
November 15–16, 2005

Inpatient hospital resource use

ISSUE: One of the goals of the Commission is to improve Medicare's ability to hold providers accountable for the quality of their care and the resources used to provide that care. Developing a valid means of measuring resource use is an essential step to holding hospitals more accountable for their resource use.

KEY POINTS: In this paper, we begin consideration of the mechanics of and issues concerning measuring hospitals' resource use – both during and surrounding an admission. We discuss three possible dimensions of their resource use: the hospitals' cost during an inpatient stay, the volume of care around an inpatient stay, and resource use of hospitals' admitting physicians. We also describe research efforts to pair quality and resource use measures together.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on content, tone, and research plans.

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