

AJRR's Overview of Patient- Reported Outcomes

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About American Joint Replacement Registry

The American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization for data collection and quality-improvement initiatives for total hip and knee replacements. By collecting and reporting data, AJRR provides actionable information to guide physicians and patient decision making to improve care. It empowers health care organizations to enhance the patient experience and benchmark performance; orthopaedic surgeons to reduce complications and revision rates; device manufacturers to strengthen quality control through post-market surveillance; and health plans to effectively manage costs.

As part of AJRR's mission to improve care for patients by providing meaningful data back to AJRR hospital participants, AJRR has developed a patient-reported outcome (PRO) platform for hospitals and private practice groups who are interested in capturing patient-based outcome data — specifically, a patient-reported outcome survey/measure (PROM) that assesses a patient's health status from the patient's perspective. PRO elements fall into AJRR's Level III data category.

What is a patient-reported outcome (PRO)?

A PRO is defined as any information on the outcomes of health care obtained directly from patients without modification by clinicians or other health care professionals. A PRO measure (PROM) can be a survey that captures a patient's self-assessment of their health and provides a mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of patient-centered care. Additionally, a PROM can assess different domains of a patient's health, such as health status (mental and/or physical), function, symptoms, quality of life, etc., which can be measured over time and utilized to evaluate surgical or other treatment outcomes.



Why include a PRO program at your institution/clinical setting?

Patient-reported outcomes can be valuable tools in guiding physicians and patients on understanding a patient's health status, in the decision making process regarding patient care, and for evaluating the effectiveness of quality improvement initiatives. Furthermore, PRO data may help hospitals and practice groups quantify their value as the health care sector moves toward defining quality measures to evaluate health care providers' performance for value-based reimbursement of care. For example, the federal government emphasizes the use of PROs by defining PRO requirements within their Medicare reimbursement programs such as Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) Model. Eligible professionals may need to include PRO measures in their course of clinical care and submit their results to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to meet these new standards for reimbursement without penalties.

AJRR provides hospitals and practice groups with PRO benchmarks to compare their results at the national level. Knowing how surgeons compare within their own institution, as well as against the nation is very beneficial. Additionally, hospital and practice groups can use that data to publicly report their own results. Having the data from a robust National Registry will enable institutions to make informed decisions based on clinical facts and figures.

What type of service does AJRR provide for collecting PROs?

PRO SYSTEM

One of AJRR's goals is to provide the orthopaedic community with national comparative PRO data. To assist AJRR hospitals in PRO data capture and provide a service to store and have on-demand access to the data, AJRR developed a PRO platform within AJRR's RegistryInsights™ system. The platform has many features for the clinical staff to access their patient data while having the ability to manage and assign PRO surveys electronically via a secure patient portal. AJRR's secure portal allows patients to access their surveys via the Internet at home or at the clinic to complete the surveys in a convenient manner. AJRR's data system also has the capacity to accept final PROM scores for participating hospitals and practice groups who are collecting PROMs through another method (e.g., PRO collection by their electronic health records (EHR) system or an orthopaedic charting vendor). For example, Epic and other EHR vendors offer PRO platforms in their systems for those who wish to utilize a platform tailored to their individual needs. AJRR collaborates with a number of these vendors to facilitate seamless transfer of PRO data.

PRO GUIDANCE

Beyond providing a system to capture PRO measures or access PRO dashboards, AJRR provides guidance regarding what PROMs your organization may wish to collect, especially for hospitals and practice groups just starting a PRO program. As the National Registry that works closely with the orthopaedic societies and associations, hospitals and surgeons are looking to AJRR for guidance regarding PRO collection. AJRR's Data Committee, in collaboration with orthopaedic specialty organizations, identified the specific measures that AJRR recommends for national benchmarks.

The recommendation includes utilization of both a quality of life measure (either VR-12 or PROMIS-10 Global) and a disease-specific measure (HOOS, JR. and KOOS, JR.). The decision to recommend the instruments was based on AJRR participation in the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons' (AAHKS) Patient-Reported Outcome Summit for Total Joint Arthroplasty that convened in August 2015. Representatives from orthopaedic organizations (AAHKS, AJRR, American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), The Hip Society, and The Knee Society), CMS, Yale-New Haven Health Services Corporation Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (YNHHSC/CORE), private payers, and other stakeholders participated in the Summit. The Summit's goal was to obtain a consensus regarding the PROMs suitable for total hip and knee arthroplasty performance measures.

QUALITY OF LIFE
MEASURE: VR-12
OR
PROMIS-10 GLOBAL

DISEASE-SPECIFIC
MEASURE:
HOOS, JR.
AND
KOOS, JR.

Although AJRR has recommended PROMs for national benchmarking, AJRR provides a large list of PRO instruments for hospitals interested in collecting measures other than the AJRR's recommended PROMs. AJRR understands institutions may have in place a long-standing PRO data collection process with specific PRO instruments. As these groups may wish to continue utilizing their preferred PROM, AJRR will provide a repository to warehouse all levels of orthopaedic data in a centralized system. Additionally, a hospital or practice may prefer to use another measure in order to conduct comprehensive analysis at a more granular level. RegistryInsights will allow for aggregated, site-specific reports detailing the patient and summary results for each PROM supported on the AJRR system even though national benchmarks and dashboards will not be available for these other measures.

AJRR Menu of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures

Quality of Life Form	Instrument	Number of Items	Available in AJRR Patient Portal Form	National Benchmarks Available via AJRR Dashboard
VR-12*	Veterans Rand 12 Item Health Survey	12	Yes	Yes
PROMIS-10 Global*	Patient Reported Outcome Measure Information System - Global Health Short Form	10	Yes	Yes
SF-12	Medical Outcomes Study 12-Item Short Form Health Survey	12	No, AJRR only accepts final scores	No
SF-36	Medical Outcomes Study 36-Item Short Form Health Survey	36	Yes	No
EQ-5D	EuroQol Index and Visual Analog Scale	6	No, AJRR only accepts final scores	No
Disease-Specific Form	Instrument	Number of Items	Available in AJRR Patient Portal Form	National Benchmarks Available via AJRR Dashboard
HOOS, JR.*	Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (HOOS), JR.	6	Yes	Yes
KOOS, JR.*	Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), JR.	7	Yes	Yes
HOOS	Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score	42	Yes	No
KOOS	Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score	42	Yes	No
Oxford Hip	Oxford Hip Score	12	Yes	No
Oxford Knee	Oxford Knee Score	12	Yes	No
KSS (Pre- and Post-Op)	Knee Society Knee Scoring System	44	Yes	No
Harris Hip Score	Harris Hip Score	8	Yes	No
WOMAC	Western Ontario and McMaster University Osteoarthritis Index	24	No, AJRR only accepts final scores	No

*National benchmarks are available for these measures

What is required to start a PRO program?

If you are interested in a PRO program, you and your colleagues will need to determine the reasons you would like to launch a PRO program. You may consider asking yourselves questions such as: What are the requirements of the payer-specific program for which we are hoping to qualify? Are we launching a research initiative with specific aims? Do the AJRR tools help us meet those aims? Are we seeking comparative benchmarks to our peers? What does our current EHR platform provide? Is it sufficient? Once you have decided on the purpose of PRO data collection, you and your colleagues should determine if the AJRR platform meets your needs. The AJRR staff is happy to participate in calls to assist you with decision making should you wish.

How do I learn more?

For more information about AJRR's patient-reported outcome system, contact AJRR:

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