

Mailing List

AHRQ offers Internet users the opportunity to sign up for personal notification of the availability of the AHRQ QIs and associated updates to the AHRQ QIs. All you need is a computer, Internet access, and an e-mail address. It works just like other electronic distribution lists. This service is free.

To register, follow these easy steps:

1. Send an e-mail message to:
listserv@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov
2. On the subject line, type: Subscribe.
(For example: Subscribe)
3. In the body of the message type:
sub Quality_Indicators-L and your full name. (For example: sub Quality_Indicators-L John Doe)

You will receive a message confirming that you are signed up.

User Tools and Support

- Software to compute QI rates
- A detailed users' guide to the *Prevention Quality Indicators*
- Technical specifications
- Methodology to create composite measures
- Model report
- Frequently asked questions
- QI Support Team (support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov or voice mailbox (toll free) at 888-512-6090).

The AHRQ QI software is available for SAS® and Windows®.

QI Web site: www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov


AHRQ Pub. No. 10-M043-1
Replaces AHRQ Pub. No. 09-M029-1
July 2010

**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850

AHRQ Quality Indicators

Prevention Quality Indicators

*A tool to help assess quality and access to
health care in the community*



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
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Prevention Quality Indicators—

- Can be used to identify potential health care quality problem areas that might need further investigation.
- 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.
- 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 without cost.
- Can be downloaded at www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/pqi_download.htm.

The *Prevention Quality Indicators* are part of a set of software modules of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) **Quality Indicators** (QIs) developed by the University of California, San Francisco–Stanford University Evidence-based Practice Center and the University of California, Davis under a contract with AHRQ. The *Prevention Quality Indicators* were originally released in 2001.

The *Prevention Quality Indicators* represent hospital admission rates for the following ambulatory care-sensitive conditions in adult populations. “Ambulatory care-sensitive conditions” are conditions for which good outpatient care can potentially prevent the need for hospitalization, or for which early intervention can prevent complications or more severe disease. They are:

- Bacterial pneumonia
- Dehydration
- Urinary tract infections
- Perforated appendix
- Low birth weight
- Angina without procedure
- Congestive heart failure
- Hypertension
- Adult asthma
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Uncontrolled diabetes
- Diabetes, short-term complications
- Diabetes, long-term complications
- Lower extremity amputations among patients with diabetes

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 from hospital to 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 announcement of updates to AHRQ QI software, or sign up for personal notification (see “Mailing List” information on next page).

Endorsement

A number of measures have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). NQF reviews the endorsements periodically.

