the Specifications Manual v.11.0a. Deadlines are subject to change and should be verified on <https://qualitynet.cms.gov>.

CY 2024 PAYMENT DETERMINATION YEAR			
Number	Measures Submitted via HQR	Reporting Period	Submission Period
ASC-9	Appropriate Follow-Up Interval for Normal Colonoscopy in Average Risk Patients	January 1, 2022– December 31, 2022	January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023
ASC-11*	Cataracts: Improvement in Patient’s Visual Function within 90 Days Following Cataract Surgery (Voluntary)*	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022	January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023
ASC-13	Normothermia	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022	January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023
ASC-14	Unplanned Anterior Vitrectomy	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022	January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023
Number	Measures Submitted to NHSN	Reporting Period	Submission Period
ASC-20	COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel	Q1 2022: Jan 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2022	Q1: August 15, 2022
		Q2 2022: Apr 1, 2022 – Jun 30, 2022	Q2: November 15, 2022
		Q3 2022: Jul 1, 2022 – Sep 30, 2022	Q3: February 15, 2023
		Q4 2022: Oct 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022	Q4: May 15, 2023

Number	Outcome Claims-Based Measure**	Reporting Period
ASC-12	Facility 7-Day Risk-Standardized Hospital Visit Rate after Outpatient Colonoscopy	January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022
ASC-17	Hospital Visits after Orthopedic Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Procedures	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022
ASC-18	Hospital Visits after Urology Ambulatory Surgical Center Procedures	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022
ASC-19	Facility-Level 7-Day Hospital Visits after General Surgery Procedures Performed at Ambulatory Surgical Centers	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022

* ASCs may voluntarily submit data but will not be subject to a payment reduction with respect to this measure during the voluntary reporting period.

** Calculated from paid Medicare FFS claims; no additional data submission is required from the ASC for these measures.

APPENDIX B

ASCQR MEASURES AND DATES

CY 2023 Reporting Period/CY 2025 Payment Determination

The chart below summarizes the Ambulatory Surgical Center Measure Reporting dates as outlined in the Specifications Manual v.12.0. Deadlines are subject to change and should be verified on <https://qualitynet.cms.gov>.

CY 2025 PAYMENT DETERMINATION YEAR			
Number	Measures Submitted via HQR	Reporting Period	Submission Period
ASC-1	Patient Burn	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-2	Patient Fall	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-3	Wrong Site, Wrong Side, Wrong Patient, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Implant	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-4	All-Cause Hospital Transfer/Admission	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-9	Appropriate Follow-Up Interval for Normal Colonoscopy in Average Risk Patients	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-11*	Cataracts: Improvement in Patient's Visual Function within 90 Days Following Cataract Surgery (Voluntary)*	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-13	Normothermia	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
ASC-14	Unplanned Anterior Vitrectomy	January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024
Number	Measures Submitted into NHSN	Reporting Period	Submission Period
ASC-20	COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel	Q1 2023: Jan 1, 2023 – Mar 31, 2023	Q1: August 15, 2023
		Q2 2023: Apr 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2023	Q2: November 15, 2023
		Q3 2023: Jul 1, 2023 – Sep 30, 2023	Q3: February 15, 2024
		Q4 2023: Oct 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023	Q4: May 15, 2024

Number	Outcome Claims-Based Measure**	Reporting Period
ASC-12	Facility 7-Day Risk-Standardized Hospital Visit Rate after Outpatient Colonoscopy	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2023
ASC-17	Hospital Visits after Orthopedic Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Procedures	January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023
ASC-18	Hospital Visits after Urology Ambulatory Surgical Center Procedures	January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023
ASC-19	Facility-Level 7-Day Hospital Visits after General Surgery Procedures Performed at Ambulatory Surgical Centers	January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023

* ASCs may voluntarily submit data but will not be subject to a payment reduction with respect to this measure during the voluntary reporting period.

** Calculated from paid Medicare FFS claims; no additional data submission is required from the ASC for these measures

APPENDIX C



OPERATIONS CHECK SHEET

This operations check sheet provides important organizational information for administrative duties.

If the deadline is on a holiday or weekend, the submission deadline would be the following business day.

Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting Program			
Measure Type		Deadlines Dates	Primary/Secondary Person Responsible
Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) Web-based Measures		Annual reporting: May 15 of each year	Security Official for HQR (one minimum; two or more recommended) 1. _____ 2. _____
National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)		Quarterly reporting: Quarter 1 - August 15 Quarter 2 - November 15 Quarter 3 - February 15 Quarter 4 - May 15	NHSN Facility Administrator (limit one) 1. _____ NHSN Member (two or more; can submit data if has role) 1. _____ 2. _____
Measure Type	Responsible Person	Deadline	Date Submitted
HQR		May 15, 2023	
NHSN		February 15, 2023	
NHSN		May 15, 2023	
NHSN		August 15, 2023	
NHSN		November 15, 2023	

Call the ASCQR Support Team at 866.800.8756 for assistance with program requirements.