

November 9, 2011 – Release of AHRQ Readmission Quality Indicator SAS Beta Software

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announces the release of the AHRQ Quality Indicators (AHRQ QI) Readmission Quality Indicators (RQI) module, **Beta Version** SAS Software and Documentation (Version 4.3).

AHRQ developed the SAS **Beta** Version of the RQI using all-payer data and a transparent risk-adjustment methodology that calculates 30-day readmission rates (observed, expected, risk-adjusted and smoothed rates). This beta version includes provider-level (i.e. hospital) and area-level (i.e. county or metro area) readmission rates within 30 days of discharge from the index admission with the diagnosis code of the following six conditions: Heart Failure (HF), Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), pneumonia, diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma in Older Adults, and Coronary Atherosclerosis (CAD) and Other Heart Disease. The rates may be stratified by gender, age, race/ethnicity and payer. The reference population for the risk-adjustment is based on the AHRQ Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) State Inpatient Databases (SID) and Revisit Files for 2008, consisting of 15 states. Version 4.3 includes fiscal year coding updates through September 30, 2011.

The SAS **Beta** Version software and associated RQI documentation is available to users by sending a request to the AHRQ QI user support line at [support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](mailto:support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov). As a beta release, the measures and software have not been field-tested. AHRQ welcomes feedback on your use of this new tool. User feedback received will be reviewed and utilized to finalize the product. AHRQ anticipates the beta phase to span a 12 – 18 month time frame.