

Registry Office Hours for The Joint Commission Advanced Certifications Q & A

- 1. Are the American Spine Registry (ASR) Grouped Performance Metrics automatically populated with the files that are uploaded using the data specifications for ASR?**

Yes, they are.

- 2. Do you also work with Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Healthcare?**

We do, but DNV Healthcare does not have specific data elements that have been created in the data specifications like The Joint Commission has. Please refer to DNV Healthcare guidelines on what else is needed in addition to registry participation.

- 3. Is there a percentage threshold for the patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)? If we miss the pre-op PROMs assessments, should we still send the post-op assessments to them?**

There is not a set threshold for the pre-op PROMs capture for The Joint Commission. You can still send the post-op assessment to the American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR) even if you miss pre-op, as these are separate measures. The pre- and post-op need to be completed to meet 1 for the measure numerator for ASR, so you need both time points. Clinically, both time points are preferred for meaningful use.

- 4. What are the AJRR requirements for post-op?**

AJRR post-op data is not utilized to calculate The Joint Commission measures. Only procedure and PROMs data are required for The Joint Commission reporting. That said, there are other quality and outcomes measures in the dashboard that require post-op data for sites to maximize use of the performance improvement data available.

- 5. When will we have more data in the ASR for national data comparison?**

ASR has national comparison bars across the procedure, post-operative, and PROMs data. The performance measures are more recent additions to ASR, and now that more sites are submitting the required data, we will explore creating a reliable registry national benchmark in early 2024.

- 6. What if we use codes that are different from what ASR provided for The Joint Commission Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery (ACSS)?**

Currently, the ACSS measures are built around the codes listed in the data specification ACSS tab for ASR. AAOS has discussed with TJC the site concerns

around low numerator for the measures and will be discussing coding changes in 2024 that would take effect in 2025, if approved.

It is also important to note that these are inverse metrics, so the numerator will ideally remain low for sites if there is not a significant amount of unplanned return to OR, SSI, etc.

- 7. I had some test files that a data analyst pulled using a code that was written and we had a couple of patients who had spine surgery but didn't have a DX or PX that was included in the data specifications. Are there spine diagnosis or procedures that are excluded from the data specifications?**

Yes, ASR is focused on degenerative cases within spine procedures. If your site has procedure or diagnosis codes that do not align with the inclusion criteria for ASR, they should not be submitted into the Registry.

- 8. Was the last AJRR data dictionary released in 2021? I want to make sure I did not miss any revisions to the 2021 v1.**

The most recent version of the data specifications is currently 2021.

- 9. Is it NOT required to fill out the post-op layout tab in AJRR?**

It is not required but strongly recommended.

- 10. How long do you anticipate until the performance measures national benchmark is available to end users?**

They should be out by 2025.

- 11. I remember hearing that a new version of data specifications is due out in November. If so, which registries is it for?**

We have expanded this project to ease the data burden on sites, so these will be released in 2024. The approximate timeline will be available closer to Q1 of 2024.

- 12. If I'm looking at our site-specific performance data on AJRR and everything is being pulled except for POD 0 ambulation (THKR2), who should we contact to ensure this is captured properly?**

Send us an email at RegistrySupport@aaos.org.

- 13. AJRR and The Joint Commission do not require the post-op layout tab. However, is it recommended and encouraged to submit it?**

Correct. For AJRR, post-op data is not a required category to be submitted. We do, though, strongly recommend it.

- 14. Does ASR filter out cases like fractures and hip replacement?**
We need at least one qualifying procedure trigger code and at least one qualifying diagnosis code, otherwise the case will be rejected by our system.
- 15. What if our site has different PX and DX codes for some of the other degenerative spine cases?**
Unfortunately, our system only accepts the codes that are outlined in the data specifications. These are ICD-10 or CPT codes for procedures and ICD-10 codes for the diagnoses.
- 16. Will the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)/The Joint Commission requirement for PROMIS-10 surveys for THKR-IP-5 and THKR-OP-5, once collected from the AAOS, be forwarded to CMS?**
Yes, AAOS can send CMS the data on your behalf. You will need to sign a data sharing agreement for this or send the report to CMS on your own.
- 17. If we collect PROMIS-10 sooner at our facility before the 300-425-day deadline, does that fulfill the requirement?**
It is a strict interval that cannot be collected sooner or later than what is listed.



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