



Yesterday's email included an incorrect link for the EVAR LOS report. This link has been corrected below.

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Introducing the new VQI Pulse e-newsletter. We'll be sharing the latest VQI achievements and activities including:

- Quality Improvement opportunities (COPI Reporting)
- New opportunities for certification and reimbursement
- Special project updates
- VQI growth metrics
- Latest VQI projects

Whether you're an existing VQI member, part of an affiliated society, or working in hospital and quality management, you can benefit from the latest VQI updates.

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### **Key factors for reducing Endovascular AAA Repair Length of Stay (EVAR LOS)--*Link Corrected***

Center for Opportunity Profile for Improvement (COPI) Reports provide each VQI center with specific suggestions about how they can improve outcomes based on a comparison with all VQI centers. Based on VQI data from 2011 to 2014, 21% of EVAR patients had a LOS following the procedure of greater than one day. The factors associated with LOS > 1 day post-procedure for elective EVAR include certain patient characteristics, procedure details, post-op complications, the day of week that surgery was performed, and surgeon volume. Many of these factors are modifiable, so these center specific reports provide real opportunity for improvement.

[To understand the key factors that drive EVAR LOS, click here.](#) [PDF]

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**VQI member hospitals can avoid 2% payment penalty through**

## **“general surgery” registry participation**

CMS has clarified that VQI participation can fulfill the hospital requirement for Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) as a “general surgery” registry. Acute care hospitals that are paid for treating Medicare beneficiaries can avoid a 2% payment penalty if they meet IQR requirements. CMS has indicated that VQI qualifies as a “general surgery” registry for this purpose. This means that VQI centers do not need to participate in NSQIP to meet this requirement.

[Click here to read more.](#) [PDF]

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## **First use of the VQI for device surveillance with the FDA**

The SVS PSO, in collaboration with the FDA, is now using the VQI and the M2S PATHWAYS platform to track outcomes and follow-up for post-approval surveillance as an alternative to traditional post-approval studies. This is expected to be a model for future post-approval device evaluation since it can be done more efficiently, and provides real-world data.

The first approved VQI-Industry project evaluates the safety and effectiveness of TEVAR devices for Gore and Medtronic to treat acute or chronic descending aortic dissection. SVS PSO and M2S have contracted with sites to evaluate 200 acute and 200 chronic dissections treated with TEVAR with subsequent five-year follow-up. Sites are reimbursed for additional data and follow-up time points collected.

For more information on VQI projects with Industry, please contact Carrie Bosela, Administrative Director of the SVS PSO, at [c.bosela@svspsso.org](mailto:c.bosela@svspsso.org).

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## **Launch of new Varicose Vein Registry™ in December**

The SVS PSO and the AVF are working with M2S, our clinical registry IT partner, on development of this new registry. We will be collecting data on Thermal, Mechanochemical, Chemical, Embolic Adhesive, and Surgical ablation treatments. This registry will be demonstrated for the first time at the VEITH Symposium in November, and will be available for subscription by year end. It will help users achieve IAC Vein Center accreditation.

For more information, contact the VQI Account Team at (603) 298-5509, ext. 331, or by email at [vqi@m2s.com](mailto:vqi@m2s.com).

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## **VQI Volumes**

[Click here for the current volumes for specific VQI Registries such as CEA and EVAR.](#)

[PDF]

**Number of procedures in all VQI registries:** 169,667

**Total VQI sites:** 291

**Number of procedures added in August:** 7,254

**Total Regional Quality Groups:** 16

**Recent Regional Groups formed:** Upper Midwest (MN, WI, SD, ND)

### **New Members as of July/August 2014:**

- Hoenig Vascular Center (MA)
- The Heart Hospital Denton- Baylor (TX)
- Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center (CA)
- Oregon Health & Sciences University (OR)

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## **Latest VQI projects and VQI abstracts from 2014 Vascular Annual Meeting**

[Click here for the latest list of VQI National and Regional Research Projects](#) [PDF]

[Click here for the latest list of VQI presentations](#) [PDF]

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If you'd like to know more about any of our recent activities, or have suggestions on other topics, please email Nancy Heatley at [communications@svsvqi.org](mailto:communications@svsvqi.org)