

RQRS Terms & Conditions:

Participation in the Rapid Quality Reporting System (RQRS) does not test new interventions, but simply uses a Web-based data-collection and reporting system; submission, processing, and reporting of data is consistent with and honors the agreed upon terms outlined in the Business Associate Agreement regarding the use of data submitted to the Commission on Cancer (CoC).

All cases reported to the RQRS are collected by cancer registries at participating hospitals and entered into their database. On a locally determined schedule cases are extracted from the cancer registry and transmitted to the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) using nationally standardized data transmission specifications established by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). Cases will be transmitted to the RQRS via established secure electronic data transmission protocols used by the NCDB since 2001. For RQRS comparison and performance rates to remain current, each participating cancer program should expect to submit cases and updated treatment information to RQRS on a regular basis.

Cancer programs are required to make RQRS submissions no less than quarterly (once every three months) to remain a RQRS participating program. More frequent, monthly submissions are encouraged. Cancer program performance rates reported through the RQRS are based exclusively on the case records reported from the participating program's cancer registry. Case records in the RQRS are updated via a resubmission of cases from the reporting hospital. Participating programs are responsible for monitoring and updating case records and may use the alerts and case listing features of the RQRS to manage and facilitate any necessary updates.

New performance measures and primary sites will be added to the RQRS system as they are developed through the Commission on Cancer's site-specific Quality Measure Work Groups. The information provided to participating programs through RQRS is meant to be used as a reporting tool. All treatment decisions remain within the purview of the physician-patient relationship.

The Cancer Program Administrator, Cancer Liaison Physician, Cancer Committee Chair and Hospital Registrar at each participating CoC accredited program receive an RQRS Monthly Alerts Report. This report is distributed on the first Monday of each month and includes aggregate counts of patients with orange, red and dark red alerts for each of the clinical performance measures monitored by RQRS. No patient identifiers are included in these reports. Information is for the sole use of the recipient and members of the cancer program. The alerts, based on the reporting program's measure-specific performance rates, serve as a tool to assist cancer programs with quality improvement

activities. How the information in these reports is utilized is determined at a local level by each Cancer Program.

All participating hospitals agree to indemnify and hold harmless the American College of Surgeons and its employees and agents from and against any claims, liabilities, and expenses, of whatever nature, arising from the facility's receipt or use of RQRS alerts or participation in the RQRS program. All treatment decisions remain within the purview of the physician-patient relationship based on the best judgment of the physician. Once released, it is the responsibility of each participating facility to determine how best to use and share this information.

Additional Requirements for all RQRS Participating Programs:

- All CoC programs participating in RQRS **must have** a Hospital Registrar (HR), Cancer Program Administrator (CPA), Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) and Cancer Committee Chair (CCC) with CoC Datalinks access and up-to-date unique contact (e-mail) information. Where the CLP and the CCC are the same individual, this requirement is waived.
- The HR, CPA, CCC and CLP in each participating CoC accredited cancer program **must each** register and indicate that their cancer program agrees to the terms and conditions of RQRS participation.
- It is the **sole responsibility** of participating programs **to update** changes in employment status of any individual that impacts access to the CoC Datalinks web portal with the Commission on Cancer as soon as these changes in status are known.
- To remain an active participant in RQRS, programs **must agree** to submit new and/or update case records to RQRS at least once every three (3) months, though greater frequency is encouraged.