

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

NACOR collects data from anesthesia practices and hospitals through data extracts developed by software vendors or reports generated by the practice and/or hospital. The practice has access to a series of AQI reports which includes their own practice data, national benchmarks and quality metrics. Quality metrics reporting density is dependent on each practice's quality data input.

Data Types

The minimum level of data required to participate in AQI is Data Types 1 and 2 below (except complex data from AIMS noted in number 2). Every anesthesia practice has this information available. Type 1 data is self-reported through the AQI website. Type 2 data is available in any billing system.

1. Practice demographics: description of the anesthesia group (provider age, training, and certifications) and the environment (facilities, hospital size, number of cases performed). SOURCE: The practice is issued a Members Only login and the information is entered via the AQI website. This information is collected one time, although periodic updates are recommended to reflect group demographic changes.
2. Case specific data (minimum data requirement) in several tiers: simple (e.g. CPT code, anesthesia type, provider ID number, 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. Outcomes collected on paper must be converted to electronic format for submission to AQI.
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.

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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.
- Files will be processed on a First-in/First-out basis.

Data Transmission

AQI has a secure SSH/SFTP server setup which is used to upload participant data to AQI. Please email AQI_tech@asahq.org to obtain a userid and password for uploading files.

File Type and Layout

1. Current Extracts through an AQI Preferred Vendor:

AQI continues to encourage practices to request an AQI extract from their vendor(s) in order to upload data to the registry. The [list of current extracts](#) (some in progress) is available on the AQI website. Participating practices should contact their vendor representative about submitting a test file to AQI. Please allow 10 business days for data file review and feedback.

2. New Extracts:

You will need a vendor or IT resource. New extracts should be constructed in XML file format and validated against the [AQI Data Schema](#). The AQI data schema includes all of the information that might be collected about an anesthesia case (including data from an AIMS system). AQI provides an [XML validation tool](#). The validation tool provides sample files: wrong XML, schema errors, OK billing (minimum dataset) and AIMS data.

[The AQI XML Schema Documentation](#) identifies data the AQI collects, illustrates the manner in which data is joined to AQI's XML schema, and facilitates the proper use of the schema.

Questions? Please contact askaqi@asahq.org.