

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

Medical Care Research and Review
2017, Vol. 74(6) 668–686
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DOI: 10.1177/1077558716666981
journals.sagepub.com/home/mcr
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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.

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Higher Hospital Spending on Occupational Therapy Is Associated With Lower Readmission Rates
- The abstract repeats key phrases in a contextually natural way:
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