



## Vascular Low Frequency Disease Consortium Project Proposal

The VLFDC aims to study uncommon vascular diseases that are not captured by the national quality databases such as the National Surgical Quality Improvement Project (NSQIP) or the Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI).

Important considerations:

- The disease being studied must be able to be identified retrospectively through use of a combination of CPT/ICD-9/ICD-10 codes.
  - We STRONGLY recommend reviewing the coding recommendation with the biller at your institution
  - We STRONGLY recommend running your proposed combination of codes at your institution to see how efficiently it identifies the cases of interest
    - Ideally, the yield of cases to be included in the study compared to the total cases identified should be relatively high, so that participants do not have to spend unreasonable amounts of time reviewing identified cases that ultimately do not satisfy your inclusion criteria
- The data collected should be able to be completed by participants in no more than 20 minutes per patient so as not to be onerous.
- In general, the goal sample size is 10 times the largest published sample size in the same period. However, if there are comparison groups and a sample size calculation can be performed, this should be included in the proposal.
- Proposals will be reviewed by the steering committee and decisions will be made within six weeks of submission.

Proposals should be sent to [vlfdc@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:vlfdc@mednet.ucla.edu) by 11:59 PST on January 31<sup>st</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and October 31<sup>st</sup>. For examples of completed studies and more information regarding the VLFDC, please visit <http://surgery.ucla.edu/vlfdc>.

### Required elements of the project proposal:

1. Project Title
2. Principal investigator
3. Institution name (Principal investigator)
4. Email address (Principal investigator)
5. Phone (Principal investigator)

6. Co-investigator
7. Email address (co-investigator)
8. Background and Significance (description of clinical problem and why the problem is important to study using the VLFDC platform) Limit to 500 words.
9. Research Question
10. Primary and Secondary Outcomes
11. Hypothesis
12. Synopsis of published studies
13. Inclusion/exclusion criteria
14. Statistical methods
15. Sample size
16. CPT and ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes to identify patients
17. Time period of review
18. Variables to be collected (i.e. Demographics, Disease-specific risk factors, Radiographic findings, Indications for intervention, Intervention details, Perioperative complications, Outcomes)
19. Key references