New American Joint Replacement Registry Resources for The Joint Commission Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification: Webinar Q&A

Below is a transcription of the Q&A section of the webinar New American Joint Replacement Registry Resources for The Joint Commission Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification. The webinar was held on May 31, 2023.

For additional information about the registry requirement for the certification process, please visit this webpage or call 1-800-999-2939.

Q: We currently load required measures in The Joint Commission site; are we also to load the data in the AJRR site?
A: Yes, The Joint Commission expects participants to be using the Registry for quality improvement purposes, including submitting data for the performance measures.

Q: If we are using a third-party vendor to submit, will they send everything you need, or will we need to also submit additional data?
A: If the vendor is submitting your procedure and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) data, then they should be able to submit everything required. If the vendor is a specific PROMs technology tool, then a site would need to submit the required procedure data.

Q: For post-op proms to be included in the measure denominator, do we have to have submitted a pre-op PROM?
A: No, the denominator is determined by eligible primary total hip and knee procedures and considers exclusions based on diagnosis coding and responses to The Joint Commission-specific data elements. There does not need to be a pre-op PROM for the post-op PROM to appear in the numerator of measure THKR-5, but it does need to link to an eligible procedure already submitted to the Registry.

Q: Are you going to separate the data out by inpatient vs. outpatient? That is how we have to submit our data to The Joint Commission.
A: Yes, we will be adding a filter to the dashboard later this summer allowing sites to separate out by inpatient and outpatient. We have also added a TJC Data Detail report link under the THKR performance measure visuals. This report can be filtered by care status –

inpatient/outpatient – and has case-level information to track why a patient may be falling out of the numerator or denominator. Additional information on how to interpret this report can be found in The Joint Commission toolkit and quick guide resources available in the Tools & Resources section of RegistryInsights® or via this website link.

Q: What does exclusion criteria mean? If a measure is not met because of a medical reason, then that patient is excluded?
A: Correct – The Joint Commission has established set exclusion criteria for cases that will not be included in the denominator (eligible patient population). For example, if a medical contraindication for a patient not receiving regional anesthesia for an otherwise measure-eligible case is documented, then this case is removed from the denominator and will not impact the performance rate. View our webpage for resources that outline these exclusions and related registry data elements in more detail.

Q: Are there plans to have access to physician-specific data?
A: Surgeons have access to their individual data through the Surgeon Authorized User view in RegistryInsights. Surgeon-level data is not visible to site Authorized Users currently on the Institution Dashboard and Performance Measure view, however, there are canned reports with case-level information available for download and internal analysis.

Q: We are American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR) members and level 1 data is submitted. We collect PROs and provide data to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) Model for the required metrics. We want to but have not gotten to the point of entering PROs through the AJRR download.
A: If you would like to begin the process of PROMs data submission, please reach out to our Support team at RegistrySupport@aaos.org and we will walk you through the next steps.

Q: Is there comparable data that allows us to compare our required measure scores to others?
A: For THKR measures 1-4, there is a historical benchmark provided by The Joint Commission. As the AJRR data volume for TJC measure data grows, we will explore adding a Registry National Benchmark to these visuals.

Q: Are there plans to add a Not Applicable option to the Acceptable Data Values and Format? Sometimes NR does not apply to all the other questions (i.e., patients that are not The Joint Commission eligible but still showing per AJRR guidelines, like partial hips or revisions)
A: We are currently in a specification update cycle and will note this feedback. Thank you.

Q: Can we get a little more clarity on post-op complication as it's linked to 90-day readmission and not all of the complications are readmissions?
A: AJRR currently accepts all-cause inpatient readmissions, operative and nonoperative, and outpatient return to the operating room within 90-days post-operatively.

Q: Will AJRR be making it possible to identify which patients were fallouts or listed as complications, readmission, etc.?
A: Yes, we have added a case detail report to the performance measures dashboard that provides this information. Please view this [webpage](#) for additional information on accessing and reading this report.

Q: Do you have any guidance on how other sites are collecting day of surgery ambulation as well as the exclusion criteria for regional anesthesia, ambulation, and discharge to home? It has been a manual process for us to capture this data because the documentation does not live in discrete fields but would like to explore a way to discretely capture this in Epic to submit to AJRR. We want to improve what is being extracted because we want to use RegistryInsights but haven't found a resolution.
A: Our informaticist discussed the use of updated forms or smart elements in Epic based on some site feedback. She also discussed that many sites do pull the complete report and add these fields in before submission. We will also be hosting more frequent small user group sessions where these extraction challenges can be discussed. We will post announcements as these are scheduled.

Q: Where is the toolkit?
A: The toolkit is available under the Tools & Resources section in RegistryInsights and on the [AAOS website](#).

Q: Does the Registry filter out the patients with fractures or should they be filtered out by the submitting institution?
A: Yes, AJRR identifies this exclusion based on fracture diagnosis coding submitted with that case. The site does not need to filter these cases out before submitting.

Q: If there is time, can you share plans for the PRO report that can be sent to CMS (new value-based measure for FY2024)?
A: AJRR is in progress on a project to update our current CJR extract in the dashboard to support sites with the Inpatient Quality Report (IQR) Total Hip and Knee Replacement PRO-PM. We currently support the majority of the required data fields except for the Medicare beneficiary ID, narcotics use, and person completing survey. We will be adding these fields with the expected timeline of early 2024 to have full capture for the mandatory period. For the voluntary period, we will work with sites to match Registry data to the additional required elements and provide a report or report on a site's behalf.

Q: The dashboard would be more meaningful if graphs could be displayed by month and quarter not just year. So, seeing the trend over 12 months.
A: Thank you for this feedback. We will note this for future dashboard enhancements.

Q: The TJC Data Detail Report is helpful but would be much more helpful if could export to Excel.
A: This will be available for export from the dashboard later this year after a security update project.

Q: Where can we find the template/file for the required measures?
A: In The Joint Commission participant resources under the Tools & Resources in RegistryInsights or on the [AAOS website](#).

Q: How can I find out the reason why some pre-op assessments were not linked to actual procedures?
A: The new AJRR participant toolkit and quick guide provide data submission and troubleshooting guidance. You can access these [here](#) or under the Tools & Resources section in RegistryInsights. Please reach out to RegistrySupport@aaos.org if you have additional questions.

Q: Will it ever be possible to manually change a data point from within AJRR? If, for example, you realize something that was reported turned out to be a documentation error or an exclusion?
A: This is not currently available in the RegistryInsights platform, but we will log this feedback. Thank you.

Q: What is the typical timeline that sites submit procedure, PROMs, and post-op files after the month has finished?
A: This timeline can vary by site, but we recommend quarterly submission at a minimum. Procedures submission occurs first followed by any readmission/complications data and PROMs as completed in the months following.

Q: If we submit to the Registry, do we still have to report monthly CMIPs to The Joint Commission?
A: Yes, AJRR does not currently report on site's behalf to The Joint Commission.

Q: Our site has not done a walkthrough of our data with AJRR yet - is this something we could schedule? We are a site within a larger healthcare system where other hospitals also submit data in one upload, so would need to coordinate with the other entities. Our hospital is the only one with The Joint Commission Advanced Certification though.
A: Yes, we would be happy to do a walkthrough with your team. Please reach out to RegistrySupport@aaos.org.

Q: Can you clarify whether The Joint Commission is requiring all metrics to be submitted through AJRR's registry or whether we can manually report as we have been doing.
A: Yes, The Joint Commission requires performance measure data to be submitted and tracked in AJRR.

Q: When the patient is preregistered, how soon can the patient go to AJRR to complete their pre-op survey; what link should they use to do so?
A: Pending how your PROMs profile was set up with our Support team, a link will be emailed to our patient within the selected interval chosen by the site. If you are unsure what intervals your site chose or would like to confirm your PROMs profile setup, please reach out to RegistrySupport@aaos.org.

Q: It would be helpful if we could have one site with all 12 months displayed separately or quarterly with denominators visible without having to hover.
A: Thank you for this feedback. We will log this for future dashboard projects.

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