

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS
Pilot Study on New Tobacco and Alcohol Measures
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements to be a volunteer? (i.e., types of hospitals, size, technology etc?)

Any size or type is fine; hospitals with either paper or electronic medical records are acceptable. In general we like to have a good geographic spread in the participating organizations. We need hospitals that are small, average size and large, teaching and non-teaching facilities, etc. This gives us a better idea of what to expect on large scale implementation and the types of problems that various types of hospitals will face once the measures are implemented.

Do you need certain numbers within subcategories?

No, but certainly we'll make a decision on that once we get our pool of volunteers. Volunteers are randomly selected using a statistical program that fills the various cells we have identified as necessary for the pilot test.

How many hospitals do you need?

As many as we can get! Generally we like to have about 90 test sites that cover the geographic areas of the United States. In the past, we find that about 10 to 20% of those who start out pilot testing actually drop out of the test. So if we begin with 90 we still have enough for a good test. Pilot sites drop out for a variety of reasons and we usually monitor that and report back to our Technical Expert Panel (TEP) along with analysis of test findings.

What incentives do volunteers receive?

Hospitals that volunteer have the opportunity to provide input on the measures thus shaping the final construct and specifications for national implementation. In addition, they get a jump start on the measures and have an experience base with which to implement the measure set. For example, if there are technical or structural issues that need to be worked out prior to implementation, they have already accomplished this and implementation will be much smoother for them.

Can we recruit VA hospitals? Psychiatric hospitals?

Yes, we would like to see both types of hospitals.

What other commitments should volunteers know in advance?

Time and resource needs are hard to pin-point at this time. Hospitals who pilot test should commit to collecting data according to the specifications that are given them for the test. All definitions and notes for abstraction must be followed. If a participant in the pilot test is selected for an on-site reliability test, it should be understood that the onsite visit is accepted. It is expected that other data that is collected via survey tools (face validity and resource use) will be completed and sent to The Joint Commission as required. Data are transmitted monthly to the Joint Commission and participating hospitals should do their best to collect and transmit data in the timeframe given. The Joint Commission will provide the data collection tool and technical assistance when needed. The Joint Commission will also provide training prior to implementation of the test.

Who do I contact to sign up? What if I have more questions?

If your hospital is willing to participate in the pilot-testing phase of this new measure set or if you have additional questions, please contact Joanne Hafner (jhafner@jointcommission.org) or Nancy Lawler (nlawler@jointcommission.org).