FACTFILE

30-Day Readmission Rates

The Truven Health Analytics™ study of 30-day readmission rates uses Medicare Hospital Compare data to analyze differences in readmission rates among hospitals across the nation. Aggressive efforts are being made by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, private health plans, and providers to reduce unplanned hospital readmissions. This study examines 30-day hospital readmission rates from 2011 to 2015. Rates of 30-day unplanned readmissions have improved consistently during the five-year period.

30-DAY READMISSIONS DECLINE

Unplanned 30-day readmission rates declined between 2011 and 2015 for every major clinical cohort tracked by CMS. The declines were largest for heart attack and heart failure. Heart attack readmission rates declined from 20% of patients in 2011 to 17% in 2015, while heart failure readmission rates declined from 25% of patients to 22% during the same period.

READMISSION RATES VARY BY HOSPITAL TYPE

Major teaching hospitals (Class 5) had higher adjusted readmission rates than other types of hospitals for heart attack, heart failure, COPD, stroke, and hospitalwide readmissions, while small community hospitals (Class 1) had higher adjusted readmission rates than other types of hospitals for CABG surgery.

Upcoming Topic:
U.S. Employer Benchmarks and Trends: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

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READMISSION RATES: FOR-PROFIT VS. NOT-FOR-PROFIT HOSPITALS

Readmission rates vary considerably by hospital ownership. For-profit hospitals had significantly higher unplanned readmission rates than not-for-profit hospitals. The spread was widest for heart failure patients, with for-profit hospitals experiencing readmission rates that were 0.5 percentage points higher than not-for-profit hospitals.

RESULTS VARY FROM HOSPITAL TO HOSPITAL

The gap that exists between hospitals with the highest readmission rates and those with the lowest readmission rates is significant, which suggests that there are opportunities for improvement in many hospitals. For heart failure patients, the variation between top performers and lowest performers is nearly 18%.

SOURCE: Truven Health Analytics.

AVERAGE YEARLY RATE OF DECLINE

The annual rates of decline in 30-day readmissions were similar across clinical conditions; however, the most rapid reductions are occurring in heart attack, heart failure, and hip/knee replacement. Readmission rates for heart attack, for example, have been declining at a rate of 0.68% each year for the past five years.

SOURCE: Truven Health Analytics.