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| American Society for Radiation Oncology |
| eContouring Live Events PQI Template |
| A physician quality improvement activity. |

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# eContouring Overview

To address the growing need of additional contouring training in the radiation oncology community, ASTRO began offering hands-on contouring courses lead by expert radiation oncologists, radiologists and surgeons. What began as a couple sessions at the 2006 Annual Meeting has expanded to two full days of eContouring courses on-site at the ASTRO Annual Meeting and online as a series of webinars offered throughout the year.

Cases from various disease sites are presented with the contours of expert faculty outlining normal and diseased tissues. Participants are given a set of structures to contour and then have the ability to turn the expert’s contours on to see a comparison between the participant and expert’s contours. Participants are also given a score to quantify how close their contours came to the expert’s contours.

# Project Introduction

This project outlines how participants can use the ASTRO’s live on-site or online eContouring events towards fulfilling the Part IV Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements that have been established by the American Board of Radiology (ABR). This project is based on the ABR’s four-part [Plan-Do-Study-Act](http://www.theabr.org/pdsa-overview) (PDSA) process for continuous quality improvement. Participants will link two PDSA cycles together to create an action-oriented improvement plan that assesses the effects of their quality improvement strategy.

In the first PDSA cycle, participants will use the pre-event eContouring homework to develop baseline data to contour specific structures, evaluate their performance, and develop a performance improvement plan. In the second PDSA cycle, participants will re-measure their performance on the same contouring case and structures and evaluate their performance outcomes to see if their performance goals were met. The project concludes with a written participant reflection.

# Administration

Participants are responsible for documenting the project according to the outline, and must personally attest to its completion on the myABR website in accordance with the ABR’s MOC requirements. While ASTRO is able to confirm a facility’s participation in a live eContouring event, ASTRO will not be collecting, reviewing, or validating PQI projects.

# Data Collection and Analysis

The framework below provides a step-by-step outline of the process that must be followed in order to successfully complete this individual PQI activity.

## Part 1: PDSA Cycle #1

#### Step 1: PLAN

Please note that participation in this project requires you to personally register for a fee-based live ASTRO eContouring event.

1. Register for a live ASTRO eContouring webinar or session at the ASTRO Annual Meeting.

#### Step 2: DO

You will now set your project in motion by contouring the defined set of structures in the case registered for.

1. Log in to [www.astro.educase.com](http://www.astro.educase.com) using the username and password that was sent to you in your post-registration email.
2. Please watch the following videos to familiarize yourself with the software controls and features:

* Contouring Tools - <http://vimeo.com/39221031>
* Drawing, Saving and Submitting - <http://vimeo.com/41103344>

1. Read the case vignette noting the structures and slices to be contoured. Please note that for some events, multiple cases may be used. If this is the case, each case will have a vignette that explains the structures and slices to be contoured.
2. Contour the 2-5 structures outlined in the case vignette(s) and submit each structure separately. Upon submission of each structure, you will receive a comparative score that evaluates how closely you contoured to the structures completed by the faculty expert(s). (You will be shown the faculty contours post-event). Please use the table below to document the structures you contoured and your corresponding comparative score on each.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Structure to Contour**  **(List each structure)** | **Comparative Score** |
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|  |  |
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1. Attend the live on-site or online eContouring event.

#### Step 3: STUDY

You will now review the expert’s contours in comparison to your own.

1. Turn on the expert’s contours to see a side-by-side comparison of your contours and the expert’s contours. (Please review the video from Step 2 if you need assistance with this process).
2. Study and reflect upon the areas in which your contours differed from the expert’s contours.
3. Summarize your conclusions in the space below:

#### Step 4: ACT

Determine and implement an improvement plan.

1. After reviewing all of the structures, select the structure for which you received the lowest comparison score. Use the space below to identify that structure:

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| --- |
| **Structure Selected for Improvement** |
|  |

1. Determine steps that can be taken to address contributing factors and/or root causes for your current performance level(s).
2. Construct an improvement plan based on these findings and outline a process by which to implement the plan. This improvement plan may include things such as reviewing the recording of the session, the faculty’s contours, or normal anatomical structures.
3. Implement your performance improvement plan.

## Part 2: PDSA Cycle #2

#### Step 5: PLAN

Only begin this step once you have implemented the improvement plan constructed in Step 4 of Cycle 1.

1. Verify that you have implemented the improvement plan constructed in Step 4 of Cycle 1.

#### Step 6: DO

You will now set your plan in motion by re-contouring the same structures and case as in Cycle 1.

1. Log in to [www.astro.educase.com](http://www.astro.educase.com) using the username and password given to you post-registration.
2. Please verify that the faculty expert’s contours are turned off and not visible at this time. If needed, please review the following videos to familiarize yourself with the software controls and features.

* Contouring Tools - <http://vimeo.com/39221031>
* Drawing, Saving and Submitting - <http://vimeo.com/41103344>

1. Read the case vignette noting the structures and slices to be contoured. Please note that for some events, multiple cases may be used. If this is the case, each case will have a vignette that explains the structures and slices to be contoured.
2. Re-contour the 2-5 structures outlined in the case vignette(s) and submit each structure separately. Upon submission of each structure, you will receive a comparative score that evaluates how closely you contoured to the structures completed by the faculty expert(s). Please use the table below to document the structures you contoured and your corresponding comparative score on each.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Structure to Contour**  **(List each structure)** | **Performance Rate** |
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#### Step 7: STUDY

You will now compare your performance rate for your contours from Cycle 1 and Cycle 2.

1. Compare your performance rates between the two reporting cycles.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Structures** | **Cycle 1 Comparative Score** | **Cycle 2 Comparative Score** |
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1. Turn on your contours and faculty expert’s contours.
2. How did the second cycle of comparative scores compare to your first cycle scores? Where there any considerable differences between your contours and faculty expert’s contours? Why may this have occurred? Summarize your conclusions in the space below:

#### Step 8: ACT

Determine whether you met your performance goal.

1. If yes, adopt the improved practice process as a standard and proceed to a new PQI project.
2. If no, proceed with additional PDSA cycle(s) as needed to adjust the improvement plan or the contours. Continue the existing project either until the goal is met or an end-point is otherwise determined.

#### Step 9: REFLECT

Your reflection statement serves as the final capstone of this PQI project. Your statement should include a brief narrative that records your reflections on the project, improvements that have been made as a result of the project, and describe the overall value to your practice.

## Part 3: Attest

#### Step 10: Attest Your Completion in the my ABR System

You are personally responsible for attesting your completion status to the ABR. ASTRO does not keep a record of your participation in this PQI template, and as a result, will not transfer any earned credit through the ASTRO/ABR Credit Gateway. To self-attest, follow the steps below:

1. Log in to <https://myabr.theabr.org>.
2. Navigate to the Practice Quality Improvement section from the main menu.
3. Follow the onscreen steps to attest your PQI project completion.