ASA’s Quality Concierge 2.0
Patrick Reilly

Reporting and tracking quality data through ASA’s Quality Concierge® is getting easier and faster for anesthesia groups. They can now report seamlessly to ASA’s Quality Registry and Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) through a software app that is available at a single keystroke from within their electronic health record (EHR) or on their mobile devices.

ePreop, a company led by anesthesiologist David Bergman, D.O., worked with ASA to develop Quality Concierge. Agreements have been executed with both Cerner and Epic that make this comprehensive quality reporting service for the Anesthesia Quality Institute’s (AQI’s) National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry® (NACOR®) available within Epic, Cerner and all other major EHRs. The apps are embedded in the EHR workflow, which eliminates the need for multiple logins and makes it easy for IT departments to turn on the service.

For groups practicing at multiple facilities, the platform aggregates data and enables capture across different environments. The app works with anesthesia information management systems (AIMS), EHRs and billing software to abstract and aggregate data. In addition to the reporting service, the Quality Concierge 2.0 platform includes ASA’s Patient Experience Survey, which includes compliance with QCDR MIPS measures, provider and group benchmarking, and mobile access to patient feedback.

Much of the data relevant to registry and quality reporting is already captured when providing care to patients. The Quality Concierge platform can now be accessed through ePreop’s AnesthesiaValet App within Epic and Cerner. In addition to Quality Concierge, the AnesthesiaValet App offers billing capture tools, operating room utilization analytics and additional clinical alerts.

Embedded Into Workflow

At Green Bay Anesthesia Associates, using the ePreop App within Epic is making life easier for physician anesthesiologists and PACU nurses, says Quality and Safety Officer Neil Gillespie, M.D. Before they started using the app in 2016, clinicians entered patient and quality data on different screens with different logins.

“We don’t have to leave our electronic health record and go to a different website,” says Dr. Gillespie. “We log into Epic and push a button and it loads ePreop data. It’s a seamless effort.” The integrated app allows clinicians to report quality data in less than one minute, which lessens the heavy lifting required for quality reporting.

“Using the app saves a tremendous amount of effort,” Dr. Gillespie says. “By reducing effort, you have a greater buy-in from physicians. It’s very fast and easy to do, so it’s not hard to get people involved.”

The ability to offer these services from directly within the provider’s workflow enables simpler access for the anesthesia group that is trying to show value to their facility, Dr. Bergman says. “Whether it is MIPS today or an Alternative Payment Model tomorrow, the anesthesia group is in a position to access and utilize data in a way that helps them excel in a value-based environment. This includes mobile access with full alerts, analytics and benchmarking.”

Improving Performance

The Quality Concierge service provides more than just an avenue for reporting quality data to NACOR in hopes of avoiding CMS penalties under MIPS and MACRA.

“With the app, you can build a full quality improvement platform,” Dr. Bergman says. “We are helping groups meet MACRA and MIPS reporting requirements, but more importantly we are helping them in a competitive marketplace.

“They can now show their ASC or hospital that they are focused on quality – measuring outcomes, identifying gaps and implementing ways to improve care,” he says. “Being able to show this value can help a group secure their position, justify stipends and support request-for-proposal processes.”

ePreop processed quality data, which is critical for national benchmarking, for more than 31,000 providers last year, including 20,000 providers with AQI. Nearly every major anesthesia billing company is integrated with the application, Dr. Bergman says. “Groups understand the importance of leading the quality improvement process, and we are excited to work with the ASA on providing a leading service that helps both patients and providers.”

For more information, visit asahq.org/concierge