

# 2015 VQI Participation Awards

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The SVS PSO is pleased to announce the recipients of our inaugural VQI Participation Awards program.

This award recognizes the importance of active participation in the VQI as a critical component of our quality improvement mission.

VQI centers are eligible to receive up to 3 “Stars” depending on the extent of their participation in three categories:

- Rate of long-term follow-up (LTFU) reporting
- Attendance (focused on physicians) at regional quality group meetings
- Number of vascular procedure registries subscribed

These categories were selected by the SVS PSO Governing Council to emphasize the importance of center participation in 3 key areas. LTFU reporting demonstrates a commitment to monitoring the ongoing effectiveness of treatment, assessing potential problems and providing optimal medical management. LTFU allows a more meaningful assessment of quality (as opposed to only perioperative outcomes), and is a cornerstone of VQI. Physician and staff attendance at semi-annual regional quality group meetings is critical to drive discussions of outcome variation, to develop regional QI projects, and to encourage multi-center participation in outcomes analysis and QI efforts. Finally, participation in multiple procedure registries provides more opportunities for learning and improvement. It should be emphasized that this award does not represent the quality of care delivered, but rather is a measure of VQI participation, which we hope will translate into improved quality of care long-term.

In order to be eligible for the 2015 VQI Participation Award, centers must have been a VQI member for at least 12 months. Thus, centers that enrolled in 2015 are not eligible for this year’s VQI Participation Award. The goal for LTFU in VQI is reporting at one year after the index procedure. Since follow-up times vary, however, LTFU rate is calculated based on any follow-up reported after at least 9 months. For the 2015 VQI Participation Awards, LTFU is calculated based on procedures done in 2013 to allow two full years to record LTFU after the procedure. (Note that for centers that joined VQI in 2014, however, LTFU is calculated based on procedures done in 2014, allowing only one year to obtain LTFU for the 2015 Participation Award.)

For 2015, there were 308 centers eligible for VQI Participation Awards, and we are pleased that 37 received 3 Stars, 82 received 2 Stars and 76 received 1 Star. Your center’s results in the Award Program for 2015 are listed below, along with the detailed point scoring system used to calculate the number of Stars awarded, which was distributed in October 2015.

We plan to recognize centers that received the 2015 VQI Participation Award on the VQI website and in other publications. No matter how many “Stars” your center received, we hope that you will work to improve your participation in 2016. LTFU reporting is considered so important by the SVS PSO that we have attached a toolkit based on lessons-learned from centers that have achieved high follow-up, which we hope you will find useful. You can also find this toolkit in the resource tab of the VQI website. Further, we are able to provide staff coaching and peer mentoring for centers that struggle with LTFU reporting. We look forward to working with all centers to enhance their participation in the Vascular Quality Initiative. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Bosela, [c.bosela@svspsso.org](mailto:c.bosela@svspsso.org).

Sincerely yours,

Larry Kraiss, MD, Chair, SVS PSO Governing Council  
Jens Eldrup-Jorgensen MD, Chair, VQI Participation Award Committee  
Jack Cronenwett, MD, SVS PSO Medical Director

## The VQI Participation Awards Scoring System

### Registry-Subscription Score

- Subscribe to 1-2 registries = 0 points
- Subscribe to 3-5 registries = 1 points
- Subscribe to 6-8 registries = 2 points
- Subscribe to 9-12 registries = 3 points

### Long-Term Follow-Up Score\*

- <70% mean LTFU in all registries = 0 points
- ≥70% mean LTFU in all registries = 1 point
- ≥80% mean LTFU in all registries = 2 points
- ≥90% mean LTFU in all registries = 3 points

### Meeting-Participation Score\*\*

- No MD from site attends = 0 points
- 1 MD from site attends = 1 point
- 2 MDs attend (or 1 MD if site has only 2 MDs) = 2 points
- 3 MDs attend (or all MDs if site has <3 MDs) = 3 points

### VQI Participation Star Awards

- <3 total points = 0 stars
- 3-4 total points = 1 star
- 5-6 total points = 2 stars
- 7 or more total points = 3 stars

\*Follow-up for centers without 2013 data is based on procedures performed in 2014.

\*\*Based on attendance at the fall 2015 regional meeting. Centers with affiliated health-professional staff attending the meeting earn an additional point if at least 1 MD also attended (maximum of 3 points).

Your Center's Score in Each Category	
<b>Number of registries in which your center participates:</b> 6	<b>Points earned:</b> 2
<b>Your center's long-term follow-up rate:</b> 47%	<b>Points earned:</b> 0
<b>MDs from your center attending the fall 2015 regional meeting:</b> 0	<b>Points earned:</b> 0
<b>Total points:</b> 2	
<b>Your Center's 2015 VQI Participation Award:</b>	<b>0 stars</b>