

Readmissions Data Collection Fact Sheet

Readmission within 30 Days (All Cause) Rate (HIIN-READ-1)

Measure Type	Outcome
Numerator	Inpatients returning as an acute care inpatient within 30 days of date of discharge, to any facility (Note: Not all hospitals can track readmissions to other facilities. Hospitals should focus on tracking readmissions consistently across time.)
Denominator	Total inpatient discharges (excluding discharges due to death)
Specifications/Definitions Sources/Recommendations	Facilities should follow the CMS definition of a readmission. This definition is explained in the “Frequently asked questions about readmissions” chapter, available on Quality Net . “Chapter 3 – Readmissions Measures,” section “Defining readmissions,” beginning on page 7
Data source(s)	Administrative data or billing systems or other tracking systems
Tools	Please share useful tools, tricks and tips on the Readmissions Listserv: http://www.hret-hiin.org/engage/listserv.shtml
Note	<p>While we cite the CMS definition of a readmission, we acknowledge that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities will NOT be able to risk-adjust their data in the way CMS does. • Facilities will NOT necessarily be able to track if their patients go to a hospital other than their own. • Some facilities exclude OB discharges from their readmissions tracking, which is acceptable as long as the facility is using a consistent methodology every month. • It is crucial to track readmissions consistently throughout the HIIN program.

Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned Readmissions – Medicare (HIIN-READ-2)

<i>Hospital-Wide All Cause Unplanned Readmissions</i>	
Measure Type	Outcome
Numerator	An inpatient admission for any cause (with the exception of certain planned readmissions), within 30 days from the date of discharge
Denominator	Medicare patients discharged from the hospital
Specifications/Definitions Sources/Recommendations	CMS (NQF 1789)
Data source (s)	Administrative data or billing systems or other tracking systems
Tools	Please share useful tools, tricks and tips on the Readmissions Listserv: http://www.hret-hiin.org/engage/listserv.shtml .
Note	This measure is currently publicly reported by CMS for those 65 years and older who are Medicare FFS beneficiaries admitted to non-federal hospitals. Hospitals are encouraged to report results for all Medicare inpatients. However, the Medicare FFS results are acceptable to report. It's most important to track consistently over time to support improvement efforts.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
What's a readmission?	A patient who had an eligible index admission is considered "readmitted" if he or she has one or more unplanned inpatient admissions at a short-term acute care hospital within 30 days of discharge from the original index admission.
What do you mean when you say index admission?	An index admission is a hospitalization that meets the measure's inclusion and exclusion criteria and acts as an anchor point for the observation of the measure's outcome, in other words, the original admission.
What's NOT a readmission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A planned readmission • Same-day readmissions to the same hospital for the same condition • Observation stays and emergency department visits • Admissions to facilities other than short-term acute care hospitals • Admissions that occur at eligible short-term acute care hospitals but where the patient is admitted to a separate, non-inpatient unit that bills under a separate CMS Certification Number (CCN), such as separate units for rehabilitation, psychiatric care, hospice care or long-term care are not readmissions. Such admissions are not inpatient admissions and therefore are not considered as readmissions. <p>Reference: "Frequently asked questions about readmissions" chapter, available on Quality Net</p>
When do you start counting the 30 days?	Start the day the patient is discharged from the index admission and extend for 30 days after that. For a patient who is discharged from an index admission on January 1, the readmission measures assess the readmission outcome between January 1 and 31.
How do you handle patients who have multiple readmissions in the same month?	Every eligible hospitalization is considered an index admission. As a result, there can be multiple index admissions per patient in a given 30-day period. Think of each new discharge as an opportunity to avoid a re-hospitalization.
Is this a 30-day readmission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pt. A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/9 – 12/15 – Observation stay 12/19 – 12/20 – Acute care admission 1/18 – 1/20 • No, this is not a 30-day readmission. The index discharge date for this patient was 12/15. The patient did not have another acute care admission within 30 days after 12/15. Observation stays are not counted as a readmission.

<p>Is this a 30-day readmission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pt. B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/9 – 12/15 – Acute care admission 12/19 – 12/21 – Acute care admission 12/30 – 1/8 • Yes, this patient is accounting for two readmissions. The 12/19 readmission counts because the patient was readmitted 4 days after the 12/15 discharge. The 12/30 admission is a readmission from the 12/21 discharge. Each discharge (excluding death) is an opportunity for a readmission.
<p>What is my readmission rate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pt. A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/9 – 12/15 – Observation stay 12/19 – 12/20 – Acute care admission 1/18 – 1/20 • Pt. B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/9 – 12/15 – Acute care admission 12/19 – 12/21 – Acute care admission 12/30 – 1/8 • Pt. C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/9 – 12/13 • Pt. D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/9 – 12/15 • All patients were discharged alive. • How many discharges did I have in December? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 5 • How many of those 5 discharges were readmitted within 30 days? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 (the 12/19 admission is the readmission from the 12/15 discharge & the 12/30 admission is the readmission from the 12/21 discharge) • My 30-day readmission rate is 2/5 or 40%.
<p>Which month does this readmission count?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pt. B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acute care admission 12/19 – 12/21 – Acute care admission 1/3 – 1/8 • The readmission on 1/3 is included in the December readmission count, since December is the month that the index admission occurred.