

### **What are OPPE and FPPE?**

Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE)  
Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE)

In 2008, The Joint Commission (TJC) implemented a new standard mandating detailed evaluation of practitioners' professional performance as part of the process of granting and maintaining practice privileges in a healthcare organization.

Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE) is intended as a means of evaluating professional performance on an ongoing basis for three reasons: 1) as part of the effort to monitor professional competency; 2) to identify areas for possible performance improvement by individual practitioners; and 3) to use objective data in decisions regarding continuance of practice privileges.

Once a provider has achieved practice privileges in a health care organization, TJC requires that performance data be collected with evaluation of the provider conducted more frequently than annually. Evaluation done annually or less frequently is considered by TJC as "periodic" not "ongoing." To comply with this requirement, Evalumetrics offers options for entry of providers' OPPE performance data every month, every three months, or every six months.

Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE) involves more specific and time-limited monitoring of a provider's practice performance in three situations: 1) when a provider is initially granted practice privileges; 2) when new privileges are requested for an already privileged provider; and 3) when performance non-conformance involving a privileged provider are identified (through the OPPE process or by any other means such as complaints or significant departure from accepted practice.)

TJC does not specify the length for a time period of FPPE. Therefore, each subscriber to Evalumetrics may choose the period of time for each FPPE episode. However, the FPPE process should: 1) be clearly defined and documented with specific criteria and a monitoring plan; 2) be of fixed duration; and 3) have predetermined measures or conditions for acceptable performance. Most organizations set up FPPE monitoring sessions for periods of three to six months. For infrequently performed services, longer periods of monitoring, such as 12 months, may be appropriate. An alternative approach for infrequently performed services may be monitoring of a pre-determined number of service events (e.g. review of the diagnoses made on the first 10 or 20 cases of a specified type of surgical pathology specimen), rather than monitoring for a prescribed period of time.

The duration and scope of FPPE monitoring may also be adjusted for the level of documented training and experience of a practitioner, with shorter monitoring periods or fewer service events for more experienced practitioners. All practitioners must be subjected to FPPE for new privileges, even those with extensive prior experience at other health care organizations.