



Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network™

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network and why was it developed?

The Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network is a quality improvement initiative developed to allow adult congenital heart disease (CHD) and pediatric cardiology practices the opportunity to collaborate, collect and share data to drive quality improvement and advance the development and delivery of cardiovascular standards of care. Specifically, the network provides its participants with access to a suite of adult CHD and pediatric cardiology quality metrics and the opportunity to implement these metrics and collect data at the facility or site level. This information allows sites to benchmark their performance rates against the collective performance of other participating sites to assess whether their processes and outcomes reflect best practices and the latest clinical care standards. The primary goals of the network are to leverage data for collaborative quality improvement (QI) and to also support physicians in earning credit toward board maintenance of certification (MOC) self-assessment of practice requirements.

2) What are the requirements to join the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network?

The network is designed for sites that provide inpatient and/or outpatient cardiovascular care for adult and pediatric congenital heart disease. To enroll, sites must fill out a **Participant Agreement** which authorizes ACC to use the data to create aggregated benchmarks for quarterly performance reports that will be shared across all participating sites. Sites must also have at least one physician that is a Fellow of the ACC. To request a copy of the full program requirements, please contact us at acpcqnet@acc.org.

3) How much does it cost to participate in the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network?

The current fee for hospitals to participate in the network is \$2,400. The fee is paid on annual basis and is not prorated. To inquire about the annual fee for a small practice, please contact us at acpcqnet@acc.org.

4) How can my site enroll in the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network?

You can request a complete enrollment packet, including the **Participant Agreement** and complete instructions by contacting us at acpcqnet@acc.org.

5) How many metrics are required to participate?

The Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network allows sites to select metrics that are relevant to their practice and quality improvement efforts. Sites have the option to collect data and report on as many metrics as they wish. However, to receive quarterly performance reports, sites must collect and submit data for at least one metric.

6) Will any patient-level data or identifiers be collected as part of the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network?

No. Participating sites will only report numerator(s) and denominator(s) for each metric and will not provide any personal health information (PHI). ACC will neither obtain data through interaction with patients nor obtain any identifiable private patient information for the duration of the program.

7) How is data collected and reported?

Participating sites document their numerator and denominator counts by following the network instructions and recording data locally. Prior to the quarterly data submission deadline, ACC will provide each site with a private online link to enter in their data. ACC will aggregate data for all participating sites and prepare a quarterly performance report that will be made available on the network website. ACC will notify site administrators when data is due and when quarterly performance reports are available.

8) Are you working with any 3rd party vendors to assist sites with automating data submission?

No, ACC is not partnering with any vendors to assist with data collection as part of this program.

9) Do you provide administrative billing codes (e.g., ICD 9/10) to sites to help identify eligible patient populations for each metric?

No, ACC provides guidance on the data collection process but does not currently have administrative billing codes for each metric. Participating sites can collect data using a combination of both clinical and administrative claims data depending on their work flow and preference. Sites have the option to set-up queries directly in their electronic medical records or use administrative billing codes.

10) Which sites are participating in the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network?

The Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network is a national program that was piloted in 2015 and launched in 2016. For a current list of participating sites, visit the website at www.ACC.org/qnet.

11) Will my site's performance reports be made public?

No, each site will be assigned a code that will appear in reports so that they can anonymously compare their rates against other CHD sites. Sites may be identified as participating in the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network; however, performance reports will not link a site's name with a performance rate. Only sites that contribute data to the network will have access to the quarterly performance reports.

12) How do I access the quarterly performance reports?

Performance reports will be posted to the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network website on a quarterly basis. Each site will receive email notifications with links to the reports when they are available.

13) Can I share results outside of my organization?

The quarterly performance reports produced by ACC may not be shared without prior written authorization from ACC.

14) How often is data submitted and reported?

Data is collected and submitted on a quarterly basis. Email reminders are sent to each site administrator with data submission deadlines which are approximately 6 weeks after the end of each reporting quarter.

15) Will there be opportunities for collaboration and sharing?

ACC will offer webinars and in-person learning sessions for participating sites to share results, best practices, and engage in other collaborative quality improvement activities. In addition, sites can collaborate on an ongoing basis through the network's dedicated Listserv.

16) Can I earn Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credit for participation?

The Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network's leadership team will guide the development of specific quality improvement (QI) projects using data collected through the program. ACC will submit QI projects for review and approval for MOC part IV credit with the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). MOC credit will only be awarded to those participating in ABP-approved QI projects. Please note that MOC credit cannot be earned based solely on enrolling in the Adult Congenital & Pediatric Cardiology Quality Network program.

17) Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact us with any questions at acpcqnet@acc.org