

VQI Registry Qualifies for “General Surgery” Registry Participation

CMS has clarified that VQI can fulfill the requirement for Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) as a “general surgery” registry. Acute care hospitals that are paid for treating Medicare beneficiaries under the acute-care Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) can avoid a 2% payment penalty if they meet IQR requirements. One of these requirements is to participate in a systematic database for cardiac surgery, stroke care, nursing sensitive care or general surgery. Rather than specifically designating that a systematic database for “vascular surgery” meets these requirements, CMS has chosen to indicate that VQI qualifies as a “general surgery” database. Depending on your facility’s level of participation in the VQI, your center is likely to be eligible to receive the IQR portion of the IPPS payment in 2014 through the VQI. Previously, it had been assumed that hospitals needed to participate in the general surgery registry NSQIP to qualify for this requirement. It may be helpful for you to notify your hospital administration that VQI can meet this requirement in place of NSQIP.

VQI centers that participate in at least two of the following procedures can meet the “General Surgery” Registry requirement:

- Carotid Endarterectomy
- Endovascular AAA Repair
- Open AAA Repair
- Infra-inguinal Bypass

The following detailed information may be helpful to your hospital administration.

Q: How do facilities participate?

A: Hospitals already participating in the VQI would check “Yes” to the General Surgery Registry Participation question located on the QualityNet web-based data collection secure page, and provide “Other” on the follow up inquiry asking which General Surgery registry.

Q: What is the definition of participation in a qualified registry?

A: Participation is defined as submitting standardized data elements applicable to at least two National Quality Forum (NQF) endorsed measures related to the topic measured by the registry and reporting on all patients eligible for the measures. The VQI provides at least two NQF endorsed measures (and corresponding measure rates, results, benchmarks, and quality improvement information to hospitals) related to the General Surgery topic.

Hospital should use this definition to determine if they participate or not when answering the Structural Measures registry questions.

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If you or your hospital's administrator has any questions about the General Surgery Registry, please contact Carrie Bosela at c.bosela@svspso.org

If you're interested in participating in one or more of the VQI Registries to meet your hospitals "General Surgery" Registry participation requirement, **please contact your VQI Account Team on 603.298.5509 x331 or by email at VQI@m2s.com**



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