

POWER Study Indicator Selection Criteria*

SELECTION CRITERION	DESCRIPTION
Relevance	
Importance/Usefulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The indicator reflects an important health issue or aspect of health system functioning that matters to the health of the population group in question• The indicator assists in monitoring and measuring health system performance over an extended period of time and is meaningful to stakeholders
Amenable to Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The information being collected can be used to inform and influence policy or funding, alter behaviour of health services providers, or increase general understanding in the community in order to improve quality of care and population health
Scientific Soundness	
Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is sufficient scientific evidence to support a link between the performance of an indicator and overall positive outcomes to patients• The indicator measures what is both intended and acceptable to the community (face validity), covers relevant content or domains (content validity), and has predictive power (criterion validity)
Reliability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The same result will be obtained if measurements are repeated under identical conditions
Risk-Adjusted or Stratified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The extent to which non-modifiable influences or factors that differ among groups being compared can be controlled or taken into account when necessary for interpretation
Interpretability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes in the indicator are commonly understood to be good or bad
Comparability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The indicator can be compared over time, to other geographic areas or to other standards/benchmarks
Feasibility	
Precisely Defined and Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The extent to which the measure is standardized with explicit predefined requirements for data collection and calculation of the measure value or score
Data Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data required for the indicator are available and of sufficient quality for the areas and time periods indicated, such that no unreasonable obstacles or constraints exist either on access to information or restrictions on its use
Reliability of Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The data for the indicator are collected in a consistent manner by one or more agencies over time
Equity	
Health Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicator selection considers where gender, socioeconomic and ethnic disparities in health and health care are greatest, and where there are significant gender differences in health determinants
Comprehensiveness	
Continuum of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The indicator selection process seeks to identify health status and health care performance across the continuum of care, from population health to primary and tertiary care

*Developed from a comprehensive review of indicator selection criteria used by other reporting bodies and projects, with specific acknowledgment to the indicator selection criteria developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (<http://www.ncqa.org/tabid/415/Default.aspx>) and those used by the Ontario MOHLTC Health System Score Card.