

VPS NICU'S FAQ

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: *What is VPS NICU?*

A: VPS NICU is a new, state-of-the-art ecosystem and data analytics platform for neonatal intensive care registries. The purpose of this database is to serve a wide range of NICU needs, including: unit management, quality improvement and clinical research for all contributing members. The database will be designed and developed solely by leading Neonatologists for the purpose of meeting the needs of a wide range of NICUs - small and large, inborn and outborn, academic and non-academic.

Q: I already belong to VON and CPQCC. Why should I join VPS NICU?

A: VPS NICU will work to unify multiple neonatal registries in order to permit single, streamlined data entry into this new database as well as provide the capability to perform electronic data submission to other major registries such as VON, CPQCC and others. This integration will increase the efficiency of data abstraction/entry using your unit's existing resources, and dramatically broaden the scope of data available to each unit for utilization and analysis.

Q: *My institution uses VPS for our PICU and I've heard great things about it. Will VPS NICU have the same capabilities?*

A: Similar to all existing VPS data registries, this new registry will feature:

- A wide scope of data elements, allowing for multiple levels of analysis ranging from patient level physiologic data, all the way up to regional outcome benchmarking.
- Robust risk adjustment and custom cohort benchmarking. Integration of a range of severity of illness scoring models.
- Custom built dashboards and reporting capabilities to meet the needs of the individual NICU's and hospitals.
- Rapid integration of mandated and custom data fields into existing datasets.
- Dedicated HelpDesk and customer service teams to help support VPS NICU members with all aspects of operations.

Q: *How is VPS NICU different than other existing NICU-related registries?*

A: VPS NICU will provide a list of capabilities and analytic tools not commonly accessible elsewhere:

- Integrated datasets and maximized level of data access leveraged for the end-users. VPS NICU puts your patient's data in your hands.
- Thoughtfully designed, intuitive user interfaces for data entry and retrieval.

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- Unprecedented level of data continuity by linking patients as they move between multiple phases of patient care, including perinatal and transport contexts, NICU, High Risk Infant Follow-up Clinic (HRIF), PICU and Cardiac ICU, allowing these patients to be followed across the continuum of care.
- Integration of custom data fields and diagnosis/disease based databases to meet the specific needs of individual NICUs and/or groups – including bedside physiologic data, hospital acquired conditions, and cost-effectiveness analysis data.
- Custom reporting capabilities that address the specific needs of each individual unit and hospital. VPS NICU analytic platform provides a data-driven engine for:
 - o System and local level quality improvement
 - o Clinical research
 - o Outcomes, health services research
 - o Bedside decision support
 - o Business intelligence
- Access to the combined database for research by member institutions.

Q: *How far along is VPS NICU in development?*

A: VPS NICU is now able to accept data at no charge (until July 2018). Please contact Brian Reisner (breisner@myvps.org) if you are interested.

Q: *Will VPS NICU be able to support Electronic Data Capture and Submission?*

A: Yes! Electronic Data Capture of a range of variables from both Cerner and Epic EMR Systems will be supported. Electronic Data Submission will be fully supported utilizing secure CSV file transfer.

Q: *I have extensive neonatal experience and a lot of great ideas on what would make an ideal NICU registry. How can I join the VPS NICU Advisory Committee and be part of this exciting process?*

A: The VPS NICU Advisory Committee meets virtually every month. Please contact Nancy Brundage at nbrundage@myvps.org for more information. The broadest section of participants will be engaged to help develop and implement this registry.

Q: *What about all my previous NICU registry data, is that going to be lost?*

A: No! Depending on the data source, VPS NICU will have the capability to upload previous data from select existing databases as data continuity is always preferred.

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Q: *How will VPS NICU support your VON and CPQCC membership?*

A: VPS NICU will have the ability to be a common portal for VON, CPQCC and other NICU-related registries who are interested in partnering with VPS NICU. Data that is submitted into VPS NICU may be automatically transferred to VON and other NICU-related registries.

Q: *What are the data collection requirements for the VPS NICU data abstractor?*

A: To maintain the highest level of quality data, VPS NICU will require data abstractors to be a credentialed clinician with NICU bedside experience or be a highly experienced non-clinical data collector who has robust experience in one of the major neonatal databases. All abstractors must meet VPS NICU's pre-specified oversight, training and continuing education requirements.

Q: *Can the VPS NICU registry be utilized for research purposes? If so, how does this process work?*

A: VPS NICU was designed to serve as a primary analytic tool for clinical, translational, epidemiologic, and cost-effectiveness research. Most research support requests will be provided to VPS NICU members at no additional cost. VPS NICU has an active research committee that reviews all research proposals, provides guidance on study design and methods, and provides ongoing support for data analytics and interpretation. Prospective VPS NICU members may request the VPS NICU research policy and research packet for more information.

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