

Component 4 Attestation FAQs

Quality Improvement Activities for OCC Component 4 Practice Performance Assessment Helpful Tips and FAQs

Please keep in mind **this is not a comprehensive list of all possible QI activities**, but rather a list to help you recognize activities you may already be participating in that may qualify for OCC Component 4 PPA credit. Please contact your specialty board if you have questions about specific QI activities.

What is a Quality Improvement (QI) Activity?

Quality improvement (QI) consists of systematic and continuous actions that lead to measurable improvement in health care services and the status of targeted patient groups. The National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) defines quality in health care as a direct correlation between the level of improved health services and the desired health outcomes of individuals and populations. QI activities can be completed within your institution or as part of a national initiative.

OCC Component 4 requires that you engage in continuous quality improvement through comparison of personal practice performance measured against national standards for your medical specialty. Attesting to a QI activity can count for credit under OCC Component 4 – Practice Performance Assessment (PPA). Each QI activity attested will count for one PPA module.

What are some examples of QI Activities?

QI activities often fall into two major categories: Process Improvement and Condition Management / Improvement. Again, **this is not a comprehensive list**. Please contact your specialty board if you have questions about a specific activity.

Process Improvement (examples)

Access to care	Discharge (planning, documentation, elimination of delays, etc.)	Fire prevention (i.e. Fire Safety in the OR)
Hand washing	Meaningful Use Attestation for EMR	Patient Satisfaction / Patient Experience of Care (PEC) / Physician Communication Skills (patient surveys, CAHPS, Press Ganey) minimum 20 surveys / patients
Radiation safety (i.e. Image Gently, Image Wisely, etc.)	Standardization of patient handovers from the OR to the ICU	Telehealth services (i.e. use to expand practice access)
Telemetry (i.e. use and impact)	Wound care	

Condition Improvement / Management (examples)

Acute myocardial infarction	Alcohol use / withdrawal	Asthma
Delirium	Depression screening	Diabetes / glycemic control
DVT / PE / VTE	Falls	Fetal monitoring

HIV screening	Hypertension	Infection prevention and control (i.e. compliance with the Joint Commission’s Surgical Care Improvement Activity (SCIP) Core Measure Set; infection control in the laboratory, etc.)
Osteoporosis	Pneumonia	Tobacco Use
Other activities that may count for PPA credit attestation (examples)		
American College of Radiology (ACR) RADPEER CMS	Core Measures	CMS PQRS Quality Measures
Committee service (participation as a member of an institutional / departmental QI / clinical quality / safety review committee – minimum one year service required to receive credit)	Compliance Control	Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE)
MACRA / Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) participation	Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) Medical Audit or ACT Mammography Accreditation Program (MAP)	National Clinical Registry Participation (by submitting data – examples of clinical registries include IRIS (Intelligent Research in Sight); PCMH Sleep Medicine Registry; other national clinical registries as listed on www.nih.gov/health-information/nih-clinical-research-trials-you/list-registries or patientregistry.ahrq.gov)
NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition Program participation	Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE)	Patient Safety Organization – participation in an AHRQ-listed PSO (https://pso.ahrq.gov/listed)
Performance Improvement in Pathology (PIP)	Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (annual registration)	Publications (i.e. publishing an article in a peer-reviewed journal)
Simulation courses		***HANDS (Handling All Neonatal Deliveries Safely) Initiative – If you are an OB/GYN who completed Ascension Health’s HANDS Initiative, please follow the Ascension Health internal reporting process. They will report your completion to the AOA for PPA credit.

What does not count as a QI activity for OCC Component 4?

While these activities are worthwhile, they do not meet the BOS standard for Practice Performance Assessment or count under other components of OCC and therefore will not count for OCC Component 4:

- Attending CME conferences / participating in CME activities (CME is part of OCC Component 2 – Lifelong Learning)

- Journal Club
- Passing the OCC (recertification) exam in your specialty / subspecialty (the examination is part of OCC Component 3 – Cognitive Assessment)
- Preceptoring / teaching students and residents (You receive CME for preceptoring / teaching under OCC Component 2)
- Unpublished case studies

What if I'm participating in an improvement initiative that is not on this list?

This list is not exclusive. We encourage you to submit any activity that focuses on quality, practice, or process improvement for PPA credit.

Can I fill out one form to attest to multiple QI activities?

If you are attesting to multiple QI activities, please complete this form separately for each Activity to get credit for multiple submissions.

What if I'm not participating in a QI activity currently?

You can also receive OCC Component 4 PPA credit by completing one of the PPA topics currently accepted by your specialty board. Please visit your individual board site for more information on how to access and complete those PPA activities.

Why am I being asked for a verifier's information?

Diplomates who submit activities through the QI Attestation form for OCC Component 4 will be subject to a random audit. If you are selected for audit, your board will use this information to verify your participation.

If you have documentation of completion of your activity (i.e. a certificate of completion / participation), you may remove yourself from the random audit process by sending a copy of that documentation directly to your board. Please include a note explaining that it goes with your OCC Component 4 QI attestation with your submission.