

AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs), 2005-2014 plus 2015-Q1-Q3 (January-September)^{1 2}

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 (**Note: AHRQ has retired PQI #13, effective with the next version (6.0) of PQI software**)
- 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.

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.

¹ Due to a change in the reporting of diagnoses/procedures from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS (effective October 1, 2015) AND the inability of the PQI software to handle both code sets concurrently, OSHPD is only releasing the PQI data for the first 3 quarters of 2015 (January-September). The population denominator also has been adjusted by 25% to account for the missing quarter. Full year reporting is expected to resume with the release of the 2016 data, although comparability with prior data is unlikely.

² CAUTION is advised when comparing the 2015-Q1-Q3 (January-September) rates with the annual rates from prior years. Per AHRQ, "seasonality" could have an effect on the 2015 data. For example, patients may have a financial incentive to push elective procedures into the (missing) fourth quarter due to health coverage. Also, medical conditions, like influenza, pneumonia, and COPD may be more prevalent during that season. The impact of "seasonality" on the data is not currently known.

Data Sources:

Numerator = AHRQ, Prevention Quality Indicators, Version 5.0; OSHPD CA Patient Discharge Data.

Denominator = AHRQ, Population File, Version 5.0 (2005-2014), Version 6.0 (2015), U.S. Census Bureau.

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 2012 State Inpatient Database (numerator), a large national file of hospital discharges from 45 states, and the 2012 U.S. Census population of those states (denominator).

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

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