Release Notes for AHRQ QI SAS Syntax (Version 4.1b)
September 13, 2010

Summary

This SAS Version 4.1b release contains updates to the SAS Version 4.1a release (July, 2010) of the AHRQ QI software. There are three categories of changes for this release:

1. **Missing Data**
   a. Missing data for required fields in SAS
      i. WinQI does not load cases that have missing values for the any of the following five required fields:
         1. AGE, SEX, DX1, YEAR, DQTR

         SAS was updated so that it also drops cases with missing values for any of these five required fields. Previously, SAS only dropped cases with missing values for the AGE or SEX fields.

   b. Special missing characters
      i. SAS was updated to treat all special missing characters as "normal" missing.

2. **Dates**
   a. ICDVER for discharge dates on or after October 1, 2009
      i. SAS was updated to set the ICD-9 version to Version 26 for cases with any date beyond the 3rd quarter of 2009. Previously, SAS (4.1a) set ICDVER in such cases to 0. SAS (4.2) will be updated to use ICD-9 Version 27.

3. **Rate Calculations**
   a. Proportional calibration
      i. The calibration of discharge predicted rates for provider level indicators for the IQI, PSI and PDI modules was changed from a difference calculation to a proportional calculation.
   b. Reliability weights
      i. Changes were made to the signal variance arrays for the IQI and PSI modules to support the revised reliability weights for the smoothed rates and composites. SAS (4.2) will revise the signal variance arrays for the PDI module.