



Outpatient Quality Program Systems and Stakeholder Support Team

ASC Guide: Traveling Through NHSN and Your ASC-20 Data Question & Answer Summary Document

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Subject-matter experts researched and answered the following questions during the live webinar. The questions and answers may have been edited for grammar.



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Question 1: **If our facility is not the vaccine site for the COVID-19 vaccine, are we required to report data for the ASC-20 measure? If so, do we need to provide information for all items?**

Yes, you must report data for the ASC-20 measure to meet program requirements whether or not your Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) is a vaccine site. All data fields in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) surveillance tool must be entered to submit the data.

Question 2: **When will the ASC-20 data in the Lookup Tool be updated again?**

We should receive an updated file by Monday, October 31, 2022.

Question 3: **We are a new ASC. We received our CMS Certification Number (CCN) in May of 2022. When are we required to start entering data for the ASC-20 measure?**

The reporting of data depends on the date Medicare informed you that you could start billing Medicare and if the National Provider Identifier (NPI) number is new. So, if you have a new NPI number and CMS said to start billing Medicare in May 2022, then you would begin reporting data to meet ASC program requirements for the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Reporting Period/CY 2025 Payment Determination Year (PY). Please feel free to call our help desk at 866.800.8756 with any questions.

Question 4: **What was the starting date for reporting data for the ASC-20 measure? We have not done any reporting yet.**

Reporting began January 2022. The first quarter of data was due August 15, 2022. The next quarterly submission deadline for Quarter (Q)2 data is November 15, 2022. If you did not enter your Q1 data by the August 15, 2022, deadline, you can review the Extraordinary Circumstances Exception (ECE) Policy. If applicable, submit the ECE form by November 15, 2022. That link is <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/asc/ascqr/participation#tab2>.

Question 5: **How long do we report this?**

In the CY 2022 final rule, ASC- 20 became part of the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program. ASCs must report data for the ASC-20 measure to meet program requirements. Any changes to this requirement will be put forward in the rulemaking process.



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Question 6: For the ASC-20 measure, do we report one week per month, or do we enter data each week?

To meet the ASCQR Program requirements, you must submit at least one self-selected week per month every quarter. Weekly submission of data is not a program requirement. Make sure the week you select begins and ends in the month you intend to submit data for.

Question 8: How do I check to make sure that NHSN has our CCN and NPI?

The NHSN system does not display an NPI. To access information on your facility's CCN, select Facility on the left navigation pane in the NHSN system. Then, select Facility Info. Look to the right upper page to check your CCN number and Effective Date. If you need additional assistance with this, call our help desk at 833.800.8756. We will be glad to walk you through the process.

Question 9: Where do we find the Extraordinary Circumstances Exception (ECE) request form, if we need it?

Details and the ECE request form can be found on the QualityNet website: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/asc/ascqr/participation#tab2>

Question 10: When you pick a week in a month to report data for the ASC-20 measure, do you need to choose that same week every month, or can you pick a different week every month?

You can select a different week each month. However, it is important that the week you select, in any given month, begins and ends in the month you intend to submit data for. If you select a week that ends in the following month, credit is applied to the month that the week ended.

Question 11: I entered my data prior to October 17, but the data are not showing up on the Lookup Tool. What should I do?

Make sure your CCN is entered in the NHSN system. NHSN reports data to CMS by CCN. Additionally, as you reported data on or around October 17th, your data may have not been captured. The last data file from NHSN was provided October 17. The Lookup Tool will update again on Monday October 31, 2022. If your data do not reflect the data you submitted, please call our help desk at 866.800.8756.



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Question 12: **The weekly Covid-19 Vaccination Module appears on my screen, but I cannot add the Covid-19 Vaccination Summary.**

If they are grayed out, from January through May, and you are unable to enter your data for that month, then you may need to add a Monthly Reporting Plan (MRP).

To do so, from the left-hand navigation menu, go to Reporting Plan. Click on Add, and enter the month and year. Then, select COVID Vaccination Summary under Weekly COVID 19 Vaccination Module. If you need assistance, call 866.800.8756. We can walk you through the steps.

Question 14: **My record for the week is green and complete. I still received a Missing Weekly Summary Data alert that the data for that week was missing.**

The NHSN system is set up to receive weekly data as discussed on slide 29. The system will give those soft reminders if it does not receive weekly data. You can disregard them if you have submitted at least one self-selected week of data for each month of the quarter.

Question 16: **The weeks on my screen end in October. Why are November and December missing? Are these weeks added in by NHSN?**

You can use the black arrows at the top of the page displaying the calendar. This allows you to move back and forth between months. However, you are not able to enter data ahead for future dates.

Question 17: **Where can I check to make sure I didn't check the No NHSN Safety Modules Followed This Month box? Our ASC started the process a while ago, but I want to ensure it is set up correctly.**

This option presents when the MRP is added, if we were required to add this. If you were included in the auto-correction, you would not need to add the MRP. If that is the case, this box would not be an option.

You can access the [Lookup Tool](#) on QualityReportingCenter.com to check on your Q1 data submission.

Question 18: **Do we report the influenza vaccination data?**

No. Reporting flu vaccination data is not an ASCQR Program requirement. However, you may have other state agency requirements to fulfill.



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Question 19: I still struggle with Question 1 and how it applies to Question 2 in the NHSN surveillance tool. I have over 90 on staff who are eligible to work in the facility. Some staff only have one case in a week and don't come back for 3 months. Are they included in the cumulative count?

No, healthcare personnel eligible to have worked include those scheduled to work in the facility at least one day every week. For example, an employee who is scheduled to work in the facility every Monday would be included in the data. However, an employee who is scheduled to work in the facility once a month would not be included in the data. Working any part of a day is considered as working one day. Facilities should include healthcare personnel even if they are on temporary leave during the week of data collection. Temporary leave is defined as less than or equal to two weeks in duration. If they are on leave that is greater than two weeks, then they should not be included for the week of data collection. For details and assistance, you can access the NHSN Manual:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/hps/covidvax/protocol-hcp-508.pdf>

Question 20: Are we required to request booster information to meet the ASCQR Program requirements?

No, but booster data are part of the required data included in the NHSN surveillance tool. Partial data cannot be submitted. Visit this website for guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/hps/covidvax/UpToDateGuidance-May2022-508.pdf>

Question 21: If we have entered data for January through May, do we re-enter data for those months to address the changes in Up to Date?

Facilities should be sure to use the NHSN surveillance definitions applicable to the reporting quarter. However, the inclusion of Up to Date was not a requirement for January through May in NHSN.

Question 27: What if Q1 says No in the Lookup Tool, but we did submit data for Q1? There were issues with NHSN. How do I ensure my data were submitted?

Check that you have one week per month that begins and ends in the month you intended. For example, if the week you choose ends in the following month, then your data are applied to that month. Additionally, make sure your CCN is in the NHSN system. You can access that information in the NHSN system by selecting Facility Information on the left navigation pane.