

September 13– Release of AHRQ Quality Indicators for Windows Version 4.1b and SAS Version 4.1b

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announces the release of the AHRQ Quality Indicators software for Windows Version 4.1b and SAS Version 4.1b for the Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI), Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQI), Patient Safety Indicators (PSI) and Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDI) modules. The software and documentation are now available for download from the AHRQ QI web site (<http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/software.htm>).

This announcement provides a summary of changes made in the WinQI 4.1b and SAS 4.1b versions of the software. There was an emphasis on ensuring consistency between WinQI and SAS for this release and the update reflects this. A summary of the testing performed can be found in the [testing summary](#).

Summary of changes from Windows Version 4.1a to 4.1b

Changes were made to the WinQI software for this release. The first set of changes ensures consistency between the WinQI software and the SAS software. General comparability changes were made to birth weight categories, smoothed rate calculations for non-risk adjusted indicators, composites, POA exclusion for non-MCMC indicators, flagging of newborn cases and the calculation of NQI rates that have valid PRDAY values. Specific indicator comparability changes were made to PQI-#09, IQI-#32, PSIs #03, #04, and #10, PDI-#05 and NQI-#02. The second set of changes is to revise the calibration of discharge predicted rates to use a proportional calculation rather than a difference calculation for the IQI, PSI, and PDI modules and to update the reliability weights by altering the signal variance arrays for the IQI and PSI modules.

A detailed list of these changes can be found in the [WinQI 4.1b release notes](#).

Summary of changes from SAS Version 4.1a to 4.1b

Changes were made to the SAS software for this release. The first set of changes is to ensure that the SAS software handles missing data in the same manner as the WinQI software. SAS now drops cases that have missing DX1, YEAR and DQTR fields. Also, SAS software will now treat all special missing characters as “normal” missing. The second change is to ensure that dates beyond the 3rd quarter of 2009 are defaulted to 26 for ICDVER instead of zero. The third set of changes is to revise the calibration of discharge predicted rates to use a proportional calculation rather than a difference calculation for the IQI, PSI, and PDI modules and to update the reliability weights by altering the signal variance arrays for the IQI and PSI modules.

A detailed list of these changes can be found in the [SAS 4.1b release notes](#).

For questions, please contact support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov or leave a voicemail at (888) 512 – 6090.