Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
AHRQ QI Windows Application
Version 2.0

Release Notes

Updated November 30, 2005

The AHRQ Quality Indicators Windows Application is intended as a tool for individual hospitals that do not have access to the statistical software packages required by the currently available SAS and SPSS syntax. The Windows Application will replace the SPSS version which will not be updated after November 2006. The SAS version will continue to be available and is recommended for users of very large databases. The SPSS version will be supported through FY2006 to give users time to transition (although the SPSS version will also be released approximately one month after the SAS version).

1. Windows Application Releases

The AHRQ Quality Indicators Windows Application Version 2.0 is the second of three planned releases of the software. The primary intent of Version 2.0 is to incorporate limited enhancements to the features and functionality of application based on recommendations from users. Version 3.0 will update the indicator specifications based on FY2006 coding changes, incorporate a limited license APR-DRG V20.0 grouper for the Inpatient Quality Indicators, and include a new module of indicators for the pediatric population. After the third release, AHRQ anticipates an annual release of the Windows Application in January of each year to update the indicator specifications for fiscal year coding changes and other indicator revisions based on published literature, empirical analysis and user experience.

Windows Application Releases

Windows Application Version	Description	Major Features	Anticipated Release Date
Version 1.0	Initial Release	Indicator flagging and basic rate calculation	September, 2005
Version 2.0	Supplemental Release	Improved performance and user-identified enhancements	November, 2005
Version 3.0	Updated Release	FY2006 coding update Limited license APR-DRG V20.0 Pediatric Indicator Module	January, 2006
Version 3.x and later	Future Releases	Fiscal year coding update Other indicator revisions	January each year

2. Application Performance

The Windows Application is optimized for approximately 3 million records, which is the estimated capacity of the public-use Microsoft SQL Server. Users with larger datasets should consider either continuing to use the SAS version or dividing the dataset into smaller pieces (e.g. by quarter).

3. AHRQ QI Windows Application Version 2.0 Features

The AHRQ QI Windows Application Version 2.0 replicates the indicator specification and rate calculation of the currently available SAS syntax for the PQI, IQI and PSI modules[1] (note: FY2006 coding and specification changes will be incorporated into Version 3.0). The major features in Version 2.0 are listed below. See the AHRQ QI Windows Software Documentation for additional details.

Version 2.0 Features Summary

Feature	Windows Version 2.0
Performance	Version 1.0 was optimized for about 500,000 records. Version 2.0 is optimized for about 3 million records
User-defined strata	Allows users to specify variables in the input file as user-defined strata for reporting. *At the provider level only*.
Smoothed rates and confidence intervals	Replicates the current SAS methods for computing smoothed rates and confidence intervals
Population file	An updated population file from the U.S Census includes updated data for 2004, additional race/ethnicity categories and population projections for 2005-06 based on Census estimates, and additional geographic areas for stratification
Case finding	A drill-down screen to display the record for an individual case compared with the detailed definition of a single indicator
Batch processing	Allows users to execute the application using a command line at the DOS prompt instead of the user interface. *Advanced users only. Contact AHRQ QI Support for technical assistance.*

4. FY2006 ICD-9-CM and DRG Coding Updates

The SAS version of the AHRQ QI modules will be updated to incorporate the FY2006 coding changes in November, 2005 (PQI), December, 2005 (IQI) and January, 2006 (PSI and Pediatric). The Windows version will be updated to incorporate the FY2006 ICD-9-CM and DRG coding changes in January, 2006. The SPSS version will be updated to incorporate the FY2006 ICD-9-CM and DRG coding changes (and released approximately one month after the SAS) but will no longer be supported beginning in November, 2006. Future fiscal year coding updates will follow the same release schedule.

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[1] Prevention Quality Indicators, Version 2.1 Revision 4 (November, 2004); Inpatient Quality Indicators, Version 2.1 Revision 4a (May, 2005); Patient Safety Indicators, Version 2.1 Revision 3a (February, 2005).

5. What to do if you have problems or suggestions

The AHRQ QI Support Team welcomes your feedback on the Windows Application features and functionality. If you have problems with the software or suggestions for improvements, please contact the AHRQ QI Support Team at support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov or leave a voicemail at (888) 512 – 6090.