



## AHRQ Quality Indicators™

# Patient Safety Indicators

*Help assess quality and safety of care for adults in the hospital*

### Patient Safety Indicators—

- Can be used to help hospitals and health care organizations assess, monitor, track, and improve the safety of inpatient care.
- Can be used for comparative public reporting, trending, and pay-for-performance initiatives.
- Can identify potentially avoidable complications that result from a patient's exposure to the health care system.
- Include hospital-level indicators to detect potential safety problems that occur during a patient's hospital stay.
- Include area-level indicators for potentially preventable adverse events that occur during a hospital stay to help assess total incidence within a region.
- Are publicly available at no charge to the user.
- Include risk adjustment where appropriate.
- Can be downloaded at [https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PSI/V2021/TechSpecs/PSI\\_2021\\_ICD10\\_techspecs\\_pdf.zip](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PSI/V2021/TechSpecs/PSI_2021_ICD10_techspecs_pdf.zip).

The AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators were developed under a contract with the University of California, San Francisco, Stanford University Evidence-based Practice Center, and the University of California,

Davis. The Patient Safety Indicators were first released in 2003 and have been updated as needed over time.

### Other AHRQ Quality Indicators

AHRQ has other sets of QIs:

- Prevention Quality Indicators—Indicators representing hospital admission rates for common ambulatory care-sensitive conditions. Hospitalization for these types of conditions can often be avoided with appropriate use of high-quality, community-based primary care services.
- 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 by hospital; area-level indicators include procedures for which inpatient utilization rates have been shown to vary by metropolitan statistical area.
- 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](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov) for announcements of updates to AHRQ QI software.



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## Endorsement

A number of measures have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) through 2021. Beginning in fiscal year 2022, AHRQ will no longer seek NQF re-endorsement for its portfolio of measures in the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs) program. Find NQF-endorsed AHRQ measures at [https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/list\\_ahrq\\_qi](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/measures/list_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®
- A detailed users' guide and technical specifications for the Patient Safety Indicators
- Parameter estimates, benchmark data tables, and methodology to create composite measures
- Guidance for designing a report using the Patient Safety Indicators
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Access to QI Technical Support by email at [QIsupport@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:QIsupport@ahrq.hhs.gov) or by phone at 301-427-1949

## Patient Safety Indicators

### Provider-Level Indicators

- PSI 02 - Death rate in low-mortality diagnosis related groups (DRGs)
- PSI 03 - Pressure ulcer rate
- PSI 04 - Death rate among surgical inpatients with serious treatable conditions
- PSI 05 - Retained surgical item or unretrieved device fragment count
- PSI 06 - Iatrogenic pneumothorax rate
- PSI 07 - Central venous catheter-related blood stream infection rate
- PSI 08 - Postoperative hip fracture rate
- PSI 09 - Perioperative hemorrhage or hematoma rate
- PSI 10 - Postoperative physiologic and metabolic derangement rate
- PSI 11 - Postoperative respiratory failure rate
- PSI 12 - Perioperative pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis rate
- PSI 13 - Postoperative sepsis rate
- PSI 14 - Postoperative wound dehiscence rate
- PSI 15 - Accidental puncture or laceration rate
- PSI 17 - Birth trauma rate – injury to neonate
- PSI 18 - Obstetric trauma rate – vaginal delivery with instrument
- PSI 19 - Obstetric trauma rate-vaginal delivery without instrument
- PSI 90 - Patient Safety for Selected Indicators



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



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