# AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs), 2005-2013

## Area-Level Indicators for California

**Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed four types of Quality Indicators (QIs), measures of healthcare quality, that make use of hospital inpatient discharge data. **Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs)** identify hospital admissions that evidence suggests may have been avoided through access to high-quality outpatient care. The PQIs are also called "ambulatory care-sensitive conditions" or "preventable hospitalizations." These measures assess the quality of the healthcare system as a whole, especially ambulatory care, in preventing hospitalizations due to potentially-avoidable medical complications.

### Area-Level (Statewide, County) hospitalization rates are provided for the following PQI measures:

- PQI #1 Diabetes Short-term Complications
- PQI #2 Perforated Appendix (ruptured appendix)
- PQI #3 Diabetes Long-term Complications
- PQI #5 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or Asthma in Older Adults (Ages 40 and over)
- PQI #7 Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- PQI #8 Heart Failure
- PQI #10 Dehydration
- PQI #11 Bacterial Pneumonia
- PQI #12 Urinary Tract Infection
- PQI #13 Angina without Procedure
- PQI #14 Uncontrolled Diabetes
- PQI #15 Asthma in Younger Adults (Ages 18-39)
- PQI #16 Lower-Extremity Amputation among Patients with Diabetes (removal of leg or foot due to diabetes complications)
- PQI #90 Overall Composite (includes PQIs #1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16)
- PQI #91 Acute Composite (includes PQIs #10, 11, and 12)
- PQI #92 Chronic Composite (includes PQIs #1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, and 16)

The technical specifications for the above indicators can be found at [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Modules/PQI_TechSpec.aspx](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Modules/PQI_TechSpec.aspx).

### How to use the Excel PQI multi-year tool:

The Excel PQI multi-year product allows you to select the data for a specific year or specific county. Use the selection arrow in the cells located just below the “Year” and “County” headers to make your selection.

### Technical Notes:

The age-sex risk-adjusted rates are calculated per 100,000 state or county population with the exception of PQI #2-Perforated Appendix (per 100 appendicitis cases). The program calculates age-sex risk-adjusted rates regardless of the number of cases available (above a minimum of 3). However, PQI rates based on only a few cases should be interpreted with caution. Blank rates in PQI #2-Perforated Appendix indicate that less than four appendicitis cases (denominator) were treated.

### Data Sources:

- Numerator = AHRQ, Prevention Quality Indicators, Version 4.5a; OSHPD CA Patient Discharge Data.
- Risk-Adjusted Rate = The risk-adjusted rate is the rate the state/county would have if it had an age-sex case-mix like the reference population. The reference population is the 2010 State Inpatient Database (numerator), a large national file of hospital discharges from over 44 states, and the 2010 U.S. Census population of those states (denominator).

More information about the AHRQ Quality Indicators is available at [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov).

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