NDNQI: Transforming Data into Quality Care
American Nurses Association

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is a full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation’s 2.9 million registered nurses through its constituent member associations and organizational affiliates. ANA initiated efforts to collect and evaluate nursing-sensitive indicators in the early 1990s and invested in the development of the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators™ (NDNQI®) and new indicators. NDNQI is part of ANA’s National Center for Nursing Quality (NCNQ). Today ANA provides ongoing support for database activities and indicator development.

University of Kansas School of Nursing

University of Kansas School of Nursing administers the NDNQI program and provides ongoing nursing-sensitive indicator consultation and research-based expertise to the NDNQI. The School of Nursing primarily conducts research on clinical and health policy topics in two areas – health behavior and symptom management research, and clinical and organizational systems research.

What is NDNQI?

NDNQI’s mission is to aid the registered nurse in patient safety and quality improvement efforts by providing research-based national comparative data on nursing care and the relationship to patient outcomes.

NDNQI is the only national, nursing quality measurement program which provides hospitals with unit-level performance comparison reports to state, national, and regional percentile distributions. All indicator data are reported at the nursing unit level. NDNQI’s nursing-sensitive indicators reflect the structure, process, and outcomes of nursing care. Currently, NDNQI has over 1,500 participating U.S. hospitals that use NDNQI data to improve patient safety and quality of patient care.
Benefits of NDNQI

Comparisons – NDNQI provides a quarterly information stream that includes national comparison data for facilities like yours. The NDNQI data allow staff nurses and nursing leadership the opportunity to review their data and evaluate nursing performance relative to patient outcomes. Your facility can use the information to establish organizational goals for improvement at the unit level. You can mark your progress in improving the care of patients and the work environment of nurses, avoid costly complications, and assist in marketing the quality of your efforts.

Widely collected data – Patient outcome and nurse staffing data are currently collected on adult and pediatric critical care, step down, medical, surgical, medical/surgical, psychiatric and rehabilitation. RN turnover data are now available for unit types ED, peri-operative, and obstetrics.

Timely reports – Once the data collection period has ended and we have received your facility’s information, you will receive your report, including comparison data and analysis, within six weeks.

Research opportunities – Collaboration has been a key component in the successful growth of NDNQI. Participants can be part of the development process by pilot testing a new indicator and in validity and reliability studies. Researchers can now submit proposals for approval to use NDNQI data through the NDNQI Research Council.

Web-based data entry – NDNQI offers a secure, user-friendly website for member data entry. No software purchase is necessary. XML data files accepted.

Trending – NDNQI offers the ability to trend data over multiple quarters instead of an isolated, and perhaps misleading, snapshot of performance.

RN Survey – NDNQI offers you tools to assist your efforts to address the needs of your staff, improving their work environment as well as retention and recruitment. Program participants have stated that this survey alone is worth the fee.

Training – Access to comprehensive online tutorial's for each indicator, NDNQI liaisons and quarterly conference calls. A quarterly newsletter is also provided to all participating facilities providing NDNQI updates.

Education – In addition to ongoing training on the indicators and the database, a continuing education credit is available from NDNQI training modules including one on pressure ulcer identification, staging, and sourcing.

Publishing – Many participants have published their own outcomes and shared their best practices in various forms.

NDNQI indicators

Many of the NDNQI indicators are National Quality Forum (NQF) endorsed measures and are part of the NQF’s Nursing-Sensitive Measure Set.

NDNQI Fees

The NDNQI fee structure is based on the number of staffed beds in your facility – the same way hospitals are divided into NDNQI comparison groups. This stratified fee structure provides an equitable method of charging for the volume of services that facilities of different sizes receive.

Patient falls
Patient falls with injury
Pressure ulcers:
  Community acquired
  Hospital acquired
  Unit acquired
Skill mix
Nursing hours per patient day
RN Surveys:
  Job Satisfaction
  Practice Environment Scale
RN education & certification
Pediatric pain assessment cycle
Pediatric IV infiltration rate
Psychiatric patient assault rate
Restraints prevalence
Nurse turnover
Healthcare-associated infections:
  Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
  Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)
  Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
Joining NDNQI
1. Complete NDNQI application form.
2. Pay the participation fee.
3. Send in your signed contract.

NDNQI’s Annual RN Survey
The opportunity to conduct the NDNQI web-based RN Survey is one of many benefits of participation that is included in the annual fee. You may choose to survey any or all of your nursing units. The survey is administered annually and there are 3 surveys to choose from.

> RN Survey with the Practice Environment Scale
> RN Survey with Job Satisfaction Scales
> RN Survey with Job Satisfaction Scales – Short Form

Administer the survey, collect data, monitor unit response rates and obtain your report – all electronically – through the web. Use your reports to guide your efforts to provide a satisfying RN work environment essential for successful retention and recruitment.

Implementing NDNQI
Once you have joined:
1. Take web-based tutorials on how to collect and report your facility’s data.
2. Register for the RN Survey.
3. Collect and submit your data.
4. Receive reports on a quarterly basis for the quarterly indicators and annually for the RN Survey.
5. Implement action plans and evaluate their effectiveness.

Reports provide structure, process and outcome indicator data.
Additional NDNQI Services

**Conference** – NDNQI offers an exciting and successful annual national conference where attendees have the opportunity to learn about using outcome indicators from national experts and network with peer hospitals. This is one of the best times to preview the latest research on the nurse staffing affect on patient outcomes, especially for interested hospitals who want to learn more about NDNQI and its benefits. For more information on the NDNQI annual conference, please send your contact information to meetings@ana.org.

**Monographs** – In the NDNQI publications *Transforming Nursing Data into Quality Care: Profiles of Quality Improvement in U.S. Healthcare Facilities* and *Sustained Improvement in Nursing Quality: Hospital Performance in NDNQI Indicators*, participating healthcare facilities who sustained an improvement in a specified indicator, share their NDNQI experiences. In the current publication, the nurses who worked with the data use their own words to recount their improved patient outcomes such as assault, patient falls, pressure ulcers, pain assessment and RN satisfaction. To learn more about the monographs or to purchase them, please go to www.NursesBooks.org.

**Research Council** – Formed to establish a standardized scientific review process for proposals submitted to ANA for access to NDNQI data with the overall goal of advancing the evidence-base on nursing quality. To learn more about the Research Council visit us at www.ncnq.org and select Research & Measurement.
NDNQI Value

Participating in NDNQI is an exceptional value, providing patient and staffing outcomes, valid and reliable research, and data comparisons. In addition to the reports you will receive, NDNQI is always developing new indicators, training options, educational materials and updating reports based on your input annually. Your feedback helps to guide product development and quality improvement efforts.

“We are grateful to have national benchmarks on nursing quality indicators at the unit level”

NDNQI 2009 Customer Survey

“Staff feel empowered by having data on nursing”

NDNQI 2009 Customer Survey

“Wonderful conference and great to network among other nursing executives and NDNQI Site Coordinators”

2010 NDNQI Conference Attendee

“I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and the way it revitalized my passion for going back to work and sharing the information with staff. It’s an excellent reminder of how important NDNQI is!”

2010 NDNQI Conference Attendee

What people are saying about NDNQI

For More Information…
Call 913-588-1691 or visit www.nursingquality.org