

Emergency Medicine Data Collection and Analysis Request for Proposal

Summary

The American College of Emergency Physicians is seeking a consultant to perform validation of its quality measure #503 “Anticoagulation for Acute Pulmonary Embolism Patients.”

Contact Information

Gordon Wheeler
Associate Executive Director
American College of Emergency Physicians
2121 K Street, NW, Suite 325
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202-728-0610 x3016
Fax: 202-728-0617
Email: gwheeler@acep.org

Key Dates

Proposal Deadline:	March 8, 2012
Conference Call with Finalists:	March 15, 2012
Initiation of Contract:	March 21, 2012
Project End Date:	May 31, 2012

Submission Requirements

- Abstract and specific aims (<3000 characters)
- Background (1 page)
- Research Methods: address research questions, sites, data sources, and statistical calculations (3 pages)
- Project Team (1 page narrative)
- Detailed Budget (1 page, itemized)
- Narrative Budget (1 page)
- Resumes of key personnel (up to 2 pages each, maximum of 5 individuals)

Email Proposal to: Gordon Wheeler gwheeler@acep.org

Proposal Budget: Not to exceed \$20,000

American College of Emergency Physicians

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is the oldest and largest organization representing the interests of emergency physicians. ACEP represents the entire spectrum of emergency physicians with its 29,000 members working in small rural hospitals, large community hospitals, urban academic centers, government agencies, and every other type of emergency care setting. ACEP members conduct research, teach residents, and provide 24 hour/7 days a week medical care to millions of patients every year.

ACEP has 53 Chapters: one in every state, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and a chapter representing those emergency physicians in uniformed and government services. ACEP's chapters are active in education and advocacy. ACEP's has its headquarters in Dallas, Texas, and a public affairs division in Washington, DC.

ACEP promotes the highest quality of emergency care and is the leading advocate for emergency physicians, their patients, and the public. ACEP's priority objectives are to:

1. Ensure access to emergency medical care
2. Promote quality care and patient safety
3. Work to eliminate crowding and boarding
4. Achieve meaningful medical liability reform

PE Anticoagulation Data Analysis/Validation

Objective

The proposed work should obtain and analyze data sufficient to meet NQF standards necessary for continued endorsement of NQF measure #0503 "Anticoagulation for Acute Pulmonary Embolism Patients"ⁱ. This work will describe the current performance gap in tested EDs, demonstrate the reliability, usability and feasibility of the measure and complete the measure maintenance application.

Elements of a successful proposal:

Based on previous work in measure testing and updated guidelines from the National Quality Forum, a successful application for this analysis will meet the following criteria:

- Complete the measure maintenance form for measure #0503 including the data analysis summarized below.
- One member of the contract team (ideally the PI) will attend the NQF's steering committee meeting in June or July 2012 to present the results and defend the measure. Travel Costs will be covered by ACEP.
- The proposed work should meet the new NQF Measure Evaluation Criteriaⁱⁱ consistent with the recent Measure Testing Task Force Reportⁱⁱⁱ

- A brief literature review should be conducted and summarized to demonstrate the Importance to Measure and Report and the Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties for measure #0503 per NQF standards.
- Measure testing in a minimum of 3 EDs to test reliability, usability and feasibility. This will include at least 2 non-academic facilities and 1 academic facility. ACEP will favorably evaluate proposals that include more EDs of diverse characteristics (academic, community, urban, safety net, etc.) in order to increase the likelihood of demonstrating variation in measure performance,
- At least 50 patient charts will be abstracted per site.
- If electronic health records are used for data abstraction, an appropriately sampled manual chart abstraction should be performed to demonstrate the reliability of electronic health record data.
- Specific elements of measure Reliability and Validity that should be addressed in the proposal to ensure demonstration of Scientific Acceptability will include:
 - The ability to demonstrate the validity of the measured data element specifications (order for anticoagulation) with respect to the outcome of interest (administered anticoagulation) for an appropriate sample of patient charts.
 - Preparing language summarizing the consensus development process used for a Face Validity support for the measure.
 - The ability to reliably measure the numerator (patients with acute pulmonary embolism diagnosed in the ED) and denominator exclusions specified in the measure.
 - A proposed statistical plan to demonstrate reliability and validity consistent with accepted NQF methods (e.g. the Kappa or ICC) applied to chart abstraction. Calculation of the measure and reporting of descriptive statistics will be required to demonstrate the Importance to Measure and the Usability and Feasibility of the measure but is not sufficient for Scientific Acceptability of Reliability.
- Specific elements of measure Usability and Feasibility that should be addressed in the proposal include:
 - NQF standards for Usability now expect that all measures are usable for public reporting—as such measure testing should be performed in conjunction with testing of the measure per the specifications currently available for use of the measure in the Physician’s Quality Reporting System (PQRS). A statistical test should be proposed to demonstrate the concordance between the NQF endorsed measure and the current PQRS specifications.
- An assessment of measurement burden should be conducted in parallel with Reliability and Validity testing in order to demonstrate that data are readily available and captured for this measure without undue burden. Ideally, this assessment should include a brief proposal outlining the expected data sources, sampling technique, and sampling frequency and time-burden EDs should anticipate if considering implementation of this measure.

i

<http://www.qualityforum.org/MeasureDetails.aspx?actid=0&SubmissionId=486#k=anticoagulation&e=1&st=&sd=30&s=st&so=d&p=1&mt=&cs=&ss=>

ii http://www.qualityforum.org/docs/measure_evaluation_criteria.aspx

iii

http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Improving_NQF_Process/Measure_Testing_Task_Force.aspx