



Quality Concierge's tracking and reporting tools measure compliance across the entire perioperative continuum. Real-time provider and administrative dashboards help generate data and allow physicians to document practice improvement activities.

While still in the early stages of collecting data, Dr. Hsu says data collection will hopefully produce dividends for patient care measures, such as preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) for patients undergoing surgery. Comparing their quality data with peers across the country could help Tacoma Anesthesia Associates prevent PONV.

In this case, analyzing quality data could provide more than improved care. Treating high-risk patients prophylactically would minimize nausea and cut down on the time a patient spends in recovery, she says. A shorter recovery time for the patient leads to a reduced hospital stay and cuts down on backups in recovery and shortages of hospital rooms.

"In collecting and analyzing quality data there is efficiency, improved care and safety," Dr. Hsu says. "If we are doing well, we could show the hospitals how we are performing."

Structure for improving quality

Anesthesia West PC, a practice with 25 physicians and 25 nurse anesthetists, began reporting quality data in late 2017. Considered a work in progress, J. Kenneth Tiojanco, M.D., says reporting through Quality Concierge makes it easy for his practice to comply with MACRA and provides a structure for improving quality.

"Quality Concierge is making us aware of the quality metrics that we need to focus on," Dr. Tiojanco says. "It is helping us capture data and analyze how we are doing."

At the outset, Anesthesia West is collecting data on prophylactic treatment of PONV, cardiac data when beta blockers are administered and temperature management for patients who undergo surgery. By analyzing the data collected, Dr. Tiojanco says he can track incidents involving specific adverse events and compare his practice with national benchmarks.

"We thought reporting through Quality Concierge was the right thing to do," Dr. Tiojanco says. "We are able to look at data for each provider individually and give feedback. In the past, we relied on anecdotal data."

Reporting measures for local quality improvement and national benchmarking is a proactive approach for practices. "It is encouraging to see new practices using the NACOR registry beyond MIPS quality reporting," says Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D., ASA Interim Chief Quality Officer. "While the MIPS quality payment program continues to evolve, practices reporting to NACOR can better understand their performance, improve the quality of care they deliver and demonstrate their successes."

Anesthesia Quality Institute®

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ASA's Quality Concierge a Tool to Improve Quality *Patrick Reilly*

Physician anesthesiologists and their practices are finding that reporting quality data to ASA's Quality Registry and Qualified Clinical Data Registry through Quality Concierge® is more than just meeting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' requirements under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System and MACRA.

Submitting data through Quality Concierge of the Anesthesia Quality Institute's (AQI's) National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry® (NACOR®) is helping physician anesthesiologists to benchmark patient outcomes, identify areas for local quality improvement, and demonstrate quality and value metrics for contracting.

At Tacoma Anesthesia Associates and Anesthesia West PC in Omaha, Nebraska, making the decision to collect and report data through Quality Concierge was made with a goal to improve quality and patient care.

Improving patient care

AQI collaborated with ePreop (Seal Beach, California) to offer Quality Concierge to practices with limited data systems and administrative and IT support to successfully submit data to NACOR. Quality Concierge assists with measure selection, reporting options, extraction and merging of data.

At Tacoma Anesthesia Associates, the 41-provider practice began collecting quality data through Quality Concierge in early 2018. The practice handles more than 20,000 cases each year and has contracts with Tacoma General Hospital and Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

"I see a lot of potential benefits," says Lilly Hsu, M.D., of Tacoma Anesthesia Associates. "Over time, after we get all of this data, it will provide a nice overview and be really handy."