



RQRS Terms & Conditions:

Participation in the Rapid Quality Reporting System (RQRS) is voluntary. This program does not test new interventions, but simply uses a Web-based data-collection and reporting system. Implementation of this project 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, breast and colorectal cases will be 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 agree to make RQRS submissions no less than quarterly (once every three months) to remain a RQRS participating program. 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 can be modified or changed via a resubmission of cases from the local cancer registry. 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.

All current clinical performance measures reported through RQRS were developed under the guidance of the Commission on Cancer's Breast and Colorectal Disease Site Teams and harmonized with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) to ensure that a single set of evidence-based accountability and quality improvement measures were available to the American public and medical providers. Five of these harmonized measures were endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). New performance measures will be added to the RQRS system as they are developed through the Commission's site specific Quality Measure Work Groups. The information provided to participating programs through RQRS are meant to as a guide, 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 CoC accredited program that has registered to participate in RQRS will receive a RQRS Monthly Alerts Report. This report is distributed on the first Monday of each month and it 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 will appear in these reports. Information is for the sole use of the

recipient and members of the cancer program. These alerts are a tool to assist your cancer program with quality improvement activities, as reflected by your program's measure-specific performance rates. How you choose to use the information in these reports should be determined by your Cancer Program.

All participating facilities 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 potential RQRS Participating Programs:

- All CoC programs wishing to participate 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 CoC accredited cancer program wishing to participate in RQRS **must each** register and indicate that their cancer program agrees to the terms and conditions of RQRS participation.
- RQRS is a prospective reporting tool. Programs participating in RQRS **must update** changes in employment status of any individual with 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, a participating program **must agree** to submit new and/or update case records to RQRS at least once every three (3) months, though greater frequency is encouraged.
- If at any time, a cancer program participating in RQRS may un-enroll and terminate its participation in the program. When this happens, the HR, CPA, CCC and CLP on record with the CoC accredited cancer program **must each** complete the requisite un-enrollment steps.