Vascular Quality Initiative®

Hashtag examples

Example 1:

A regional group wishes to monitor whether smoking cessation counseling was offered at time of discharge.

1. New variable = smokcs (smoking counseling), with options = yes or no
2. Hashtag would be entered as : #[smokcs:yes] or #[smokcs:no]

This illustrates use of full word in response, i.e., yes or no, which requires more keystrokes but maybe less prone to error than entering numbers to stand for choices.

Example 2:

A regional group wishes to monitor whether nicotine replacement was prescribed at time of discharge.

1. New variable = nictrx (Nicotine replacement), with options = 0, 1 or 2 where 0=none, 1= patch, 2=gum
2. Hashtag would be entered as : #[nictrx:0] or #[nictrx:1] or #[nictrx:2]

This illustrates use of numbers for categorical choices as response, which may be more applicable if many choices, or long words with many keystrokes.

Example 3:

A quality research project wishes to track high sensitivity C-reactive protein levels done pre-operatively.

1. New variable = hscrp (High sensitivity CRP), with options = value of CRP level
2. Hashtag would be entered as : #[hscrp:value] where value is number

This illustrates the use of numerical values being entered as a variable. The range of allowed values would need to be specified in the instructions to each site participating in the project.

Note that variable names are not case sensitive.

Note that detailed instructions re choices of values and variable names must be provided to each participating site, since confusion would result in erroneous data entry, and there is no built in error trapping for these variables.