THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION

AHRQ Pediatric Quality Indicators for California Hospitals, 2023

Overview of Pediatric Quality Indicators

Evidence suggests that in-hospital preventable complications and adverse events may be associated with deficiencies in the quality of care. The Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDIs), developed by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), focus on potentially preventable complications and hospitalizations for pediatric patients treated in hospitals. The results provide a perspective on hospital care quality and safety issues specific to the pediatric inpatient population.

The current report includes five measures – Accidental Puncture and Laceration, Neonatal Blood Stream Infection, Postoperative Respiratory Failure, Postoperative Sepsis, and Central Venous Catheter-related Blood Stream Infection. The results were calculated using patient data reported to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) in 2023 by all California-licensed hospitals.

Why Report PDIs?

HCAI reports on PDIs for California hospitals to improve the quality of pediatric patient care in the state through greater transparency and provide hospitals performance benchmarks that aid in their review of internal processes of care and quality improvement activities. The reports help consumers make more informed health care decisions and help payers and employers spend their health care dollars wisely.

How Did HCAI Calculate PDIs?

PDI rates were calculated with the in-patient administrative data collected by HCAI Patient Data Section from all California-licensed acute care hospitals. Results are statistically risk adjusted to account for variations in risk factors of patients to allow for fair comparisons between hospitals. For this release, HCAI used Version 2024 of the AHRQ software that incorporates changes made by HCAI (see the Technical Note for details). Additional information about the PDI calculation methods and technical details about their validity and limitations can be found on the AHRQ website.

Overview of 2023 PDI Results

A total of 257 California-licensed hospitals were reported on the five PDIs. An overview of the results is provided as follows. As part of the methodology (see the Technical Note for details), only hospitals with three patients or more on any of the five measures were included in the report. Hospitals were rated as “Above Average” if their risk-adjusted rates were significantly lower than the statewide observed rate. They were rated as “Below Average” if their rates were significantly higher than the statewide rate.

- 10 hospitals (3.9 percent) were rated “Above Average”, and 11 hospitals (4.3 percent) were rated “Below Average” on at least one risk-adjusted PDIs measure.

- Of the 10 hospitals with an “Above Average” performance rating, 8 were rated “Above Average” on a single indicator, 1 on two indicators and 1 (Rady Children’s Hospital – San Diego) on three indicators (Postoperative Respiratory Failure, Postoperative Sepsis, and Central Venous Catheter-related Blood Stream Infection).

- Of the 11 hospitals with a “Below Average” performance rating, 6 were rated “Below Average” on a single indicator, 4 on two indicators, and 1 (Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford) on three indicators (Accidental Puncture or Laceration, Postoperative Respiratory Failure, and Postoperative Sepsis).

- There were 239 (93.0 percent) hospitals rated as “Average”, or not significantly different from the state average, for all five indicators.

- In general, hospitals showed fairly consistent performance across all five indicators. Three hospitals, however, had “mixed” results – they were rated “Above Average” on at least one indicator and “Below Average” on at least on other indicator.

2023 California PDI Statewide Rates (Per 100 Cases)

Accidental Puncture or Laceration	0.0
Neonatal Blood Stream Infection	2.4
Postoperative Respiratory Failure	3.7
Postoperative Sepsis	0.7
Central Venous Catheter-related Blood Stream Infection	0.1