



Ontario Health
Quality

Adjusted requirements for the January 2021 submission of the Emergency Department Return Visit Quality Program

We have recently received questions from several of you regarding whether the requirements for the ED Return Visit Quality Program will continue for 2021, given the effects of the current COVID-19 pandemic on health care organizations across the province.

After much consideration, we have decided to make the 50-audit requirement for the January 2021 submission optional for this year. While we still encourage you to complete as many audits as makes sense for your team, we recognize there may be a need for you to focus on other important quality improvement work related to COVID-19.

Ideally, you could combine your efforts related to COVID-19 with the ED Return Visit Quality Program. We encourage you to be mindful of improvement opportunities related to COVID-19 and consider how the effects of COVID-19 may be reflected in the cases you audit. For example, you may observe an impact of delays in care or reluctance to seek care, or you may identify effects of the increased provision of virtual care. We look forward to learning about and sharing these types of observations.

Because this program remains a mandatory part of the P4R program, we will still ask you to submit a completed narrative template in January 2021. This will include questions that focus more broadly on quality improvement in the ED to enable those of you who were not able to complete any audits to still share your work.

Contact us at EDQuality@hqontario.ca if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback.

Regards,

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