

1067 QRRO: Shifting the Focus to Practice Quality Improvement in Radiation Oncology

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Purpose/Objective(s): American College of Radiology, Quality Research in Radiation Oncology (QRRO), formerly Patterns of Care (PCS), aims to provide an evidence base for quality of care in radiation oncology. QRRO investigators and staff have established QRRO within the national quality improvement dynamic. The new National Process Survey being launched is designed so that it can be used by participating facilities and physicians as a Quality Improvement Initiative for accrediting agencies.

Materials/Methods: QRRO has drawn a stratified random sample of radiation oncology facilities in the USA and is inviting those facilities to participate in the Process Survey. Information from a Facilities Survey will be used along with data collected under the Process Survey to calculate national averages and make statistically valid inferences for national process measures. The Specific Aims of the Process Survey include defining a core set of process measures for selected cancers in which radiation therapy plays a major role, based on best available evidence that these measures affect outcomes important to patients and providers and thus measure quality of care. Process of care measures for emerging advanced technologies are included. Measures are based on quality indicator documentation and evidence. QRRO will provide feedback data to participants at both the facility and physician level. Along with this report card, the physician will receive instructions on how to interpret the report card and how to develop a quality improvement initiative. The Instructions for “*Completion of a Quality Improvement Activity (QIA)*” recommend at least three measurements. The baseline measurement will be completed by QRRO. The 2nd and 3rd measurements are to be completed by the physician. The instructions will assist the physician to perform root cause analyses, to determine performance goals to show initial improvement and to develop plans for sustaining the gain.

Results: The American Board of Radiology (ABR) has notified QRRO that the Process Survey is “fully qualified” as a Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) project under its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements for radiation oncology.

Conclusions: QRRO’s survey data will provide national benchmark data for numerous quality indicators, including those that would not be backed by data from clinical trials. The QRRO Process Survey ABR qualification will strongly incentivize facility participation and will lay the groundwork for a future expanded QRRO project with even broader facility participation.

Support line: NCI Grant CA65435

Author Disclosure: C.L. Crozier, None; B. Erickson-Wittman, None; J.B. Owen, None; J.F. Wilson, None.