

# AETNA INSTITUTES OF QUALITY® PROGRAM

Aetna Institutes of Quality (IOQ) are a network of health care sites that demonstrate high levels of quality and efficiency. Earning this designation, as well as other advanced certifications, gives prospective patients confidence in your institution, attracts top talent, and sets your institution apart as high-quality care option.

To be eligible for IOQ review by The Joint Commission (TJC), your institution must participate in the AAOS American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR) or the American Spine Registry (ASR).

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"The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is committed to providing quality care and improving the patient experience. Tracking patient-reported outcomes in orthopaedic surgery can seem daunting. Through collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeon's staff, our organization was able to submit clinical data to the AJRR—and to view longitudinal reports—in a matter of months. Data are processed quickly and dashboard reports update as soon as files are submitted. Once our data submission process was set up through our EMR, automated data extracts are sent to AJRR with little manual intervention.

Today, our hospital quality administrators and submitting surgeons use the AJRR dashboards to track primary and revision joint arthroplasty case mix, Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures, and data-driving benchmarking. I also use AJRR to conduct research – my specific focus has been on prosthetic joint infections. AJRR linkages with Medicare claims data provide readmission information that allows for more comprehensive follow-up analyses.

**Overall, participation in AJRR has been well-worth the initial technical set-up effort for me, our institution and our patients. AJRR partners with multiple authorized technology vendors to make data submission easier than ever."**

**Jeffrey B. Stambough, MD, FAAOS**  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

## What are the steps to obtaining the IOQ designation?



[Learn More](#)

- Contract with AJRR or ASR to be eligible for TJC Advanced Certification in Total Hip & Knee Replacement (THKR) and Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery (ACSS)
- Submit data for applicable procedural and PROMs data for TJC measures.
  - Minimum requirements include submission of procedural, post-operative and PROMs data for TJC measures.
- Sites can view real-time performance in RegistryInsights® dashboards for all above metrics based on reported institutional data
- Once all measures have been reported to TJC and the site achieves advanced certification, the institution will be eligible to be reviewed for IOQ designation
- Sites will receive a letter from Aetna with their IOQ designation decision



Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification

Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery