Frequently Asked Questions

How do QOPI® and QOPI Certification fit in ASCO?

- All of ASCO’s quality initiatives are part of ASCO’s Institute for Quality.
  - QOPI®
  - QOPI Certification Program (QCP™)
  - CancerLinQ™
  - Guidelines
  - Society’s additional quality programs and initiatives
    - Quality Training Program
    - Virtual Learning Collaborative
- ASCO’s Institute for Quality (iQ) was established to further enhance the society’s longstanding and robust quality efforts in the field of Oncology. And to continue to promote:
  - Quality
  - Value
  - Accountability in cancer care
- ASCO is committed to offering oncology providers the resources to help them deliver high quality cancer care to every patient.

What is QOPI®

The Quality Oncology Practice Initiative is a quality assessment and reporting program that helps oncology practice staff:

- Routinely self-examine care
- Identify areas to focus improvement activities
- Demonstrate to external stakeholders that they provide quality care
- Benchmark their practice performance on established measures of quality to that of a National Participation Average.
- QOPI offers a library of over 180 quality measures based on care guidelines and expert consensus, a standard process and chart selection methodology, and a secure web-based QOPI System to enter medical record abstracted data.
• **Classic QOPI** includes retrospective analyses and manual data abstraction and submission. It is offered **twice per year** for an eight week period, in the spring and in the fall.

**What is QOPI Certification?**

• An oncologist-led program that sets cancer quality standards and provides external recognition of quality care based on published performance measures and Certification standards.
• The primary goal of the program
• Improve care provided to patients with cancer
• QOPI Certification includes an on-site survey to verify that practices follow established policies and procedures in accordance with standards for safe administration of chemotherapy.
• The QOPI Certification Program (QCP) awards a 3-year Certification to practices that successfully complete the process and review.
• QOPI Certification is strong and will continue for as long as it brings value to practices.
• The requirements to become certified will continue to be evaluated and evolve with ASCO’s offerings.

**Who can participate in QOPI?**

QOPI is available to any US-based hematology-oncology practice, including fellowship programs and to practices outside the US in a limited number of countries (contact the QOPI Help Desk for more details). Participants range from single-oncologist private practices to large academic medical centers. Each practice must designate a Corresponding Physician, who must be an ASCO member in good standing, as QOPI currently is an ASCO member benefit.

Each practice must also designate a QOPI Administrator who may be the Corresponding Physician or another individual in the practice who will serve as the main contact for QOPI Participation and have certain administrative rights within the program.

**What are the benefits of participation?**

QOPI participants benefit from participation in a proven, oncologist-led, and centrally managed program that provides data regarding practice strengths and weaknesses. Following every data collection period, the QOPI system generates a confidential report for each practice that compares practice results to aggregate data. A robust database of comparative data provides context for data interpretation and aids in the identification of areas needing improvement.

• Practices that meet designated performance levels on a subset of measures may be eligible to apply for QOPI Certification.
• Data collected through QOPI can be used to complete American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Self-directed Practice Improvement Module and satisfy the practice performance improvement requirement for Maintenance of Certification.
• CME credit is available through ASCO for participating in QOPI and conducting quality improvement activities.
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• CEU credit may be available through respective accreditting bodies for non-physician participants. Participants may request certificate of participation through cme@asco.org.

• Practices that successfully participate in collection rounds may opt into the QOPI Health Plan program where ASCO sends verification of PARTICIPATION to health plans selected by the practice from a list of health plans enrolled in the program.

How much does it cost to join QOPI?
Currently there is no charge to participate in QOPI for practices with an active ASCO member. There is a fee to apply for QOPI Certification. Please refer to the QOPI website at http://qopi.asco.org/ for more information regarding pricing for QOPI Certification.

What is required of practices joining QOPI?
A complete list of pre-qualification questions for QOPI participation is available at qopi.asco.org. These include
• seeking appropriate approval to review charts,
• participating in a minimum of two rounds of data collection,
• covering time for practice staff to select charts and conduct reviews,
• following the QOPI methodology when selecting and abstracting the charts,
• internet access to submit data via a web-based Data Entry and Reporting Tool, and
• sharing QOPI results with physicians in the practice

My practice has 5 sites, do they all need to participate?
You can register your practice and choose which sites will participate. We encourage full practice participation as care may vary at practice sites. If a practice is planning to work towards the QOPI Certification Program, the practice entity from which charts are sampled is the entity which is eligible to apply for Certification.

How do I register?
Currently, registration remains open year round. Please email the QOPI® help desk for the registration form. You will need the ASCO member ID of the corresponding physician at the practice to complete the registration. A practice need only register once in the system to participate in multiple data collections. Once a practice is registered, additional office sites may be added to the practice registration by contacting the QOPI Help Desk.

When is the next QOPI Collection Round and when must I register by?
QOPI Collection Rounds occur twice per year in the spring (typically March-May) and fall (typically September-November). Collection dates are posted on the website. New practices should register at least one month prior to the start of data collection to ensure they receive notifications and materials regarding the round. Registration is available year round – Please email the QOPI® help desk for the registration form.
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**How many oncologists are participating in QOPI?**
Registration and participation maps are available on the QOPI website [http://www.instituteforquality.org/qopi/participating-practices](http://www.instituteforquality.org/qopi/participating-practices). QOPI is a practice-based initiative and the number of oncologists represented by participating practice continues to grow.

**Who usually completes the chart abstraction?**
QOPI questions and terms are carefully defined and specified to facilitate abstraction by practice staff familiar with patient charts. Abstractors include a range of administrative, research, and clinical staff; however, the majority of the QOPI abstractors are nurses.

**Does ASCO offer training and support for abstractors?**
Yes, registered practices receive complete documentation and training needed to participate, including a detailed QOPI Manual. Several phone-based training sessions are offered to abstractors, as well as web-based training materials that demonstrate the interface and functionality of the QOPI Data Entry and Reporting Tool. QOPI staff and volunteer oncologists are available throughout data entry to answer questions as needed.

**What are the QOPI quality measures?**
Practicing oncologists and quality experts developed the QOPI quality measures, which are:

- adapted from the National Initiative on Cancer Care Quality (NICCQ) and the ASCO/NCCN Quality Measures, or
- derived from clinical guidelines or published standards,
- consensus-based and clinically relevant.

The 180+ QOPI measures are clinically meaningful and actionable by oncologists. They assess structures and processes of care, including under and over use of services. A summary table of the QOPI measures can be found at the QOPI website at qopi.asco.org.

**Can I customize the QOPI data collection for my practice?**
Yes, QOPI offers a menu of measure sets that are categorized into various modules:

- **Disease-specific:** *Breast, Colorectal, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Gynecologic cancer (Ovarian, Fallopian Tube, Primary Peritoneal Cancer)*
- **Domain-specific:** *Symptom/Toxicity Management, Care at End of Life*
- Updates will occur this fall

Participating sites can select among these sets to customize and focus their data collection. All participants provide data on a core set of QOPI measures and one additional module, at a minimum.
**How are data collected for QOPI?**
Staff members at participating practices conduct retrospective chart reviews up to twice per year during an 8 week collection period and manually submit data via a secure ASCO-sponsored website, which prompts the data abstracter through the chart abstraction process.

ASCO is piloting electronic submission of data from the EMR in the fall of 2015.

**How many charts are required per round, and how much time does it take to participate?**
The number of charts specified for review depends on the medical oncology clinical FTEs in the office setting and the modules selected for submission. The total number of charts required range from a minimum of 48 to 80 charts for a single collection round and minimum participation (core measures plus one module).

Practices participating for QOPI Certification or QOPI Re-Certification will need to submit between 100 and 200 charts depending on the size of the practice.

On average, practice staff requires approximately 45-60 minutes to abstract each patient chart when first beginning, but the time required tends to drop as abstractors become more familiar with the data elements requested and where to find them in the practice’s medical record.

**What kind of information/reports will QOPI practices receive?**
Following every data collection period, the QOPI system generates a report for each practice. The report includes tabular and graphic data for each measure that compares the practices’ own measure performance with aggregated measure performance from all participating practices, and shows changes in results over time.

**Will practice data be publicly reported?**
Practice-specific results and data are accessible only by the participating practice and are shared only with the consent of the practice. QOPI participation requires that each practice sign a standard Business Associate Agreement before any data will be accepted into the QOPI System.

Measure performance, for practices that choose to participate in PQRS through QOPI, will be posted publicly on the ASCO website and/or on CMS Physician Compare website.

**Are the QOPI data audited?**
A subset of the data entered in the spring 2007 QOPI data collection round was audited by an independent third party. The audit found QOPI to be a reliable instrument for quality assessment in a variety of practice settings throughout the US. A chart verification audit is
conducted for practices that apply for Certification.

Additionally, ASCO must conduct a validation audit of data submitted through QOPI for PQRS reporting. This process will be initiated for the 2015 reporting year.

**How do I apply for QOPI® Certification?**

You must participate in QOPI® in order to apply for QOPI® certification. There is a fee associated with certification that is collected at the time of application. Application period for certification is twice per year after the QOPI® collection rounds.

To be eligible to apply for the QOPI® Certification Program, a practice must

- Participate in a QOPI collection round
- Follow the QOPI chart selection methodology
- Choose and submit data from the required number of charts for modules required for QOPI Certification
- Meet the QOPI Certification Scoring Threshold: **Twenty six measures** within the required modules are evaluated and scored to determine eligibility to apply. The passing threshold for these measures in aggregate is **75%**. (This represents the overall Quality Score.)

**Once the threshold is met and the practice is eligible to apply, the separate QOPI Certification process begins with the application and payment.**

- The QOPI Certification Application opens shortly after the release of the final QOPI Certification Report and remains open until the week prior to the start of the following collection round. At the time of application and payment, practices must affirm that they have policies and procedures in place that comply with the **20 Certification Standards**.

**What are the modules required for QOPI® certification?**

The required modules for QOPI Certification include the following:

- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Care at the End of Life
- Symptom/Toxicity Management

_Practices must submit data for only the modules that are applicable to their patient population. For example: a breast center applying for QOPI Certification, would choose the modules required for QOPI Certification and submit data only for the breast cancer, care at end of life, and symptom/toxicity management modules. The NSCLC and colorectal modules do not apply to the practice._

**How do I know if I am eligible for QOPI® Certification?**

- In addition to meeting the Certification scoring threshold to be eligible to apply, practices must follow the QOPI sampling methodology and meet the target chart requirements for their practice size and applicable modules.
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- If all charts from all medical oncologist and hematologist oncologists from all office locations were not included in the pool from which charts were sampled, an attestation form must be completed when applying for Certification to justify why exclusion does not compromise the validity of the abstraction from an assessment standpoint.
- The QOPI Certification Final Report provides measure performance for the 26 Certification designated measures, the overall quality score across those measures and indication if the practice met the scoring requirement.

Who can apply for QOPI® Certification Program?
The QOPI Certification Program (QCP™) awards QOPI® Certification to practices, rather than individual office sites.
- Practices are expected to apply for QOPI Certification as one entity that includes all of their office sites and medical/hematology oncologists at those locations.
- The QCP may grant exceptions to this rule for special circumstances.
- If you would like to certify a subset of your practice, contact the QOPI Certification Help desk for more information before participating in QOPI to become eligible to apply.
- For Certification purposes, the defining feature of a “practice” is application of policies and procedures across all office sites.
- Loosely affiliated organizations with multiple office sites that do not operate under the same policies and procedures at all office sites will be required to apply for Certification as separate entities.
- To become QOPI Certified as a practice, an applicant must demonstrate to QCP’s satisfaction that all of its office sites are functionally integrated. For example, by demonstrating that staff rotates across all sites, identifying a centralized person or entity in charge of implementing polices across all sites, use of a common EMR and operation under a single tax ID number.

How can I get more information or join QOPI?
For more information about QOPI or to register your practice, visit qopi.asco.org. You may also email qopi@asco.org with questions or comments. The QOPI Help Desk can be reached by calling 571-483-1660 9am-5pm EST.

How can I learn about the QOPI Certification Program?
Please visit qopi.asco.org. You may also email qopicertification@asco.org with questions or call 571-483-1669 to speak with Certification Staff.