

## Mailing List

AHRQ offers Internet users an opportunity to sign up for personal notification of the availability of the AHRQ QIs and associated updates to the AHRQ QIs. All you need is a computer, Internet access, and an e-mail address. It works just like other electronic distribution lists. This service is free.

To register, follow these easy steps:

1. Send an e-mail message to:  
listserv@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov
2. On the subject line, type: Subscribe.  
(For example: Subscribe)
3. In the body of the message type:  
sub Quality\_Indicators-L and your full name. (For example: sub Quality\_Indicators-L John Doe)

You will receive a message confirming that you are signed up.

## User Tools and Support

- Software to compute QI rates
- A detailed users' guide to the *Inpatient Quality Indicators*
- Technical specifications
- Methodology to create composite measures
- Model report
- Frequently asked questions
- QI Support Team (support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov or voice mailbox (toll free) at 888-512-6090).

The AHRQ QI software is available for SAS® and Windows®.

**QI Web site: [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov)**

  
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**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
540 Gaither Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

## AHRQ Quality Indicators

# Inpatient Quality Indicators

*A tool to help assess the quality of care  
to adults in the hospital*



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## Inpatient Quality Indicators—

- Can be used to help hospitals identify potential problem areas that might need further study, as well as for quality improvement, comparative public reporting, trending, and pay-for-performance initiatives.
- Can provide an indirect measure of in-hospital quality of care by using administrative data found in a typical discharge record.
- Include *mortality* indicators for conditions or procedures for which mortality can vary from hospital to hospital.
- Include *utilization* indicators for procedures for which utilization varies across hospitals or geographic areas.
- Include *volume* indicators for procedures for which outcomes may be related to the volume of those procedures performed.
- Are free and publicly available.
- Include risk adjustment where appropriate.
- Can be downloaded at [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/iqi\\_download.htm](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/iqi_download.htm).

The *Inpatient Quality Indicators* are part of a set of software modules of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) **Quality Indicators** (QIs) developed by the University of California, San Francisco–Stanford University Evidence-based Practice Center and the University of California, Davis under a contract with AHRQ. The *Inpatient Quality Indicators* were originally released in 2002.



The *Inpatient Quality Indicators* provide a perspective on hospital quality of care using hospital administrative data, which are readily available and relatively inexpensive to use.

### *Mortality rates for conditions*

- Acute myocardial infarction (AMI)
- AMI without transfer
- Congestive heart failure
- Gastrointestinal hemorrhage
- Hip fracture
- Pneumonia
- Acute stroke

### *Mortality rates for procedures*

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Coronary artery bypass graft
- Craniotomy
- Esophageal resection
- Hip replacement
- Pancreatic resection
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
- Carotid endarterectomy

### *Hospital-level procedure utilization rates*

- Cesarean section delivery
- Primary cesarean delivery
- Vaginal birth after cesarean, uncomplicated
- Vaginal birth after cesarean, all
- Incidental appendectomy in the elderly
- Bilateral cardiac catheterization
- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

### *Area-level utilization rates (e.g., county, State)*

- Coronary artery bypass graft
- Hysterectomy
- Laminectomy or spinal fusion
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty

### *Volume of procedures*

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Carotid endarterectomy
- Coronary artery bypass graft
- Esophageal resection
- Pancreatic resection
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty

## 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.

*Patient Safety Indicators*—Hospital- and area-level indicators that provide information on potential in-hospital complications and errors following surgeries, other procedures, and childbirth.

*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 announcement of updates to AHRQ QI software, or sign up for personal notification (see “Mailing List” information on next page).

## Endorsement

A number of QIs have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). NQF reviews the endorsements periodically.

