Release of AHRQ Quality Indicators^{TM} Software for SAS QI v2018 ICD-10-CM (Non-Risk Adjusted), June 2018

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announces the release of the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QI) software for SAS QI version v2018 (Non-Risk Adjusted). This software applies to all four modules: the Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI), Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQI), Patient Safety Indicators (PSI), and Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDI). AHRQ is changing the version names of the QI software to better reflect the fiscal year (e.g., 2018) in which the software and related resources are released, rather than an incremental version number (e.g., v6.0, v7.0).

All of the relevant AHRQ QI^{TM} software and documentation regarding v2018 ICD-10-CM (Non-Risk Adjusted) can be found on the AHRQ QI Web site at http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov. The following sections summarize the major changes from Technical Specifications and QI Software v7.0 to v2018 ICD-10-CM (Non-Risk Adjusted).

1.0   Fiscal Year 2018 Coding Updates

The AHRQ QI software v2018 ICD-10-CM (Non-Risk Adjusted) reflects coding changes based on fiscal year 2018 coding updates to the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM). These coding changes impact all software modules.

2.0   Specification Changes

The SAS QI v2018 ICD-10-CM/PCS (Non-Risk Adjusted) software implements specification and programming changes that were developed through a detailed deliberation and assessment process with AHRQ personnel and other AHRQ stakeholders.

The fiscal year coding updates were implemented across all modules and are detailed in the Log of Coding Updates and Revisions for each AHRQ QI module. These are available at the following web address:

- PQI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PQI/V2018/ChangeLog_PQI_v2018.pdf
- IQI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/IQI/V2018/ChangeLog_IQI_v2018.pdf
- PSI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PSI/V2018/ChangeLog_PSI_v2018.pdf
- PDI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PDI/V2018/ChangeLog_PSI_v2018.pdf

3.0   Population Files

The updated QI population file uses the U.S. Census's 'County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2017 Vintage' tables. This QI population file includes estimates for the 1995-2017 period. Population data from 1995-1999 uses a different method for the age group (18-24) compared to the population data starting with 2000. Please see the details around the population methodology at: http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Software/SAS/V2018/AHRQ_QI_v2018 _ICD10_Population_File.pdf.

4.0   Reporting Rates for Specific Measures

The AHRQ SAS QI v2018 ICD-10-CM (Non-Risk Adjusted) software does not include risk adjustment at this time. Thus, only the numerators, denominators, and observed rates are reported.

6.0   Omitted Indicators NQI 02 Provider-Level Composite Measures

The SAS QI software v2018 ICD-10-CM/PCS (Non-Risk Adjusted) omits one PDI measure: NQI 02. The measure is being omitted due in part to discrepancies in how states define a live birth. California and several other states, for example, do not have the qualifying language distinguishing a heartbeat from transient cardiac contractions, and distinguishing respirations from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps. In some cases, induced terminations of pregnancy are misclassified as live births because there were "transient cardiac contractions" and "fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps." In addition, NQI 02 does not offer a true neonatal mortality rate, because there is no linkage of records for patients who are transferred from one hospital to another, or from a hospital to another setting of care. AHRQ is reviewing the specifications and the indicator will be updated or retired in the next release.

7.0   Enhancements and Fixes to Software Bugs Found in v2018

The SAS QI v2018 ICD-10-CM software includes enhancements and issue resolution from the v7.0 ICD-10-CM software. To learn more about changes made to the QI software, access the Log of Changes document:

- PQI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PQI/V2018/ChangeLog_PQI_v2018.pdf
- IQI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/IQI/V2018/ChangeLog_IQI_v2018.pdf
- PSI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PSI/V2018/ChangeLog_PSI_v2018.pdf
- PDI: https://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PDI/V2018/ChangeLog_PSI_v2018.pdf

9.0 Fixes to SAS QI Software Bugs

There were no additional critical defects identified or fixes made in this release.

For questions, please contact QIs support at qisupport@ahrq.hhs.gov **or (301) 427-1949.**