

# QOD

## NEWSLINE



November 2018 • Issue 1

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

QOD Registry Updates.....	2
QOD Latest Numbers .....	3
QOD Studies/Publications .....	4
QOD Practice-based Learning Network (PBLN) .....	4
Upcoming Meetings and Events .....	7
QOD Data Coordinator Recognition .....	5
QOD Calendar Reminders.....	6
Save the Date! NPA Registry Course .....	8
QOD Program Contact Information .....	8

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## Welcome to the inaugural issue of our monthly QOD newsletter.

The NeuroPoint Alliance (NPA) is pleased to announce the launch of a newly reformatted newsletter. The Quality Outcomes Database Newsline builds on the success of the former QOD Data Coordinators' Newsflash and aligns with the recent NPA and QOD rebranding. The NPA looks forward to sharing timely information and updates on NPA and QOD projects that are being developed or are currently in process.

### QOD Activity Highlights

#### QOD VERSION 2.0 (QOD V2):

In response to the QOD Operations Committee's request to develop a symptom- and procedure-based registry that is less resource-intensive, the NPA QOD Core Project Team developed the QOD Version 2.0 (QOD V2). QOD V2 incorporates opioid tracking, CPT®-based inclusion and replaces the existing QOD patient-reported outcomes instruments with PROMIS®. In June 2018, the QOD V2 was opened for testing within Vanderbilt University. The Mayo Clinic began testing in September 2018. Results of the pilot testing will be shared with the QOD Committees who will then determine future direction and launch of the V2.

#### QOD Technical Platform/ REDCap Upgrade:

As part of an ongoing commitment to keep QOD on the forefront of quality

improvement, the NPA has continued to investigate options to provide centers with a technical platform that will allow for data integration, dynamic reporting and reduced resource burden.

In August 2018, the NPA distributed a request for proposal for clinical data technology services to over ten registry technology vendors. Proposals are being reviewed and it is anticipated that a new technology vendor will be selected by year-end, with development to begin after the first of the year.

In September 2018, as an interim solution, the NPA and QOD Vanderbilt Coordinating Center team successfully completed an enhancement of the QOD database in REDCap™. QOD REDCap now offers full integration of online data collection for patient reported outcomes, the ability for sites to: 1) create their

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own patient identifiers, 2) the option for coordinators to email QOD data collection forms to their team members for completion, 3) optional collection of the QOD Version 2.0 data variables (opioid information and PROMIS) and 4) an overall improved experience. And last month, REDCap developed and installed a plug-in to QOD that allows for more expedient QOD form page loading and improves the overall speed and performance of the QOD database.

**QOD Vanguard Program:**

The QOD Vanguard Center of Recognition program is aimed at designating QOD centers that have exemplary performance in the amount and quality of data collected. The preliminary criteria for Vanguard status follows the QOD Data Use and Access Committee (DUAC) criteria, which requires centers to enroll at least 2.5 patients per week, enroll a total of least 200 patients and have a 12-month follow-up rate of at least 70 percent. Vanguard Centers must also exhibit a willingness to progress to enhanced data collection, audits of eligible patients (case logs) and audits for data accuracy.

In October 2017, QOD leadership met with the surgeon champions from 21 QOD centers identified as early Vanguard Centers to establish criteria and requirements for the program. The QOD Vanguard Program will be further informed by testing the QOD V2.0 and completing QOD CPT Code Audits, which are in process in six QOD centers for the 2017 program year. ●



**QOD Registry Updates**

**QOD Spine:**

We are excited to announce that as of November 2, 2018, the QOD has 105 contracted centers across the country.



Over 100,000 patients have been enrolled in the QOD spine registries across 87 participating lumbar centers, 77 cervical centers and 60 deformity centers.

The QOD Project Team continues to make steady progress on the QOD Spine Surgery Predictive Calculators. Development of the lumbar calculator is complete and HIPAA-compliant. It was trialed and used in clinic at Vanderbilt University and OrthoCarolina under a grant obtained from the Lumbar Spine Research Society (LSRS) by Clint Devin, MD. The Lumbar Calculator will continue to be refined based on initial testing. It is anticipated that the calculator will be available for additional testing and validation in the coming months.

The QOD Cervical Predictive Calculator has completed early stages of design and development. The calculator will continue to be refined under the direction of Kristin Archer, PhD, DPT (VUMC) and Frank Harrell, PhD (VIMPH) and will build on experience gained from testing of the Lumbar Calculator.

**QOD Neurovascular (NV):**

Nearly 5,000 patients have been enrolled in the QOD Neurovascular registry across 28 active sites. QOD welcomes its newest NV sites, the Mayfield Clinic and the University of Minnesota, to the registry. Discussions are ongoing with the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS) on to combine their respective neurovascular registries in response to the Food and Drug Administration's call for a coordinated registry network to examine devices in the treatment of stroke.



**QOD Tumor Registry:**

The much anticipated QOD Tumor registry will begin a three-month limited pilot test next month with five QOD Centers: Atlantic Neurosurgical Specialists, Carolina Neurosurgical & Spine Associates, Henry Ford Health System, Saint Luke's Hospital of Bethlehem, and the University of Minnesota. The QOD Tumor registry was developed by the AANS/CNS Tumor Section, and approved by the QOD Scientific Committee in October 2014. The registry has been refined over the years, and it will now incorporate cranial ICD-10 and CPT Codes, along with PROMIS as an outcome measure. Following the limited pilot test, the registry will be opened for additional pilot testing, and a full launch is anticipated for April 2019, in conjunction with the AANS Annual Scientific Meeting. The Tumor Working Group includes: Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FAANS; Anthony L. Asher, MD, FAANS; Mohamad Bydon, MD, FAANS; Jack Knightly, MD, FAANS; Steven Kalkanis, MD, FAANS; Manish Aghi, MD, PhD, FAANS; Debraj Mukherjee, MD, FAANS; Brad Zacharia, MD, FAANS; Marie Roguski, MD; and Yaron Moshel, MD, FAANS.



**QOD Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR):**

On November 1, 2018, the NPA submitted its QOD self-nomination application to the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) for the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System's (MIPS) 2019 program year. As with previous years, QOD applied for Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) status and aims to provide quality data reporting for the MIPS program. The QOD QCDR will offer specialty-specific QCDR measures for physicians to report. The QOD was a QCDR for years 2015-2018 and a Qualified Registry (QR) in 2013 and 2014. ●

## QOD Latest Numbers November

### Lumbar Cycle 304 (11/1/2018 – 11/8/2018)

Total # Contracted Lumbar Sites = 105  
Total # Active Lumbar Sites = 87  
Surgeons = 752  
Hospitals = 216  
Patients in Lumbar registry (screened) = 72,271  
Patients - registry accrual = 53,753  
States participating in QOD = 38  
3-month follow-up = 72.2%  
12-month follow-up = 62.7%

### Cervical Cycle 304 (11/1/2018 – 11/8/2018)

Total # Active Cervical Sites = 77  
Surgeons = 609  
Hospitals = 172  
Cervical patients enrolled = 31,600  
Cervical patients accrual = 22,654  
3-month Cervical follow-up = 71.6%  
12-month Cervical follow-up = 60.6%

### Deformity Cycle 304 (11/1/2018 – 11/8/2018)

Total # Active Deformity Sites = 60  
Surgeons = 294  
Hospitals = 105  
Deformity patients enrolled = 2,755  
Deformity patients accrual = 2,131  
3-month Deformity follow-up = 74.2%  
12-month Deformity follow-up = 62.2%

### Neurovascular Cycle 226 (11/1/2018 – 11/8/2018)

Total # Active CV Sites = 28  
Surgeons = 125  
Hospitals = 36  
NV patients enrolled = 5,045  
NV patients accrual = 4,732  
30-day follow-up = 87.9%

We are excited to announce that as of November 2, 2018, the Quality Outcomes Database (QOD) has 105 contracted centers across the country. Over 100,000 patients have been enrolled in the QOD spine registries across 87 participating lumbar centers, 77 cervical centers and 60 deformity centers.

Over 5,000 patients have been enrolled in the QOD Neurovascular registry across 28 active sites. QOD continues to expand due to all your contributions and we look forward to continued growth.

## QOD Studies/Publications

QOD data is continuously used for analyses and studies. Here is a snapshot of the most recent NPA QOD publications. For a detailed listing, visit the NPA website at: [www.neuropoint.org](http://www.neuropoint.org).

Have an article or presentation that you would like included in the list? Send a notification to the NPA at [info@neuropoint.org](mailto:info@neuropoint.org).

### QOD Manuscripts Published in 2018

Title	Publication	Edition
Defining the Minimum Clinically Important Difference for Grade I Degenerative Lumbar Spondylolisthesis: Insights from the Quality Outcomes Database	Neurosurgical Focus	Jan 2018
Women fare best following surgery for degenerative lumbar spondylolisthesis: a comparison of the most and least satisfied patients utilizing data from the Quality Outcomes Database	Neurosurgical Focus	Jan 2018
Comparative-effectiveness of Anterior versus Posterior Approach for Patients with Cervical Myelopathy: Analysis from Quality Outcome Database	Neurosurgery	May 2018
Drivers of Variability in 90-day Cost for Primary Single-level Microdiscectomy	Neurosurgery	May 2018
Is Length Of Stay Influenced By The Weekday On Which Lumbar Surgery is Performed?	Neurosurgery	Aug 2018
Predictive Model for Medical and Surgical Readmissions Following Elective Lumbar Spine Surgery: A National Study of 33,674 Patients	Spine	Sep 2018
A Strategy for Risk-Adjusted Ranking of Surgeons and Practices Based on Patient-Reported Outcomes After Elective Lumbar Surgery	Spine	Oct 2018

## QOD Practice-based Learning Network (PBLN)

The PBLN was established in August 2012 to create a QOD community forum, develop an education program and provide leadership within the grass root network of QOD coordinators. The PBLN represents a voice for QOD data coordinators and looks to foster and cultivate the successful future of the registry.

The PBLN's accomplishments over the years include development of foundational and pertinent educational initiatives, establishment of the QOD Mentor Program, improvements in systematic and standardized data collection efforts and facilitation of numerous QOD Data Coordinator conferences, both in-person and online.

The PBLN has several active projects underway, including planning for the next in-person Data Coordinator Conference, which is tentatively set for September 2019. The PBLN, alongside the NPA and QOD VUMC Coordinating

Center, is working to develop a course outline to address many of the focus areas identified by the QOD Data Coordinator community, drawing from the numerous responses received from the QOD Training Needs Survey conducted in late December 2017. The NPA and AANS will open their newly renovated doors to host the meeting at its headquarter offices in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, just 20 miles from Chicago and 10 miles from Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

In addition to conference planning, the PBLN is updating the existing QOD education and training materials to ensure current information for new coordinators and sites. The PBLN will work closely with the NPA and QOD VUMC Coordinating Center to develop an online collaborative platform where registry sites can share information, network and communicate with each other.

The PBLN welcomes new members. The PBLN is chaired by Jeff Sorenson, MD, FAANS and current members include: Michele Anderson (NPA), Jennifer Beswick (University of Louisville), Darlene Brewer (Semmes Murphey), Richard Call (Vanderbilt University), Lori Clemons (Vanderbilt University), Rebecca Ruegg-Cowan (Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine), Marilyn Hammack (CNOS), Cam Johnson (Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates), Jacquelyn Pennings (Vanderbilt University), Sharon Phillips (Vanderbilt University), Beverly Roy, and Irene Zyung (NPA).

Future plans and new opportunities for the PBLN will be focused on QOD data quality, data use, data collection efficiencies, quality registry education and patient education. If you are interested in participating in the PBLN, contact NPA at [icz@neuropoint.org](mailto:icz@neuropoint.org).

# QOD Data Coordinator Recognition

The QOD Data Coordinator Recognition Program recognizes coordinators for outstanding performance with the registry each quarter. The NPA is pleased to highlight this year's QOD Data Coordinator Recognition recipients:

**Lin Cheong, BSN, RN**  
**Quality Improvement Specialist**  
**The University of Utah**  
**Salt Lake City**

Lin has been a registered nurse with the University of Utah Health since 1999, working in the Med Surg Cardio-Thoracic Unit. Lin then migrated to the IT world as a Clinical Information Coordinator when her hospital initiated



Lin enjoys Zen therapy outside the office.

the CPOE system. Once Powerchart was launched, she moved to her current position as a coordinator for the American College of Surgeons (ACS) National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP®) registry, followed by the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI) registry and now QOD. Lin shares the following tips (see chart 1):

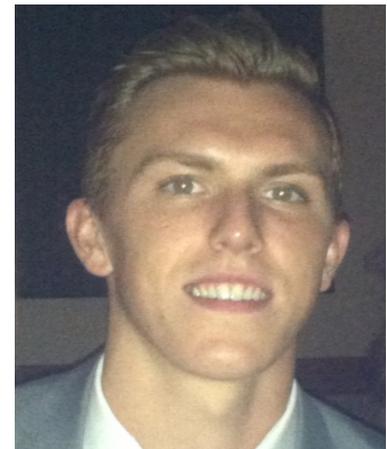
- Follow up – Keep patients informed to expect calls about the sequence of follow-up. Make as many calls as possible and use the newly implemented email surveys.
- Keep an Excel workbook to monitor the cases by cycle and use color codes to indicate the stage of follow up (3, 12 and 24 month, etc.).

**Andrew Koslov**  
**Data Coordinator**  
**Atlantic Neurosurgical Specialists,**  
**Morristown, N.J.**

Andrew grew up in northern New Jersey playing ice hockey and attended Rutgers University for his undergraduate studies. Andrew had been working as a coordinator since graduating Rutgers in 2015. He will begin his first year of medical school this fall. Andrew notes that the registry has given him great experience interacting with patients, doctors, nurses, office staff and other sites. Andrew is not sure what specialty he will pursue, but he feels this exposure has given him good perspective on healthcare in general. Andrew also is pretty certain he will be able to recite the disability index questions and answers off the top of his head for a long time!

Andrew credits Darlene Brewer (Semmes Murphey) for giving him great advice at his first QOD conference that resonated with him (and which Joan Parr echoed last Newsflash). Darlene stressed the importance of keeping open communication with surgeons and administration. Being vocal with management and surgeons enabled changes that facilitated and expedited

data extraction at Andrew's practice. Slight modifications in office notes and patient registration improved enrollment efficiency and created more



time to maintain the rest of the registry. Also, having a "spine team" consisting of a surgeon, RN, nurse practitioner, administrator and coordinator really helped to improve processes for QOD enrollment and the practice in general. Utilizing the report builder to have general information for the different registries has been particularly helpful with data checks.

Cycle 324 10/3/2018 to 10/9/2018				3 mth	2 weeks before	4 weeks after	12 mth	4 weeks before	6 weeks after	24 mth	90 days before	90 days after	
Date	Surgeon	Patient Name	Case Procedures										
10/3/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Adjacent Segment, C4-5 Acdf W/Plating [520]	Cervical	1/3/2019	12/20/2018	1/31/2019	10/03/19	09/05/19	11/14/19	10/3/2020	7/5/2020	1/1/2021
10/3/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	C4 Corpectomy W/C3-5 Acdf W/Plating [520]	Cervical	1/3/2019	12/20/2018	1/31/2019	10/03/19	09/05/19	11/14/19	10/3/2020	7/5/2020	1/1/2021
10/3/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	First Stage: L4-S1 ASIF [605]	Lumbar	1/3/2019	12/20/2018	1/31/2019	10/03/19	09/05/19	11/14/19	10/3/2020	7/5/2020	1/1/2021
10/4/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	L4-S1 Pof, Removal Of Prior L5-S1 Hardware & Revision [585]	Exclude	1/4/2019	12/21/2018	2/1/2019	10/04/19	09/06/19	11/15/19	10/4/2020	7/6/2020	1/2/2021
10/8/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Right L4-S TIF [585]	Exclude - follow up to previous	1/8/2019	12/25/2018	2/5/2019	10/08/19	09/10/19	11/19/19	10/8/2020	7/10/2020	1/6/2021
10/9/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Cervical	1/9/2019	12/26/2018	2/6/2019	10/09/19	09/11/19	11/20/19	10/9/2020	7/11/2020	1/7/2021
10/8/2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	L4-S TIF [585]	Exclude - significant neuropathy	1/8/2019	12/25/2018	2/5/2019	10/08/19	09/10/19	11/19/19	10/8/2020	7/10/2020	1/6/2021

Chart 1.

**Beverly Roy, PhD  
Oklahoma City**

Beverly has worked in the Department Of Neurosurgery at the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center for the past 11 years. In December 2017, Beverly obtained her doctorate in General Psychology, with a primary emphasis on research. She previously earned her Master of Human Resources and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Oklahoma.



Beverly's professional experience spans the fields of Healthcare, Psychology and Research, including the Quality Outcome Database (QOD), with which she has been involved since 2013.

Beverly is an active QOD PBLN member and QOD Mentor.

**Katrina A. Powell, MSN, BSN, RN  
Senior Performance Improvement  
Coordinator, Clinical Informatics Midas  
System Manager  
University Hospital  
Augusta, Ga.**

Katrina graduated nursing school in 1991, as a licensed practical nurse. She worked in various nursing arenas while

obtaining her Associate Degree in Nursing. Katrina ended up in the ortho/ neuro service line in 2009 as a case manager and really enjoyed the population of patients and surgeons. She transitioned into the quality department at University Hospital in 2011 to begin the Neurosurgery Registry.



University Hospital-Augusta Back Neuroscience was one of the early registering sites in 2012.

Katrina notes that although Augusta Back has a small neurosurgery practice, it has grown substantially over the past few years.

Between 2013- 2016, Katrina obtained her Bachelor of Science in nursing and then Master of Science in nursing informatics, which kept her very busy along with her family. Katrina believes that data monitoring, tracking, sharing and follow-up is vital to patient care, safety, continuity and outcomes. She is proud to be a part of our registry as its pioneering efforts.

Katrina has increased patient follow-up and awareness of the practice by asking the physicians, while doing the patient appointment, to introduce the fact that

they participate in the registry and ask if the patient would consider participation. Patients are then aware in advance that they may get a phone call. It is an extra little nudge of encouragement from the physician to consider participating.

In addition their ortho/neuro program, a spine class is offered, which provides expectations/education for spine surgery journey. The coordinator of the class goes out to their office site (off campus) and has an opportunity to connect with patients in the office, if they are not able to make it back to our spine class.

Lastly, to ensure accurate data capture when follow-up is done through their tele-health department, Katrina educated them on the database requirements and instructs them to collect all possible info from patients at follow-up interviews and then notifies them if anything is reported (issues, readmit, infection). At that time, Katrina goes back and reviews the case in an attempt to validate the information for accuracy.

Katrina shares that, "I have been blessed to have the help of many others, that make this endeavor possible; our spine coordinator (Marian) and tele-health department nurses (Eunice, Elizabeth and Gabriela), who make phone calls. I would have had much difficulty doing this without their assistance." •

## QOD Calendar Reminders

### Monthly Data Coordinator Conference Calls

Takes place the third week of every month. Content is repeated each call.

Standing Dial-in Number:

U.S. & Canada: 866.740.1260

Access Code: 3780549

Upcoming November Dates: 11/12/18 and 11/15/18.

### QOD Report Schedule

QOD Audit Reports are distributed the first and third Monday of each month.

QOD Numbers Reports are distributed the second and fourth Monday of each month.



## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Visit the NPA QOD teams at the following meetings:

DATE	MEETING	LOCATION
March 14-17, 2019	AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, 2019 Spine Summit	Miami
April 11 – 13, 2019	Neurosurgery Executives Resource Value & Education Society (NERVES) Annual Meeting	San Diego
April 13-17, 2019	2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting	San Diego
September 2019, exact dates TBD	QOD Data Coordinator Conference	NPA/AANS Headquarters, Chicago-Rolling Meadows
September 25-28, 2019	North American Spine Society (NASS) Annual Meeting	Chicago
October 19-23, 2019	Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Annual Meeting	San Francisco

The NPA welcomes contributions to the monthly Newslines. We invite all centers to submit articles or announcements highlighting QOD news and experiences or on topics of interest to be shared with the QOD community. Articles should be submitted in Word format and include section headings. Illustrations and graphics are encouraged (high-resolution PDFs or JPEGs). Send your contributions to the NPA at [info@neuropoint.org](mailto:info@neuropoint.org) by the 15th of the month in order to be included in that month's edition.

## Save the Date! NPA Registry Course

Sunday, April 14, 2019

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. PT

Following the success of its inaugural year, the NPA will again be offering its full-day registry course, *The NeuroPoint Alliance, Inc (NPA) and Your Practice*, in conjunction with the *2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting* in San Diego. This course will explore the varied uses of registry data for patient care, quality improvement, clinical research, education and revenue enhancement. Attendance and participation benefits neurosurgeons, quality managers, clinical personnel and data coordinators. NPA initiatives, such as the Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) Registry, the Quality Outcomes Database (QOD) spine and neurovascular registries and the Registry for the Advancement of Deep Brain Stimulation Therapy in Parkinson's Disease (RAD-PD), will be used to demonstrate how an organization can benefit from participation. Course topics include:

- Registries to enhance your business;
- Registries as a research platform;
- Registries as a quality improvement tool;
- Registries in Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification;
- Working with other specialties, industry and government partners; and
- Improving data collection and analysis.

Registration is now open. Current NPA registry participants are eligible for registration discounts by using the code NPAquality2019. ●



### QOD PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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