

ASTRO PAAROT FAQs

1. What does PAAROT stand for?

Performance Assessment for the Advancement of Radiation Oncology Treatment

2. What is it?

PAAROT enables you to analyze your practice, recognize its strengths and areas for improvement, and receive specific feedback on where changes can be made. The PAAROT program involves periodic chart review, a practice improvement plan and re-measurement – all online. From the data collected, a customized “practice inventory” is compiled and you are asked to select a minimum of one area to improve upon, which becomes the focus of your practice quality improvement project.

3. Who do I contact for general questions about the ASTRO PAAROT program?

Contact ASTRO staff with general questions. Inquiries can be sent to education@astro.org or call 703-502-1550.

4. Is online/technical support available?

Yes, through Vision Tree, ASTRO’s PAAROT technology vendor. For technical support, please contact: support@visiontree.com or 619-295-2800

5. Does this activity count towards my ABR recertification?

Yes. PAAROT is qualified by the American Board of Radiology as meeting the criteria for Practice Quality Improvement in partial fulfillment of requirements of the ABR Maintenance of Certification Program. (PART IV Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) Type 2 requirements.)

6. How much will it cost?

\$300 per module.

7. How do I purchase the PAAROT program?

You may sign up for the PAAROT program by going to the ASTRO Web site. Log in on the left-hand side under “Member Log In” with username and password. Once logged into the ASTRO site, proceed to “Shop”. You will see PAAROT listed as a purchase option. Follow the steps to purchase the program. You will be given a confirmation page and receive an e-mail with further instructions regarding your purchase.

8. Will the data entry requirements be per physician or per practice?

The program is per physician, therefore data entry requirements and subsequent performance improvement plans must be per physician.

9. How many charts will I have to enter?

10 charts will be entered – one chart equals one baseline survey.

10. How do I select which charts to enter?

Pick a date and select 10 completed and consecutive patient charts.

11. How many performance improvements must I measure?

One performance measure.

12. How long do I have to wait before I remeasure?

Three months

13. How many charts will I need to enter for remeasurement?

10 charts

14. At what point do I complete my Performance Improvement Plan?

After you have completed 10 Baseline Assessment Surveys.

15. Will I receive a certificate validating my participation?

No. upon completion of the module, your PQI credit is assigned to your ASTRO membership record and reported to the ABR through the ASTRO CME gateway.

16. How many times must I complete this process in a three-year period to fulfill the ABR Part IV, Type 2 requirement for recertification?

You need only complete one Type 2 program (one cycle of collecting data, identifying a measure upon which to improve, defining an improvement plan and remeasuring for any change that occurred after a pre-determined amount of time). The ABR requires you to complete three PQI projects within a 10-year period. At least one must be a Type 2, but all three can be Type 2. Type 1 PQIs are self-selected individually based projects that can potentially improve the quality of care.

17. How were the Baseline Performance questions, and subsequent performance measures, determined?

ABR and ASTRO's CME/MOC Committee and Beta site participants all provided input for the development of PAAROT. ASTRO's CME/MOC Committee continues to provide oversight of the program.

August 2007 Summary on Radiation Oncology PQI Update:

The American Board of Radiology convened its fourth MOC summit in August 2007. ASTRO, ABS, ASCO, ADROP, ARS and QRRO participated in workshops to further define the specifics of Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) for radiation oncologists. PQI enables the individual to fulfill his/her Part IV requirement for MOC, through a series of three projects over a 10-year MOC cycle. Specific elements for each project include:

1. Relevance to patient care
2. **Relevance to diplomats, practice [e.g., ASTRO's PAAROT Program]**
3. Identifiable metrics and/or measurable endpoints.
4. An action plan to address areas for improvement and subsequent remeasurement to assess progress and/or improvement.

At least one of the diplomat's projects during the 10-year MOC cycle will need to be a **Type 2 project (PAAROT)**. ASTRO is currently beta testing PAAROT®, a robust chart review based project that incorporates basic elements of medical practice and specific elements related to radiation oncology. PAAROT® will also enable ASTRO to collect aggregate data reflecting the practice of radiation oncology that can be used to establish contemporary national benchmarks.