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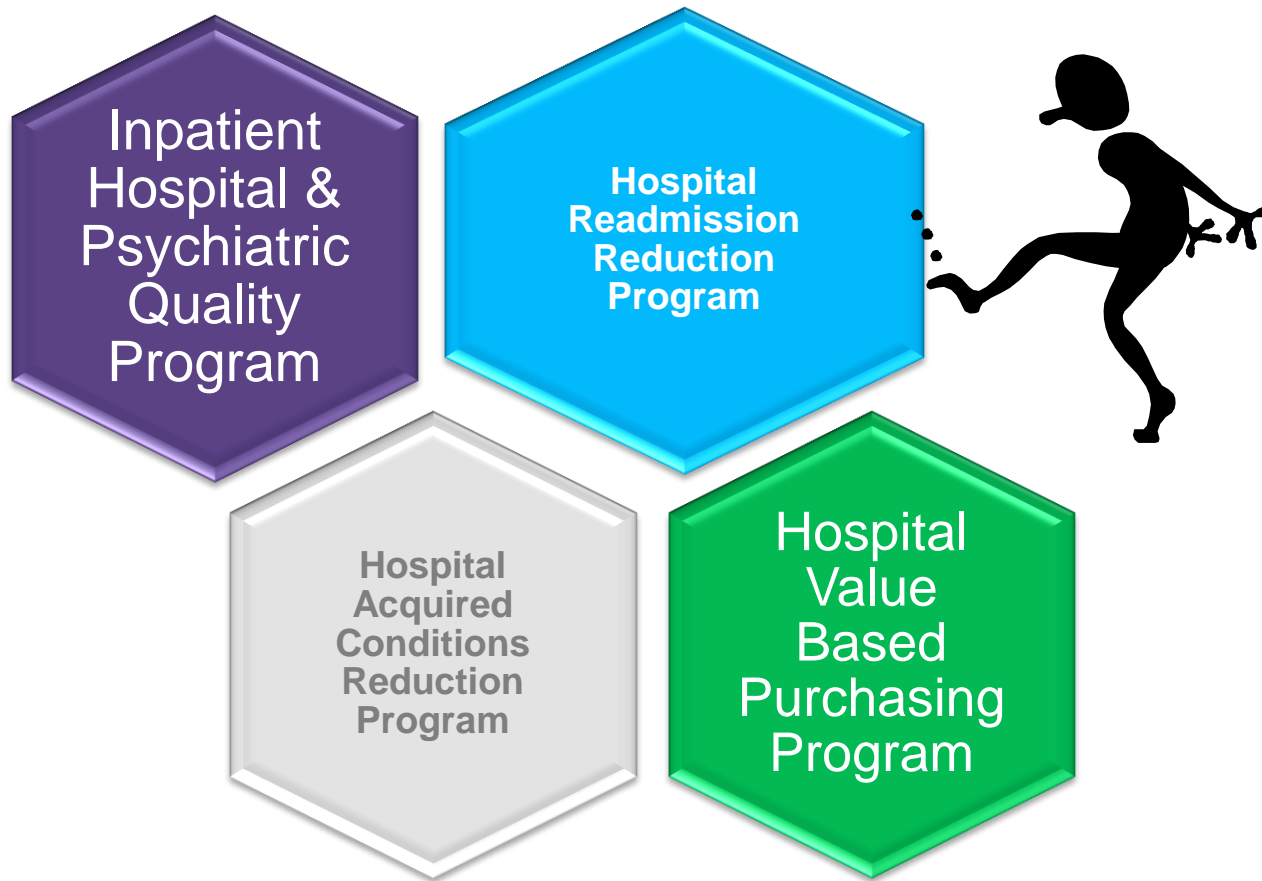
Overview of the FY 2014 IPPS Final Rule

Part 3 of 4: Hospital Readmission Reduction Program



Hospital Readmission Reduction Program

Part 3 of 4 of Review of the IPPS 2014 Final Rule



Hospital Readmission Reduction Program:

Part 3 of 4: A Detailed Review of the Final CMS FY 2014 IPPS Rule



Welcome and Introductions



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VP Research and Market Insights
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Regulatory Changes Impacting Quality Reporting Requirements!

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may contact me directly by sending me an email to
vicky.mahn@xerox.com

Review of
Final IPPS
Rule for
FY 2014
CMS-1599-F
CMS-1455-F
*Posted to
Federal Registry
August 19, 2013*

[http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/
pkg/FR-2013-08-
19/pdf/2013-18956.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-08-19/pdf/2013-18956.pdf)



FEDERAL REGISTER

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Book 2 of 2 Books
Pages 50495–51040

Part II

Department of Health and Human Services

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Parts 412, 413, 414, et al.
Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for
Acute Care Hospitals and the Long Term Care; Hospital Prospective
Payment System and Fiscal Year 2014 Rates; Quality Reporting
Requirements for Specific Providers; Hospital Conditions of Participation;
Payment Policies Related to Patient Status; Final Rule

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Parts 412, 413, 414, 419, 424,
482, 485, and 489

[CMS–1599–F; CMS–1455–F]

RINs 0938–AR53 and 0938–AR73

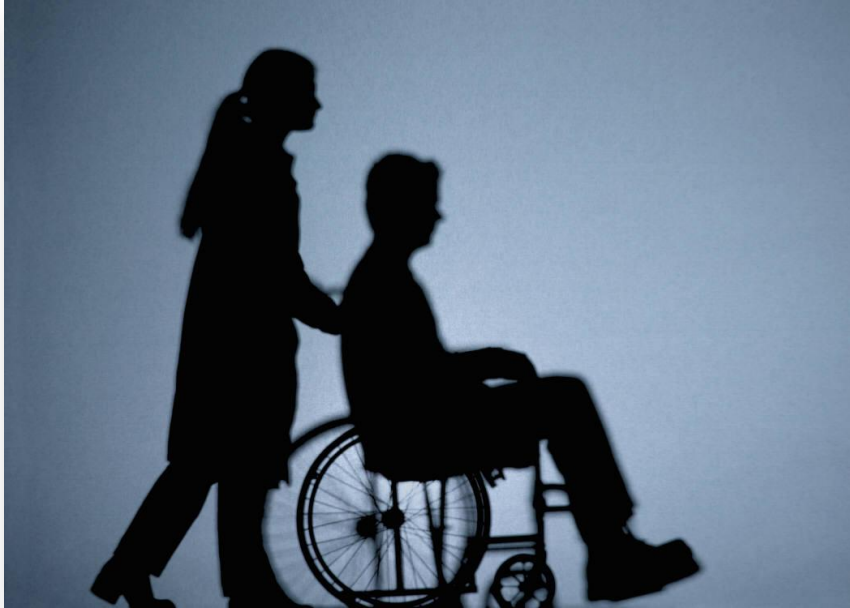
Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient
Prospective Payment Systems for
Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-
Term Care Hospital Prospective
Payment System and Fiscal Year 2014
Rates; Quality Reporting Requirements
for Specific Providers; Hospital
Conditions of Participation; Payment
Policies Related to Patient Status

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Final rules.

Hospital Readmission Reduction Program

Began in FY 2013



- Began with payments for Medicare claims October 1, 2012
- Initial Populations of Acute MI, Pneumonia and Heart Failure
- 30-day Risk-standardized Readmissions (all cause)
- Based on excessive readmission ratios for discharges July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012
- Hospitals financially penalized up to 1% of their Medicare Payments

COPD 30-day All Cause Risk Standardized Readmission Rate

HRR Program beginning with FY 2015

HIQR Program beginning with FY 2014

- ✓ *Acute exacerbation of COPD (4th largest Medicare diagnosis)*
- ✓ Median 30-day readmission rate among Medicare patients in 2008 was **22.0%**.
- ✓ NQF endorsed COPD 30-day All Cause Risk Standardized Readmission Rate (NQF #1891) in March, 2013
- ✓ Similar to Acute MI, Heart Failure and Pneumonia includes only patients ≥ 65 , 30-day post discharge enrollment in Medicare FFS, excludes deaths, transfers to other acute care facilities, patients who leave AMA and planned readmissions
- ✓ Includes Acute Exacerbation of COPD as both a primary diagnosis and Acute Respiratory Failure with COPD as a secondary diagnosis



Elective Total Hip/Knee Arthroplasty 30-day All Cause Risk Standardize Readmission Rate

HRR Program beginning with FY 2015

HIQR Program beginning with FY 2013

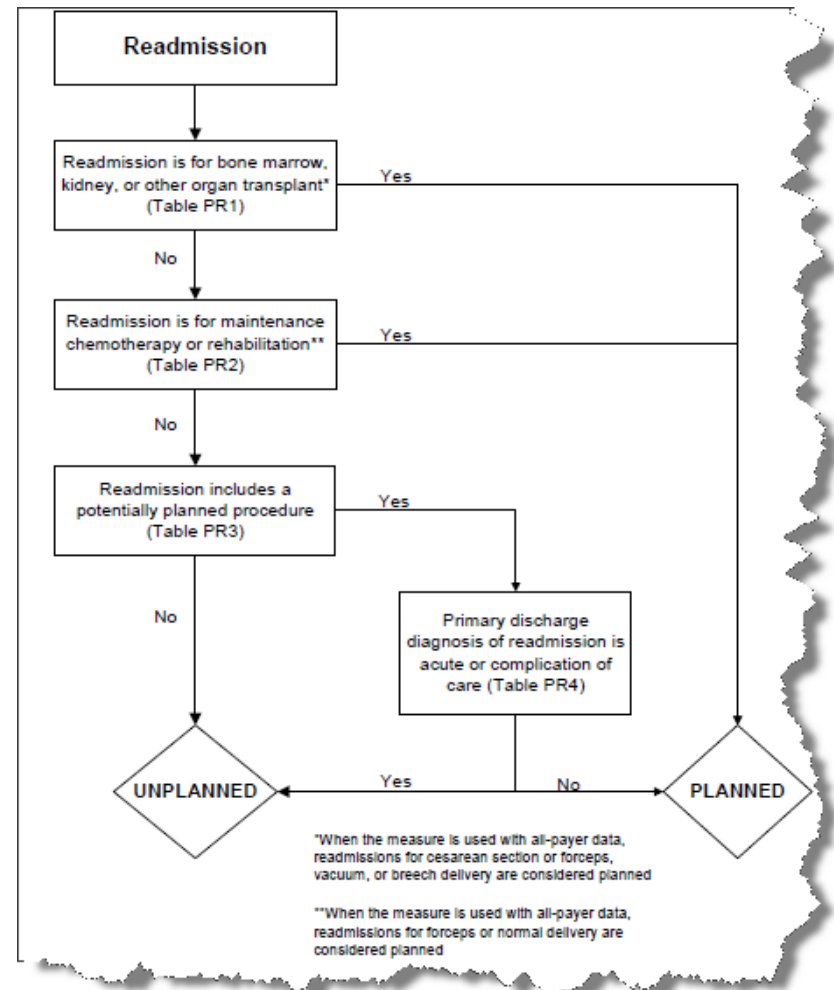


- ✓ *Elective total hip and knee arthroplasty (represents the largest procedural cost in the Medicare Budget).*
- ✓ Median 30-day readmission rate among Medicare patients between 2008 and 2010 was **5.7%**.
- ✓ NQF endorsed Elective Total Hip Arthroplasty/Total Knee Arthroplasty 30-day All Cause Risk Standardized Readmission Rate (NQF #1551) was approved for use in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program in the FY 2013 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule
- ✓ Similar to Acute MI, Heart Failure and Pneumonia includes only patients ≥ 65 , 30-day post discharge enrollment in Medicare FFS, excludes deaths, transfers to other acute care facilities, patients who leave AMA and planned readmissions

Adding Planned Readmission Exclusions to CMS Readmission Methodology Starting in FY 2014

(October 1, 2013 discharges)

- **Planned readmission algorithm** added to all readmission measures to avoid penalizing hospitals for performing scheduled procedures within 30 days of discharge.
- This method also avoids counting unplanned readmissions that occur after a planned readmission, but within 30 days of discharge from the index admission.
- The Planned Readmission Algorithm uses a flow chart and four tables of procedures and conditions to classify readmissions as planned or unplanned.



Acute or Complication Categories Determined by Using AHRQ Diagnoses CCS Codes

Table PR4 – Acute Diagnosis Categories (Version 2.1 – General Population)

| Diagnosis CCS | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 1 | Tuberculosis |
| 2 | Septicemia (except in labor) |
| 3 | Bacterial infection; unspecified site |
| 4 | Mycoses |
| 5 | HIV infection |
| 7 | Viral infection |
| 8 | Other infections; including parasitic |
| 9 | Sexually transmitted infections |
| 54 | Gout and other crystal arthropathies |
| 55 | Fluid and electrolyte disorders |
| 60 | Acute posthemorrhagic anemia |
| 61 | Sickle cell anemia |
| 63 | Diseases of white blood cells |
| 76 | Meningitis (except that caused by bacteria) |
| 77 | Encephalitis (except that caused by bacteria) |
| 78 | Other CNS infection and poliomyelitis |
| 82 | Paralysis |
| 83 | Epilepsy; convulsions |
| 84 | Headache; including migraine |
| 85 | Coma; stupor; and brain damage |
| 87 | Retinal detachments; defects; and degenerations |
| 89 | Blindness and vision defects |
| 90 | Inflammation; infection of eye (except disease) |
| 91 | Other eye disorders |
| 92 | Otitis media and related conditions |
| 93 | Conditions associated with dizziness |
| 100 | Acute myocardial infarction (with or without ST-segment elevation) |
| 102 | Nonspecific chest pain |
| 104 | Other and ill-defined heart diseases |
| 107 | Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation |
| 109 | Acute cerebrovascular disease |
| 112 | Transient cerebral ischemia |
| 116 | Aortic and peripheral arterial aneurysms |
| 118 | Phlebitis; thrombophlebitis and thromboses |
| 120 | Hemorrhoids |
| 122 | Pneumonia (except that caused by bacteria) |
| 123 | Influenza |
| 124 | Acute and chronic tonsillitis |
| 125 | Acute bronchitis |

| Diagnosis CCS | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 126 | Other upper respiratory infections |
| 127 | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease |
| 128 | Asthma |
| 129 | Aspiration pneumonia; food or foreign body |
| 130 | Pleurisy; pneumothorax; pulmonary embolism |
| 131 | Respiratory failure; insufficiency |
| 135 | Intestinal infection |
| 137 | Diseases of mouth; excluding dental |
| 139 | Gastrointestinal ulcer (except duodenal) |
| 140 | Gastritis and duodenitis |
| 142 | Appendicitis and other appendicitis |
| 145 | Intestinal obstruction without hernia |
| 146 | Diverticulosis and diverticulitis |
| 148 | Peritonitis and intestinal abscess |
| 153 | Gastrointestinal hemorrhage |
| 154 | Noninfectious gastroenteritis |
| 157 | Acute and unspecified renal failure |
| 159 | Urinary tract infections |
| 165 | Inflammatory conditions of male genitalia |
| 168 | Inflammatory diseases of female genitalia |
| 172 | Ovarian cyst |
| 197 | Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections |
| 198 | Other inflammatory conditions of skin |
| 225 | Joint disorders and dislocations |
| 226 | Fracture of neck of femur (hip) |
| 227 | Spinal cord injury |
| 228 | Skull and face fractures |
| 229 | Fracture of upper limb |
| 230 | Fracture of lower limb |
| 232 | Sprains and strains |
| 233 | Intracranial injury |
| 234 | Crushing injury or internal injury |
| 235 | Open wounds of head; neck; and face |
| 237 | Complication of device; implant; or prosthetic |
| 238 | Complications of surgical procedure |
| 239 | Superficial injury; contusion |
| 240 | Burns |
| 241 | Poisoning by psychotropic agents |
| 242 | Poisoning by other medications |
| 243 | Poisoning by alcohol |

| Diagnosis CCS | Description |
|--|--|
| 244 | Other injuries and conditions due to external causes |
| 245 | Syncope |
| 246 | Fever of unknown origin |
| 247 | Lymphadenitis |
| 249 | Shock |
| 250 | Nausea and vomiting |
| 251 | Abdominal pain |
| 252 | Malaise and fatigue |
| 253 | Allergic reactions |
| 259 | Residual codes; unclassified |
| 650 | Adjustment disorders |
| 651 | Anxiety disorders |
| 652 | Attention-deficit, conduct, and disruptive disorders |
| 653 | Delirium, dementia, and amnesia |
| 656 | Impulse control disorders, NEC |
| 658 | Personality disorders |
| 660 | Alcohol-related disorders |
| 661 | Substance-related disorders |
| 662 | Suicide and intentional self-inflicted injury |
| 663 | Screening and history of mental health |
| 670 | Miscellaneous disorders |
| ICD-9 codes | Description |
| Acute ICD-9 codes within Dx CCS 97: Peri-, endo-, and myocardial | |
| 03282 | Diphtheritic myocarditis |
| 03640 | Meningococcal carditis nos |
| 03641 | Meningococcal pericarditis |
| 03642 | Meningococcal endocarditis |
| 03643 | Meningococcal myocarditis |
| 07420 | Coxsackie carditis nos |
| 07421 | Coxsackie pericarditis |
| 07422 | Coxsackie endocarditis |
| 07423 | Coxsackie myocarditis |
| 11281 | Candidal endocarditis |
| 11503 | Histoplasma capsulatum pericarditis |
| 11504 | Histoplasma capsulatum endocarditis |
| 11513 | Histoplasma duboisii pericarditis |
| 11514 | Histoplasma duboisii endocarditis |
| 11593 | Histoplasmosis pericarditis |
| 11594 | Histoplasmosis endocarditis |
| 1303 | Toxoplasma myocarditis |
| 3910 | Acute rheumatic pericarditis |
| 3911 | Acute rheumatic endocarditis |

| Diagnosis CCS | Description |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3912 | Acute rheumatic myocarditis |
| 3918 | Acute rheumatic heart disease nec |
| 3919 | Acute rheumatic heart disease nos |
| 3920 | Rheumatic chorea w heart involvement |
| 3980 | Rheumatic myocarditis |
| 39890 | Rheumatic heart disease nos |
| 39899 | Rheumatic heart disease nec |
| 4200 | Acute pericarditis in other disease |
| 42090 | Acute pericarditis nos |
| 42091 | Acute idiopathic pericarditis |
| 42099 | Acute pericarditis nec |
| 4210 | Acute/subacute bacterial endocarditis |
| 4211 | Acute endocarditis in other diseases |
| 4219 | Acute/subacute endocarditis nos |
| 4220 | Acute myocarditis in other diseases |
| 42290 | Acute myocarditis nos |
| 42291 | Idiopathic myocarditis |
| 42292 | Septic myocarditis |
| 42293 | Toxic myocarditis |
| 42299 | Acute myocarditis nec |
| 4230 | Hemopericardium |
| 4231 | Adhesive pericarditis |
| 4232 | Constrictive pericarditis |
| 4233 | Cardiomyopathy |
| 4290 | Cardiomyopathy |
| Acute ICD-9 codes within Dx CCS 106: Dysrhythmia | |
| 4260 | Atrial fibrillation |
| 42610 | Atrial fibrillation |
| 42611 | Atrial fibrillation |
| 42612 | Atrial fibrillation |
| 42613 | Atrial fibrillation |
| 4262 | Left bundle branch block |
| 4263 | Left bundle branch block |
| 4264 | Right bundle branch block |
| 42650 | Bundled branch block |
| 42651 | Right bundle branch block |
| 42652 | Right bundle branch block |
| 42653 | Bilateral bundle branch block |
| 42654 | Trifascicular bundle branch block |
| 4266 | Other bundle branch block |
| 4267 | Arrhythmia |
| 42681 | Low |

| Diagnosis CCS | Description |
|--|--|
| 42682 | Long QT syndrome |
| 4269 | Conduction disorder nos |
| Acute ICD-9 codes within Dx CCS 106: Dysrhythmia | |
| 4272 | Paroxysmal tachycardia nos |
| 7850 | Tachycardia nos |
| 42789 | Cardiac dysrhythmias nec |
| 4279 | Cardiac dysrhythmias nos |
| 42769 | Premature beats nec |
| Acute ICD-9 codes within Dx CCS 108: Congestive heart failure; nonhypertensive | |
| 39891 | Rheumatic heart failure |
| 4280 | Congestive heart failure |
| 4281 | Left heart failure |
| 42820 | Unspecified systolic heart failure |
| 42821 | Acute systolic heart failure |
| 42823 | Acute on chronic systolic heart failure |
| 42830 | Unspecified diastolic heart failure |
| 42831 | Acute diastolic heart failure |
| 42833 | Acute on chronic diastolic heart failure |
| 42840 | Unspec combined syst & dias heart failure |
| 42841 | Acute combined systolic & diastolic heart failure |
| 42843 | Acute on chronic combined systolic & diastolic heart failure |
| 4289 | Heart failure nos |

AHRQ Clinical Classification Software (CCS)

| Table 2: Examples of single-level CCS procedure categories | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| Description | ICD-9-CM procedure Codes used to map | CCS category |
| Heart valve procedures | 3500 3501 3502 3503 3504 3510 3511 3512 3513 3514 3520 3521 3522 3523 3524 3525 3526 3527 3528 3596 3599 | 43 |
| Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) | 3610 3611 3612 3613 3614 3615 3616 3617 3619 362 363 3631 3632 | 44 |



- Developed by AHRQ as part of the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)
- Categorization scheme for ICD-9 diagnose and procedure codes
- Clusters over 14,000 diagnosis codes and 3,900 procedure codes into a manageable number of clinically meaningful categories
 - Single level diagnosis CCS: 285 mutually exclusive categories
 - Single level procedure CCS: 231 mutually exclusive categories
- Useful in research and statistical analysis
- Files downloaded and used with SAS or SPSS to convert ICD-9 codes to CCS codes
- Mental health populations have unique CCS-Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA) tools
- See <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs/CCSUsersGuide.pdf>

Planned Readmission Exclusions

Always Planned

- Transplants (bone, kidney, organ)
- Cesarean section
- Normal pregnancy and/or delivery
- Forceps, vacuum and breech delivery
- Maintenance Chemotherapy
- Rehabilitation

Potentially Planned

When discharge diagnosis of readmission is NOT acute or a complication of care

- Laminectomy, spinal fusion
- Knee and hip replacement
- Limb amputation
- Thyroidectomy and endocrine surgery
- Lung resections
- Hernia repairs
- Oophorectomy, hysterectomy
- TURP, prostatectomy
- Colorectal and gastrectomy surgery
- Cardiac surgery (CABG, Valve Repair)
- Wound and burn debridement
- Laryngectomy, tracheostomy revisions
- **More!**

Impact on National Readmission Rates when Planned Readmissions are Excluded


This modified measurement technique reduced hospital wide 30-day all cause readmission rates from **16.5% to 16.0%** in the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 data set

| | <u>Before</u> | <u>After</u> |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Acute MI | 19.2% | 18.2% |
| Heart Failure | 24.6% | 23.1% |
| Pneumonia | 18.5% | 17.8% |



Table V.G.1. Comparison of Original AMI/HF/PN Measures Finalized in FY 2013 Relative to Proposed Revised AMI/HF/PN Measures for FY 2014
(Based on July 008 through June 2011 Discharges from 3,025 Hospitals – p. 478)

For More Information on Readmission Measure Methodology


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Claims-Based Measures

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Indicators
- Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HACs)
- Mortality Measures
- Readmission Measures
 - Measure Methodology
 - Hospital-Specific Reports
 - Resources
 - Reducing Readmissions
- Published Literature
- Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) Mortality Measures
- Complication Measures
- Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary (MSPB) Measure

Measure Methodology Reports

Readmission Measures

The methods used in the development of the 30-day risk-standardized readmission measures, as well as in subsequent annual measure updates and quality assurance activities, are described in several technical reports below. For more detailed justifications of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS's) methodological choices in the development and maintenance of the readmission measures, refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document.

2013 AMI, HF, PN, HWR, and THA/TKA Readmission Measures Maintenance

CMS reviews and updates the readmission measures annually. The reports below, formerly called the Measure Maintenance Technical Reports, describe the measures maintenance activities conducted in preparation for the most recent public reporting cycle.

- [2013 Condition-Based Measure Updates and Specifications: Acute Myocardial Infarction \(AMI\), Heart Failure \(HF\), and Pneumonia 30-day Risk Standardized Readmission Measures](#), PDF-1.0 MB (04/11/13)
- [2013 Measure Updates and Specifications: Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure](#), PDF-849 KB (04/11/13)
- [2013 Measure Updates and Specifications: Elective Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty \(TKA\) Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned 30-day Risk Standardized Readmission Measure](#), PDF-619 MB (04/11/13)

Previous AMI, HF, PN Readmission Measures Maintenance

Annual updates of the readmission measures began in 2009. The following reports document the progression of the measure methodology as a result of the annual measure maintenance.

- [2012 Measures Maintenance Technical Report: Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measures](#), PDF-745 KB (05/01/12)
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- [2010 Measures Maintenance Technical Report: Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measures](#), PDF-719 KB (04/09/10)
- [2009 Measures Maintenance Technical Report: Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measures](#), PDF (08/14/09)

Readmission Measure Development (original methodology reports)

The CMS 30-day risk-standardized readmission measures were developed by teams of clinical and statistical experts from Yale and Harvard universities, using a methodology that has been published in peer-reviewed literature.

The measure methodology is described in the following reports:

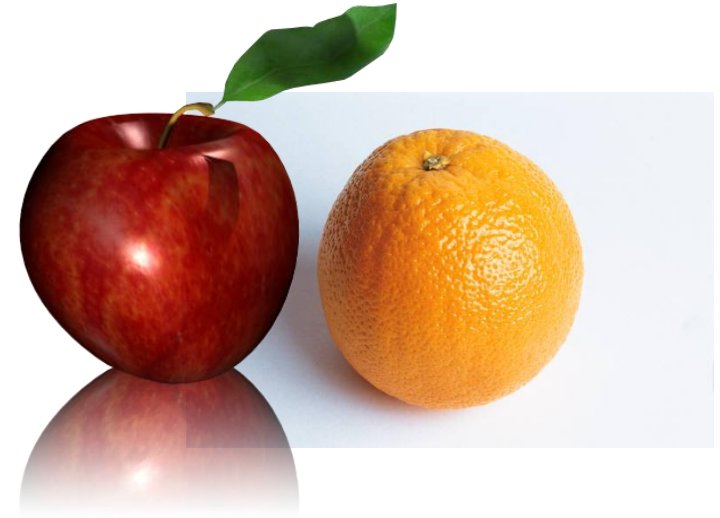
- [Hospital-Wide Readmission Technical Report](#), PDF-2.3 MB (08/16/12)
- [THA/TKA Readmission Technical Report](#), PDF-1.1 MB (08/16/12)

About Readmission Measures

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#), PDF
- [Fact Sheet](#), PDF

CMS Readmission Measures

- Calculated from Medicare Part A and B Claims Data
- Include readmissions back to ANY facility not just YOUR facility
- Individual hospitals and vendors can't replicate exactly
- Complex risk model
- Getting more complex!



Note: *The Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program includes only subsection(d) hospitals and hospitals paid under section 1814(b)(3), while the IQR calculations include non-Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) hospitals such as critical access, territories, and cancer hospitals, as well as Veterans Health Administration (VA) hospitals. Consequently, your hospital's results for AMI, HF, and PN may differ from those calculated for IQR because they are calculated using a different set of hospitals.*

CMS Readmission Measures

All derived from Medicare Claims

Inclusions for Index Admissions

- Medicare FFS Part A and B for 12 months prior to index admission
- VA beneficiaries (no 12 month enrollment requirement applies)
- Aged 65 years or over
- Admissions that were discharged and readmitted to same hospital on the same day with DIFFERENT diagnoses

Exclusions for Index Admissions

- Patients discharged and readmitted to same hospital on the same day with SAME diagnoses *(the readmit will be combined with the previous index admission and considered to be one single encounter for measure purposes)*
- In-hospital death
- Discharged against medical advise
- Less than 30 days post-discharge enrollment in Medicare FFS program
- Transferred to another acute care facility *(admissions to another hospital within 1 day of discharge are considered transfers regardless of discharge disposition)*
- Acute MI patients admitted and discharged on same day

Multiple Readmissions

- If a patient has more than one admission within 30-days, only the first one is counted as a readmission.
- No hospitalization will be counted as both a readmission and an index admission within the same measure.
- However, because the cohorts for the various readmission measure populations are determined independently, a readmission in one measure may qualify as an index admission in another CMS readmission measure.



Variables Used to Adjust Data in CMS Risk Standardized Readmission Rates

Variables Used

- Age
 - Gender
 - Cardiovascular disease*
 - Comorbidities*
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renal Disease• COPD, Asthma, Pneumonia• Fluid & electrolyte imbalance• Urinary Tract Infection• Psychiatric Disorders• Liver or biliary disease• Drug or alcohol abuse• Peptic Ulcer Disease• Decubitus Ulcers• Anemia | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infection• Cancer• Diabetes• Malnutrition• Dementia• Stroke• Paralysis• Sepsis• Shock |
|---|---|

Variables NOT used

- Admission source
- Discharge disposition
- Socioeconomic status
- Language barriers
- Insurance status
- Post discharge support structure
- Functional and cognitive status
- Health literacy
- Access to primary care

** Each clinical population, including the hospital-wide 30-day all cause readmission measure has slightly different variables for cardiovascular disease and comorbidities*

Fractional Blobs Really??



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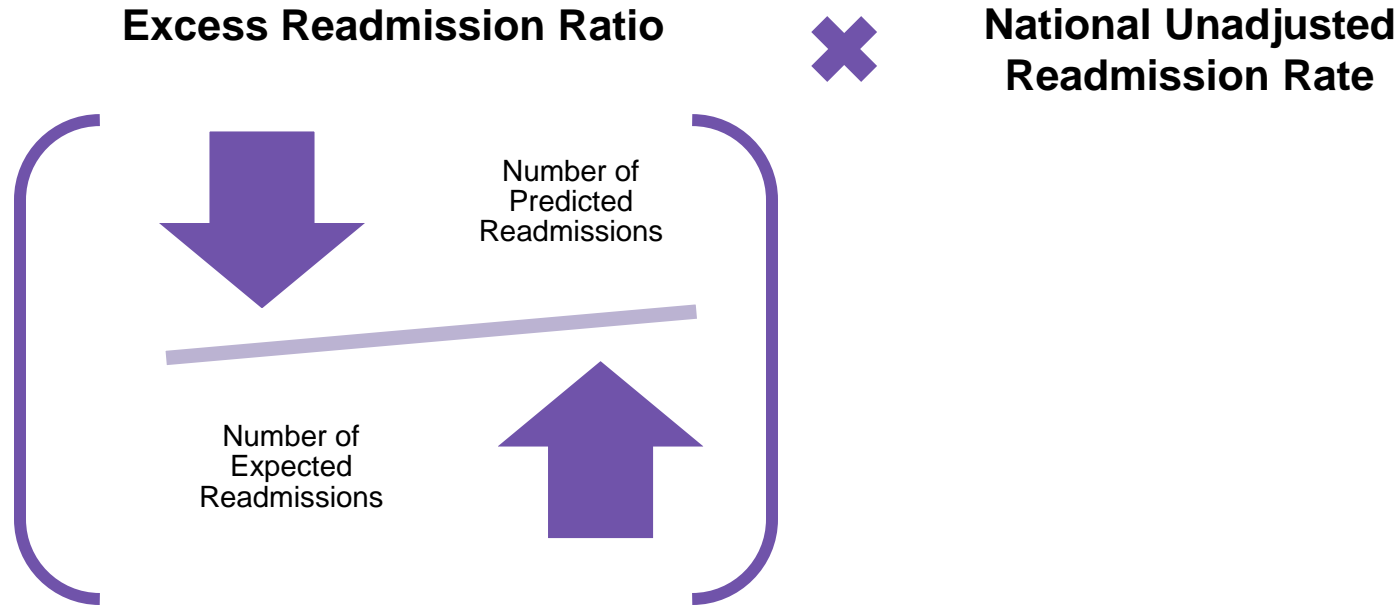
About Readmission Measures

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#), PDF
- [Fact Sheet](#), PDF

The Statistical Methods used by CMS for risk adjustment are documented here:

www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/staticpages/for-professionals/ooc/statistical-methods.aspx

Risk-Standardized Readmission Rates



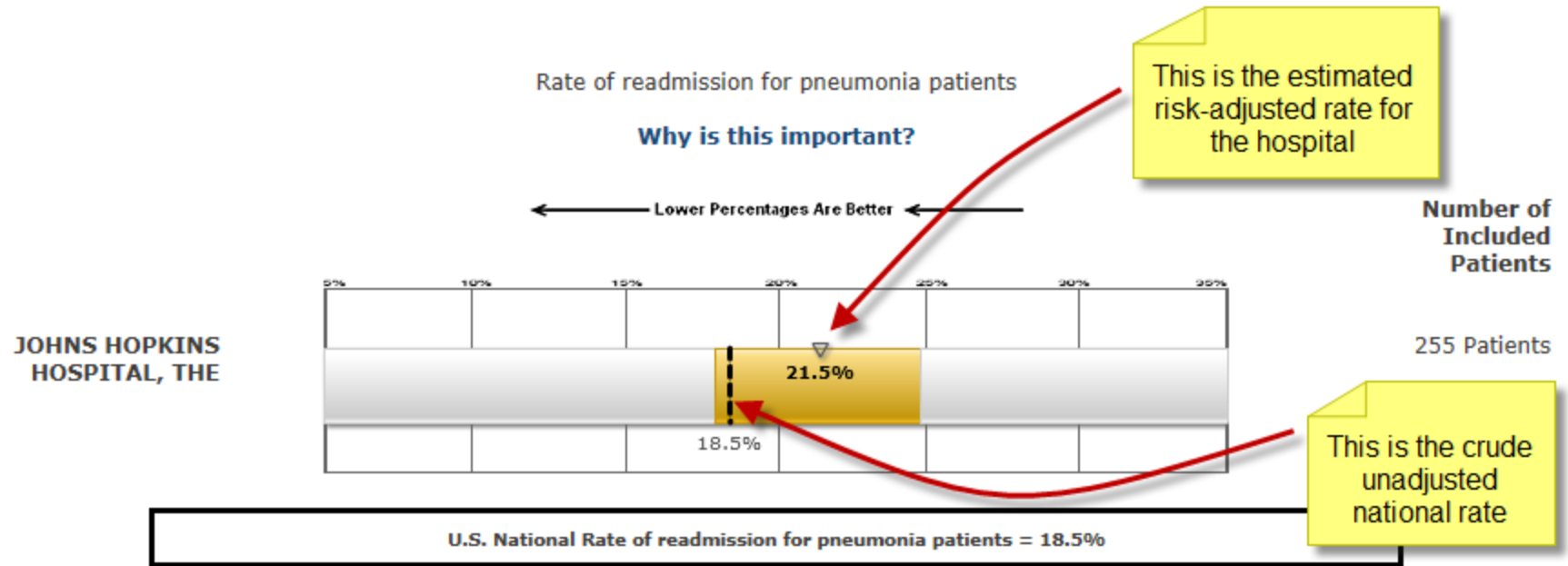
Excess Readmission Ratio < 1 = lower-than expected readmission rates (or better quality)

Predicted = The number of readmissions predicted based on the hospital's performance with its observed case mix. Predicted values are based on hierarchical logistic regression models that include variables about the patient, such as age, gender, comorbid diseases and indicators of patient frailty.

Expected = The number of readmissions expected on the basis of the nation's performance with that hospital's case mix.

Interpreting QNET Reports

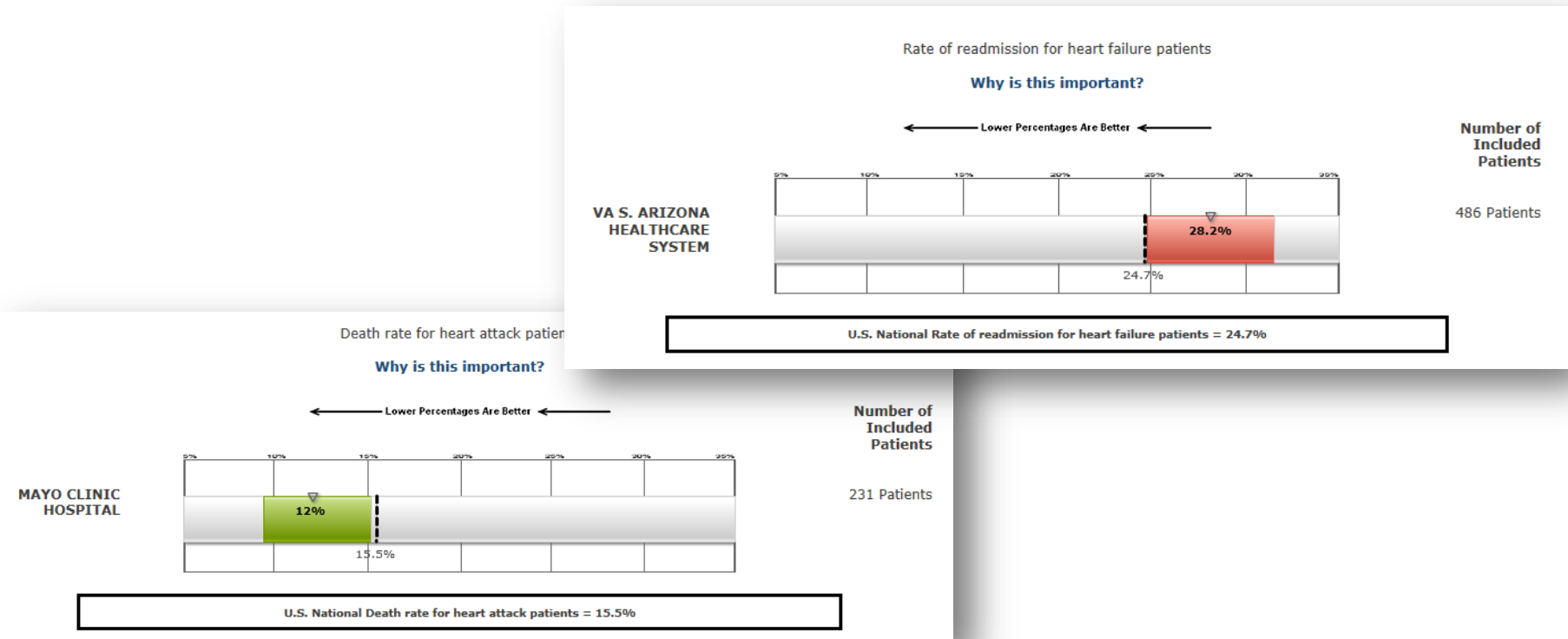
<http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/>



- Interval performance with overlap on either side of the crude unadjusted national rate are reported as “same as” other hospitals

Interpreting QNET Reports

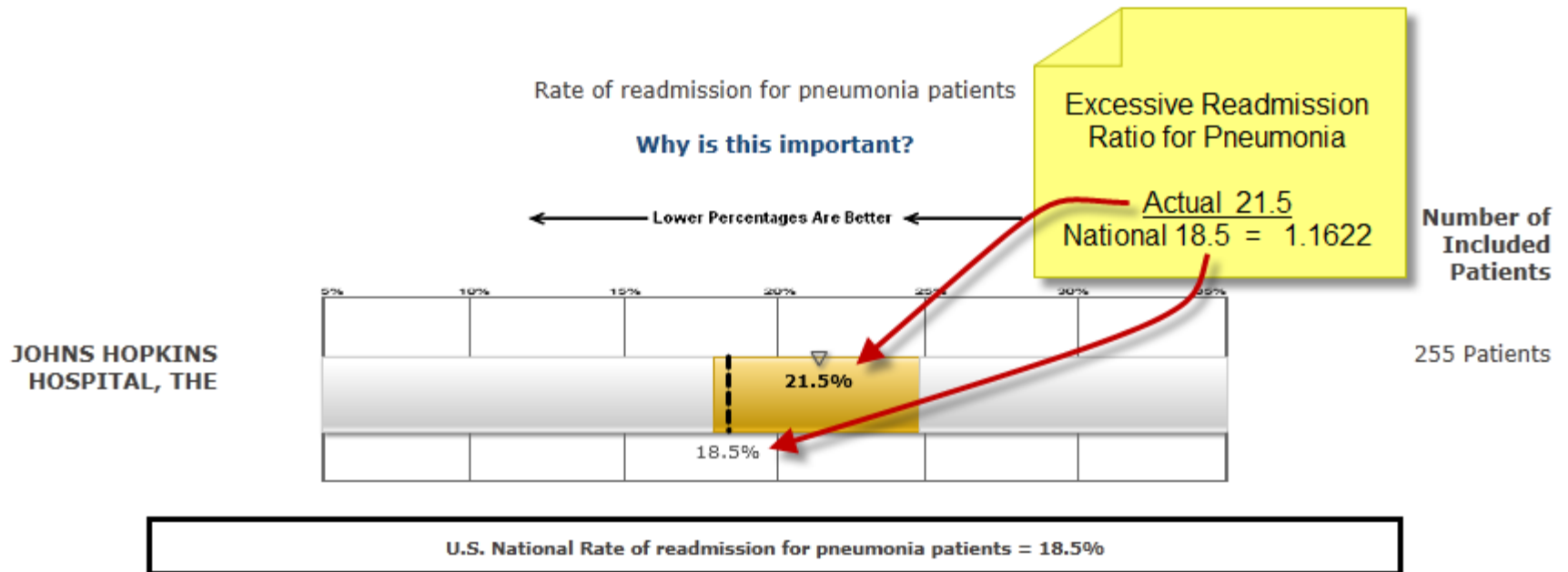
<http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/>



- Interval performance completely to the right of the national crude unadjusted national rate are “worse than” other hospitals
- Interval performance completely to the left of the national crude unadjusted national rate are “better than” other hospitals

Interpreting QNET Reports


<http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/>



- Interval performance with overlap on either side of the crude unadjusted national rate are reported as “same as” other hospitals
- Excessive Readmission Ratio calculated for FY 2014 based on discharged July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012



Excess Readmission Ratio Replication Instructions


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Readmissions Reduction
Hospital-Specific Reports
Resources
Questions and Comments

Resources

Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program

[Timeline](#), PDF-17 KB (06/20/12) – a general timeline for the implementation of the proposed FY 2013 Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program

[Frequently Asked Questions](#), PDF-69 KB (06/20/12) – a list of questions and answers regarding the calculation and public reporting of the CMS 30-day Risk-Standardized Readmission measures for the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.

[Excess Readmission Ratio Replication Instructions](#), PDF-60 KB (06/20/12) – instructions on how to replicate Excess Readmission Ratios. This document was included with each hospital's Hospital-Specific Report (HSR) and discharge-level data file along with an example of how to do the replication in Excel. If your hospital did not receive an HSR and would like the example of how to do the replication instructions, contact cms_readmissions_reduction@mathematica-mpr.com.

[Fiscal Year 2013 Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program Measure Methodology Report](#), PDF-237 KB (6/20/12) – a detailed explanation of the methodology for the 30-day Risk-Standardized Readmission measures for the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.

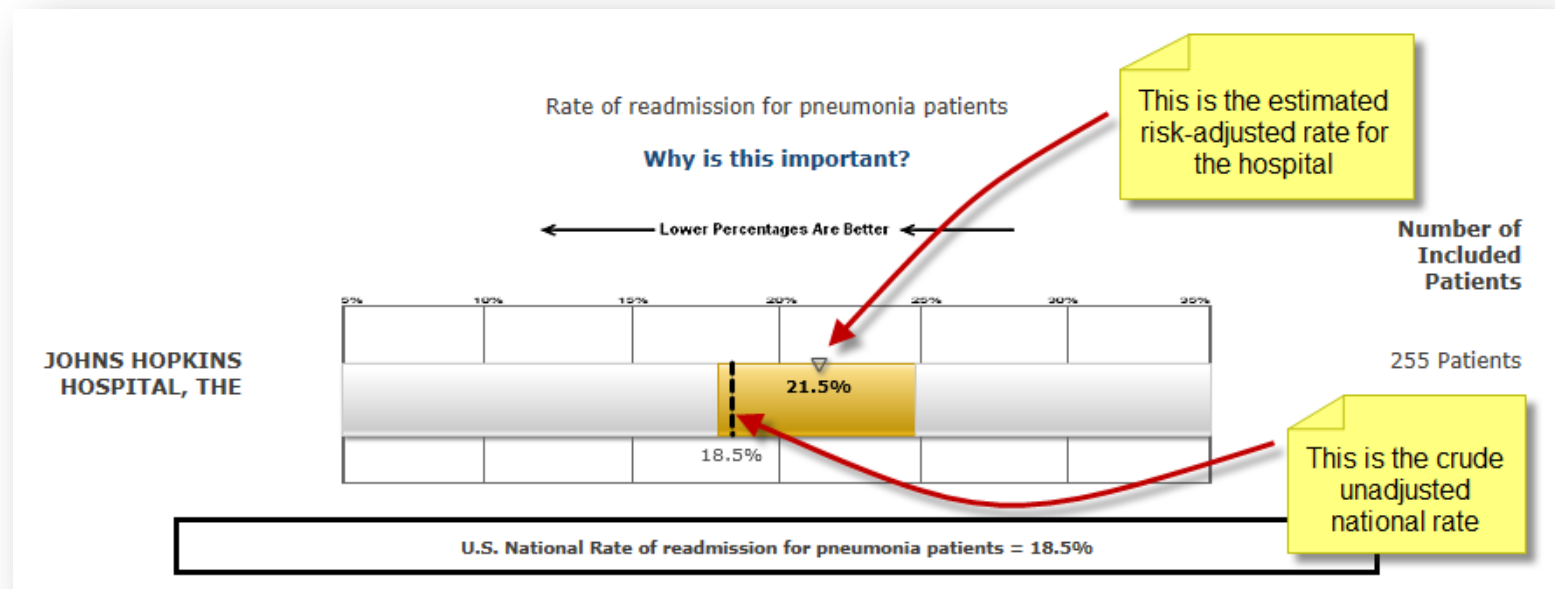
Use the [Hospital General Information table](#) to locate provider ID numbers (CMS Certification Numbers, or CCNs) and names of hospitals. With provider IDs from the discharge-level data file accompanying the hospital-specific report (HSR), this table can also be used to determine where a patient was readmitted.

Risk-standardized Readmission Rates

Excess Readmission Ratio

National Unadjusted
Readmission Rate

$$1.162 \times 18.5 = 21.5$$



Calculating Financial Impact of Hospital Readmission Reduction Program



- Hospital Readmission Reduction Program began with October 1, 2012 discharges for initial populations Acute MI, Heart Failure & Pneumonia
- 2,217 hospitals will be assessed a penalty ranging from 0.01 to 1 percent of their Medicare revenue in FY 2013 (cap is increasing to 2% in 2014 and 3% in 2015)
- CMS reports reduction of > 70,000 readmissions in 2012 (19% to 17.2%)
- FY 2013 projected savings of approximately \$280 to 300 million (or 0.3 percent) of total Medicare IPPS operating payments
- FY 2014 projects approximately \$175 million (0.2 percent) reduction in payment to hospitals

Calculating Financial Impact for Your Hospital's Performance in the Readmission Reduction Program

**Hospital's Base Operating
DRG Amount**

*(before any adjustments made by
Value-based purchasing)*

x

**Adjustment Factor
determined by the higher of
Two Values**

***Hospital
Specific
Adjustment
Factor***



***Floor Adjustment
Factor***

FY 2013 0.9900

FY 2014 0.9800

FY 2015 0.9700

*The GREATER value of the two becomes
your hospital's adjustment factor for any given fiscal year*

Steps to Calculate Your Hospital's Adjustment Factor

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 1 - \left[\frac{\text{Aggregate payments for excess readmissions}}{\text{Aggregate payments for all discharges}} \right]$$

Step 1: Calculate aggregate payments for all discharges

(Current Base DRG payment x Medicare Part A Volume
(July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011))

...keep in mind this volume represents over 3 years July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 and is applicable to FY 2013 Payment determination

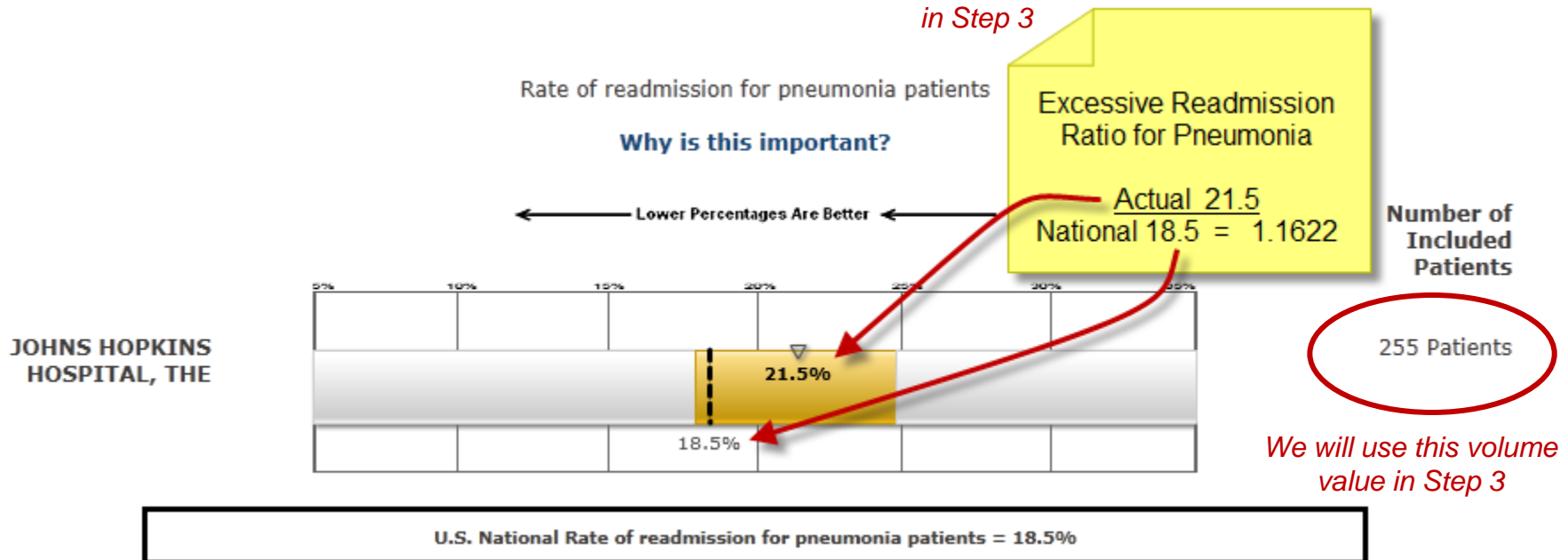
$$\text{\$7830} \times 27,601 = \text{\$216,115,830}$$

Steps to Calculate Your Hospital's Adjustment Factor

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 1 - \left[\frac{\text{Aggregate payments for excess readmissions}}{\text{Aggregate payments for all discharges}} \right]$$

Step 2: Go to Hospital Compare to obtain population volumes and calculate your hospital's excessive readmission ratio (ERR) for Acute MI, Heart Failure and Pneumonia

We will use this ERR value in Step 3



Steps to Calculate Your Hospital's Adjustment Factor

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 1 - \left[\frac{\text{Aggregate payments for excess readmissions}}{\text{Aggregate payments for all discharges}} \right]$$

Step 3: Calculate aggregate payments for excessive readmissions

(Base DRG payment x Acute MI volume) x (ERR - 1) =
(\$7830 x 415) x [(20.6 Hospital / 19.7 National) - 1] = \$148,500 in Excess Payments

We got the ERR values in Step 2

(Base DRG payment x Heart Failure volume) x (ERR - 1) =
(\$7830 x 673) x [(25.6 Hospital / 24.7 National) - 1] = \$191,813 in Excess Payments

< 1 = NO EXCESS PAYMENTS

(Base DRG payment x Pneumonia volume) x (ERR - 1) =
(\$7830 x 255) x [(21.5 Hospital / 18.5 National) - 1] = \$323,857 in Excess Payments

Only include Populations with Excess Payments in Total Calculation

Aggregate payments for excess readmissions = \$664,170 Total Excess Payment

*You have to have zero excess payments in **all three** populations in order to avoid a reduction in your hospital's adjustment factor*

Revised Step 3 to Calculate Your Hospital's Adjustment Factor for FY 2015

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 1 - \left(\frac{\text{Aggregate payments for excess readmissions}}{\text{Aggregate payments for all discharges}} \right)$$

Step 3: Calculate aggregate payments for excessive readmissions

(Base DRG payment x Acute MI volume) x (ERR – 1) =
(\$7830 x 415) x [(20.6 Hospital /19.7 National) – 1] = \$148,500 in Excess Payments

**< 1 = NO EXCESS
PAYMENTS**

(Base DRG payment x Heart Failure volume) x (ERR – 1) =
(\$7830 x 673) x [(25.6 Hospital /24.7 National) – 1] = \$191,813 in Excess Payments

(Base DRG payment x Pneumonia volume) x (ERR -1) =
(\$7830 x 255) x [(21.5 Hospital /18.5 National) – 1] = \$323,857 in Excess Payments

(Base DRG payment x COPD volume) x (ERR – 1) =
(\$7830 x ____) x [(____ Hospital /22.0 National) – 1] = \$_____ in Excess Payments

(Base DRG payment x TKA/THA volume) x (ERR -1) =
(\$7830 x ____) x [(____ Hospital /5.7 National) – 1] = \$_____ in Excess Payments

*You have to have zero
in all **FIVE** populations
in order to avoid a
reduction in your
adjustment factor*

Steps to Calculate Your Hospital's Adjustment Factor

Step 4: Plug in your numbers

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 1 - \left[\frac{\text{Aggregate payments for excess readmissions}}{\text{Aggregate payments for all discharges}} \right]$$

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 1 - \left[\frac{\$ 664,170 \text{ from step 3}}{\$ 216,115,830 \text{ from step 1}} \right]$$

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = 0.9693$$

Final Step to Calculating Your Hospital's Adjustment Factor for the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program

Step 5: Compare your hospital's adjustment factor to the floor adjustment factor for the selected fiscal year. The larger value becomes your hospital's adjustment value!

Floor adjustment set at 0.9900 for FY 2013, 0.9800 for FY 2014, and 0.9700 for FY 2015 and subsequent fiscal years

**Hospital's Base Operating
DRG Amount**

*(before any adjustments made by
Value-based purchasing)*

x

**Adjustment Factor determined by
Hospital's Readmission Rates**

Ratio = 0.9693
Floor Adjustment = .9900

*Use the largest of
the two values*

\$7830 x .9900 = Reduced Base DRG Payment to \$7752 in FY 2013

\$7830 x .9800 = Reduced Base DRG Payment to \$7673 in FY 2014

*Meaning an overall payment reduction of \$78 in FY 2013 for each Medicare claim.
In FY 2014 this same performance would result in an overall payment reduction of \$157*

Readmission Penalties for FY 2013 Payments are Publicly Available at

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2013/August/02/readmission-penalties-medicare-hospitals-year-two.aspx>

Source: Kaiser Health News analysis of data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

| CMS Certification Number (CCN) | FY 2014 Readmissions Adjustment Factor | Name | City | State | County | FY2013 Readmission Penalty | FY 2014 Readmission Penalty | Change 2013-4 | 2014 Penalty |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|---------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 10036 | 0.9967 | ANDALUSIA REGIONAL HOSPITAL | ANDALUSIA | ALABAMA | COVINGTON | 0.59% | 0.33% | -0.26% | Penalty |
| 10079 | 1 | ATHENS-LIMESTONE HOSPITAL | ATHENS | ALABAMA | LIMESTONE | 0.04% | 0.00% | -0.04% | No Penalty |
| 10169 | 0.9892 | ATMORE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | ATMORE | ALABAMA | ESCAMBIA | 0.95% | 1.08% | 0.13% | Penalty |
| 10149 | 0.9988 | BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER EAST | MONTGOMERY | ALABAMA | MONTGOMERY | 0.36% | 0.12% | -0.24% | Penalty |
| 10023 | 0.9973 | BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER SOUTH | MONTGOMERY | ALABAMA | MONTGOMERY | 0.75% | 0.27% | -0.48% | Penalty |
| 10058 | 0.9995 | BIBB MEDICAL CENTER | CENTREVILLE | ALABAMA | BIBB | 0.00% | 0.05% | 0.05% | Penalty |
| 10139 | 0.9996 | BROOKWOOD MEDICAL CENTER | BIRMINGHAM | ALABAMA | JEFFERSON | 0.00% | 0.04% | 0.04% | Penalty |
| 10112 | 0.9968 | BRYAN W WHITFIELD MEM HOSP INC | DEMOPOLIS | ALABAMA | MARENGO | 0.28% | 0.32% | 0.04% | Penalty |
| 10110 | 0.9979 | BULLOCK COUNTY HOSPITAL | UNION SPRINGS | ALABAMA | BULLOCK | 0.23% | 0.21% | -0.02% | Penalty |
| 10018 | 1 | CALLAHAN EYE FOUNDATION HOSPITAL | BIRMINGHAM | ALABAMA | JEFFERSON | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | No Penalty |
| 10022 | 0.9986 | CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER | CENTRE | ALABAMA | CHEROKEE | 0.31% | 0.14% | -0.17% | Penalty |
| 10043 | 0.9961 | CHILTON MEDICAL CENTER | CLANTON | ALABAMA | CHILTON | 0.07% | 0.39% | 0.32% | Penalty |
| 10101 | 0.9999 | CITIZENS BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER | TALLADEGA | ALABAMA | TALLADEGA | 0.00% | 0.01% | 0.01% | Penalty |
| 10073 | 0.996 | CLAY COUNTY HOSPITAL | ASHLAND | ALABAMA | CLAY | 0.26% | 0.40% | 0.14% | Penalty |
| 10034 | 0.9944 | COMMUNITY HOSPITAL INC | TALLASSEE | ALABAMA | ELMORE | 0.04% | 0.56% | 0.52% | Penalty |
| 10137 | 1 | COOPER GREEN MERCY HOSPITAL | BIRMINGHAM | ALABAMA | JEFFERSON | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | No Penalty |
| 10164 | 0.9978 | COOSA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER | SYLACAUGA | ALABAMA | TALLADEGA | 0.58% | 0.22% | -0.36% | Penalty |
| 10008 | 1 | CRENSHAW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | LUVERNE | ALABAMA | CRENSHAW | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | No Penalty |
| 10131 | 0.9996 | CRESTWOOD MEDICAL CENTER | HUNTSVILLE | ALABAMA | MADISON | 0.02% | 0.04% | 0.02% | Penalty |
| 10035 | 0.9984 | CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | CULLMAN | ALABAMA | CULLMAN | 0.03% | 0.16% | 0.13% | Penalty |
| 10092 | 0.9957 | D C H REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | TUSCALOOSA | ALABAMA | TUSCALOOSA | 0.30% | 0.43% | 0.13% | Penalty |
| 10099 | 0.9939 | D W MCMILLAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | BREWTON | ALABAMA | ESCAMBIA | 0.29% | 0.61% | 0.32% | Penalty |
| 10021 | 1 | DALE MEDICAL CENTER | OZARK | ALABAMA | DALE | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | No Penalty |
| 10085 | 0.9999 | DECATUR GENERAL HOSPITAL | DECATUR | ALABAMA | MORGAN | 0.31% | 0.01% | -0.30% | Penalty |
| 10012 | 0.9969 | DEKALB REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | FORT PAYNE | ALABAMA | DE KALB | 0.28% | 0.31% | 0.03% | Penalty |



Hospital-Specific Reports

QualityNet Sign in to My QualityNet (formerly QNet Exchange)

Home **My QualityNet** **Help**

Hospitals - Inpatient ▾ Hospitals - Outpatient ▾ Physician Offices ▾ ASCs ▾ ESRD ▾ Quality Improvement ▾

Claims-Based Measures

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Indicators

Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HACs)

Mortality Measures

Readmission Measures

• Measure Methodology

• Hospital-Specific Reports

• Resources

• Reducing Readmissions

• Published Literature

Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVPB) Mortality Measures

Complication Measures

Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary (MSPB) Measure

Hospital-Specific Reports

Readmission Measures

The Hospital Specific Reports (HSRs) provide hospitals with their detailed measure results along with state and national results. The HSRs will be available to hospital staff who are registered QualityNet users and who are assigned the QualityNet roles:

- Hospital Reporting Feedback-Inpatient role — required to receive the report
- File Exchange & Search role — required to download the report from My QualityNet

If you need assistance downloading your HSR from your secure My QualityNet inbox, if your hospital did not receive an HSR from My QualityNet and you would like to know why, or if you would like to register for My QualityNet, contact HSRrequest@iaqio.sdps.org. Provide the name of your hospital and your hospital's CMS Certification Number (CCN).

July 2013 Public Reporting

While the preview period starts on April 11th, hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program will receive a detailed HSR with hospital data via the secure My QualityNet site beginning on **April 18th, 2013**.

- [AMI, HF, PN, THA/TKA Readmission Mock Hospital-Specific Report \(HSR\) \(2009-2012 data\)](#), XLSX-57 KB (04/11/13) - a sample 2013 AMI, HF, PN, and THA/TKA readmission measures HSR using simulated data.
- [HWR Mock Hospital-Specific Report \(HSR\) \(2011-2012 data\)](#), XLSX-57 KB (04/11/13) - a sample 2013 HWR readmission measures HSR using simulated data.

Instructions for the use of Hospital-Specific Reports (HSRs) are provided in the file below.

- [Description of Hospital IQR Program HSR - April 2013](#), PDF-445 KB (04/11/13)

AMI, HF, PN Readmission Previous Public Reporting

The following are archives of mock HSRs used in previous public reporting cycles.

- [AMI, HF, and PN July 2012 \(2008-2011 data\) Mock HSR](#), PDF-464 KB (05/01/12)
- [Hospital-Specific Report Supplementary Information Packet](#), PDF-334 KB
- [Instructions for Discharge-Level Data File](#), PDF-101 KB
- [Readmission, Discharge-Level Data File](#), PDF-107 KB

About Readmission Measures

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#), PDF
- [Fact Sheet](#), PDF

- Go to qualitynet.org for your hospital's HSR workbook
- Preview period started April 18, 2013
- Must be a QNET administrator to download into your secure inbox

Hospital-Specific Reports

Your hospital's performance



Table I.1: Your Hospital's Performance on 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission for AMI, HF, PN, and THA/TKA

Table I.1: Your Hospital's Performance on 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission for AMI, HF, PN, and THA/TKA
HOSPITAL NAME
July 2009 through June 2012

| Items Available on Hospital Compare | AMI 30-Day Readmission | HF 30-Day Readmission | PN 30-Day Readmission | THA/TKA 30-Day Readmission |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Your Hospital's Comparative Performance | Number of Cases Too Small* | No Different than U.S. National Rate | Worse than U.S. National Rate | No Different than U.S. National Rate |
| Total Number of Eligible Discharges (Denominator) at Your Hospital | 23 | 26 | 25 | 27 |
| RSRR at Your Hospital | 19.8% | 24.3% | 22.0% | 6.3% |
| Lower Limit of 95% Interval Estimate | 15.8% | 20.0% | 18.5% | 4.0% |
| Upper Limit of 95% Interval Estimate | 23.8% | 28.6% | 25.5% | 8.6% |
| Crude Readmission Rate (Numerator/Denominator) in the U.S. | 18.3% | 23.0% | 17.6% | 5.4% |
| Additional Performance Information | AMI 30-Day Readmission | HF 30-Day Readmission | PN 30-Day Readmission | THA/TKA 30-Day Readmission |
| Total Number of Unplanned 30-Day Readmissions (Numerator) at Your Hospital | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Crude Readmission Rate (Numerator/Denominator) at Your Hospital | 17.4% | 23.1% | | |
| Average RSRR in Your State | 20.5% | 25.1% | | |
| Total Number of Unplanned 30-Day Readmissions (Numerator) in Your State | 95 | 405 | | |
| Number of Eligible Discharges (Denominator) in Your State | 527 | 1,632 | | |
| Crude Readmission Rate (Numerator/Denominator) in Your State | 18.0% | 24.8% | | |
| Total Number of Unplanned 30-Day Readmissions (Numerator) in the U.S. | 93,966 | 291,063 | | |
| Number of Eligible Discharges (Denominator) in the U.S. | 513,331 | 1,262,826 | | |

*Number of cases too small (fewer than 25) to reliably tell how well the hospital is performing. Rate RSRR = Risk-Standardized Readmission Rate. The RSRR presented for the state is the weighted hospitals' RSRRs in the state.
N/A = No data are available from the hospital for this measure.

Table II.2: National and State Performance Categories for the HWR Measure

Table II.2: National and State Performance Categories for the HWR Measure
July 2011 through June 2012

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Of the Total Number of U.S. Hospitals: | 4,809 |
| Number that Performed Better than U.S. National Rate | 304 |
| Number that Performed No Different than U.S. National Rate | 3,983 |
| Number that Performed Worse than U.S. National Rate | 364 |
| Number of Cases Too Small | 158 |
| Of the Total Number of Hospitals in Your State: | 20 |
| Number that Performed Better than U.S. National Rate | 0 |
| Number that Performed No Different than U.S. National Rate | 19 |
| Number that Performed Worse than U.S. National Rate | 1 |
| Number of Cases Too Small | 0 |

Table II.3: Discharge-Level Information for the Hospital-Wide Readmission Measure

Table II.3: Discharge-Level Information for the Hospital-Wide Readmission Measure
HOSPITAL NAME
July 2011 through June 2012

This file contains MOCK data except for national results. In your hospital's own HSR EMAIL THE REAL HSR FILES OR ANY OF THEIR CONTENTS BECAUSE THEY C IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION. When referring to these documents, use ID Number

| ID Number | Provider ID | Measure | Specialty Cohort | HICNO | Medical Record Number | Beneficiary DOB |
|-----------|-------------|---------|------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 999999 | HWR | Medicine | 123456789A | A001 | 07/07/1921 |
| 2 | 999999 | HWR | Medicine | 123456789B | A002 | 03/26/1935 |
| 3 | 999999 | HWR | Medicine | 123456789C | A003 | 09/30/1941 |
| 4 | 999999 | HWR | Cardiovascular | 123456789D | A004 | 02/10/1934 |
| 5 | 999999 | HWR | Cardiovascular | 123456789E | A005 | 12/10/1924 |
| 6 | 999999 | HWR | Medicine | 123456789F | A006 | 05/03/1943 |
| 7 | 999999 | HWR | Medicine | 123456789G | A007 | 08/28/1933 |

*To locate provider ID numbers (CMS Certification Numbers, or CCNs) and names: Information table, which can be found here: <https://data.medicare.gov/dataset/Hospitals>

National and State Comparison



Patient Detail for Readmissions



Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbooks

Available to public at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HospitalQualityInits/Downloads/MedicareHospitalQualityChartbook2012.pdf>

- ✓ Regional variation
- ✓ Racial disparities
- ✓ Reasons for readmissions
- ✓ Proportion by Medicare
- ✓ Small hospital data
- ✓ Large hospital data
- ✓ Measure methodology



Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbook 2012

Performance Report on Outcome Measures



Prepared by Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation
Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation

September 2012

Are Readmission Rates Associated with Public Reporting?

Public reporting is not associated with a reduction in readmission rates...

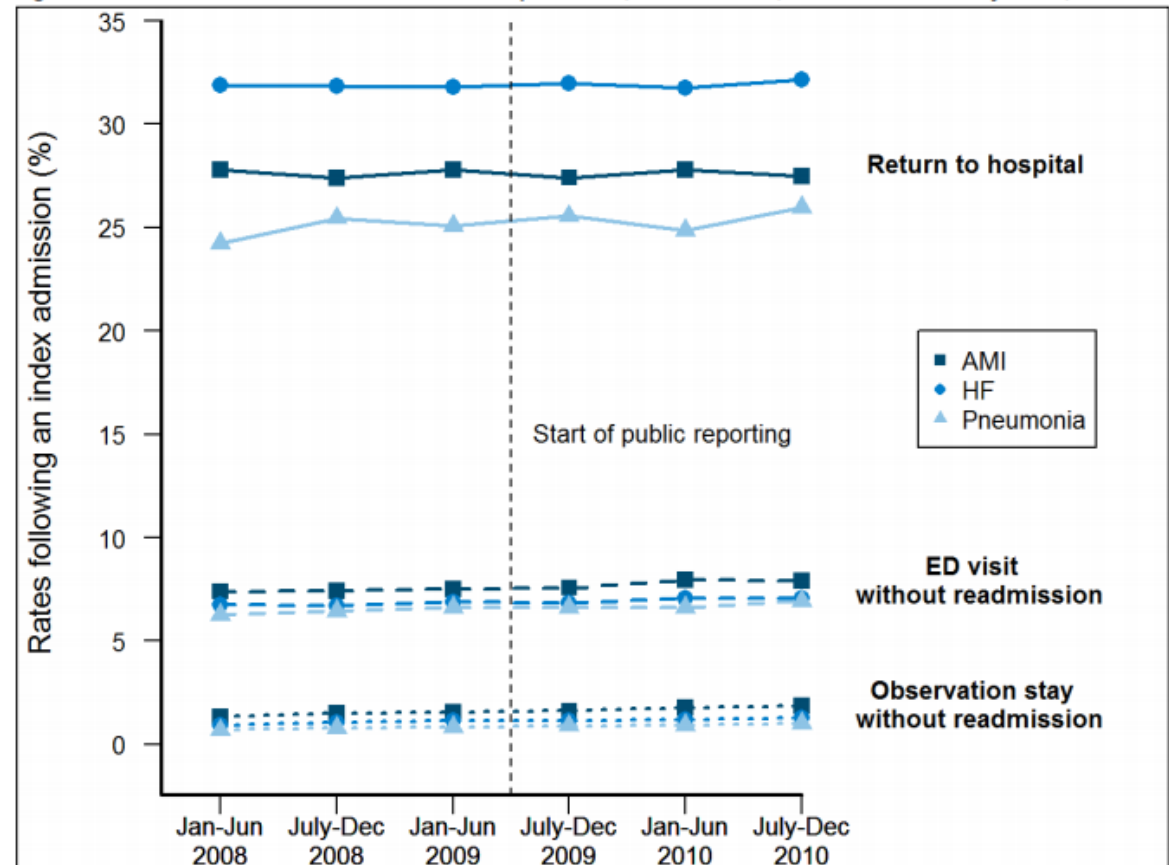


RETURNS TO THE HOSPITAL

AMI, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia

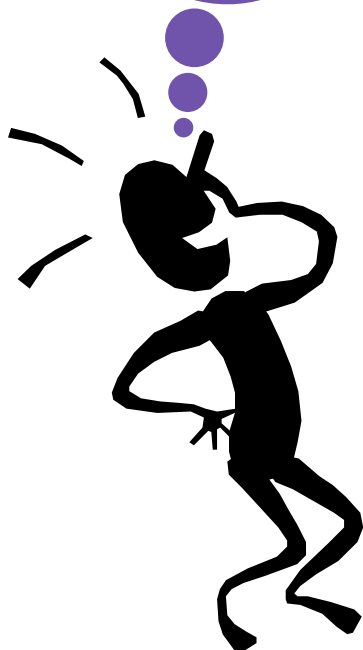
Did the start of public reporting impact return-to-hospital rates after hospitalizations for AMI, heart failure, and pneumonia?

Figure A.26. Trend in Median Overall Return-to-Hospital Rates, ED Visit Rates, and Observation Stay Rates, 2008-2010



Observation Stays On The Rise

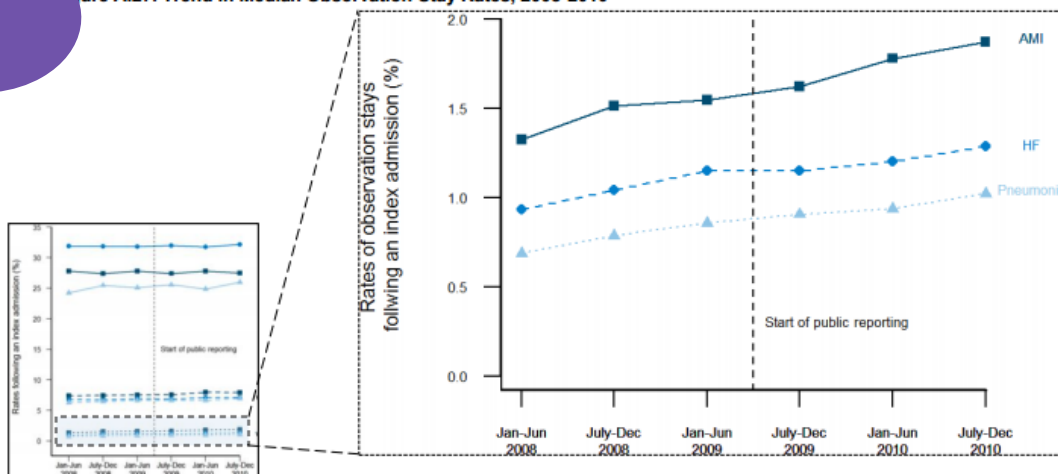
Looks like we're just readmitting patients as observation status!



AMI, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia

Did the use of observation stays after hospitalization for AMI, heart failure, and pneumonia change with the start of public reporting?

Figure A.27. Trend in Median Observation Stay Rates, 2008-2010



Observation stays are a subset of return-to-hospital events that have recently garnered significant media attention.⁵ CMS defines observation stays as services furnished by a hospital which are reasonable and necessary to determine the need for a possible inpatient admission.⁶ CMS currently does not count these events as outcomes in the publicly reported readmission measures. Although CMS has noted an overall increase in observation stay utilization in recent years,⁷ observation stay trends related to hospitalization for AMI, heart failure, and pneumonia have not been specifically examined. There appears to be a slight increase in the number of observation stays without readmission over the past three years following a hospitalization for AMI, heart failure, or pneumonia. However, this increase seems to have begun prior to public reporting.

Return-to-hospital rates after hospitalizations for AMI, heart failure, and pneumonia were stable from 2008 to 2010. Public reporting is not associated with a change in return-to-hospital rates.

Unlike return-to-hospital rates, rates of observation stays after hospitalizations for AMI, heart failure, and pneumonia increased by 0.5%, 0.4%, and 0.3% respectively between 2008 and 2010. The start of public reporting in July 2009 is not associated with a change in observation stay utilization.

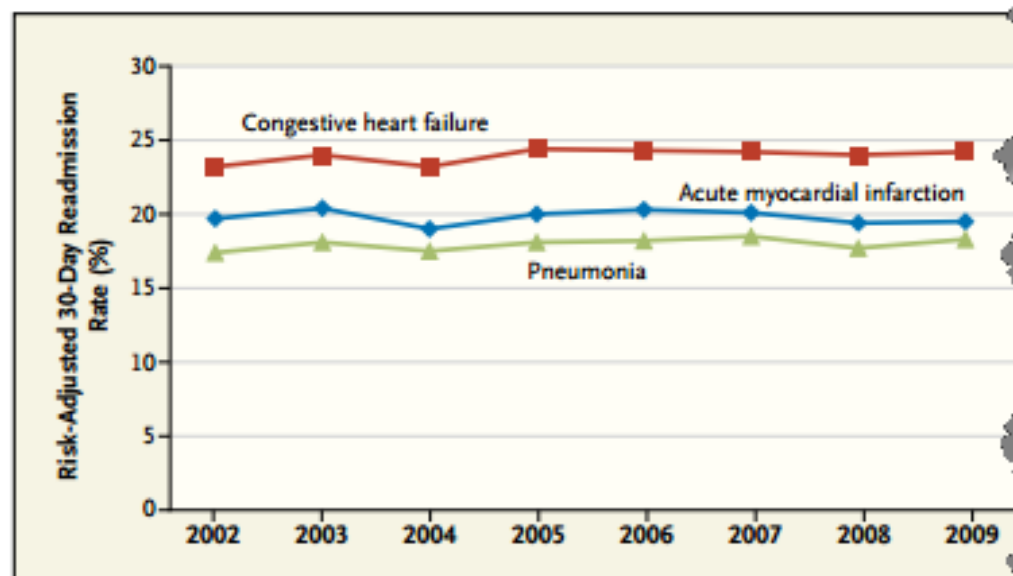
Thirty-Day Readmissions — Truth and Consequences

Karen E. Joynt, M.D., M.P.H., and Ashish K. Jha, M.D., M.P.H.

Reducing hospital readmission rates has captured the imagination of U.S. policymakers because readmissions are common and costly and their rates vary — and at least in theory, a reasonable fraction of readmissions should be preventable. Policymakers therefore believe that reducing readmission rates represents a unique opportunity to simultaneously improve care and reduce costs. As part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Congress directed the Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services (CMS) to penalize hospitals with “worse than expected” 30-day readmission rates. This part of the law has stimulated hospitals, professional societies, and independent orga-

First, the metric itself is problematic: only a small proportion of readmissions at 30 days after initial discharge are probably preventable, and much of what drives hospital readmission rates are



National Trends in 30-Day Readmission Rates, 2002–2009.

Rates are authors' calculations based on Medicare data.

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Downloaded from nejm.org at UNIVERSITY OF

Conn

Source: Joynt, K. and Jha, A. (2012). Thirty-Day Readmissions – Truth and Consequences. *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 366:15, 1366-1368.

Critics to CMS 30-Day Readmission Reduction Initiatives

1. Only a small proportion of 30-day readmissions are probably preventable
2. Much of what drives hospital readmission rates are patient and community-level factors outside of the hospital's control e.g. mental illness, poor social support and poverty
3. Readmission rates have weak signaling value for identifying high-quality hospitals
 - No clear link between readmission rates and quality of care
 - Higher readmission rates can be the result of low mortality rates or good access to hospital care
4. Hospitals are expending so much energy on readmissions they may forgo other important quality improvement efforts
5. Readmissions 3 to 7 days after discharge are much more under the hospital's control than 30-day readmissions
6. Financial penalties for high readmission rates dwarf the penalties for higher mortality rates and unsafe care

Source: Joynt, K. and Jha, A. (2012). Thirty-Day Readmissions – Truth and Consequences. New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 366:15, 1366-1368.

Readmission Methodology Matters

Thirty-Day Readmissions — Truth and Consequences

Karen E. Joynt, M.D., M.P.H., and Ashish K. Jha, M.D., M.P.H.

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Medicaid Services (CMS) to penalize hospitals with “worse than expected” 30-day readmission rates. This part of the law has stimulated hospitals, professional societies, and independent organizations to invest substantial resources in finding and implementing solutions for the “readmissions problem.”

Although a focus on readmissions may have good face validity, we believe that policymakers’ emphasis on 30-day readmissions is misguided, for three reasons.

First, the metric itself is problematic: only a small proportion of readmissions at 30 days after initial discharge are probably preventable, and much of what drives hospital readmission rates are patient- and community-level factors that are well outside the hospital’s control. Furthermore, it is unclear whether readmissions always reflect poor quality: high readmission rates can be the result of low mortality rates or good access to hospital care. Second, although improving discharge

27% of readmission are preventable

- **12%** were deemed preventable in studies that used **clinical data**
- **59%** were deemed preventable in studies that used only **administrative data**

Total number of readmissions vary substantially among hospitals, but the rate of preventable readmissions does not

Readmission Rates Show Positive Correlation to Volume and Mortality Rates

Free Preview



PRINT



E-MAIL



DOWNLOAD CITATION



PERMISSION

SPECIAL ARTICLE

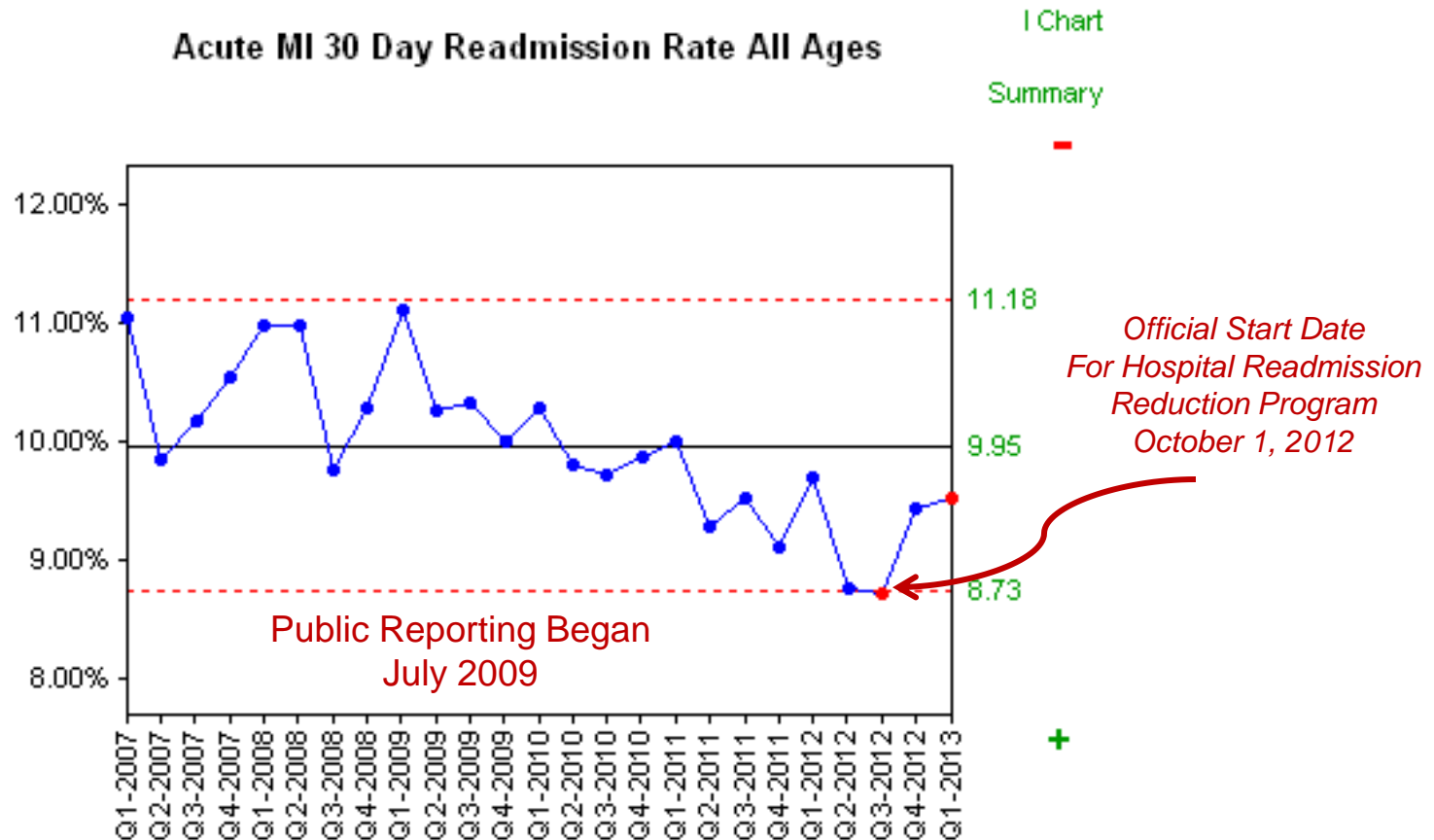
Variation in Surgical-Readmission Rates and Quality of Hospital Care

Thomas C. Tsai, M.D., M.P.H., Karen E. Joynt, M.D., M.P.H., E. John Orav, Ph.D., Atul A. Gawande, M.D., M.P.H. and Ashish K. Jha, M.D., M.P.H.

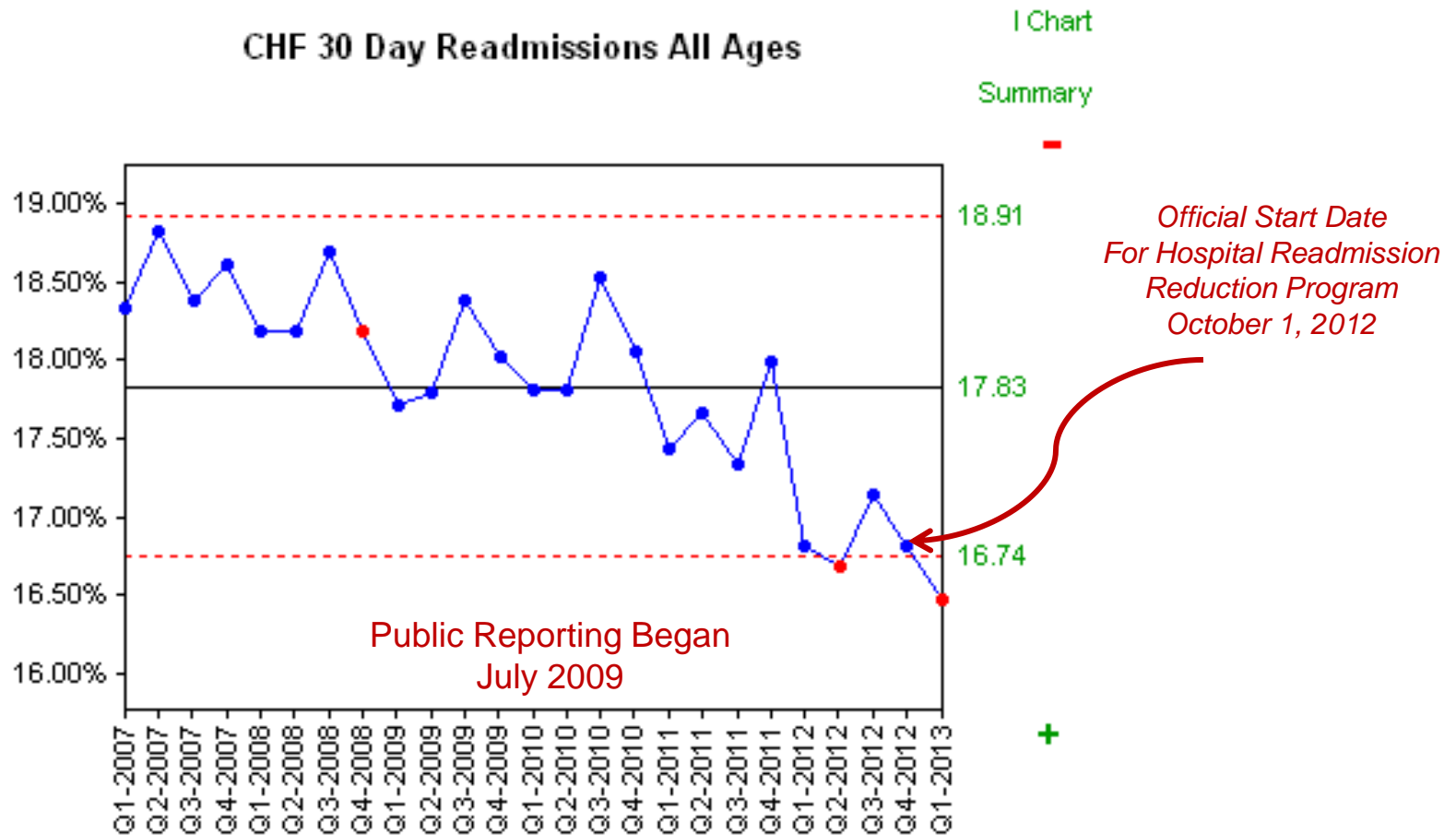
N Engl J Med 2013; 369:1134-1142 | September 19, 2013 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMsa1303118

One in seven patients undergoing CABG, Pulmonary Lobectomy, endovascular and open AAA Repair, Total Hip Replacement, or Colectomy will be readmitted within 30 days

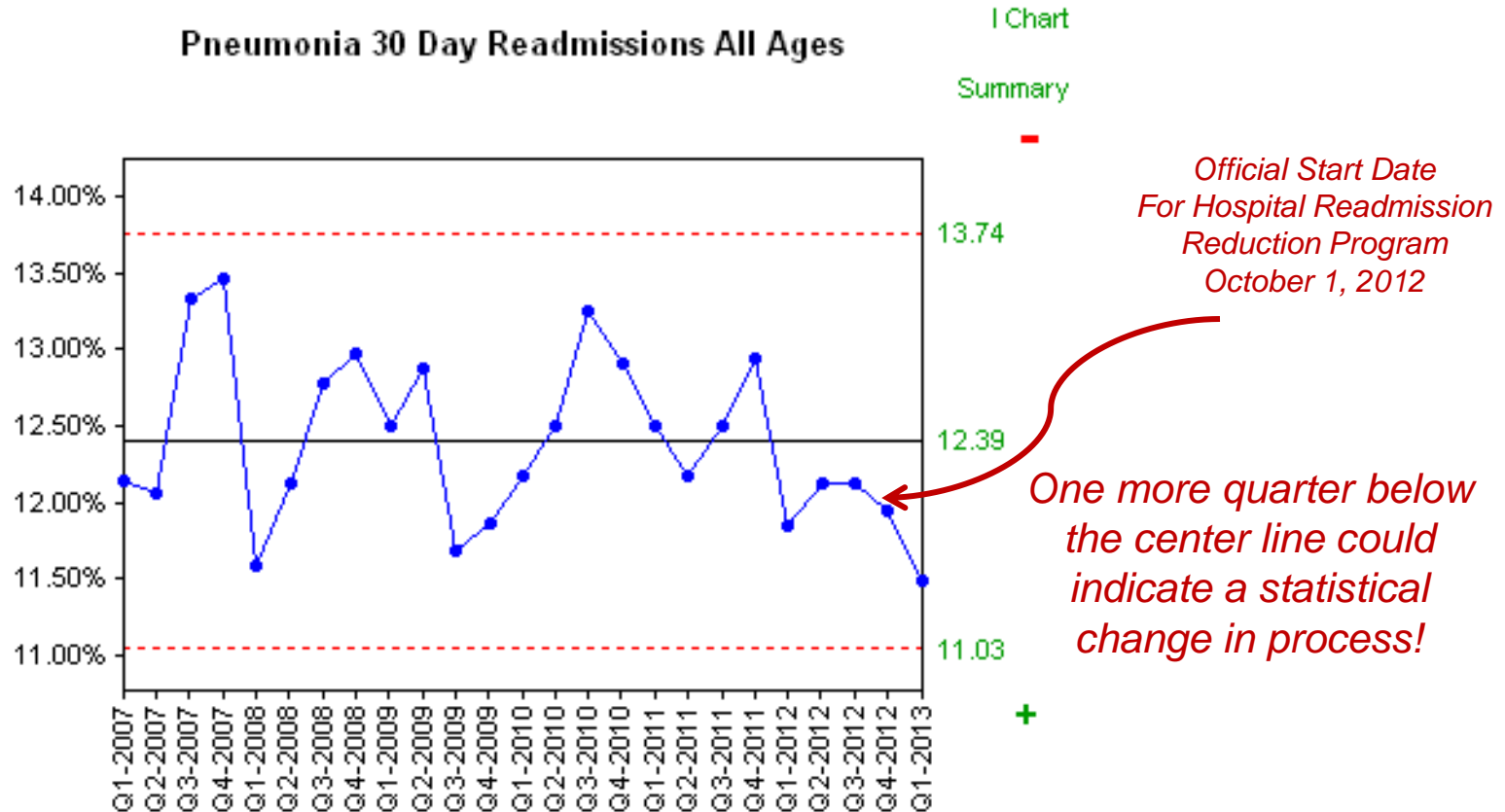
Downward Trends in Acute MI 30-day Readmissions Reflected in Midas+ Comparison Pool



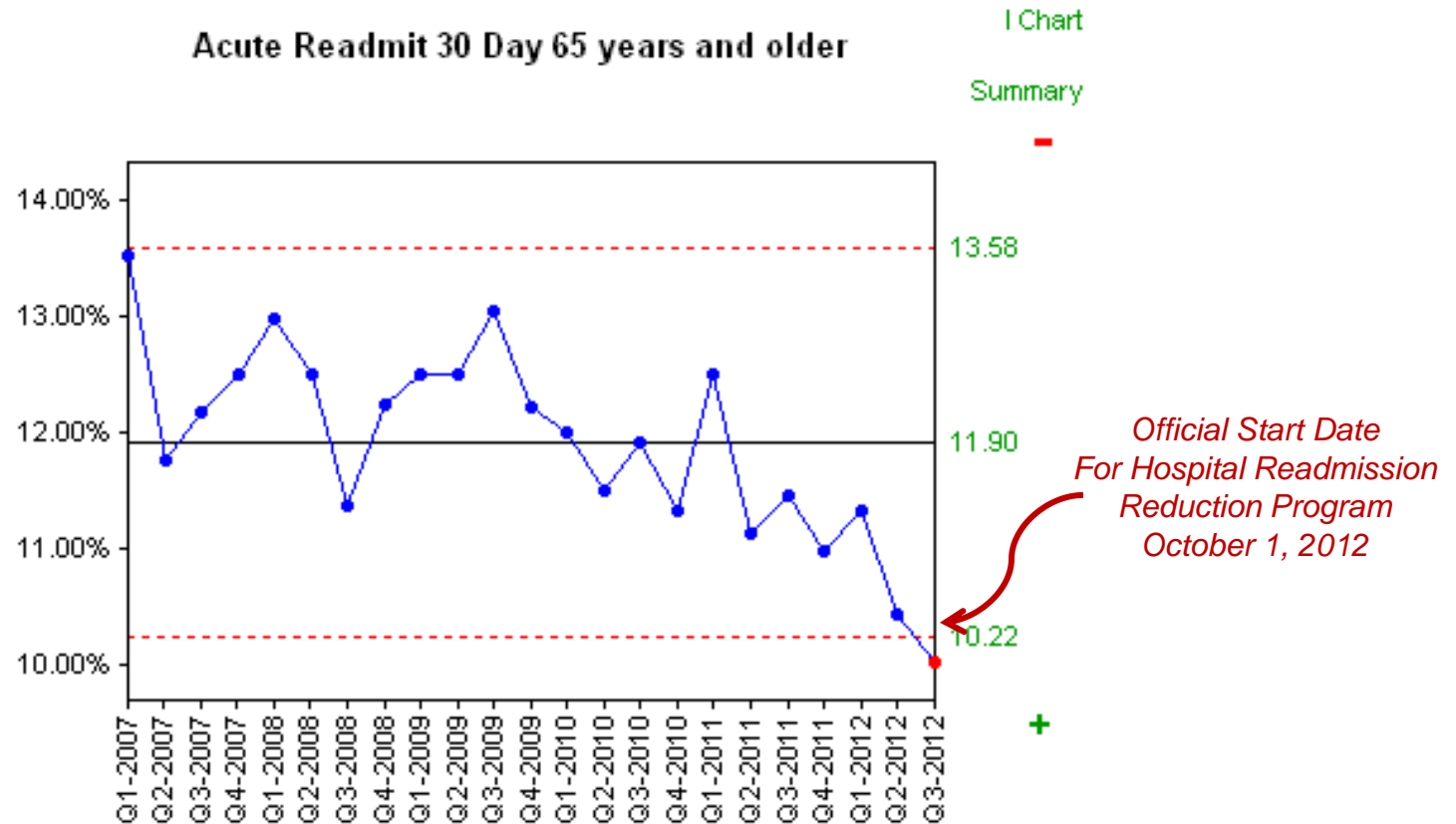
Downward Trends in CHF 30-day Readmissions Reflected in Midas+ Comparison Pool



Stable Trend in Pneumonia 30-day Readmissions Reflected in Midas+ Comparison Pool



Downward Trends in National Readmission Rates for Acute Care Inpatients ≥ 65 years of age Reflected in Midas+ Comparison Pool



Recommended Reading

<http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/reports/2013/rwjf404178>



The Revolving Door: A Report on U.S. Hospital Readmissions

An Analysis of Medicare Data by the Dartmouth Atlas Project

Stories From Patients and Health Care Providers by PerryUndem Research & Communication

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