

VQI Participation Awards

2023



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Introduction

The SVS PSO is pleased to present the results of the 2023 VQI Participation Awards. The awards recognize the importance of active participation in the VQI as a critical component of our quality improvement mission. This is the ninth year of the VQI Participation Awards program, and we are very encouraged by the 2023 results. VQI centers were eligible to receive up to 3 “Stars” depending on the extent of their participation in four categories, which were selected by the SVS PSO Governing Council to emphasize the importance of center participation in these key areas:

Long-Term Follow-up (40% of total score)

Long-Term Follow-up (LTFU) reporting demonstrates a commitment to monitoring the ongoing effectiveness of treatment, assessing potential problems and providing optimal medical management. LTFU allows a more meaningful assessment of quality (as opposed to only perioperative outcomes), and is a cornerstone of VQI. Cases in all registries except Varicose Veins are included when calculating a center’s overall LTFU rate. The goal for LTFU in VQI is reporting at one year after the index procedure. Since follow-up times vary, LTFU rate is calculated based on any follow-up reported between 9 and 21 months post-procedure. For the 2023 VQI Participation Awards, LTFU is calculated based on procedures performed in 2021 to allow two full years to record LTFU after the procedure. For centers that joined VQI in 2022, however, LTFU is calculated based on procedures performed in 2022, allowing only one year to obtain LTFU for the 2023 Participation Award.

Attendance at Regional Quality Group Meetings (30% of total score)

Physician and staff attendance at semi-annual regional quality group meetings is critical to drive discussions of outcome variation, to develop regional QI projects, and to encourage multi-center participation in outcomes analysis and QI efforts.

Quality Improvement Activities (25% of total score)

The SVS PSO wants centers to analyze their data and use those findings to develop processes to improve patient outcomes. There are many opportunities to obtain points for this category: by developing and implementing a quality improvement project through the use of a charter for your center or region and disseminating the results internally at your center or at regional and national meetings, and through publications. We are also pleased that numerous centers received credit for their performance related to the VQI’s National Quality Initiatives. 220 centers qualified for a bonus point for Discharge Medications and 80 centers for EVAR Sac Diameter Reporting, based on maintaining their standing in the top quartile or by achieving statistically significant improvement in these areas.

Number of VQI Registry Subscriptions (5% of total score)

Participation in multiple procedure registries provides more opportunities for learning and improvement.

The SVS PSO would like to acknowledge the dedication that all centers bring to providing accurate and complete data for each procedure and follow-up. We plan to recognize centers that received the 2023 VQI Participation Award on the VQI website and in other publications. No matter how many stars your center received, we hope that you will work to improve your participation in 2024. LTFU reporting is considered so important to the SVS PSO that we have created various resources on LTFU including lessons learned from centers with high follow up rates, quality LTFU charters, webinars, and much more which can be found on the VQI website: <https://www.vqi.org/resources/quality-improvement/> (<https://www.vqi.org/resources/quality-improvement/>) and <https://www.vqi.org/resources/reporting/> (<https://www.vqi.org/resources/reporting/>). Further, we can provide staff coaching and peer mentoring for centers that struggle with LTFU reporting. We look forward to working with all centers to enhance their participation in the Vascular Quality Initiative. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Wymer, bwymmer@svspsso.org (<mailto:bwymmer@svspsso.org>).

It should be emphasized that this award does not represent the quality of care delivered, but rather is a measure of VQI participation, which we hope will translate into improved quality of care long-term. For 2023, there were 926 centers eligible for VQI Participation Awards, and we are pleased that 109 received 3 Stars, 173 received 2 Stars and 130 received 1 Star. Your center's results are shown below, along with the scoring system used to calculate the number of stars awarded.

Sincerely yours,

Cassius Ochoa-Chaar, MD Co-Chair, VQI Participation Award Committee
Christopher Smolock, MD, Co-Chair, VQI Participation Award Committee
Adam Beck, MD, Chair, SVS PSO Governing Council
Jens Eldrup-Jorgensen, MD, SVS PSO Medical Director
Betsy Wymer, DNP, RN, RN-BC, SVS PSO Director of Quality

Scoring System

Long-Term Follow-Up Score (40% of Total Score)

- $\geq 90\%$ LTFU rate across all procedures = 6 points
- $\geq 80\%$ LTFU rate across all procedures = 4 points
- $\geq 70\%$ LTFU rate across all procedures = 2 points
- $< 70\%$ LTFU rate across all procedures = 0 points

Notes:

1. LTFU rate is based on procedures performed in 2021. For centers that joined the VQI in 2022, LTFU is based on 2022 procedures.

Meeting-Participation Score (30% of Total Score)

- 3 or more physicians attending regional meeting = 3 points
- 2 physicians attending regional meeting = 2 points
- 1 physician attending regional meeting = 1 point
- No physicians attending regional meeting = 0 points

Notes:

1. Scores for spring and fall regional meetings are calculated separately and summed to give a final point total.
2. Centers with affiliated staff attending earn an extra point at each meeting (maximum of 3 points for each meeting).
3. Centers with staff members attending VQI @ VAM earn 1 extra point.
4. Centers with 2 physicians earn 2 points if 1 attends a regional meeting and 3 points if 2 attend.
5. Centers with 1 physician earn 3 points if 1 attends a regional meeting.
6. Total Meeting-Participation Score is capped at 6 points.

Quality-Improvement Score (25% of Total Score)

- Complete project charter = 2 points
- Poster = 2 points
- Presentation = 2 points
- Publication = 2 points
- In top quartile or show significant improvement on Discharge Medication rate = 1 point
- In top quartile or show significant improvement on EVAR Sac Diameter Reporting rate = 1 point

Notes:

1. To be “in the top quartile”, a center’s rate must be in the top 25% of all VQI centers’ rates.
2. To “show significant improvement” on DC meds, a center’s 2023 rate must be significantly better than its 2022 rate. For EVAR Sac Diameter Reporting, a center’s 2021 rate must be significantly better than its 2020 rate.
3. Total Quality-Improvement Score is capped at 6 points.

Registry-Subscription Score (5% of Total Score)

- Subscribe to ≥ 9 registries = 6 points
- Subscribe to 6-8 registries = 4 points
- Subscribe to 3-5 registries = 2 points
- Subscribe to 1-2 registries = 0 points

Notes:

1. Centers participating in only the Varicose Vein registry earn 1 point.

Bonus Score

- Lead Data Manager for Regional Meeting = 1 point
- Lead Physician for Regional Meeting = 1 point
- Host Site for Regional Meeting = 1 point

Notes:

1. Points for spring and fall regional meetings are earned separately and summed to give a final point total.
2. A maximum of 6 bonus points are possible.

Calculation of Total Score

Total Score = 4xLTFU Score + 3xMeeting Score + 2.5xQI Score + 0.5xRegistry Score + Bonus Score

Total Score is capped at 60 points

Participation Awards Point Scale

Total Score > 40 points: 3 stars
Total Score > 26 - 40 points: 2 stars
Total Score = 17 - 26 points: 1 star
Total Score < 17 points: 0 stars

Your Center's Award

Long-Term Follow-Up Score

Your center's long-term follow-up rate* = 93%

Points earned for LTFU = 6

Weighted points for LTFU = 24

*"N/A" indicates your center entered no procedures for the appropriate year.

Meeting-Participation Score

Score for spring 2023 meeting = 3

Score for fall 2023 meeting = 3

Points earned for VQI @ VAM attendance = 1

Points earned for meeting participation = 6

Weighted points for meeting participation = 18

Quality-Improvement Score

Points earned for quality improvement activities = 4

Weighted points for QI activities = 10

Registry-Subscription Score

Registries in which your center participates = 6

Points earned for registry subscription = 4

Weighted points for registry subscription = 2

Bonus Score

Bonus points = 0

Total Points and Participation Award
Total points earned after weighting = 54
YOUR CENTER'S 2023 PARTICIPATION AWARD: 3 STARS
(Your center's 2022 Participation Award was 3 STARS)