CMS Recognizes ASCP’s Patient-centric Quality Registry

ASCP Launches First Pathology-specific, Institution-based Registry

Chicago, IL (PRWEB) January 10, 2018 -- The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) is pleased to announce that its National Pathology Quality Registry (NPQR) has been granted Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) status for 2018 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). With QCDR status, NPQR offers pathologists a way to meet 2018 requirements under CMS’ Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) so that they can not only avoid penalties, but potentially gain positive payment adjustments.

“The ASCP NPQR is an institution-based registry that will allow pathologists and entire laboratory teams, as well as quality managers and IT managers, to participate in quality improvement initiatives and, now with QCDR approval, CMS quality reporting,” said Steven Kroft, MD, MASCP, Chair of the National Pathology Quality Registry Steering Committee. “Being recognized by CMS is an important milestone for NPQR, but, importantly, it is only one aspect of the registry. What sets NPQR apart from other registries is that it also gives labs and pathologists the tools to initiate tangible quality improvement and make meaningful impacts on patient care delivery.”

NPQR, established by ASCP in 2016, offers a wide variety of meaningful, patient-centric measures – a subset of which is designated for MIPS reporting through the QCDR. The measures currently focus on the following topics, and additional topics will be added in the future:

- Monitoring appropriate utilization of laboratory testing.
- Improving pre-analytical processes.
- Optimizing turnaround time and critical value reporting.
- Assessing analytical and diagnostic accuracy.

“ASCP recognizes the heterogeneity in pathology practices and listened to our members’ feedback on how existing measures suited only a subset of pathologists,” said Ali Brown, MD, FASCP, Medical Director of NPQR. “With these challenges in mind, ASCP developed NPQR to have applicable measures for most labs, with topics suiting both anatomic and clinical pathology.”

Currently, medical laboratories lack a robust method for sharing best practices and benchmarking performance to drive improvement. Through NPQR, labs have a tool for quality improvement science and the establishment of best practices.

“With NPQR, instead of just giving pathologists a benchmark, we are incorporating ASCP’s vast expertise and educational materials to give pathologists and laboratories the tools to drive change,” Dr. Kroft said.

NPQR aggregates data from both clinical and anatomic pathology lab information systems to provide regularly-updated dashboards that drill down to patient-level details. Participants can then create and share reports with frontline staff, departments, practice managers and hospital administrators, allowing pathologists and laboratory professionals to take a leading role in quality management at their institutions.

“We encourage laboratories to join the National Pathology Quality Registry,” said ASCP CEO E. Blair Holladay, PhD, MASCP, SCT(ASCP)CM. “We are a profession focused on quality diagnostic results. Pathologists, working with laboratory professionals, created this registry to suit the needs of the laboratory.
Through NPQR, ASCP aims to highlight the critical work of the laboratory in providing the best possible care to our patients.”

In addition to offering pathologists a tool for regulatory reporting for 2018, NPQR is also offering a free reporting option for pathologists to meet 2017 MIPS requirements and avoid a 4 percent loss on their Medicare Part B billing this year. Pathologists can learn more about reporting options for 2017 and 2018, and about participating in NPQR, at www.ascp.org/NPQR.

About ASCP
Founded in 1922 in Chicago, ASCP is a medical professional society with more than 100,000 member board-certified anatomic and clinical pathologists, pathology residents and fellows, laboratory professionals, and students. ASCP provides excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists, and laboratory professionals. To learn more, visit www.ascp.org. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ascp_chicago and connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ASCP.Chicago.

# # # #

If you have any questions regarding information in these press releases please contact the company listed in the press release. Our complete disclaimer appears here - PRWeb ebooks - Another online visibility tool from PRWeb.
Contact Information
Susan Montgomery
American Society for Clinical Pathology
+1 312-541-4754

Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.