



# Texas Health Care Information Council

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## **Review of HCUP-II Inpatient Quality Indicators Suspended**

Due in part to review of the HCUP-II Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) on a hospital-by-hospital level here in Texas, the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) has decided to modify some key underlying assumptions. This demonstrates clearly that the review process leading-up to public release of new measures has great value, and that the system works. Therefore, **hospitals should cease their review of the IQI tables that were posted to THCIC's restricted access web site.**

Some modifications to the IQIs will include:

1. changes in how transfers are handled (modified version to exclude only transfers to acute care hospitals, not transfers to long term care or rehabilitation) This means that the mortality indicators for certain procedures where large proportions of patients in some hospitals are transferred to rehabilitation or long term care will now include these patients in the computations.
2. changes in the definition of pediatric heart surgery
3. addressing some issues in the risk adjustment process

THCIC anticipates receiving the revised beta-test version of the IQI software by June 1st. Following the creation of tables following the newly modified criteria, hospitals will be notified that they can access the reports on a restricted web site, as they did during April. This will initiate a new 60-day comment period for hospitals. More details will be conveyed to the hospitals as they become available.

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