ACR Value-Based PQI Project

INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVE
The Value-Based Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) project offers radiologists the opportunity to emphasize their value as an integral member of the health care team while earning American Board of Radiology (ABR)-approved Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV credit. PQI project participants are guided by a step-by-step ‘recipe’ to engage with treating clinicians in the selection of the most appropriate imaging exams for their patients topics highlighted in the widely embraced Choosing Wisely® initiative.

METHODS
Project participants work across four phases, supported by staff from the ACR:

Phase 1: Identify Cases
Radiologists select a study for which they experience frequent referrals considered inappropriate. This is measured by recording the number of inappropriate studies (numerator) and the total number of this study type performed (denominator) for a period of time. The rate of appropriateness is determined by the ACR AC or other nationally recognized guidelines. Access to the Web-based ACR Select is provided to PQI participants for assessment and data recording.

Phase 2: Record the Data
Educational tools for empowered radiologists to deliver to referring clinicians are available on the PQI project’s Web portal to develop an intervention plan that best matches the practice environment.

Phase 3: Score the Case In ACR Select
Participants will repeat the process described for phase 1. The centrally collected data stored by the ACR will allow comparison of individual practices to peer data.

Phase 4: Submit the Data
Results from phase 3 to phase 1 are compared to determine the effect of the educational intervention and collegial interaction. Practice data collected will be stored at ACR to produce national aggregate statistics about the extent to which educational interventions improved the appropriate selection of imaging exams. Individual participant statistics will qualify the radiologists for completion of the ABR’s MOC.

RESULTS FROM BETA SITE PQI PARTICIPANTS
Objectives
1. Analysis of CT for pulmonary embolism use for patients with low clinical probability and negative D-Dimer in the ED for 2 months.
2. Raise radiology and ED awareness of appropriate CT imaging as recommended by Choosing Wisely® campaign.

CONCLUSION
The ACR has tested this project with 6 beta sites successfully completing the project. The program is poised for national roll out in June 2015.