



NACOR News

Friday, May 4, 2018

NACOR comorbidity data definitions

AQI's Committee on Data Definitions recently completed work on defining comorbidities for NACOR. The [comorbidity data set](#) contains more than 100 definitions for various comorbidities, including 13 classifications such as cardiovascular, neurologic, psychiatric, obstetric, pediatric, and pulmonary comorbidities. Reporting your patient's comorbidities will assist NACOR in building risk adjustment models in the future.

Before you register.....

- **Understand changes to MIPS reporting in 2018**
 - The “pick your pace” option has been eliminated for 2018. 2018 MIPS requires full year reporting.
 - For the Quality component, Eligible Clinicians (EC) must report on six measures, including one outcome measure for 60% of your eligible cases. This is a 10% increase from 2017. The Quality Component will be weighted at 50%.
 - The cost component will now be weighted at 10%.
 - The minimum point score to avoid a penalty adjustment is 15. In 2017, the minimum was 3 points.
 - The penalty adjustment has increased from -4 to -5%.
- **Determine a quality reporting mechanism** – AQI's NACOR offers two quality reporting mechanisms for practices participating in MACRA – qualified clinical data registry (QCDR) and qualified registry (QR). To decide which quality reporting option is best, [review NACOR quality reporting options](#) and mechanisms.
- **Decide to report as individuals or as a group** – In 2018, NACOR is offering [two reporting options](#) – Individual and Group Practice Reporting. While measures available to report will be the same for both options, practices should consider [several factors](#) when deciding whether to report individually or by group.
- **Review measures** – QCDR participants can choose from 2018 MIPS and QCDR measures listed in the [2018 QCDR Measure Specifications](#) approved by CMS in January. The booklet includes QCDR measures for 2018 reporting, changes made to AQI's NACOR 2017 measure specifications in preparation for the 2018 performance year, as well as measures that were removed from the 2018 AQI's NACOR measure set. QR participants can select their measures from the [2018 MIPS Measures available for reporting](#).

Don't fall behind; register now for 2018 NACOR quality

Practices interested in registering for 2018 NACOR Quality Reporting can now begin the enrollment process by completing the new [online order form](#). Practices that were enrolled in 2017 and would like to continue in 2018 will need to complete an order form. Participation agreements auto renew. AQI's NACOR [quality reporting options](#) include Quality Concierge and NACOR Standard. NACOR Basic does not include quality reporting.

Practices that are enrolled in Quality Concierge do not need to complete the 2018 order form. Registration automatically renews for these practices.

Check your 2018 MIPS eligibility now

CMS recently released the [2018 MIPS Participation Lookup Tool](#) for practices to check on 2018 eligibility. Eligible clinicians can use their National Provider Identifier, or [NPI](#), to see if they need to participate during the 2018 performance year to earn a potential positive payment adjustment in 2020.

CMS has changed the 2018 low-volume threshold for the 2018 performance period. Clinicians and groups will be excluded from MIPS if they fall under one of the following categories:

- Receive \$90,000 or less in Medicare Part B allowed charges for covered professional services under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)
- Furnish covered professional services under the PFS to 200 or fewer Medicare Part B-enrolled beneficiaries

Exempt from MIPS? Check out NACOR benefits

With changing program requirements, many providers and practices may find they are no longer [eligible to participate](#) in 2018 MIPS reporting. Despite being ineligible, providers can find value in reporting quality data to NACOR.

NACOR can provide performance data that is benchmarked against peers – a powerful tool for practices negotiating contracts with hospitals and insurance carriers. The availability of historical and current performance data helps practices demonstrate a proven track record of high-quality care and an ongoing commitment to improving patient outcomes. Peer-benchmarked data also helps in gauging the success of local quality improvement projects. Email askaqi@asahq.org to see how NACOR's data can meet your practice's needs.

Office Hours May 8

Looking for answers to your quality reporting questions? AQI is hosting its regularly scheduled [Virtual Office Hours](#) at [11 a.m.](#) Central, Tuesday, May 8. Miss last month's Virtual Office Hours? Check out the [April Office Hours](#) here.

Office Hours FAQs

Question: What is the code for Quantum 31?

Quantum 31 is a licensed measure for MEDNAX and it has no AQI Measure ID. The denominator includes CPT procedure codes, not ASA codes. This measure should be reported by providers who actually place the central line, not by providers who provide anesthesia for central line placement. Since MEDNAX is the measure steward for Quantum 31, all questions should be directed to MEDNAX.

Question: Have measure specifications changed from 2017 to 2018?

Yes, the QCDR measure specifications have changed from 2017 to 2018. For more details, refer to the new [2018 QCRD Measure booklet](#).

2018 reporting deadlines	Contact AQI
NACOR registration – October 31	To register: qcdr@asahq.org
January – November data submission – January 31, 2019	NACOR dashboard and data: Nacorsupport@arbormetrix.com
All data submission – February 15, 2019	AQI questions: aqi@asahq.org