

**AHRQ STATE HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP:
PREVENTABLE HOSPITALIZATION COSTS: A COUNTY-LEVEL MAPPING TOOL**

WHAT DOES THIS TOOL DO?	The County-Level Mapping Tool is a software program that maps selected AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs) for a State by county, and estimates the potential cost savings associated with reducing the level of potentially avoidable hospitalizations.
WHAT CAN THIS TOOL TELL STATES ABOUT THEIR PERFORMANCE?	This software program can help users to better understand the geographical patterns of hospital admissions for certain health problems across their state, as well as help them to allocate resources in an efficient and cost-effective way to address those problems and reduce hospital admission rates. This tool will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Show where interventions can have the biggest impact for certain health plan enrollees or other target populations. ● Calculate the average expected cost savings for achieving case reductions in each county. ● Display county-level rates and cost-reduction data in a worksheet format. ● Produce maps displaying the county-level QIs rates.
WHO SHOULD USE THIS TOOL?	This tool should be used by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State health care policy makers and administrators ● State executive branch officials including State health departments, Medicaid officials, benefit managers for state employees etc. ● Hospitals and health systems ● Nongovernmental State and local health care leaders including employers, employer coalitions, health plans ● State data organizations and researchers interested in population-based quality measures
WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS DOES THIS TOOL ADDRESS?	The Mapping Tool can be used to address questions, including but not limited, to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which counties have the highest rates of admissions for short-term complications for diabetes that could potentially have been avoided through improved outpatient services? 2. Which counties have the highest rates of infections due to medical care in their hospitals? 3. Which counties consistently have poorer indicators of quality or consistently better indicators of quality? 4. In which counties would there be the largest potential payoff for reducing avoidable admissions? 5. Which counties have the highest density of the target population?
WHAT DATA SOURCES ARE USED?	The Mapping Tool processes a single-year dataset of hospital discharge records (provided by the user) against the Version 3.1 Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs) and area-level Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDIs) developed by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. More information on the PQIs and PDIs is available at: www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov .
WHAT ARE STAKEHOLDERS SAYING?	“The beauty of the AHRQ tool is that it reinforced what we were seeing in our internal reviews as areas to focus on. Working with a national resource with the credibility of AHRQ allows us to put this new, validated and adjusted data in front of our community healthcare stakeholders. Although we were considering phasing out some of our efforts, the data reinforced and highlighted for us that we in fact needed to stay the course.” <i>Tom Smith, Regional Manager, Flint Michigan Community Health Care Initiatives, General Motors Corporation</i>
HOW CAN I OBTAIN THE TOOL?	This free tool is available online at: http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/mappingtool.htm . For further information, please send all inquiries to: quality_tools@ahrq.hhs.gov .