



Patient Safety Indicator 21 (PSI 21) Retained Surgical Item or Unretrieved Device Fragment Rate

October 2016

Area-Level Indicator

Type of Score: Rate

Prepared by:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov

DESCRIPTION

Retained surgical item or unretrieved device fragment cases per 100,000 population, ages 18 years and older.

[NOTE: The software provides the rate per population. However, common practice reports the measure as per 100,000 population. The user must multiply the rate obtained from the software by 100,000 to report events per 100,000 population.]

NUMERATOR

Surgical and medical discharges, for patients ages 18 years and older or MDC 14 (pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium), with any-listed ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes for retained surgical item or unretrieved device fragment. Surgical and medical discharges are defined by specific MS-DRG codes.

[Appendix C – Medical Discharge MS-DRGs](#)

[Appendix E – Surgical Discharge MS-DRGs](#)

Retained surgical item or unretrieved device fragment diagnosis codes: (FOREIID)

9984	FOREIGN BODY ACCIDENTALLY LEFT DURING A PROCEDURE	9987	ACUTE REACTION TO FOREIGN SUBSTANCE ACCIDENTALLY LEFT DURING A PROCEDURE
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NUMERATOR EXCLUSIONS

Exclude cases:

- with missing gender (SEX=missing), age (AGE=missing), quarter (DQTR=missing), year (YEAR=missing), principal diagnosis (DX1=missing), or county (PSTCO=missing)

DENOMINATOR

Population ages 18 years and older in metropolitan area† or county. Discharges in the numerator are assigned to the denominator based on the metropolitan area or county of the patient residence, not the metropolitan area or county of the hospital where the discharge occurred.

† The term “metropolitan area” (MA) was adopted by the U.S. Census in 1990 and referred collectively to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs) and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). In addition, “area” could refer to either 1) FIPS county, 2) modified FIPS county, 3) 1999 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area or 4) 2003 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area. Micropolitan Statistical Areas are not used in the QI software.