

February 26, 2021

Dear Medical Director,

On behalf of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons (ASMBS), we would like to first thank you for the continued collaboration with our society. The ASMBS was just notified by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) MBSAQIP program about a recent change in the Semi-Annual Report (SAR) data collection process. The MBSAQIP program changed to a new data collection system and due to this transition period and technological challenges, **only 6 months** of data will be made available on the recently released SAR. While the new system would appear to allow for even better quality improvement, our concern is a program could be negatively impacted by only having 50% of their data made available on this report. With our members' overall excellent outcomes, even a slight variation of data could alter confidence intervals and statistics.

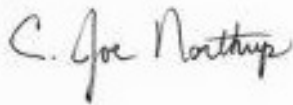
We would propose that due to the limitations of 6 months of data, we recommend that any center who is an outlier based on this report (either for initial red flag or the appeal process) be granted temporary BDC status until the next SAR with 12 months of data comes out. This would prevent programs from being unfairly impacted by not having the standard benchmark data available.

Thank you for consideration of this proposal and we would be more than willing to have a formal discussion around this issue if needed.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Hutter, MD, MBA, MPH, FASMBS  
President, ASMBS



C. Joe Northup, MD, FACS, FASMBS  
Chair, Access to Care Committee  
ASMBS Executive Council Member