



Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting Program

Support Contractor

CY 2018 OPPS/ASC Final Rule: Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program

Questions & Answers

Moderator:

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- Question: Is the ASC-11 measure still voluntary?
- Answer: Yes, ASC-11 is still a voluntary measure. There were no proposed changes for this measure.
- Question: Can we stop reporting the Quality Data Codes (QDCs) for ASC-5 since that measure is no longer required, or do we have to wait until January 1, 2018?
- Answer: While it is no longer necessary to continue submitting any QDCs for ASC-5, you can continue to submit the QDCs for this measure through the end of 2017 to ensure no disruption to submitting the QDCs for ASC-1, -2, -3, and -4. QDCs submitted for ASC-5 on 2017 services will not be publicly reported.
- Question: Can you review how data collection and data reporting relate to payment determination years?
- Answer: The CY 2019 payment determination is for 2017 patient encounters. This data is then reported in 2018 for payment in 2019.
- Question: Do ASC-17 and ASC-18 get reported on claims with dates of service in 2018?
- Answer: For the ASC-17 and ASC-18 measures, there will be a dry run in which ASCs may review their measure results prior to public reporting of these



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measures. The most current two-year set of complete claims would be used. This dry run period will not be publicly reported and will not affect payment.

Question: If these are claims-based, then we can't submit claims until 7 days after the procedure?

Answer: The data for claims-based measures are collected by Medicare through your claims. There is no manual abstraction on the part of the ASC for these measures.

Question: Is the OAS CAHPS reporting "voluntary" for 2018?

Answer: The OAS CAHPS measures have been delayed until further rule-making. An ASC can report voluntarily if they choose.

Question: Does our facility collect and submit data on ASC-5, -6, and -7 for 2018?

Answer: No; ASC-5, -6, and -7 are no longer required to be reported beginning with the CY 2019 payment determination. This means data from 2017 on ASC-5, -6, and -7 measures will not be required to be reported in 2018 and subsequent years.

Question: Since the surgery safety checklist is no longer being reported, is it still required to be included in medical records?

Answer: This measure is not required for the ASCQR Program. The decision on what to include in the facility's medical record is up to the discretion of the ASC.

Question: Do I understand that ASC-16 has been shelved for the current time? When do we have to begin using the OAS CAHPS to comply?

Answer: ASC-16, Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome (TASS), was not finalized for this program in this rule-making cycle. The reporting of the survey measures has been delayed. Any further changes will go through the rule-making and comment process.

Question: The measures removed for the CY 2019 payment determination will not require reporting in QualityNet during 2018; is this correct?

Answer: Yes, that is correct. ASC-5, -6, and -7 are no longer required to be reported beginning with the CY 2019 payment determination. This means



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that data from 2017 on the ASC-5, -6, and -7 measures will not be required to be reported in 2018 and subsequent years.

Question: Will CMS re-announce and open a new public comment period if it decides to re-open the OAS CAHPS Survey requirement?

Answer: Yes; any changes will go through the rule-making process which includes a comment period.

Question: With the OAS CAHPS, will there be any special considerations for ophthalmology patients who have trouble reading? The current survey would be very difficult for them to complete.

Answer: These measures are not required for this program at this time. For specifics or questions about these measures, you can access the website at www.oascahps.org.

Question: To clarify, for ASC-5, Prophylactic Intravenous Antibiotic Timing, we do not have to report on this measure starting on January 1, 2018 as this would be the time frame for the 2019 payment determination; is this correct?

Answer: No. ASC-5 is no longer required to be reported beginning with the CY 2019 payment determination. This means the data are from 2017.

Question: Can you please summarize the full set of measures for which data will have to be collected in 2018 and reported in 2019?

Answer: For a reference you may choose to access our website for CY 2018 and 2019 Reporting Dates for this program. The direct link is <https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/asc/asc-101/>.

Question: It is a multi-step and burdensome process to update the various passwords for the ASCQR Program. Why can't there be a simple Update Password button on the home page that accomplishes this easily and without unnecessary effort?

Answer: Unfortunately, the NHSN and QualityNet reporting platforms are separate and do not communicate unilaterally. As far as an Update Password button, we will communicate this suggestion to the appropriate contractors.



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Question: My facility was complying with the survey measures and contracted with a third party prior to the delay. Do you know if the CMS-approved third parties for participation for the survey measures have agreed to do a contractual freeze until which time it is re-implemented?

Answer: We recommend you contact the third party to determine your options.

Question: Is ASC-13, Normothermia, active for 2018 and a 2019 payment year?

Answer: The ASC-13 measure will begin with encounters beginning January 1, 2018 and will be submitted into the QualityNet web-based tool in the year 2019 for the payment year 2020.

Question: If something is delayed for the CY 2020 payment determination, when would you start reporting it?

Answer: The survey measures are delayed starting with the CY 2020 payment determination. This means you will not have to collect data for 2018 encounters moving forward unless a change is made in future rule-making.

Question: How are ASC-13 and ASC-14 reported, via QualityNet?

Answer: Yes; ASC-13 and ASC-14 will be reported annually through QualityNet as web-based measures.

Question: For the Normothermia measure, does the time of general anesthesia begin at induction or when the patient rolls into the operating room?

Answer: For measure-specific questions, please use the Question and Answer tool in QualityNet. The measure writers will then have the opportunity to respond to you directly.

Question: Do the removed measures no longer have to be reported during 2018?

Answer: The ASC-5, -6, and -7 measures are no longer required to be reported beginning with the CY 2019 payment determination. This means data from 2017 on the ASC-5, -6, and -7 measures will not be required to be reported in 2018 and subsequent years.

Question: The CMS administrator launched the "Patients over Paperwork" initiative which will aim to reduce regulations; how is ASCQR complying with this initiative?



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Answer: CMS continues to evaluate program measures and, in this rule, is reducing a few measures for the program as new ones are added.