

PAR EXCELLENCE

ADVANCING YOUR PRACTICE WITH PAR

The Wherefore and the Why

Welcome to *PAR Excellence*, the College's new newsletter about PAR, its operations and its learnings.

PAR Excellence will appear as an insert in *The Messenger* four times a year, and will help keep physicians informed about one of the CPSA's most wide-reaching programs.

Questions or comments are welcome, and will be addressed on these pages.

Medical Specialists' Reports

By the time that they are reading this, the first 300 medical specialists who participated in the new version of PAR developed for this group should have received the final reports of their PAR findings.

The start-up for a new version of PAR is a time-consuming thing, leading to a long elapsed time between the first distribution of questionnaires and the mailing of final reports.

Along the way, each of the questions used is statistically validated, and group norms

Did You Know PAR is On-Line?

Visit the PAR web site for up-to-date and relevant information about the PAR Program.

The site contains a description of the program, copies of survey questionnaires, explanations of PAR attributes, contact information and much more.

www.par-program.org

determined for three sub-groups: pediatrics (including its sub-specialties), psychiatry, and all other medical specialists.

In the end, this allows each medical specialist to receive PAR feedback not only for his or her own practice, but with comparison to a group of practitioners with a more-similar practice type.

So while the process of development may have taken longer than we had hoped for, the result should be more appropriate reference group scores.

Certificates, Posters and Your Feedback

A number of communications initiatives aimed at increasing the visibility of the PAR Program, and one to help improve PAR, will begin this fall:

- 1) All physicians who participate in PAR will receive a wall certificate, suitable for framing. This will document to your patients your participation in a profession-wide quality-improvement program. No reference will be made to the findings of the PAR review.
- 2) Physicians will also have the opportunity to order, free of charge, an office poster describing even more boldly that physicians are dedicated to improving the quality of care they provide via participation in PAR.
- 3) A short feedback form will also be included, so that physicians can provide insight back to the physician Performance Committee into how they have used PAR results, and offer suggestions for improvement in the program.

Development of PAR Version for Episodic Care Providers

Development on a version of the PAR tools for “episodic care providers” is currently under way. Episodic care providers are defined as those physicians who typically see their patient only once (or infrequently). These are expected to include:

- 1) Emergency physicians (and those who practice predominantly in emergency rooms);
- 2) Physicians who work in walk-in practices where they usually see patients only once, or only episodically; and

- 3) Physicians with mainly-locum practices.

We recognized from the outset that getting useful feedback from patients who have only a brief or one-time dealing with a physician will present a challenge.

But fundamental to the PAR design philosophy is that incorporation of reliable patient feedback is essential for the improvement of practice performance. Changes to PAR processes, as well as to the topics and wording of survey questions will be under consideration.

Following our design approach used to develop other versions of PAR, an expert committee has been assembled to work with the University of Calgary to draft the questions and the processes.

All “episodic care providers” that we can identify will then be given the opportunity to review the draft and provide comments and suggestions.

The committee will review this input, and prepare a final version for use, targeted for Spring 2004.

PAR for Anesthesiologists

This fall, anesthesiologists will begin receiving notices to begin PAR reviews for their practices.

A major challenge in the development and testing of the anesthesiologist version of PAR was in the design of ways to distribute the patient questionnaire at a time, and in a manner, that made sense.

To help fit the variety of ways in which an anesthesiologist might have the opportunity to convey the questionnaire to the patient, and have it returned after the patient was alert enough to provide useful feedback, a variety of approaches are suggested for the physician consider.

PAR Opportunities: Get Involved!

The Physician Performance Committee (PPC) currently has two vacancies it requires new members to fill.

Preference will be given to physicians who have already had a PAR practice review, and to those with an interest in education, quality improvement and/or communications.

Please contact Dr. Bryan Ward or Mr. John Swiniarski at the College office.

PAR Facts

- Alberta’s Physician Achievement Review (PAR) Program was implemented in 1999 as a continuous quality improvement process for individual physicians.
- Since its inception, more than 2200 Alberta physicians have participated in the program, and have gained practical information about their practice.
- Nationally recognized as an educational tool, PAR can earn you CME credits from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS).

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