

## **Inter-Rater Reliability**

COAP's Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) Program is an important aspect of quality improvement. The purpose of an IRR program is to objectively assess the degree to which different people (raters) answer the same questions in the same way (reliability). A demonstrated high degree of reliability allows the hospital to focus on quality improvement opportunities highlighted by the data, and not the individuals responsible for data collection and abstraction.

The IRR process consists of test modules for CABG and PCI cases. COAP participants abstract to data collection forms, and the responses are compared to a key prepared by the IRR subcommittee. The results are summarized and used to identify general educational needs and design individual assistance to the hospitals. As noted in the QI Plan, the goal is for all participants to score at least 90% on the test module.

This section of the handbook contains:

- 2003 PCI and CABG test case (two procedures during one hospital admit)
- 2003 PCI and CABG keys

Note that the 2003 test case and keys use the 2002 - 2003 definitions. The test case and keys have not been updated to reflect the new 2004 - 2005 definitions and forms. A 2004 - 2005 IRR test case will be available by summer 2004. Data managers may wish to abstract the 2003 case to the new forms, as practice for 2004 IRR testing.

These materials are also available in the "Program Documents" section of the COAP web site, [www.coap.org](http://www.coap.org).