



# Reduced Cost and Mortality among Fee-for-Service Medicare Beneficiaries Dispositioned from ED to Home Health as Alternative to Hospitalization

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# Disclosures

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BACKGROUND: “Acute care at home” (ACH) as an alternative to hospitalization has generally more effective outcomes for seniors; however, there are barriers to adoption.

Standard Outcome Metrics	ACH Compared to Hospitalization
60-Day Mortality	Improved
Cost Reduction (19%)	Improved
Functional Recovery	Improved
Patient Satisfaction	Improved
Family Member Stress	Improved
Length of Stay	Improved
Readmission Rates	Equal
90 Day Mortality	Equal

## Barriers

- Lack of reimbursement
- Attitudes of Hospitals being a Safer Place
- Implementation Cost and Infrastructure



# Question:

What is the opportunity for positioning seniors from the ED to home health instead of admitting to the hospital?



# Methods

**Conducted retrospective analysis of 5% Medicare Claims Data from 2012-2013**

**Two Cohorts of patients constructed**

- Patients transitioned from ED to home health
- Patients admitted to hospital for 5 Low-acuity conditions (CHF, COPD, PNA, UTI, CELLULITIS)

**Logistic Regression weighted by Propensity Score (IPTW)**

# Results: The opportunity is significant for our healthcare system and seniors

## Annual Estimates

- Avg. Total Cost Savings (Per Pt: \$2136.20) **\$750M**
- Avg. Medicare Cost Savings (Per Pt: \$1468.59) **\$516M**
- Est. Difference in **MORTALITY** (31,617 - 14,052 = **17,565**)

Outcome	Inpatient Hospitalization (n=17,565)	ED to Home Health (n=354)	P Value
Mean Total Cost (STD)	\$6342.79 (\$1,605.10)	\$4206.59 (\$1853.74)	<0.0001
Mean Medicare Cost (STD)	\$5395.97 (\$1771.41)	\$3,927.38 (\$1732.10)	<0.0001
90 Day Mortality	9.2%	4.0%	<0.0001
90 Day ED Visits	42.7%	39.0%	.2349
90 Day Hospitalization	33%	23.7%	0.0003



# Limitations:

- Retrospective study of claims
- Significant differences in sample size
- Even after propensity matching, it is possible there are clinical differences between comparison groups



# Conclusion:

Transitioning senior patients from the ED to home as an alternative to inpatient admissions for selected low-acuity conditions could significantly decrease:

- Cost
- Hospitalizations
- Mortality



# References

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Thank you

“There’s no place like home”