Low Birth Weight Rate
Technical Specifications

Prevention Quality Indicators #9 (PQI #9)
AHRQ Quality Indicators^{TM}, Version 5.0
March 2015
Area-Level Indicator
Type of Score: Rate

Description

Low birth weight (< 2,500 grams) infants per 1,000 newborns. Excludes transfers from other institutions.

[NOTE: The software provides the rate per newborn. However, common practice reports the measure as per 1,000 newborns. The user must multiply the rate obtained from the software by 1,000 to report admissions per 1,000 newborns.]

[NOTE: This indicator can be calculated in SAS QI Software Version 5.0 using either the PDI Module or the PQI #9 Standalone Module.]

Numerator

Number of newborns, among cases meeting the inclusion and exclusion rules for the denominator, with any-listed ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes for birth weight less than 2,500 grams.

ICD-9-CM Birth weight less than 2,500 grams diagnosis codes:

76400	LIGHT-FOR-DATES WTNOS	76425	FETAL MAL 1250-1499G
76401	LIGHT-FOR-DATES <500G	76426	FETAL MAL 1500-1749G
76402	LT-FOR-DATES 500-749G	76427	FETAL MALNUTR 1750-1999G
76403	LT-FOR-DATES 750-999G	76428	FETAL MALNUTR 2000-2499G
76404	LT-FOR-DATES 1000-1249G	76490	FET GROWTH RETARD WTNOS
76405	LT-FOR-DATES 1250-1499G	76491	FET GROWTH RETARD <500G
76406	LT-FOR-DATES 1500-1749G	76492	FET GROWTH RET 500-749G
76407	LT-FOR-DATES 1750-1999G	76493	FET GROWTH RET 750-999G
76408	LT-FOR-DATES 2000-2499G	76494	FET GRWTH RET 1000-1249G
76410	LT-FOR-DATE W/MAL WTNOS	76495	FET GRWTH RET 1250-1499G
76411	LT-FOR-DATE W/MAL <500G	76496	FET GRWTH RET 1500-1749G
76412	LT-DATE W/MAL 500-749G	76497	FET GRWTH RET 1750-1999G
76413	LT-DATE W/MAL 750-999G	76498	FET GRWTH RET 2000-2499G
76414	LT-DATE W/MAL 1000-1249G	76500	EXTREME IMMATUR WTNOS
76415	LT-DATE W/MAL 1250-1499G	76501	EXTREME IMMATUR <500G
76416	LT-DATE W/MAL 1500-1749G	76502	EXTREME IMMATUR 500-749G
76417	LT-DATE W/MAL 1750-1999G	76503	EXTREME IMMATUR 750-999G
76418	LT-DATE W/MAL 2000-2499G	76504	EXTREME IMMAT 1000-1249G
76420	FETAL MALNUTRITION WTNOS	76505	EXTREME IMMAT 1250-1499G
76421	FETAL MALNUTRITION <500G	76506	EXTREME IMMAT 1500-1749G
76422	FETAL MALNUTR 500-749G	76507	EXTREME IMMAT 1750-1999G
76423	FETAL MAL 750-999G	76508	EXTREME IMMAT 2000-2499G
76424	FETAL MAL 1000-1249G	76510	PRETERM INFANT NEC WTNOS
76511	PRETERM NEC <500G	76515	PRETERM NEC 1250-1499G

76512	PRETERM NEC 500-749G	76516	PRETERM NEC 1500-1749G
76513	PRETERM NEC 750-999G	76517	PRETERM NEC 1750-1999G
76514	PRETERM NEC 1000-1249G	76518	PRETERM NEC 2000-2499G

Exclude cases:
- transfer from a hospital (different facility)
- transfer from a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)
- transfer from another health care facility
- with missing gender (SEX=missing), age (AGE=missing), quarter (DQTR=missing), year (YEAR=missing), principal diagnosis (DX1=missing), or county (PSTCO=missing)

See *Prevention Quality Indicators Appendices*:
- Appendix A – Admission Codes for Transfers

Denominator

Number of newborns in metropolitan area[†] or county. Newborns in the numerator are assigned to the denominator based on the metropolitan area or county of the patient residence, not the metropolitan area or county of the hospital where the discharge occurred.

See *Prevention Quality Indicators Appendices*:
- Appendix D – Definitions of Neonate, Newborn, Normal Newborn, and Outborn

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[†] The term "metropolitan area" (MA) was adopted by the U.S. Census in 1990 and referred collectively to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs) and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). In addition, "area" could refer to either 1) FIPS county, 2) modified FIPS county, 3) 1999 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area or 4) 2003 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area. Micropolitan Statistical Areas are not used in the QI software.