

HOSPITALS ARE IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

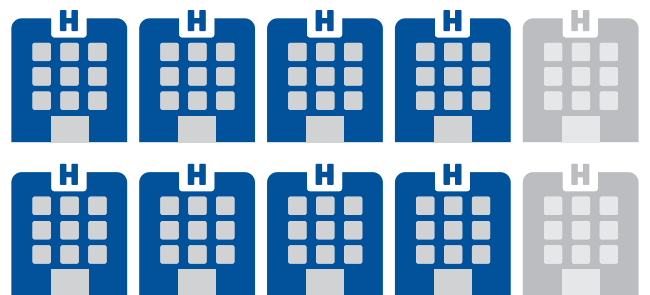
BUT READMISSION PENALTIES ARE RISING 



According to the Department of Health and Human Services, hospitals have reduced readmissions by **565,000** since 2010.



However the dollar amount of the penalties keeps rising and grew **\$100 MILLION** last year. Penalties total **\$1.9 BILLION** so far.



Nearly **80%** of hospitals are penalized under the readmissions penalty program.

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.

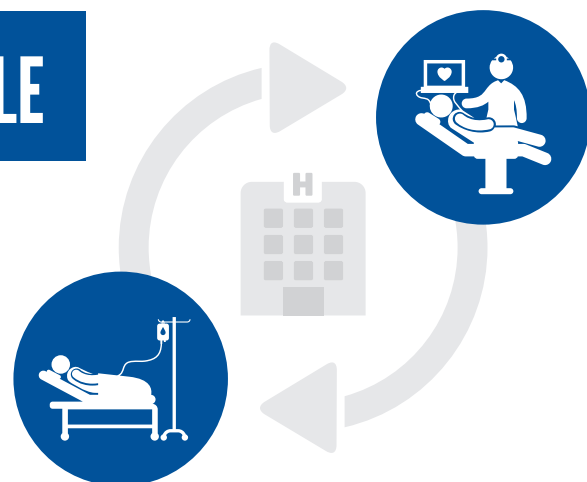
WHY?

- ✓ 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.



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.



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