

AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM (ARS) OVERVIEW

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is pleased to provide an audience response system (ARS) for use as part of your presentation during the upcoming Clinical Vaccinology Course. Here are some common FAQs and tips to effectively incorporate ARS questions into your presentation.

What is an ARS?

An ARS is a real-time electronic polling system designed to add interactivity to meetings and lectures. Speakers embed multiple choice questions into their presentations and audience participants are given the opportunity to select their preferred response using wireless keypads. The results are displayed immediately on the screen.

How does ARS work?

Speakers may build questions directly into PowerPoint presentations or create a separate Word document containing questions and answer selections. Questions must be categorical with answer options labeled 1-10 or A-E. The system allows for a maximum of 10 answer choices.

Example:

What coverage level has been reached among HCPs for seasonal influenza vaccine?

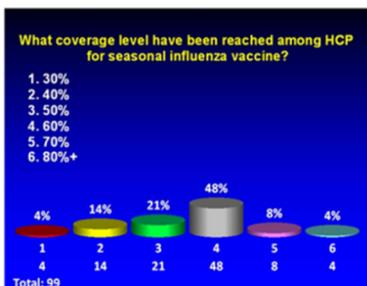
- 1) 30%
- 2) 40%
- 3) 50%
- 4) 60%
- 5) 70%
- 6) 80% or more

Prior to the course, the onsite technician will load your questions into the ARS system. Before the course begins they will confirm the exact timing that you would like your questions to appear and will manage all aspects of the ARS question slides during the presentation. At all other times, speakers have control of their presentation slides.

When your ARS question slide(s) appear attendees respond using a wireless keypad that looks like a TV remote control. They respond by pressing the number or letter that corresponds to their answer choice.



At the close of voting (generally 45-90 seconds), the audience's aggregated responses are displayed instantly as a bar graph.



Benefits of using ARS

By providing anonymous and immediate feedback, learners can assess the accuracy of their response and compare performance with other members of the audience. Incorporating ARS questions as part of a live presentation is a great way to grab your audience's attention and keep them engaged. ARS enables presenters to:

- Increase audience attentiveness and engagement in the material
- Poll the audience to understand their level of knowledge
- Gather valuable feedback in real-time
- Survey the audience's opinion on a range of topics
- Anonymous and safe environment in which to participate
- Confirm learner knowledge and understanding to customize presentation for the audience
- Expose and clarify common misunderstandings

Research has shown that an ARS is easy to use and favorably perceived by learners and speakers. Miller et al reported that learners who used ARS rated the quality of the presentation and speaker more highly, and reported themselves as more attentive than those learners not using ARS. Speakers also agreed that the system was easy to use and improved the quality of their presentations.

Designing presentations using ARS

The ARS questions are embedded in your PowerPoint presentation. You will create your slides in PowerPoint, including a slide for each question and possible answers (with correct answer highlighted). Once you have provided your slides to NFID, our ARS vendor will prepare the ARS section in advance.

Additional tips for success

- Make questions short and simple. Limit answer choices to 5 total and number answer choices 1-5 to match the keypad (avoid using letters)
- Allow time for discussion of the response results. Build in approximately 1 minute for presenting and polling and at least 2-3 minutes for discussion of each question
- Use questions sparingly to highlight the points you most want to emphasize

What if I need further assistance?

NFID will have an ARS technician onsite to assist speakers during their presentations. If you need assistance in advance of the course as you are designing your slides, contact NFID staff.

References

Crosby J. Twelve tips for effective electronic presentation. *Med Teacher* 1994; 16(1): 3-8.

Holz J. Twelve tips for effective PowerPoint presentations for the technologically challenged. *Med Teacher* 1997; 19: 175-79.

Miller RG, Ashar BH, Getz KJ. Evaluation of an audience response system for the continuing education of health professionals. *J Contin Educ Health Prof* 2003; 23: 109-15.

Robertson L. Twelve tips for using a computerized interactive audience response system. *Med Teacher* 2000; 22(3): 237-239.