MONAHRQ Release Notes

Version 4.0.1
December 2012

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1. INTRODUCTION

My Own Network, powered by AHRQ -- MONAHRQ® is a free, Windows-based software product that enables host users—such as State and local data organizations, chartered value exchanges, hospitals, and health plans—to input their own raw inpatient discharge data and/or sets of pre-calculated health care quality measures and to generate a fully functional reporting Web site. This tool was developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Federal Government's leading agency for health care quality in the United States.

These release notes provide information regarding new features in version 4.0.1 of the MONAHRQ software, as well as installation and upgrade guidance.

2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Version 4.0.1 of the MONAHRQ software is a minor release.

2.1 Support for Estimated Cost Savings
MONAHRQ 4.0.1 is able to report estimated cost savings at the area level for potentially avoidable hospitals stays. This information is reported in the Maps of Avoidable Hospital Stays path of a MONAHRQ-generated Web site.

Starting with version 4.0, host users import and report pre-calculated AHRQ QI results. Host users calculate the AHRQ QI directly from inpatient discharge data using any version of the AHRQ QI software for Windows (WinQI) or for SAS (SAS QI; SAS Institute, Inc.; Cary, NC).

To report the estimated cost savings for potentially avoidable hospital says, AHRQ has developed the Area QI Cost Calculator for Windows and for SAS. The Area QI Cost Calculator for Windows produces files that can be imported directly into the MONAHRQ software. The Area QI Cost Calculator for SAS produces SAS datasets that require additional formatting before being imported into MONAHRQ.

To report estimated cost savings in MONAHRQ using the WinQI software, use WinQI's built-in report wizards to save formatted reports for the measures you wish to import into MONAHRQ. Use the area reports as input to the Area QI Cost Calculator to calculate the estimated cost savings. The output file from the utility can then be imported directly into the MONAHRQ software with the provider and composite reports to generate your Web site.

To report estimated cost savings in MONAHRQ using the AHRQ QI software for SAS, use the AHRQ QI software for SAS to generate SAS datasets for the modules you wish to report in MONAHRQ. Use the Area QI Cost Calculator for SAS to generate the SAS datasets for the area modules. Use the SAS utilities available on the MONAHRQ download site to reformat the SAS datasets. The output files from the utilities can then be imported directly into the MONAHRQ software to generate your Web site.

The Area QI Calculators and the SAS Formatting Utilities can be found on the MONAHRQ Web site at: http://monahrq.ahrq.gov/monahrq_resources.shtml#util.

2.2 Updated cost-to-charge ratio data

The cost-to-charge ratio data provided with the MONAHRQ software have been updated to include data for 2010. The host user determines the year of cost-to-charge ratio data that MONAHRQ uses by selecting a reference data year in the MONAHRQ host user application. For additional details on the cost-to-charge ratio files, please see the HCUP Web site at http://www.hcupus.ahrq.gov/db/state/costtocharge.jsp.

The MONAHRQ 4.0.1 host user application continues to allow the host user to manually override the default cost-to-charge ratio values. Use the Edit Hospital Discharge Information screen during the Edit Discharge Hospital step of the Define Regions and Hospitals Wizard.

2.3 Improved suppression support in the Maps of Avoidable Hospital Stays path

Previous versions of MONAHRQ did not support cell suppression in the Maps of Avoidable Hospital Stays path. MONAHRQ 4.0.1 adds support for numerator suppression in this path. Suppression logic for data displayed in the summary tables is as follows:
   1. If the denominator is below the denominator threshold, denominator-based suppression applies. The denominator value is displayed, but all other values (numerators and rates) are suppressed. The suppressed values are denoted by a hyphen.
   2. If the numerator is below the specified numerator threshold AND denominator-based suppression does not apply, numerator-based suppression applies. Rates are displayed but the numerator and denominator values are suppressed. The suppressed values are denoted by a "c". The values in the estimated cost savings columns will display a hyphen.

Suppression is not applied to the maps themselves, which display rate categories.

2.4 Updated ZIP code data

The ZIP code data that supports the hospital selection by proximity to a ZIP code feature has been updated to include more recently established ZIP codes and to improve the location accuracy of some existing ZIP codes. For *standard* ZIP codes the geographic center of the area covered by the ZIP code is considered as the location (longitude and latitude). For *PO Box only* ZIP codes, or *unique* ZIP codes that serve a single large building, the location is considered to be the location of the Post Office that serves those ZIP codes. MONAHRQ does not record the exact location (longitude and latitude) of each hospital, but rather uses the ZIP code of the hospital to determine its location. Due to the inherent accuracy limitation of this technique the single mile distance option has been removed from the choices of distances for hospital selection.

2.5 Support for Customizable Footnotes in the Hospital Utilization and County Rates of Hospital Use paths

There are three footnote messages used in the County Rates and Utilization paths. Previously, they were statically embedded within MONAHRQ's Web site generation logic. These messages have been moved into the Options table within the database to enable customization. Table 1 provides a list of the customization options for footnotes. Detailed instructions on customizing the footnotes can be found in chapter 3 of the MONAHRQ Host User Guide.

Table 1: Footnote Customization Options

Rates Unadjusted Message	**Rates are based on the number of hospital discharges, unadjusted for any population differences.
Utilization Unadjusted Message	**All statistics are unadjusted.
HCUP NIS Message	*Weighted national estimates from HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS), 2009, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), based on data collected by individual States and provided to AHRQ by the States. Total number of weighted discharges in the U.S. based on HCUP NIS = 39,434,956. Statistics based on estimates with a relative standard error (standard error / weighted estimate) greater than 0.30 or with standard error = 0 are not reliable, and are designated with a †.

Note the HTML dagger symbol is used to mark the third footnote so the tail end of that text ending with "†" should not be changed.

3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Operating Systems
- Windows XP
- Windows Server 2003 or higher
- Windows 7 (32- and 64-bit)

Software
- Microsoft .NET Version 4.0
- SQL Server 2005 or later. SQL Server Express 2008 R2 is recommended for large data sets if the Express edition is used.

Disk Space
- MONAHRQ application—150 MB
- Microsoft .NET 4.0—600 MB (1.5 GB for 64-bit systems)
- Microsoft SQL Server Express—600 MB

- MONAHRQ data—Requirements vary depending on the number of discharges you wish to process. About 100 MB is typical, but this can be up to 4GB.

4. INSTALLATION

For detailed instructions on installing the MONAHRQ 4.0.1 software, please refer to the "Installation" chapter of the *MONAHRQ 4.0.1 Host User Guide.*

5. CONTACTS

Should you have any questions, issues, or feedback regarding any aspect of the MONAHRQ project, the MONAHRQ team can be reached by e-mail at monahrq@ahrq.gov.