NACOR News
Friday, June 8, 2018

Benefits beyond MIPS

While physician anesthesiologists recently completed their first year submitting Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) data under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Payment Program, some practices are going beyond just submitting data to meet CMS requirements.

Practices and physician anesthesiologists submitting data through Quality Concierge of the Anesthesia Quality Institute's National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry (NACOR) are finding they can use the data for business development, hospital performance goals and managed care contracts. They are also becoming more efficient in local quality improvement processes too.

NACOR benchmarking allows practices to report their billing and administrative data, as well as continue to report quality measures (MIPS and QCDR) without submitting to CMS. Submitting data will help build consistent, year-over-year quality and outcomes data that will help you:

- Negotiate contracts with hospitals
- Report quality data to private insurers to negotiate fee increases
- Benchmark performance against 20,000 participants
- Provide support for mergers, sales and acquisitions

MIPS Improvement Activities account for 15 percent of score

For the 2018 performance year, Improvement Activities will again account for 15 percent of the total Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) score for eligible clinicians (ECs)/groups. MIPS-eligible clinicians will have more than 100 Improvement Activities to choose.

It is in the best interest of ECs/groups to report on all required MIPS components, including Improvement Activities, to be eligible to receive a positive payment adjustment. Review ASA's Recommended Improvement Activities for Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

It's never too late to start sending quality data to NACOR

Quality reporting deadlines for the 2018 performance year are still months away, but practices are encouraged to start sending quality data to AQI. Reviewing and submitting data on a monthly or quarterly basis and knowing NACOR minimum data field requirements on a monthly or quarterly basis will make the reporting process easier.

All National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry (NACOR) participants and vendors must upload complete (merged and formatted) data files to AQI's data submission portal through ePreop. Quality data from January through November 2018 must be submitted by January 31, 2019. All 2018 data must be submitted by February 15, 2019.

Practices interested in registering for 2018 NACOR Quality Reporting can now begin the enrollment process by completing the new online order form. For more information about submitting quality data, or with assistance in merging or formatting data, email askaqi@asahq.org.

NACOR dashboard 2018 enhancements expected in June

The AQI NACOR dashboard is now being updated for 2018 and should be completed in June. For more information about the NACOR dashboard, email askaqi@asahq.org.

Next Office Hours in July

Looking for answers to your quality reporting questions? AQI is hosting its regularly scheduled Virtual Office Hours at 11 a.m. Central, Tuesday, July 10. Miss last month's Virtual Office Hours? Check out the May Office Hours here.

Office Hours FAQs

Question: Can Improvement Activities be reported for 90 days in 2018, or is that category also 12 months like the quality category?

Practices can attest to and report Improvement Activities for a minimum of 90 days. The full 12-month requirement is not applicable to the MIPS Improvement Activity category in 2018.

Question: If a practice reported to CMS through AQI NACOR in 2017 but does not need to report in 2018 per the QPP website, does the practice need to notify AQI?

Yes, if a practice does not intend to participate in 2018 Quality Reporting with AQI NACOR, the practice champion should contact AQI to terminate their contract. Practices also can participate in AQI NACOR Basic, which is benchmarking only. For more information, email askaqi@asahq.org.

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