

## Higher Hospital Spending on Occupational Therapy Is Associated With Lower Readmission Rates

Medical Care Research and Review  
2017, Vol. 74(6) 668–686  
© The Author(s) 2016  
Reprints and permissions:  
[sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav](http://sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav)  
DOI: 10.1177/1077558716666981  
[journals.sagepub.com/home/mcr](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/mcr)



Andrew T. Rogers<sup>1</sup>, Ge Bai<sup>1</sup>, Robert A. Lavin<sup>2</sup>,  
and Gerard F. Anderson<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

Hospital executives are under continual pressure to control spending and improve quality. While prior studies have focused on the relationship between overall hospital spending and quality, the relationship between spending on specific services and quality has received minimal attention. The literature thus provides executives limited guidance regarding how they should allocate scarce resources. Using Medicare claims and cost report data, we examined the association between hospital spending for specific services and 30-day readmission rates for heart failure, pneumonia, and acute myocardial infarction. We found that occupational therapy is the only spending category where additional spending has a statistically significant association with lower readmission rates for all three medical conditions. One possible explanation is that occupational therapy places a unique and immediate focus on patients' functional and social needs, which can be important drivers of readmission if left unaddressed.

### Keywords

hospital spending, quality, readmissions, hospital management, occupational therapy

This article, submitted to *Medical Care Research and Review* on March 21, 2016, was revised and accepted for publication on August 5, 2016.

<sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

<sup>2</sup>University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

### Corresponding Author:

Gerard F. Anderson, Department of Health Policy and Management and the Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, 624 N. Broadway, Hampton House 302, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA.  
Email: [ganderson@jhu.edu](mailto:ganderson@jhu.edu)

# How to optimize journal articles for search engines (SEO)

The article on the left has been optimized for search engines and comes out as a top result in Google Scholar on a search of 'hospital spending occupational therapy'. These are keywords that researchers are likely to search for. The search terms are highlighted in this sample so you can see the patterns of repeated phrases that Google looks at.

### Key points to note:

A clear and descriptive title including main key terms or phrases:  
*Higher Hospital Spending on Occupational Therapy Is Associated With Lower Readmission Rates*

The abstract repeats key phrases in a contextually natural way:  
*hospital, spending, occupational therapy*

The key terms or phrases are also repeated in the keywords field:  
*hospital spending, quality, readmissions, hospital management, occupational therapy*

Many other factors influence ranking but this content is written in a way that gives it the best chance.