American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
Get With the Guidelines®-Stroke
Physician Quality Reporting Initiative Tool
(AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool)
Frequently Asked Questions

• **Question:** What is Get With The Guidelines-Stroke?
  - **Answer:** Get With The Guidelines-Stroke is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s collaborative performance improvement program, demonstrated to improve adherence to evidence-based care of patients hospitalized with stroke. The program provides hospitals with a Web-based Patient Management Tool™ (powered by Outcome Sciences, Inc.), decision support, a robust registry, real-time benchmarking capabilities and other performance improvement methodologies toward the goal of enhancing patient outcomes and saving lives.

• **Question:** Why should I sign up for the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool?
  - **Answer:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide an incentive payment (two percent of the total allowed charges per the Physician Fee Schedule) to physicians who participate in the PQRI by reporting on data for services rendered during a set period of time. The AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool is helpful in addressing the subset of the PQRI measures related to stroke care.

• **Question:** Is the two-percent increase from CMS guaranteed to participants?
  - **Answer:** No. As with any CMS program, payment depends on whether or not all required data are reported accurately. The American Heart Association, through its vendor Outcome Sciences, Inc., will communicate directly with physician practices regarding any updates that need to be made in order to comply with the PQRI program participation requirements. As part of the $350 fee for using the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool, Outcome’s Help Desk will review data for accuracy prior to submitting it to CMS.

• **Question:** Which stroke measures that are currently included in the PQRI set can be reported using the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool?
  - **Answer:** The following measures are collected via the PQRI Tool:
    - PQRI #10: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Computed Tomography (CT) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Reports
    - PQRI 31: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Deep Vein Thrombosis Prophylaxis (DVT) for Ischemic Stroke or Intracranial Hemorrhage
    - PQRI 32: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Discharged on Antiplatelet Therapy
• PQRI 33: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Anticoagulant Therapy Prescribed for Atrial Fibrillation at Discharge
• PQRI 34: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Tissue Plasminogen Activator (t-PA) Considered
• PQRI 35: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Screening for Dysphagia
• PQRI 36: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Consideration of Rehabilitation Services

The AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool does not report on PQRI #11: Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Carotid Imaging Reports. For more information about PQRI stroke measures, please click on the following link:

• Question: What are some of the key benefits and features of the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool?
  o Answer:
    ▪ Since the PQRI Tool is Web-based, there is no software to install or update.
    ▪ Stroke data already entered into Get With The Guidelines-Stroke can be used to start the PQRI data-collection process.
    ▪ Users can start the data collection at any point during the year as long as they complete it by the end of January 2010.
    ▪ The $350 fee includes training, support, and a data-quality audit that will occur in February and early March to ensure that their data are accurate relative to the data entered in the registry.
    ▪ Users will have the ability to fulfill two quality improvement initiatives via one extended registry.

• Question: What is the reporting timeline?
  o Answer: Physicians can submit data for a full year or for the half-year period from July 1st to December 31st. Half-year submissions must be for the second half of the year.

• Question: When will the data be submitted?
  o Answer: The timeline for submitting data is February 1st through March 2010. All data reports and attestations for PQRI must be completed by the end of January 2010.

• Question: What is the cost of using the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool?
  o Answer: A $350 fee covers training, ongoing support, data-quality audits, as well as transmission of data to CMS by Outcome Sciences, Inc., an American Heart Association vendor.

• Question: If a physician works in multiple hospitals, each of which participates in Get With The Guidelines-Stroke, does the physician need to pay a fee of $350 for each site?
  o Answer: No. The physician only pays one $350 fee. However, when signing the agreement to use the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool, the
physician must list all the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke hospitals where he/she generates stroke data.

- **Question:** If a physician works in more than one Get With The Guidelines-Stroke participating hospital, will it be possible to cull the physician’s data for auditing and submission to CMS?
  - **Answer:** Yes. The data from the multiple sites will be merged into one PQRI site, based on the physician NPI and the site TIN. The data will then be submitted from that single PQRI site to CMS.

- **Question:** If a physician works in multiple hospitals, including some that use Get With The Guidelines-Stroke and others that do not, can the physician still participate?
  - **Answer:** Yes, but the physician would have to enter the data from any non-GWTG hospital sites by hand or use the PQRI uploader. This would be done by the individual physician and not by the AHA/ASA or its vendor.

- **Question:** What must the physician do that is not done automatically by the AHA’s vendor, Outcome Science Inc.?
  - **Answer:** It is important to note that some manual data entry will be required to finish the PQRI data. For example, the physician or someone in the physician’s office will be required to enter:
    1. Insurance type, i.e. Medicare Part B, also known as Medicare Indemnity
    2. E/M code
    3. CPT codes
    4. Answers to the carotid-imaging question, if the physician wishes to submit for that measure. (As noted in the answer to question #4, carotid-imaging data are not captured in Get With The Guidelines-Stroke.)

- **Question:** Where can I get more information on PQRI?
  - **Answer:** For more PQRI information, use the following Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services link: [www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri). You can also arrange a custom demonstration from our vendor Outcome Science Inc. by calling 888-526-6700.

- **Question:** How do I enroll in the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool?
  - **Answer:** Please call the Outcome Help Desk at 888-526-6700, tell them you want to enroll in the AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool and give them the following identification code: **live and learn**. The Help Desk will send you a contract to sign and return. The contract includes a Clinical Attestation form to be signed by each physician, granting Outcome permission to send the PQRI data on your behalf. It also includes a Practice Attestation form to be signed by the practice. Once the contract is completed, the Outcome Help Desk will arrange training and provide you with username and password. (The process is the same one sites use to sign-up for the Get With The Guidelines program.) Once the
training program has been completed, you can begin entering data. You have up until January 29th to complete data entry. If you have any questions once you start to use the program, please contact the Help Desk for support.

- **Question:** Are there other resources available to AHA/ASA GWTG-S PQRI Tool users?
  - **Answer:** Yes. In addition to training ongoing support and data-quality audits, you will have access to recorded trainings on the PQRI portal page when you log in using your username and password at www.qi.outcome.com.

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