

## Get to know the AHRQ Quality Indicators

### PQI

Prevention Quality Indicators

### IQI

Inpatient Quality Indicators

### PSI

Patient Safety Indicators

### PDI

Pediatric Quality Indicators

## About AHRQ Quality Indicators (AHRQ QIs)

The AHRQ QIs are standardized, evidence-based health care quality measures that can be used with readily available hospital inpatient administrative data. AHRQ offers freely available QI software distributed in either SAS or Windows format. First developed in 1999, and updated yearly, the software has been refined to include risk-adjustment and updated to account for annual changes in ICD-10-CM coding guidance. Risk adjustment was developed with HCUP all-payer claims data, which has ~98% of all US claims.

### Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs)

PQIs identify issues of access to outpatient care, including appropriate follow-up care after hospital discharge.

- They 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.
- They 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.
- Population-based and adjusted for age and sex

### Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs)

IQIs provide a perspective on quality of care inside hospitals, including inpatient mortality for surgical procedures and medical condition and utilization of procedures where there are questions of overuse, underuse, and misuse.

- They include volume indicators for procedures for which outcomes may relate to the number of times the procedure is performed.
- IQIs include risk adjustment where appropriate.

### Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs)

PSIs provide information on potentially avoidable safety events that represent opportunities for improvement in the delivery of care.

- Hospital-level indicators detect potential safety problems that occur during a patient's hospital stay
- They include area-level indicators for potentially preventable adverse events during a hospital stay to help assess total incidence within a region
- Risk adjustment where appropriate

### Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDIs)

PDIs focus on potentially preventable complications and iatrogenic events for pediatric patients treated in hospitals and on preventable hospitalizations among pediatric patients, taking into account the special characteristics of the pediatric population.

- They include hospital-level indicators to detect potential safety problems that occur during a patient's hospital stay.
- They include area-level indicators, which are conditions that may be prevented with good outpatient care.
- They include risk adjustment where appropriate.

## Major AHRQ QI Users

The AHRQ QIs were designed for use by program managers, researchers, and others at the Federal, State, and local levels interested in health care quality measurement.

- Researchers, quality improvement officers, hospital administrators and community health planners use AHRQ QIs to ask questions that provide initial feedback about clinical areas appropriate for further, more in-depth analysis and to assess hospital safety, quality, patient experience, cost, and utilization.
- Hospitals and hospital systems nationwide use the AHRQ QIs to assist quality improvement efforts in acute care hospital settings.
- The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses AHRQ QIs in the Hospital Compare website to help consumers, hospitals, health care practitioners, health policy leaders and others inform decisions and actions to achieve safer, higher quality and more affordable health care.
- State hospital associations, state data associations, hospitals and hospital systems use the AHRQ QIs to help them understand how their hospital(s) compare on quality measures in relationship to other hospitals or to state and national averages.
- State hospital associations use the AHRQ QIs to assess hospital quality and primary care access.
- Insurers and business groups use the AHRQ QIs to compare hospital performance rates and assess relative safety, quality, and affordability.
- State agencies use the AHRQ QIs in their public reporting on hospital quality to assess quality of care and increase transparency regarding health care performance.

## Download AHRQ QI Specifications

### PQI

[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/PQI\\_TechSpec](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/PQI_TechSpec)

### PSI

[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/PSI\\_TechSpec](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/PSI_TechSpec)

### IQI

[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/IQI\\_TechSpec](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/IQI_TechSpec)

### PDI

[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/PDI\\_TechSpec](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/PDI_TechSpec)

## 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](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®
- Detailed user guides and technical specifications for each QI module
- Parameter estimates, benchmark data tables, and methodology to create composite measures
- Guidance for designing QI reports
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Access to QI Technical Support by email at [QIsupport@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:QIsupport@ahrq.hhs.gov)



**QI Web Site:**  
[qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov)

