According to the Department of Health and Human Services, hospitals have reduced readmissions by 565,000 since 2010. Nearly 80% of hospitals are penalized under the readmissions penalty program.

However the dollar amount of the penalties keeps rising and grew $100 MILLION last year. Penalties total $1.9 BILLION so far.
Preventing readmissions is a system-wide issue that involves hospitals, physicians, and other providers who manage patient care, as well as patients and their families.

**SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS MATTER**

Readmissions performance is greatly affected by sociodemographic factors. Yet, CMS does not take these factors into account, which may unfairly penalize certain hospitals.

- **WHY?**
  - Patient's access to primary care physicians, affordable medication and fresh food grocers affect readmissions.
  - MedPAC has urged sociodemographic adjustment.
  - The House of Representatives agrees, and passed legislation requiring adjustment. Now the Senate must act.
  - Communities also pay a role in reducing readmissions.

**NOT ALL READMISSIONS ARE AVOIDABLE**

Some readmissions are an appropriate part of the patient care plan. (ex: cancer care, cardiac care). Others are unrelated to the original reason for care.

**THE MEASURES SHOULD BE IMPROVED TO EXCLUDE UNRELATED READMISSIONS.**