ACPC QUALITY NETWORK OBJECTIVE
The ACPC Quality Network (QNet) aims to provide the congenital heart disease (CHD) and pediatric cardiology community an avenue to develop quality metrics and collect data in an effort to promote quality improvement in patient care. The primary objective of this project is to create a user-friendly and minimally burdensome metric implementation and data collection process for QNet participants (“Sites”). This data will be used to produce quarterly summary reports which will allow for performance comparisons across participating QNet Sites and will serve to inform CHD-related quality improvement initiatives. In addition to identifying opportunities to improve the quality of CHD care, a secondary goal is to leverage data collection and reporting to assist participating QNet physicians fulfill Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Self-Assessment of Practice requirements of physician certifying boards (together the “Program”). The Program is projected to be launched in January 2016 and will be reassessed for continuation in January 2018.

ACPC QUALITY METRIC PORTFOLIO
Sites will be responsible for collecting and submitting data for a set of quality metrics approved by the ACPC Section Leadership Council. Sites will have the option to report on all or a subset of the quality metrics based on the metrics they identify as relevant for their practice and corresponding quality improvement efforts. The current set of quality metrics includes measures which assess the quality of care related to the following clinical areas: adult congenital heart disease (ACHD), pediatric cardiac nursing, pediatric and congenital non-invasive imaging, outpatient management of Transposition of Great Arteries (TGA), Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), Kawasaki Disease, infection prevention, and chest pain. A list of approved ACPC Quality Network metrics can be found at the following ACC website: www.acc.org/acpcqualitymetrics (“ACPC Section website”)

REQUIREMENTS OF ACPC QUALITY NETWORK PARTICIPANTS (SITES)
General Quality Network Requirements
Sites are eligible to participate in the Program by meeting the following criteria:
- A Site shall be defined as a hospital, group practice, solo physician practice, or clinic with an inpatient-only, outpatient-only or combined inpatient/outpatient cardiology unit that is participating in the Program.
- Sites must have an executed and current Participation Agreement which authorizes ACCF to use the data to create aggregated benchmarks for quarterly and annual reports to be shared across all Sites.
- Sites must have at least one (1) physician that is a Fellow of ACC and must provide his or her name via email to ACPCQnet@acc.org.
- Sites agree to have their name, city and state made publically available as a Site in the Program, either on their Site profile on CardioSmart.org or on the ACPC Section website, to be determined by ACCF.
Quality Network Participation Fees

- Any participation fee that ACCF requires Sites to pay will be communicated at least sixty (60) days in advance of the due date for payment and will be published in a fee schedule on the ACPC Section website.
- For the initial launch of the Program, which will take place during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2016, Sites will not be assessed a participation fee. If Sites choose to participate in the Program during either the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2016, they will be assessed a participation fee, to be determined.
- Beginning in 2017, ACCF will require Sites to pay an annual participation fee which covers participation in the Program from January 1st to December 31st of a given year.
- ACCF will provide Sites with an invoice of fees, via email to a Site’s designated ACPC QNet administrator, when participation fees are due.
- The participation fee is non-refundable even if Site participation in the Program is terminated for any reason.

All questions regarding enrollment and participation should be emailed to ACPCQnet@acc.org.

Data Collection

Sites must meet the following criteria in order to submit data for any metric:

- Each Site will designate an individual as their ACPC QNet administrator to serve as the primary point of contact and will provide his/her contact information via email to ACPCQnet@acc.org.
- Sites will report data for at least one (1) of the ACPC approved quality metrics on a quarterly basis according to ACCF determined submission deadlines.
- Sites will understand the metric specification(s) for the metric(s) they wish to report.
- Sites will only report numerator(s) and denominator(s) and will not provide any patient’s personal health information (PHI).
- Sites must follow the eligible population sampling methods as outlined below:
  - Sites with more than twenty (20) patients in the eligible population must use random sampling to report data for at least twenty (20) patients.
  - Sites with a total of five (5) to twenty (20) patients in the eligible population must report data for all patients in the eligible population.
  - Sites with fewer than five (5) patients in the eligible population will not submit data for the measure for that quarter.
- Sites will maintain an independent local data collection tool to track the data needed for submission.
- If necessary, Sites will aggregate data within their own facility in order to report one (1) numerator(s) and denominator(s) per metric per Site. Aggregating data per metric should occur prior to submitting data via the web-based QNet data collection tool.
- Questions regarding metric specifications or data collection should be submitted via email to ACPCQnet@acc.org.

Data Access and Reporting

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1 The “eligible population” is defined as all patients who meet the denominator criteria for each metric.
Sites must notify ACCF via email to ACPCQnet@acc.org of any data entry errors and all needed corrections within two (2) weeks after the performance reports are made available.

Sites who do not comply with the terms outlined in these program requirements or Participation Agreement will no longer be able to participate in the Program and will not be able to access the quality metric reports.

**Systems requirements**

For optimal functionality, particularly for the online data collection tool and ACPC QNet Performance Reports, Sites must meet the following system requirements:

- Operating System - Microsoft Windows 2007 or higher, Mac OSX 10 or higher
- Browser: Internet Explorer 9.0, Firefox, or Chrome (only)
- Recommend that pop-up blockers are disabled
- Microsoft Excel version 2007 or higher (will not accept versions older than 2007)
- Adobe PDF Reader
- All exports will be delivered in a tab delimited format.

*Note: In addition to reports being issued as a PowerPoint or PDF file, a Tableau export may also be made available. Sites interested in accessing the Tableau file would need to download the free Tableau Reader software.*

**Training and Education**

- Sites are expected to have their staff participate in webinar-based Quality Improvement Learning Sessions where Sites will have the opportunity to share experiences and best practices in implementing ACPC quality metrics, data collection, data reporting, and Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives that helped improve performance.
- Sites are expected to stay current with all instructions sent via e-mail from ACC QNet staff or published by the ACCF and posted on the ACPC Section website.

**Withdrawing Participation from the ACPC Quality Network**

- Sites may withdraw consent for participating in ACPC QNet at any time by providing a written request pursuant to the terms outlined in the Participation Agreement and on the organization’s letterhead. Such request must be signed by an individual deemed to have appropriate authority to terminate the Participation Agreement. Requests must be sent to the mailing address designated on the Participation Agreement.
- In the event a Site withdraws participation from the Program, the Participation Agreement will be considered terminated pursuant to the terms outlined in the Participation Agreement.
- ACCF will remove the Site from the QNet and make a reasonable effort to remove Site data from any pending reports in a timely manner.
- Sites understand that data included in past reports (i.e. reports that have already been sent to all participating ACPC sites) will not be able to be removed.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY (ACC)**

**General Quality Network Requirements**
• ACCF will maintain a list of ACPC metrics and specifications which will be posted at www.acc.org/acpcqualitymetrics. Metrics may be modified on a periodic basis.
• ACCF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to remove or add quality metrics as needed, which may occur on an annual basis or more frequently.
• ACCF will inform the Site ACPC QNet administrator of changes made to the metric specifications, data collection and reporting, and if there are any new or retired metrics.
• ACCF will respond to questions regarding participation, measure specification, data collection and reporting from emails received at ACPCQnet@acc.org.

Data Collection
• ACCF will provide participants with a unique, site-specific link to a web-based survey tool along with an assigned, coded identifier that will only be known to each individual Site.
• ACCF will notify the site ACPC QNet administrator of data collection requirements and submission timelines each quarter. In general, data for each reporting quarter will be due no later than six (6) weeks past the end of each quarter.

Data Access and Reporting
• ACCF will only provide access to quarterly QNet reports (including performance rates for all 24 metrics) to Sites who report at least one metric.
• ACCF will not link any participant site names to performance rates on any reports in order to protect the identity of all sites.
• ACCF will send an email notification to each designated ACPC QNet administrator every quarter with a link to performance reports.
• ACCF will only include metrics with data from at least six (6) sites in the quarterly performance reports.
• ACCF will post reports to a secure location on the ACPC Section website which will be made available only to Sites.
• ACCF reports will include blinded performance rates per metric per site (i.e. Site A will be able to see Site B’s performance rate but will not know the identity of that site).
• ACCF reports will also include a ‘reference line’ to reflect the average performance of all QNet site participants per metric.
• In the event that corrections need to be made to a published performance report, ACCF will assess the level of impact related to the corrections and the resources required to address the issue(s). If a re-aggregation and regeneration of reports is required all Sites will be notified.

ACPC Quality Network Support:
• ACCF will provide support via telephone (202.375.6446) and email (acpcqnet@acc.org) during normal business hours Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, excluding major holidays.