



Input your data. Output your website.

MONAHRQ[®] 5.0

Release Notes

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INTRODUCTION

MONAHRQ®—My Own Network, powered by AHRQ—is innovative, website-generating software available for free from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). This desktop software enables Host Users from any organization to quickly and easily create a website with understandable, evidence-based health care reports for providers, consumers, and others for use in improving health care safety, quality, and affordability. Organizations that download, create, and host MONAHRQ-generated websites are referred to by the MONAHRQ Project as “Host Users.”

Examples of Host Users include—

- State and local health agencies and public health departments
- Hospital associations, individual hospitals, and hospital systems
- Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
- Community alliances and coalitions, such as Chartered Value Exchanges (CVEs)
- Smaller, regionally focused health plans
- Data organizations such as Regional Health Improvement Organizations (RHIOs) and Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)

Using MONAHRQ for public or private reporting supports AHRQ’s mission to improve the quality, accessibility, safety, efficiency, and cost transparency of health care for all Americans. To produce health care reports, MONAHRQ draws from local hospital inpatient and emergency department (ED) discharge data; evidence-based measure results from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) patient experience survey; and precalculated AHRQ Quality Indicators™ (QIs).

MONAHRQ® 5.0 DESKTOP APPLICATION FEATURES

The MONAHRQ® 5.0 desktop application and generated website are complete redesigns from the 4.1 and earlier versions. The desktop application introduces the concept of storing and managing datasets, reports, measure, and website configurations in libraries. The generated website introduces a new layout and reporting pathways for ease of use by website users. The useful features are described below.

Datasets Library

The Datasets Library contains all of the data input files that the Host User uploads into MONAHRQ. MONAHRQ enables Host Users to upload multiple input files for each dataset type to—

- **Easily manage data:** Host Users can reuse the same data to update an existing website or create a new website instead of reloading the same data each time. New with MONAHRQ 5.0, Host Users can also store multiple versions of the same input data file to cover different time periods. The Dataset wizard provides a seamless import experience, regardless of the type of input data file. With the Dataset wizard, the Host User can add, manage, and delete datasets to keep the website up to date.
- **Define and customize regions and hospitals:** Host Users can manage hospital geographic regions by mapping and creating geographic regions to organize the hospitals on their websites. Host Users can also select the region type (e.g., Health Referral Region or Health Service Area) and the States with whom they will be working

Measures Library

The MONAHRQ Measures Library contains all of the measures supported by MONAHRQ and used for reporting. The Measures Library enables Host Users to—

- **Easily manage MONAHRQ-supported measures:** MONAHRQ 5.0 allows Host Users to customize the information associated with each measure for use in one or more websites. Host Users can also customize how measures appear in the reports by creating and assigning topics and subtopics. This capability will make it easier for a Host User to manage multiple websites.
- **Customize measure names:** Host Users can provide alternate names for a measure, such as a “plain language title” or “clinical title.” Customizing measure names will allow Host Users to create websites that are appropriate for different audiences.
- **Customize measure calculation attributes:** Host Users can customize measure calculation attributes within MONAHRQ. The measures’ calculation attributes available for customization include the Benchmark Value, Numerator and Denominator Suppression Thresholds, and the scale size of the analytic values displayed for the measure results. For example, customizing measure calculation attributes will allow a Host User to choose to report and display unique State benchmark data provided by the Host User, instead of using the mean value automatically calculated by MONAHRQ.
- **Customize measure display attributes:** In MONAHRQ 5.0, Host Users can configure the display attributes for each measure, including the description, the footnotes, the score direction (i.e., whether higher or lower is better), and other attributes. Customizations made by the Host User are reflected in their MONAHRQ-generated website.
- **Edit and create topics:** Host Users can create a new topic if existing topics do not sufficiently classify the measure the Host User is adding. Host Users can also edit topic attributes, attach or assign a subtopic to a parent topic, and delete topics available for the website’s measures.

Reports Library

The Reports Library displays all of the reports available within MONAHRQ. The Reports Library enables Host Users to—

- **Easily manage reports:** MONAHRQ allows Host Users to preview sample reports. Host Users can also create custom reports by modifying the attributes of standard MONAHRQ reports.
- **Add a Hospital Profile Report:** New with MONAHRQ 5.0, Host Users can include a profile report for each individual hospital. The Hospital Profile Report includes the hospital’s address and a map of the location, the website URL, the type of hospital, and the number of beds. In addition, the Host User may choose to include results for measures of patient experience and quality, as well as utilization measures including Medicare charge and payment information for the top 25 Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) at that hospital.

Websites Library

Multiple websites can be created and stored in the Websites Library. Host Users can use the Websites Library to—

- **Easily manage multiple websites:** New with MONAHRQ 5.0, Host Users can create websites faster than previously possible with earlier versions of MONAHRQ. Host Users can save changes made to any MONAHRQ website template, then use that customized template with a different data source to create another website.
- **Customize websites:** Host Users can use the simple Website Creation component to—

- Customize the website design, including the font style, to match an existing website or meet their own branding guidelines
- Customize the “About Us” text on the site to describe their own organization
- Run a dependency check to identify errors that need to be fixed before the website is ready to be published
- Apply more robust search engine optimization strategies to add or update how the web pages are organized for better indexing
- Configure the website to gather information and analytics to understand others’ use of the MONAHRQ-generated website

MONAHRQ-Generated Websites

When Host Users set up their MONAHRQ-generated website, they will need to define the website audience, as MONAHRQ provides audience-specific reports. The audience type defines the type of End User who will use the report tools. The two types of audiences are: consumers (e.g., the general public, consumers, and patients) and all audiences (e.g., providers, policymakers, researchers and analysts, and others who will have more knowledge of medical and statistical concepts and terminology.)

Website Design and Theme

Host Users can customize the look and feel of their MONAHRQ-generated website using the Website Theme section. Host Users can configure the theme, color schemes, and fonts, and upload logos and home page images.

Reporting Paths and Hierarchy

During the website generation process, Host Users will select the reporting paths to display in their websites; the paths will be sourced by the datasets they chose to generate their websites in MONAHRQ. Once the website is generated, End Users can follow two main paths for reporting data: (1) Quality Ratings, and (2) Utilization. Within the Quality Ratings path, the End User can follow two subpaths: (1) Conditions and Topics, and (2) Hospitals. Within the Utilization path, the End User can follow two subpaths: (1) Service Use, and (2) Avoidable Hospital Stays. Each of these subpaths includes further breakdowns as well. These subpaths are available to those audiences to which they are relevant and able to be understood. Within the two main pathways, the End User can further refine and customize their reports by expanding into topic areas, selecting county-level reporting within geographic parameters and usage rates on inpatient medical conditions and procedures.

MONAHRQ Installer

In MONAHRQ 5.0, a wizard-based installer provides an efficient installation process. This installer bundles the prerequisite software components needed to run MONAHRQ and will install the missing components if needed. It also allows updates to be installed to an existing version of MONAHRQ without having to replace or reinstall the entire software application.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Operating Systems:

- Windows® XP 32- and 64-bit
- Windows Server® 2003 or higher 32- and 64-bit

- Windows® 7 32- and 64-bit
- Windows® 8 32- and 64-bit

Disk Space:

- Microsoft® .NET Framework 4.0—850 MB for 32-bit systems, 2 GB for 64-bit systems
- Microsoft® SQL Server® 2008 R2 Express—2 GB for 32-bit and 64-bit systems
- MONAHRQ application—350 MB
- MONAHRQ data—Requirements vary depending on the volume of data regarding hospital discharges and ED treat-and-release records. Approximately 100 MB is typical, but up to 4 GB may be required.
- MONAHRQ-generated web pages—Typically 500 MB but up to 4 GB may be required

Although MONAHRQ can run on most desktop computers, the following specifications are recommended:

- 2 GHz processor speed
- 2 GB of memory

Software Requirements:

- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0.
- Microsoft SQL Server, 2005 or higher. If the Express Edition is used, Microsoft SQL Server Express Edition 2008 R2 is recommended due to its larger database size limit. This software may reside on a remote server.

INSTALLATION

For instructions on installing MONAHRQ® 5.0, please refer to Chapter 2 of the *MONAHRQ® 5.0 Host User Guide*.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONTACTS

Should you have any questions or comments about MONAHRQ, please contact the MONAHRQ® team via email at MONAHRQ@ahrq.gov.