AHRQ Quality Indicators™

Prevention Quality Indicators

Measures to help assess quality and access to health care in the community

Prevention Quality Indicators—

- Can be used to identify potential health care quality problem areas that might need further investigation, as well as for comparative public reporting, trending, and pay-for-performance initiatives.

- Can provide a check on primary care access or outpatient services in a community by using patient data found in a typical hospital discharge abstract or data set.

- Can help public health agencies, State data organizations, health care systems, and others interested in improving health care quality in their communities.

- Are population based and adjusted for age and sex.

- Are publicly available at no charge to the user.

- Can be downloaded at https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PQI/V2021/TechSpecs/PQI_2021_ICD10_techspecs_pdf.zip.

- Are part of two software modules—SAS QI and WinQI—that can be used to calculate the AHRQ QI rates.

The AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators were developed under a contract with the University of California, San Francisco, Stanford University Evidence-based Practice Center, and the University of California, Davis. The Prevention Quality Indicators were first released in 2001 and have been updated as needed over time.

Other AHRQ Quality Indicators

AHRQ has other sets of QIs:

- Inpatient Quality Indicators—Hospital- and area-level indicators relating to utilization, mortality, and volume. Hospital-level indicators include in-hospital procedures for which outcomes can vary by hospital; area-level indicators include procedures for which inpatient utilization rates have been shown to vary by metropolitan statistical area.

- Patient Safety Indicators—Hospital- and area-level indicators that provide information on potential in-hospital complications and errors following surgeries, other procedures, and childbirth.

- Pediatric Quality Indicators—Hospital- and area-level indicators that focus on potentially preventable complications and errors in pediatric patients treated in hospitals. Includes a subset of Neonatal Quality Indicators.

See www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov for announcements of updates to AHRQ QI software.

AHRQ

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
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Endorsement

A number of measures have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) through 2021. Beginning in fiscal year 2022, AHRQ will no longer seek NQF re-endorsement for its portfolio of measures in the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs) program. Find NQF-endorsed AHRQ measures at https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/list_ahrq_qi.

Mailing List

Sign up for free notifications about new and updated AHRQ QIs and associated software tools by registering at https://subscriptions.ahrq.gov/accounts/USAHRQ/subscriber/new?topic_id=USAHRQ_39.

User Tools and Support

- Free software to compute AHRQ QI rates, available for SAS® and Windows®
- A detailed user's guide and technical specifications for the Prevention Quality Indicators
- Parameter estimates, benchmark data tables, and methodology to create composite measures
- Guidance for designing a report using the Prevention Quality Indicators
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Access to QI Technical Support by email at QIsupport@ahrq.hhs.gov or by phone at 301-427-1949

Prevention Quality Indicators

- PQI 01 - Diabetes, short-term complications admission rate
- PQI 03 - Diabetes, long-term complications admission rate
- PQI 05 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma in older adults admission rate
- PQI 07 - Hypertension admission rate
- PQI 08 - Heart failure admission rate
- PQI 11- Bacterial pneumonia admission rate
- PQI 12 - Urinary tract infections admission rate

- PQI 14 - Uncontrolled diabetes admission rate
- PQI 15 - Asthma in younger adults admission rate
- PQI 16 - Lower extremity amputations among patients with diabetes admission rate
- PQI 90 - Prevention Quality Overall Composite
- PQI 91 - Prevention Quality Acute Composite
- PQI 92 - Prevention Quality Chronic Composite
- PQI 93 - Prevention Quality Diabetes Composite

QI Web Site: qualityindicators.ahrq.gov