Ambulatory Surgical Center
Quality Reporting Program

The Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program: Back to the Basics

Questions & Answers

Speakers:
ASCQR Program Support Contractor Team

February 27, 2019
2:00 p.m. ET

Question:	Is there a chance that ASC-8 will be coming back, as some states are still requiring submission of the influenza data?
Answer:	At this time, ASC-8 has been removed from the ASC Quality Reporting Program. As you mentioned, some states do require reporting of this data, so please ensure you check with your state to identify if your ASC is located within one of those mandatory states and check with other programs you may report for.
Question:	Would it be a good idea to maintain our log-in and association with NHSN so if it does come back in the future, we do not have to go through the intensive process again of re-signing back up with them?
Answer:	We are aware that the process to enroll in NHSN can be lengthy, so you are welcome to maintain your account status to prevent any future need to re-enroll.
Question:	Since many of the data measures are not being reported, do we still enter Quality Data Codes (QDCs)?
Answer:	ASC-1–ASC-4, requiring the application of QDCs, have been suspended until further rule-making. So, 2018 claims were the last time QDCs were required.
Question:	Can a vendor still submit like a Security Administrator (SA)?
Answer:	Yes; if a vendor has an Agent Authorization Form on file, they can continue to submit web-based measures until a withdrawal form is received. If you need to locate the vendor authorization form or vendor

withdrawal form you can find them at
https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/asc/agent-vendor-authorization-forms/.

Question: For an ASC that does orthopedic and urology, we would only have to report ASC-17 and -18, as ASC-1, ASC-2, ASC-3, ASC-4, and ASC-8 have been removed, correct?

Answer: Your facility will need to complete the required web-based measures ASC-9, -10, -13, and -14 for the calendar year (CY) 2020 payment determination. This is the 2018 data that you will report by May 15, 2019. If your facility does not have cases to meet one or more of these measures, you will still need to enter zeros in the numerator and denominator for each required measure. ASC-11 is the only voluntary measure that can be left incomplete, as this is a voluntary measure. These web-based measures are submitted via the QualityNet Secure Portal. ASC-12, ASC-17, and ASC-18 are claims-based measures; therefore, ASCs do not need to manually submit data for these three measures. CMS collects these data from paid Medicare claims that meet measure criteria.

Question: Can we be penalized for continuing to add the removed QDCs to claims?

Answer: No; the facility will not be penalized for continuing to submit these codes on Medicare claims. CMS will not be collecting or reporting the data.

Question: Is there a way to confirm that measures were reported?

Answer: Yes; you can begin by verifying that all required web-based measures say "Complete" in QualityNet. We recommend printing a copy of the completed measures for your records. You can also verify on the QualityReportingCenter.com Lookup Tool. This tool is updated more frequently as the deadline gets closer. Please be sure you check the "Data Last Updated" date on the bottom of the tool, as this will indicate when the tool was updated. Of note, this tool should be updated in mid-March for Payment Year 2020 data submissions. Additionally, you can run an ASC Provider Participation Report in QualityNet.org.

Question: There is no influenza data to report by May 2019 – last year was the last data to report for ASC, correct?

Answer: Yes; you are correct. The last reporting date for ASC-8: Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel was May 15, 2018 for the reporting period of Oct 1, 2017–March 31, 2018.

Question: For the removal of ASC-10, does this mean that the data from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, due by May 15, 2019, will be the last time we report this measure?

Answer: Correct; the last time you will report data for the ASC-10 measure will be this May. The deadline is May 15, 2019, and you will use the encounter dates of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Question: Are these reporting requirements applicable to ASCs that do not accept Medicare or Medicaid patients?

Answer: The ASCQR Program requirements are for those facilities that bill Medicare and paid under the OPPS. If your facility does not accept Medicare, you would not be required to report data. You can contact our help desk at 866-800-8756 if you have further questions.

Question: If I submit my report early and then realize something was incorrect or I've entered something in wrong, can I go back in the system and change my reported numbers?

Answer: Yes; you can go back into QualityNet to make any changes or updates until the data submission deadline. After the submission deadline, the warehouse will close, and no changes or additions can be made.

Question: For data submission for ASC-9 and ASC-10, do we need to submit an entire year's worth of data, or can it be submitted from any random month?

Answer: If you choose not to submit 100 percent of all measures that meet the ASC-9 and ASC-10 measure criteria, you can randomly sample your measure population. This would be randomly selecting your population for the entire year. You can refer to the table in the Specifications Manual. In summary, if you have 0-900 cases that meet the measure criteria, you will report 63 cases. If you have 901 or more, you will report 96 cases.

Question: Do we need to report the influenza statistics for the year 2019?

Answer:	ASC-8 influenza data submission was removed from the ASC Quality Reporting Program. The last time your ASC was required to report data for this program was May 15, 2019. However, some states do have mandatory reporting for employee influenza coverage. Please ensure you check with your state to determine if your ASC is located within one of those mandatory states.
Question:	We acquired a new ASC in April and received our deemed status in July 2018. Do I just report 0 for the months up to July?
Answer:	It would be best if you contacted us directly so we can ensure we have all the appropriate information. You may not be required to report at this time. Our number is 866.800.8756.
Question:	Since we report through paid claims, do we need to do anything in QualityNet?
Answer:	Yes; as the speaker stated, you will enter your web-based measures in the QualityNet Secure Portal. Be sure to give us a call if you have any questions or you need assistance. Our number is 866.800.8756.
Question:	Our ASC has not met the 240 rule since our accreditation for two years. Is there any benefit to entering the data we have collected even though we do not meet the 240 rule?
Answer:	Yes; particularly if you are close or exceed this 240 claims threshold. If you are already reporting for this program, you will not be at risk for failing the program requirements.
Question:	Just to clarify, the ASC for influenza reporting was deleted? If correct, do we report with CDC?
Answer:	At this time, ASC-8 has been removed from the ASC Quality Reporting Program. Some states do require reporting of this data, so please ensure you check with your state to identify if your ASC is located within one of those mandatory states and check with other programs you may report for.
Question:	If our ASC uses a reporting site, do we report to QualityNet, or does the other reporting site?

Answer: The QualityNet Secure Portal is the only CMS accepted site for reporting data for this program.

Question: We've had some changes within our organization. I'm new in my position and unsure if we are reporting. Is there a way to find out if we are? Also, what are the penalties for non-reporting?

Answer: You are certainly welcome to call us at 866.800.8756; we will be happy to walk you through the process. There are also some resources on our website that will be of tremendous value for those new to reporting for this program. The following link is for the Successful Guide to Reporting: https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ASC_2019-Successful-Reporting-in-the-ASCQR-Program-Final-508.pdf. By not reporting, you are at risk of a two percent payment reduction in your Medicare Annual Payment Update.

Question: How do you determine the sample size for the Normothermia measure? I understand the number we have to submit; however, is there a certain specification as to which cases that fall in that category to report? Or is it just any 96 cases that we pull?

Answer: The measure specifications as well as the number of cases to submit can be found in the Specifications Manual located on QualityNet by accessing the link below. You can review the criteria for ASC-13 under Section 1. Section 2 contains the sampling information. http://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772475754

Question: Where do we submit the Normothermia measure? I was on the QualityNet site last week and could not find where to submit the data.

Answer: ASC-13: Normothermia is submitted via the secure side of QualityNet.org. You will need to have the appropriate credentials to access this area. ASC-13 reporting is located in the same place as ASC-9 and ASC-10. Please feel free to contact us directly if you need further assistance. We will be happy to walk you through this process. Our phone number is 866.800.8756.

Question: If we have an Electronic Health Record that pulls all of the patients eligible for ASC-9 and -10, can we report on all of them instead of just 96?

Answer: Yes; there is no penalty for over-submitting data.

Question: My administrator is no longer with the facility, and I do not have access to her registration information. Do I start the process as new?

Answer: Yes; the secure registration process is individualized and not transferable. You can obtain a Security Administrator Registration Form from QualityNet. The link below will take you to the registration site: http://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772846606.

Question: When reporting the ASC-13 measure, when it asks for the denominator, would I be using 96?

Answer: The measure specifications as well as the number of cases to submit can be found in the Specifications Manual located on QualityNet by accessing the link below. You can review the criteria for ASC-13 under Section 1. Section 2 contains the sampling information. http://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772475754

Question: If I have 555 people who met the ASC-13 measure last year, how do I report the measure if I have monthly stats of zero to 1 or 2 people?

Answer: You will follow the sampling guidelines in the Specifications Manual. CMS encourages submission of as many cases as possible, but your minimum submission is 63. You can review the criteria for ASC-13 under Section 1. Section 2 contains the sampling information. http://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772475754

Question: For ASC-14, is the denominator 96 also, or the total number of cataracts performed during 2018?

Answer: No; the denominator for ASC-14 is all cataract surgery patients. The numerator will be all cataract surgery patients who had an unplanned anterior vitrectomy. You can review the criteria for ASC-14 under Section 1 of the Specifications Manual with the link below: http://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772475754

Question: Do we have to report on arthroscopies for 2018?

Answer: The required ASCQR Program measures for the CY 2020 payment
determination are web-based measures ASC-9, -10, -13, and -14. ASC-12
is a claims-based outcome measure. Data for this measure are collected
from paid Medicare claims that meet the measure criteria. Therefore, no
manual abstraction or data submission for this measure on the part of the
ASC is necessary.