

## Mailing List

AHRQ offers Internet users the 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.

1. Send an e-mail message to:  
[listserv@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](mailto: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 *Patient Safety Indicators*
- Technical specifications
- Methodology to create composite measures
- Model report
- Frequently asked questions
- QI Support Team ([support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](mailto: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)



## U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
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## AHRQ Quality Indicators

# Patient Safety Indicators

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



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## 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 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 [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/psi\\_download.htm](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/psi_download.htm).

The *Patient Safety 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 *Patient Safety Indicators* were originally released in 2003.



The *Patient Safety Indicators* provide a perspective on potential complications and errors resulting from a hospital admission.

### *Hospital-level indicators*

- Death in low-mortality diagnosis-related groups
- Pressure ulcer
- Death among surgical inpatients with treatable serious complications
- Foreign body left in during procedure
- Iatrogenic pneumothorax
- Central venous catheter-related bloodstream infections
- Postoperative hip fracture
- Postoperative hemorrhage or hematoma
- Postoperative physiologic and metabolic derangements
- Postoperative respiratory failure
- Postoperative pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis
- Postoperative sepsis
- Postoperative wound dehiscence
- Accidental puncture or laceration
- Transfusion reaction
- Birth trauma—*injury to neonate*
- Obstetric trauma—*vaginal delivery with instrument*
- Obstetric trauma—*vaginal delivery without instrument*

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

- Foreign body left in during procedure
- Iatrogenic pneumothorax
- Central venous catheter-related bloodstream infection
- Accidental puncture or laceration
- Postoperative hemorrhage or hematoma
- Postoperative wound dehiscence
- Transfusion reaction

## 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 conditions can often be avoided with appropriate use of community-based primary care.

*Inpatient Quality Indicators*—Hospital- and area-level indicators relating to utilization, mortality, and volume. Hospital-level indicators include inhospital procedures for which outcomes can vary from hospital to 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 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.

