NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Measure Information

This document contains the information submitted by measure developers/stewards, but is organized according to NQF's measure evaluation criteria and process. The item numbers refer to those in the submission form but may be in a slightly different order here. In general, the item numbers also reference the related criteria (e.g., item 1b.1 relates to sub criterion 1b).

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 1540
Corresponding Measures:
De.2. **Measure Title:** Postoperative Stroke or Death in Asymptomatic Patients undergoing Carotid Endarterectomy
Co.1.1. **Measure Steward:** Society for Vascular Surgery
De.3. **Brief Description of Measure:** Percentage of patients age 18 or older without carotid territory neurologic or retinal symptoms within the one year immediately preceding carotid endarterectomy (CEA) who experience stroke or death following surgery while in the hospital. This measure is proposed for both hospitals and individual surgeons. This measure is presently reported by the Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI) registry.
1b.1. **Developer Rationale:** Numerous manuscripts have noted variation in the combined endpoint of stroke or death following carotid endarterectomy. In the Medicare population, the outcome has been shown to vary substantially as a function of hospital volume. This is an important consideration, since it is widely recognized that many surgeons and centers performing CEAs do not meet the high standards of the randomized trials which established the benefit of such treatment. It has been shown that mortality following CEA in Medicare patients was 1.4% in hospitals participating in randomized trials, 1.7% in high volume non-trial hospitals, 1.9% in average volume hospitals and fully 2.5% in low volume hospitals (Ref 6). Given that the stroke rate is generally 3 times the mortality rate, this suggests that some centers/surgeons are not achieving optimal results. A recent survey in Canada found that 45% of hospitals are not meeting published guidelines (Ref 7). Adoption of this outcome measure in the United States would likely disclose similar results and lead to quality improvement when this information was provided to surgeons and centers. This effect has been demonstrated in a midwest regional study by Kresowik et al where stroke and death rate after CEA improved after providing outcome data (Ref 5). The VSGNNE has shown that regional results are good for CEA outcomes, but significant variation does exist between surgeons and centers (Ref 8). Postoperative stroke or death is the accepted outcome paramenter for this surgery, and its measurement and reporting would demonstrate variation and opportunity for improvement

S.4. **Numerator Statement:** Patients age 18 or older without preoperative carotid territory neurologic or retinal symptoms within the one year immediately preceding CEA who experience stroke or death during their hospitalization following carotid endarterectomy
S.6. **Denominator Statement:** Asymptomatic patients (based on NASCET criteria) on the within one year of CEA
S.8. **Denominator Exclusions:** DENOMINATOR EXCLUSIONS:
Symptomatic carotid stenosis: Ipsilateral carotid territory TIA or stroke less than 120 days prior to procedure: 9006F
OR
Other carotid stenosis: Ipsilateral TIA or stroke 120 days or greater prior to procedure or any prior contralateral carotid territory or vertebrobasilar TIA or stroke: 9007F

De.1. **Measure Type:** Outcome
S.17. **Data Source:** Registry Data
S.20. **Level of Analysis:** Clinician : Group/Practice, Clinician : Individual, Facility

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: Jan 31, 2012 **Most Recent Endorsement Date:** Jan 31, 2012

IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:

IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:

De.4. **IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results?** Submitted SVS measure: Postoperative Stroke or Death in Asymptomatic Patients undergoing Carotid Artery Stenting

1. Evidence, Performance Gap, Priority – Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. ***Measures must be judged to meet all sub criteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.***

1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus – See attached Evidence Submission Form
1540_Evidence_MSF5.0_Data_2016.doc
1a.1 For Maintenance of Endorsement: Is there new evidence about the measure since the last update/submission?
Do not remove any existing information. If there have been any changes to evidence, the Committee will consider the new evidence. Please use the most current version of the evidence attachment (v7.1). Please use red font to indicate updated evidence.

1b. Performance Gap

Demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating:

- considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or
- Disparities in care across population groups.

1b.1. **Briefly explain the rationale for this measure** *(e.g., how the measure will improve the quality of care, the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure)*
If a COMPOSITE (e.g., combination of component measure scores, all-or-none, any-or-none), SKIP this question and answer the composite questions.
Numerous manuscripts have noted variation in the combined endpoint of stroke or death following carotid endarterectomy. In the Medicare population, the outcome has been shown to vary substantially as a function of hospital volume. This is an important consideration, since it is widely recognized that many surgeons and centers performing CEAs do not meet the high standards of the randomized trials which established the benefit of such treatment. It has been shown that mortality following CEA in Medicare patients was 1.4% in hospitals participating in randomized trials, 1.7% in high volume non-trial hospitals, 1.9% in average volume hospitals and fully 2.5% in low volume hospitals (Ref 6). Given that the stroke rate is generally 3 times the mortality rate, this suggests that some centers/surgeons are not achieving optimal results. A recent survey in Canada found that 45% of hospitals are not meeting published guidelines (Ref 7). Adoption of this outcome measure in the United States would likely disclose similar results and lead to quality improvement when this information was provided to surgeons and centers. This effect has been demonstrated in a midwest regional study by Kresowik et al where stroke and death rate after CEA improved after providing outcome data (Ref 5). The VSGNNE has shown that regional results are good for CEA outcomes, but significant variation does exist between surgeons and centers (Ref 8). Postoperative stroke or death is the accepted outcome paramenter for this surgery, and its measurement and reporting would demonstrate variation and opportunity for improvement

1b.2. **Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis**. *(This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include.) This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b1) under Usability and Use.*
It has been shown that mortality following CEA in Medicare patients was 1.4% in hospitals participating in randomized trials, 1.7% in high volume non-trial hospitals, 1.9% in average volume hospitals and fully 2.5% in low volume hospitals (Ref 6). Given that the stroke rate is generally 3 times the mortality rate, this means that many ill advised operations are likely being performed. A recent survey in Canada found that 45% of hospitals are not meeting published guidelines (Ref 7).

For this measure propsal we reviewed 4,613 CEAs performed for asymptomatic patients in VSGNE between 2003 to 2010. Among 17 hospitals, the variation in postoperative stroke or death rate was as follows: The 25th quartile was 0%. The 75th quartile was 1.5%. The median was 0.6%. The range across centers was 0% to 6.4%. Similarly, among 89 individual surgeons the rates were as follows: The 25th quartile was 0%. The 75th quartile was 0.8%. The median was 0%. The range across surgeons was 0% to 25%. This demonstrates substantial variability and performance gap even though the regional average outcome was excellent.

In 2016, an analysis was run on the data for this measure collected in the SVS VQI registry from 2010 - 2015. This analysis based on 261 centers representing 1,251 physicians and 27,773 cases demonstrated a slightly better median at 0.4% versus the median when this measure was created of 0.6%. However the 75% percentile for centers was 1.8% in the five years of data since this measure was created, demonstrating a slight increase. Therefore, we continue to see variation as was noted above when the measure was created.

In October/November 2016, we also looked at the data at stroke or death within 9 months of the surgery and this analysis based on 250 centers representing 1,169 physicians and 24,038 cases demonstrated a median at 2.2% median by center. Based on procedures per year, the median ranges from 2.8% to 3.8%. Therefore, we continue to see variation as was noted above when the measure was created.

1b.3. **If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported in 1b2, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of measurement.**
See list in 1a.4 above

1b.4. **Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability.** *(This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included.) For measures that show high levels of performance, i.e., "topped out", disparities data may demonstrate an opportunity for improvement/gap in care for certain sub-populations. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b1) under Usability and Use.*
Such data will become available if this measure is adopted for reporting and used by more centers with more varied population demographics than found in the New England region.

The data from our 2016 analysis showed very little variation in this measure in regard to disparities. There was a very slight variation by age between those younger than 60 (1.4%) and those older than 80 year old (1.5%) versus those individuals between the ages of 60 - 79 (1.2% and 1.1%). There was no difference regarding race and again a very slight difference regarding gender with females at 1.4% and males at 1.1%.

1b.5. **If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported in 1b.4, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations. Not necessary if performance data provided in 1b.4**
not available

2. Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. ***Measures must be judged to meet the sub criteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.***

2a.1. Specifications The measure is well defined and precisely specified so it can be implemented consistently within and across organizations and allows for comparability. eMeasures should be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the Quality Data Model (QDM).

De.5. **Subject/Topic Area** *(check all the areas that apply):*
Surgery : Vascular Surgery

De.6. **Non-Condition Specific***(check all the areas that apply):*
Safety : Complications

De.7. **Target Population Category** *(Check all the populations for which the measure is specified and tested if any):*
Elderly

S.1. **Measure-specific Web Page** *(Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials. Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information.)*
http://www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2016_PQRS_Information-v2-1.pdf

S.2a. **If this is an eMeasure**, HQMF specifications must be attached. Attach the zipped output from the eMeasure authoring tool (MAT) - if the MAT was not used, contact staff. (Use the specification fields in this online form for the plain-language description of the specifications)
Attachment:

S.2b. **Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets** *(and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable) must be attached. (Excel or csv file in the suggested format preferred - if not, contact staff)*
Attachment **Attachment:** CEA defs v.01.09.doc

S.2c. Is this an instrument-based measure (i.e., data collected via instruments, surveys, tools, questionnaires, scales, etc.)? Attach copy of instrument if available.
Attachment:

S.2d. Is this an instrument-based measure (i.e., data collected via instruments, surveys, tools, questionnaires, scales, etc.)? Attach copy of instrument if available.

S.3.1. **For maintenance of endorsement:** Are there changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications for S1-2 and S4-22 and explain reasons for the changes in S3.2.

S.3.2. **For maintenance of endorsement,** please briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since last measure update and explain the reasons.
We have increased the specificity of the denominator by having two category II performance reporting codes created since the last endorsement date.

S.4. **Numerator Statement** *(Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome) DO NOT include the rationale for the measure.*
IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).
Patients age 18 or older without preoperative carotid territory neurologic or retinal symptoms within the one year immediately preceding CEA who experience stroke or death during their hospitalization following carotid endarterectomy

S.5. **Numerator Details** *(All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)*
IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).
ANY registry that includes hospitalization details and symptom status within 120 days is required to identify patients for numerator inclusion. The Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative (SVS VQI) and the Vascular Study Group of New England (VSGNE) are examples of registries that record such information, but the measure is not limited to these registries. If a registry collects this data then they could report this measure. Patients who were asymptomatic within one year of the CEA (CPT code 37215) who died or experienced postoperative in hospital stroke are included.

S.6. **Denominator Statement** *(Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured)*

Asymptomatic patients (based on NASCET criteria) on the within one year of CEA

S.7. **Denominator Details** *(All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)*
IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the target population is identified. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).
ANY registry that includes hospitalization details and symptom status within 120 days is required to identify patients for denominator inclusion. The Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative (SVS VQI) and the Vascular Study Group of New England (VSGNE) are examples of registries that record such information, but the measure is not limited to these registries. Patients who were asymptomatic within one year of the CAS (CPT code 37215)are included.

S.8. **Denominator Exclusions** *(Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population)*
DENOMINATOR EXCLUSIONS:
Symptomatic carotid stenosis: Ipsilateral carotid territory TIA or stroke less than 120 days prior to procedure: 9006F
OR
Other carotid stenosis: Ipsilateral TIA or stroke 120 days or greater prior to procedure or any prior contralateral carotid territory or vertebrobasilar TIA or stroke: 9007F

S.9. **Denominator Exclusion Details** *(All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)*
DENOMINATOR EXCLUSIONS:
Symptomatic carotid stenosis: Ipsilateral carotid territory TIA or stroke less than 120 days prior to procedure: 9006F
OR
Other carotid stenosis: Ipsilateral TIA or stroke 120 days or greater prior to procedure or any prior contralateral carotid territory or vertebrobasilar TIA or stroke: 9007F

S.10. **Stratification Information** *(Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary, including the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets, and the risk-model covariates and coefficients for the clinically-adjusted version of the measure when appropriate – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format with at S.2b.)*
Not required

S.11. **Risk Adjustment Type** (Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification in measure testing attachment)
No risk adjustment or risk stratification
If other:

S.12. **Type of score:**
Rate/proportion
If other:

S.13. **Interpretation of Score** *(Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score)*
Better quality = Lower score

S.14. **Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic** (*Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps including identifying the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period for data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.)*
Asymptomatic patients undergoing CEA who experience inhospital stroke or death/all asymptomatic patients undergoing CEA.

This measure is to be reported each time a CEA is performed during the reporting period. It is anticipated that clinicians who provide services of CEA, as described in the measure, based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding will report this measure. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

S.15. Sampling *(If measure is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.)*
IF an instrument-based performance measure (e.g., PRO-PM), identify whether (and how) proxy responses are allowed.
N/A

S.16. Survey/Patient-reported data *(If measure is based on a survey or instrument, provide instructions for data collection and guidance on minimum response rate.)*
Specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.

S.17. Data Source *(Check ONLY the sources for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED).*
If other, please describe in S.18.
Registry Data

S.18. Data Source or Collection Instrument *(Identify the specific data source/data collection instrument (e.g. name of database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data are collected.)*
IF instrument-based, identify the specific instrument(s) and standard methods, modes, and languages of administration.
Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative Registry
Vascular Study Group of New England Registry

S.19. Data Source or Collection Instrument *(available at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)*

S.20. Level of Analysis *(Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)*
Clinician : Group/Practice, Clinician : Individual, Facility

S.21. Care Setting *(Check ONLY the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)*
Inpatient/Hospital
If other:

S.22. COMPOSITE Performance Measure - Additional Specifications *(Use this section as needed for aggregation and weighting rules, or calculation of individual performance measures if not individually endorsed.)*

2. Validity – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form
1540_MeasureTesting_MSF5.0_Data_v2.doc

2.1 For maintenance of endorsement
Reliability testing: If testing of reliability of the measure score was not presented in prior submission(s), has reliability testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. Please use the most current version of the testing attachment (v7.1). Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing); use red font to indicate updated testing.

2.2 For maintenance of endorsement
Has additional empirical validity testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. Please use the most current version of the testing attachment (v7.1). Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing); use red font to indicate updated testing.

2.3 For maintenance of endorsement
Risk adjustment: For outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk-adjustment that includes social risk factors is not prohibited at present. Please update sections 1.8, 2a2, 2b1,2b4.3 and 2b5 in the Testing attachment and S.140 and S.11 in the online submission form. NOTE: These sections must be updated even if social risk factors are not included in the risk-adjustment strategy.

You MUST use the most current version of the Testing Attachment (v7.1) -- older versions of the form will not have all required questions.

3. Feasibility

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3a. Byproduct of Care Processes

For clinical measures, the required data elements are routinely generated and used during care delivery (e.g., blood pressure, lab test, diagnosis, medication order).

3a.1. **Data Elements Generated as Byproduct of Care Processes.**

generated by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care, e.g., blood pressure, lab value, medical condition,
Coded by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., DRG, ICD-9 codes on claims)
If other:

3b. Electronic Sources

The required data elements are available in electronic health records or other electronic sources. If the required data are not in electronic health records or existing electronic sources, a credible, near-term path to electronic collection is specified.

3b.1. **To what extent are the specified data elements available electronically in defined fields** (*i.e., data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields*) Update this field for **maintenance of endorsement**.

Yes

3b.2. **If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using other than electronic sources.** For **maintenance of endorsement**, if this measure is not an eMeasure (eCQM), please describe any efforts to develop an eMeasure (eCQM).

3b.3. **If this is an eMeasure, provide a summary of the feasibility assessment in an attached file or make available at a measure-specific URL. Please also complete and attach the NQF Feasibility Score Card.**
Attachment:

3c. Data Collection Strategy

Demonstration that the data collection strategy (e.g., source, timing, frequency, sampling, patient confidentiality, costs associated with fees/licensing of proprietary measures) can be implemented (e.g., already in operational use, or testing demonstrates that it is ready to put into operational use). For eMeasures, a feasibility assessment addresses the data elements and measure logic and demonstrates the eMeasure can be implemented or feasibility concerns can be adequately addressed.

3c.1. **Required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe difficulties (as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure) regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.**
IF instrument-based, consider implications for both individuals providing data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

In the VSGNE experience which has been tracking stroke or death as a major endpoint since 2003, we have not experienced any difficulty with obtaining data related to this endpoint. Our percent missing for this variable has been less than 1%.

3c.2. **Describe any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified** *(e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm)*.

4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4a. Accountability and Transparency

Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

4.1. **Current and Planned Use**

NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement in addition to performance improvement.

Specific Plan for Use	Current Use (for current use provide URL)
	Payment Program PQRS www.cms.hhs.gov PQRS www.cms.hhs.gov

4a1.1 **For each CURRENT use, checked above (update for maintenance of endorsement), provide:**

- Name of program and sponsor
- Purpose
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included
- Level of measurement and setting

This measure has been accepted into the PQRS reporting program as PQRS measure number 346. Its purpose is for quality reporting by physicians into Medicare and it is a national program.

4a1.2. **If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing) what are the reasons?** (*e.g., Do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or impede implementation?*)

4a1.3. **If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes -- any accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement.** (*Credible plan includes the specific program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.*)

4a2.1.1. **Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.**
How many and which types of measured entities and/or others were included? If only a sample of measured entities were included, describe the full population and how the sample was selected.

4a2.1.2. **Describe the process(es) involved, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.**

4a2.2.1. **Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others described in 4d.1.**

Describe how feedback was obtained.

4a2.2.2. **Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.**

4a2.2.3. **Summarize the feedback obtained from other users**

4a2.3. **Describe how the feedback described in 4a2.2.1 has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.**

Improvement

Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible rationale describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4b1. **Refer to data provided in 1b but do not repeat here. Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare; Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included.)**
If no improvement was demonstrated, what are the reasons? If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4b2. Unintended Consequences

The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

4b2.1. **Please explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure including unintended impacts on patients.**

Data definitions regarding asymptomatic status based on NASCET criteria have eliminated confusion about symtoms. Death is an accurate endpoint. Stroke has been accurately collected as judged by chart audits and comparison to claims data that has been done within VSGNE.

4b2.2. **Please explain any unexpected benefits from implementation of this measure.**

5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

5. Relation to Other NQF-endorsed Measures

Are there related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population) or competing measures (conceptually both the same measure focus and same target population)? If yes, list the NQF # and title of all related and/or competing measures.

No

5.1a. **List of related or competing measures (selected from NQF-endorsed measures)**

5.1b. **If related or competing measures are not NQF endorsed please indicate measure title and steward.**

5a. Harmonization of Related Measures

The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures;
OR
The differences in specifications are justified

5a.1. **If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):**
Are the measure specifications harmonized to the extent possible?

5a.2. **If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.**

5b. Competing Measures

The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure);
OR
Multiple measures are justified.

5b.1. **If this measure conceptually addresses both the same measure focus and the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):**
Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality); OR provide a rationale for the additive value of endorsing an additional measure. (Provide analyses when possible.)

Appendix

A.1 Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be organized in one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific submission form number, that should be indicated. Requested information should be provided in the submission form and required attachments. There is no guarantee that supplemental materials will be reviewed.
Attachment:

Contact Information

Co.1 **Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner):** Society for Vascular Surgery
Co.2 **Point of Contact:** Sarah, Murphy, ladams@vascularsociety.org, 312-334-1229-
Co.3 **Measure Developer if different from Measure Steward:** Society for Vascular Surgery
Co.4 **Point of Contact:** Jill, Rathbun, Jill_Rathbun@galileogrp.com, 312-334-2305-

Additional Information

Ad.1 **Workgroup/Expert Panel involved in measure development**
Provide a list of sponsoring organizations and workgroup/panel members' names and organizations. Describe the members' role in measure development.

Measure Developer/Steward Updates and Ongoing Maintenance
Ad.2 **Year the measure was first released:** 2010
Ad.3 **Month and Year of most recent revision:** 05, 2016
Ad.4 **What is your frequency for review/update of this measure?** Annually
Ad.5 **When is the next scheduled review/update for this measure?** 12, 2017

Ad.6 **Copyright statement:**

Ad.7 **Disclaimers:**
Ad.8 **Additional Information/Comments:**