

# Sources of Data

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## **Sources of Data in Quality Improvement**

Data used to assess healthcare quality are available from various sources including administrative data, registries, patient medical records, patient surveys and interviews, and direct observation. The selection of the data source depends on the types of measures required to evaluate and monitor quality improvement interventions and the quality of the data from various information systems.

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## Figure 3

### Selecting for the source of data

It is important to consider the types of measures to be extracted from the data source and the quality of the data. The data may vary in accessibility, availability, accuracy, completeness, consistency and usability across various data sources. (Adapted from Vavra 2023 *J Vasc Surg Vasc Insights*)

	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
<b>Administrative Data</b> Individual user level data collected from claims, encounter, admission, and provider systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Available electronically</li><li>• Available for a population of patients and across various payers</li><li>• Comparable with uniform coding systems and practices</li><li>• Less costly compared to patient medical records and registry databases</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quality of data dependent on accuracy of documentation, classification, and collection</li><li>• Limited clinical information</li><li>• Timeliness with lag between data entry and access</li></ul>
<b>Registries</b> Collection of clinical data to assess clinical performance and quality of care as a part of a larger regional or national data system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides epidemiological information that can be used to calculate incidence rates, risks, and monitor trends in incidence and outcomes</li><li>• Can be used as a benchmark and for comparisons</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Costly to participate</li><li>• Quality of data dependent on accuracy of documentation classification, and collection</li></ul>

\*Redacted segments on Patient Medical Records, Patient Surveys and Interviews, Direct Observation