

What is the CloudQI software tool?

AHRQ introduced a new beta platform for Windows software in 2023. Originally released as CloudQI PSI^{Beta}, this platform featured the Patient Safety Indicators (PSI) module. Alongside this release, a new module of prevention quality indicators in emergency department settings was released as a standalone software using the same platform, called v2023 ED PQI^{Beta}.

AHRQ's latest technology platform, CloudQI, is positioned as the future platform for AHRQ QI Windows software tools. In v2024, CloudQI PSI^{Beta} and ED PQI^{Beta} were integrated as a unified product called v2024 CloudQI. This integrated software includes both the PSI module and what is now referred to as the Prevention Quality Indicators in Emergency Department Settings (PQE) module. The Maternal Health Indicators (MHI)^{Beta} module was introduced in the minor release v2024.0.1. Further details on this module are available in the "[Announcement: Release of new Maternal Health Indicators \(MHI\)^{Beta} software v2024](#)" and [v2025 MHI^{Beta} Software Announcement](#) documents.

In v2025, additional AHRQ QI modules, such as Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQI) and Prevention Quality Indicators in Inpatient Settings (PQI), are also integrated into the CloudQI platform. The indicators in the Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDI) module, including PDI 17, will be integrated in v2026.

CloudQI was developed to overcome the limitations of the WinQI tool. The inclusion of "Cloud" in its name indicates that the software can be installed within an internal or public secured cloud, enabling remote access and distributed usage through a web browser with multi-user capabilities. Additionally, like WinQI, CloudQI can also be installed on a desktop for single-user access.

CloudQI architecture allows for automatic updates to future versions without requiring a complete re-installation. Users of CloudQI can also switch between software versions without uninstalling. This stands in contrast to WinQI, where users must uninstall and install new or prior versions based on their needs. Such flexibility is significantly enhanced in the new tool, allowing users to switch between versions seamlessly from within the software. Overall, the CloudQI software offers superior versatility when compared to WinQI.

In addition, beginning with v2024, the CloudQI application includes additional capabilities allowing installation as a multi-user application on servers, while still allowing the option for desktop installation. In the multi-user mode, multiple users can access CloudQI running on a server via a browser using their profile login credentials.

Note: CloudQI can be installed on the same machine as WinQI. This allows for the simultaneous usage of CloudQI (PSI, PQE, IQI, PQI, and MHI^{Beta}) and WinQI (PSI, IQI, PQI, and PDI)

Benefits of CloudQI

1. In CloudQI, updating Fiscal Year versions is a seamless process achieved through a simple download function that imports the latest or prior versions from AHRQ's repository. Once downloaded, users can effortlessly switch to the desired version from within the software. This powerful real-time update feature ensures that your software remains up-to-date and grants you the flexibility to switch between versions with ease.
2. The installation process for CloudQI is quite simple, and unlike WinQI, it doesn't require installing Microsoft SQL Server, thereby utilizing less resources (disk space and memory).
3. The CloudQI software proactively notifies users of new AHRQ QI version updates. Upon receiving a notification, users can conveniently download and switch to the new version.
4. Users have the flexibility to switch back to older versions at any time without the need to uninstall and reinstall the current software version.
5. CloudQI can be installed on an internal or public secured cloud, which in turn allows users to access it remotely through a web browser. To illustrate, once CloudQI is successfully installed on an internal cloud, a group of users can effortlessly access the system from various locations using their desktop browsers. This enables them to generate reports after the rates have been generated, facilitating seamless collaboration and access regardless of physical distance.
6. CloudQI can be accessed on a desktop running any operating system, such as MS Windows or MacOS.
7. Starting in v2024, CloudQI, if installed on user's server in a multi-user mode, offers complete multi-user support, which allows multiple users to access the system and process data without affecting other users' data. This also includes simultaneous access of the application by multiple users via a browser making it a distributed application unlike WinQI that is a single-user desktop application.
8. In v2025, when installed as a hosted application on your infrastructure, users can share imported files with others in their organization.

CloudQI's Support for Multiple Versions and Backward Compatibility

With CloudQI, updating to the latest fiscal year version is effortless. There's no need for multiple installations. Unlike WinQI, which requires a separate setup for each version, CloudQI keeps all supported AHRQ QI versions in one unified installation. This means faster updates, less IT overhead, and uninterrupted access to historical versions when you need them.

The v2025 release supports:

1. v2023.0.1
2. v2024.0.3
3. v2025.0.0

AHRQ Quality Indicators

For a complete guide to installing and using CloudQI, refer to the [v2025 Software Instructions](#) document.

Limitations of WinQI

1. WinQI relies on installing the Microsoft SQL Server database, which is essential for conducting calculations, lookups, and data storage. This makes WinQI installation cumbersome.
2. WinQI presents constraints when working with input data from various years or versions. Currently, users who wish to utilize datasets from different fiscal years (e.g., FY 2022, FY 2023, etc.) must uninstall their existing WinQI version (e.g., v2023) and install the specific version of the software corresponding to the desired year.
3. WinQI installation is limited to desktop usage and restricted to a single user.
4. Whenever a new version of WinQI is installed, it erases any previously imported data, requiring the re-importation of input data.
5. WinQI is exclusively accessible on a desktop operating on the MS Windows operating system.
6. WinQI demands additional resources (disk space and memory) to process SQL operations.
7. The release schedule of WinQI software versions aligns with FY updates, requiring that users uninstall the previous version prior to installing a new one. Consequently, users can only access a single version of the software at any given point.