

Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery (ACSS) Overview for American Spine Registry (ASR) Participants

Effective July 1, 2021, The Joint Commission will offer Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery (ACSS). This new program will address the various domains related to spine surgery such as program structure, delivery of care, care coordination, and performance measurement. It will be available to hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that perform spine procedures.

What are the measures?

There are four standardized measures from the American Spine Registry (ASR), which is a partnership between the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS).

Measure Name	Description	Denominator	Numerator
Surgical Site Infection Rates	Patients with a post-operative surgical site infection identified within 90 days after the primary procedure.	All primary cervical and lumbar degenerative spine cases submitted to ASR.	Spine cases with documented surgical site infection within 90 days of the primary procedure.
New Neurological Deficits	Patients with new neurological deficits present within 90 days after the primary procedure.	All primary cervical and lumbar degenerative spine cases submitted to ASR.	Spine cases with new unexpected neurologic deficit with focus motor strength that is a 3/5 or worse.
Unplanned Return Visit to the OR	Patients who had an unplanned return to the OR within 90 days of the primary procedure.	All primary cervical and lumbar degenerative spine cases submitted to ASR that are not multi-stage procedures.	Spine cases that are not multi-stage procedures, with unplanned return visits to the operating room.
Pre-operative and Post-operative Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs)	Proportion of patients submitted to ASR who completed the general health and spine specific functional status assessments: 90 days prior to surgery and 90 days post-operatively.		

How do sites participate?

The ACSS requires active participation in the American Spine Registry. To qualify as actively participating, sites must be contracted with ASR and submitting data to the registry on a quarterly cadence, at minimum.

How will my site collect and submit data for these measures?

Data collection for the ACSS measures will be completed via ICD-10 coding submitted with the post-operative file. Coding associated with a patient case would trigger inclusion in the measure calculation. Codes are available for reference in the table below:

Measure Name	Data Element Collection
Surgical Site Infection Rates	<i>Surgical site infection rates would be identified by ICD-10 coding, including use of T81.49XA. For additional information on SSI per the criteria set forth by the CDC and the Surveillance for Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Event, please refer to this document: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/pscmanual/9pscasicurrent.pdf</i>
New Neurological Deficits	<i>New Neurological deficits would be identified by ICD-10 coding (i.e. R29.818; G959; S14.109; S24; R20.x)</i>
Unplanned Return Visit to the OR	<i>Unplanned return visits to the OR would be identified by ICD-10 coding, including use of G9308; Y83.9; or Modifier 78 applied</i>
Pre-operative and Post-operative Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs)	<i>Sites would submit one general health and one spine specific functional status assessments currently accepted by ASR. ASR accepts the following assessments: PROMIS-10, VR-12, ODI, NDI, PROMIS Physical Function, Numeric Rating Scale, PROMIS-CAT, PROMIS-29, PROMIS Pain Interference, PROMIS Emotional Distress Depression, PROMIS Emotional Distress Anxiety, EQ-5D</i>

What level of participation meets the requirements for ACSS?

ASR has two levels of participation: Standard and Vanguard. Both designations are the same contract and pricing, vanguard simply reflects additional data collection and follow-up long term. Both allow for reporting the ACSS performance measures.

How can sites view their data?

ASR will release dashboards within the ASR platform, RegistryInsights®, to display the data for the ACSS performance measures. Dashboards will offer the opportunity to compare your site level data to national data on a regular basis.

Where can I learn more about participating in ASR?

For more information on ASR and how to participate, please contact Registry Engagement at Engagement@AmericanSpineRegistry.org or read more at www.AmericanSpineRegistry.org.