AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs), 2005-2011
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. Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) are measures that represent hospitalization rates for potentially-preventable adverse events that occur during a hospital stay. They provide a perspective on complications and iatrogenic events and help assess total incidence within a region.

Area-Level (Statewide, County) hospitalization rates are provided for the following PSI measures:
- PSI #21 Rate of Foreign Body Left During Procedure
- PSI #22 Iatrogenic Pneumothorax Rate
- PSI #23 Central Venous Catheter-Related Blood Stream Infection Rate
- PSI #24 Postoperative Wound Dehiscence Rate
- PSI #25 Accidental Puncture or Laceration Rate
- PSI #26 Transfusion Reaction Rate
- PSI #27 Postoperative Hemorrhage or Hematoma Rate

The technical specifications for the above indicators can be found at www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Modules/PSI_TechSpec.aspx.

How to use the Excel PSI multi-year tool:
The Excel PSI multi-year product allows you to select the data for a specific year or specific county. Use the pull-down arrow in the cells located just below the "Year" and "County" headers to make your selection.

Technical Notes:
All rates in the PSI module are "observed", not "risk-adjusted." The "Unassigned" County category includes cases where a patient's ZIP code could not be assigned to a California county (i.e. ZIP code was reported as unknown, foreign, homeless, or out-of-state). Prior to 2010, Misadventure/Abnormal Reaction E-Codes (E870-E879) were not required to be reported, possibly resulting in the underestimation of PSI rates based on those E-Codes.

Data Sources:
- Numerator = AHRQ, Patient Safety Indicators, Version 4.4; OSHPD CA Patient Discharge Data.

More information about the AHRQ Quality Indicators is available at www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov.

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