Release Notes for AHRQ QI WinQI (Version 4.1b)
September 13, 2010

Summary

This WinQI Version 4.1b release contains updates to the WinQI Version 4.1a release (July, 2010) of the AHRQ QI software. There are two categories of changes for this release:

1. Changes Made to Increase Comparability with the SAS Version

    a. General Comparability

        i. Birth weight categories

            1. WinQI was updated to assign birth weight categories using only ICD-9 codes. Previously, WinQI was using ICD-9 codes as well as pediatric age and age days.

        ii. Smoothed rate calculations for non-risk adjusted indicators

            1. WinQI was updated to use the observed rates when performing smoothed rate calculations for non-risk-adjusted indicators.

        iii. Composite update

            1. WinQI was updated to use non-truncated values when calculating composites. Previously, WinQI was using truncated values. Truncated values are still used when reporting results.

        iv. POA exclusion for non-MCMC indicators

            1. The MCMC prediction process excludes cases that have POA and meet other specific exclusion criteria. WinQI was updated to apply these same exclusions (based on POA and the other specific exclusion criteria) for indicators that do not undergo the MCMC process. Previously, WinQI was not applying these exclusions for indicators that did not undergo the MCMC process.

        v. Correctly flagging all newborn cases

            1. WinQI was updated to flag as newborn those cases with a point of origin value of "5" [Transfer from nursing facility OR (w/admin type = newborn) born in this hospital]. Previously, WinQI was not using this criterion to flag cases as newborn. This change impacts exclusion rules for the PDI module.

        vi. Calculating NQI rates only for valid PRDAY values

1. WinQI was updated to calculate NQI rates only for cases in which PRDAY is not NULL and is greater than zero. Previously, WinQI was calculating NQI rates for all cases in which PRDAY was not NULL, creating problems in cases where PRDAY was negative.

b. Comparability for Specific Indicators
   i. PQI-#09 Postoperative Respiratory Failure ATYPE exclusion
      1. PQI-#09 in WinQI was updated to exclude cases based on Point Of Origin and ASOURCE /only/ when ATYPE is not equal to "4" (because Point of Origin and ASOURCE are re-coded in this circumstance). Previously, PQI-#09 in WinQI did not contain this ATYPE criterion.
   ii. IQI-#32 AMI Mortality without Transfer MDC inclusion criteria
      1. IQI-#32 in WinQI was updated to exclude cases with an MDC of 14. Previously, IQI-#32 in WinQI did not exclude these cases.
   iii. PSI-#03 Decubitus Ulcer exclusion criteria
      1. PSI-#03 in WinQI was updated to exclude cases based on Point Of Origin and ASOURCE /only/ when ATYPE is not equal to "4" (because Point of Origin and ASOURCE are re-coded in this circumstance). Previously, PSI-#03 in WinQI did not contain this ATYPE criterion.
   iv. PSI-#04 Death Among Surgical Inpatients MDC exclusion criteria
      1. PSI-#04 in WinQI was updated not to exclude cases with an MDC of 15. Previously, PSI-#04 in WinQI excluded these cases.
   v. PSI-#10 Postoperative Physiologic and Metabolic Derangement POA exclusion
      1. PSI-#10 in WinQI was updated to exclude cases with diagnosis codes in the exclusion set "POST-OPERATIVE PHYSIOLOGIC AND METABOLIC DERANGEMENTS" whether or not they have POA. Previously, PSI-#10 in WinQI was excluding such cases only if they had POA.
   vi. PDI- #05 Iatrogenic Pneumothorax update
      1. PDI-#05 in WinQI was updated to exclude neonate cases that have been flagged with a secondary diagnosis code that is POA. Previously, PDI-#05 in WinQI did not exclude such cases.
   vii. NQI-#02 Neonatal Mortality Disposition exclusion criteria

1. NQI-#02 in WinQI was updated to add exclusion criteria for cases that are missing dispositions.

2. Rate Calculations

a. Proportional calibration
   i. The calibration of discharge predicted rates for provider-level indicators for the IQI and PSI modules was changed from a difference calculation to a proportional calculation. WinQI (4.2) will revise the calculation for the PDI module.
b. Reliability weights
   i. Changes were made to the signal variance arrays for the IQI and PSI modules to support the revised reliability weights for the smoothed rates and composites. WinQI (4.2) will revise the signal variance arrays for the PDI module.