Registry Success Is Good News for AAN Members

Here at the AAN, we’re not afraid to take on large projects. But the biggest task I’ve been aware of is our Axon Registry. And while I would love to take credit for the very successful recent conclusion of its pilot phase, I have to say I am merely the messenger of this good news. The kudos belong to my predecessor, Past President Timothy A. Pedley, MD, FAAN, who launched the registry in 2014; former President Bruce Sigsbee, MD, FAAN, and the members of the Registry Committee that he chairs; and our remarkable Academy staff.

I also need to thank the nearly 1,000 AAN member neurologists who volunteered their practices as test beds to actively engage in “real world” use of the registry. They effectively proved the concept and demonstrated the robust execution of this ambitious project. Furthermore, we reached one million patient records faster than any other registry that FIGMD, our vendor, has developed.

After Dr. Sigsbee made his recent report to the Board of Directors on conclusion of the pilot phase, the Board agreed it was successful and voted to begin to expand the program. Our new goal is to have 2,000 members participating in the registry in 2017, and 4,000 member participants by the end of 2018. We also will conduct a quality assessment on the beta data to ensure it meets certain quality reporting requirements. You can read more about this on page 9.

The AAN has made a significant investment of dollars and resources to create the Axon Registry. We are doing this for several reasons. First and foremost, the registry is focused on clinical quality improvement. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other policy makers have taken a very positive view of specialty societies that demonstrate their commitment to improving the quality and value of care by creating clinical data registries. CMS considers collecting and analyzing quality data and interventions based on these data as essential to a high-value health care system as we all seek to improve quality and reduce costs.

Second, the registry enables AAN members across the US to use clinical data to improve care delivery and patient outcomes. You will be able to track your performance and really understand important aspects of your individual practice and compare each of these against your peers.

Third, the Axon Registry will enable you to save time and energy while complying with requirements and demonstrate quality care. It will help you:

- Submit data that will be required under MACRA

In most instances, the registry software will discreetly “pull” the necessary records from your EHR with little or no effort on your part. For larger clinics secured by firewalls that disallow third-party vendor access, it will be necessary to periodically “push” the required data to FIGMD. Still, this is a virtually effortless way to fulfill key reporting requirements.

Currently, the Axon Registry is a free benefit only to AAN members, and we anticipate it will be very popular with members based on our experience with the pilot cohorts. So I want to encourage you to look into participating in 2017 and enjoy the efficiencies the registry provides for the data reporting you need to do. Read the latest updates at AAN.com/view/Axon and watch the brief videos featuring Dr. Sigsbee’s explanation of the registry. You can ask questions by emailing registry@aan.com or submit your name to participate by going online at AAN.com/view/Axon.

Again, my thanks to all who have had a hand in the successful launch of the Axon Registry and I trust we can look forward to a glowing report from our future President Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN, after the 2017 results are evaluated. •

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