

GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING DATA TO THE NATIONAL ANESTHESIA CLINICAL OUTCOMES REGISTRY (NACOR)

The Anesthesia Quality Institute's (AQI) mission is to develop and maintain the National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry (NACOR), an ongoing registry of anesthesia cases and outcomes to help anesthesiologists assess and improve patient care. The goal of AQI is to include data from all practicing anesthesiologists and all practice locations in the United States.

AQI is a non-profit corporation, created to collect electronic anesthesia case data from practice groups, hospitals, and information technology vendors. You do not need an AIMS system to participate with AQI.

Overview

The practice runs a report on a monthly basis and sends the report to the AQI. The report contains data on each case performed by the practice during the month. The data upload typically takes 5-10 minutes a month.

Data Types

1. Practice demographics: description of the anesthesia group (age, training, certifications, and subspecialties) and the environment (hospital size, inpatient/outpatient mix). SOURCE: The practice is issued a Members Only login and enters the information via the AQI website. This information is collected one time. Periodic updates are recommended to reflect group demographic changes.
2. Case specific data in several tiers: simple (e.g. CPT code, anesthesia type, provider code, patient age); moderate (e.g. duration of surgery, agents used); and complex (e.g. output from AIMS with vital signs, fluids, drug doses). SOURCE: Administrative and billing data from the practice billing software.
3. Outcome data: Basic (e.g. intra-op cancellation, mortality, major morbidities) and extended (e.g. infections, prolonged length of stay, late events). The basis for recognized outcomes of interest will be the [ASA Committee on Performance and Outcomes Measurement \(CPOM\) definitions](#). SOURCE: Information will come from Anesthesiology Department data or from linkage to surgical databases that capture patient outcomes.
4. Risk Adjustment data: ICD-9 diagnostic codes, pre-op medication use, defined co morbidities, hospital length of stay, etc. SOURCE: Much of this data will come from the hospital or healthcare facility's systems.

AQI understands that no single system has all of this data. As part of the signup process, AQI works with you (and where feasible, your vendors) to understand where this data resides in your practice or hospital and develops a plan to receive the data.

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Data Upload

Data is uploaded to NACOR on a monthly basis.

- All files must be placed on AQI Servers. AQI will not pull files from vendors or practices.
- Email file attachments are not acceptable for production purposes. A test file may be emailed if prior arrangements have been made with AQI. In this instance, every attempt should be made to encrypt the file.
- Files will be processed on a First-in/First-out basis.

Data Transmission

AQI has an FTP server setup which is used to upload participant data to AQI.

URL: myftp.aqihq.org

Port: 22 Connection: SSH/SFTP

Please contact Lance Mueller to obtain a userid and password for uploading files. AQI staff is available to assist you with using an FTP client to upload your files.

File Type and Layout

The only accepted file layout is an XML file validated against the provided AQI Schema.

The AQI Data Schema is available here: <http://www.aqihq.org/AQISchDoc/default.html>.

The AQI data schema includes all of the information that might be collected about an anesthesia case (including data from an AIMS system). These fields are maintained as placeholders in the Registry.

AQI provides an XML validation tool here:

<https://www.aqihq.org/AQIXMLResources/AQIXMLSchema.aspx>

Your vendor will need to provide a data extract in the file format designated above. Your vendor may have already developed an AQI approved extract. Contact AQI or your vendor for more information.

As part of the signup process, AQI conducts a ½ hour telephone interview with each practice. The purpose of the interview is to learn about your practice and answer your questions. We also review what billing system, quality, AIMS, and EMR your practice is using. This information helps us determine what steps need to be taken to facilitate your data upload to NACOR.

Questions

Please contact [Jill Mlodoch j.mlodoch@asahq.org](mailto:j.mlodoch@asahq.org) or [Lance Mueller l.mueller@asahq.org](mailto:l.mueller@asahq.org).