

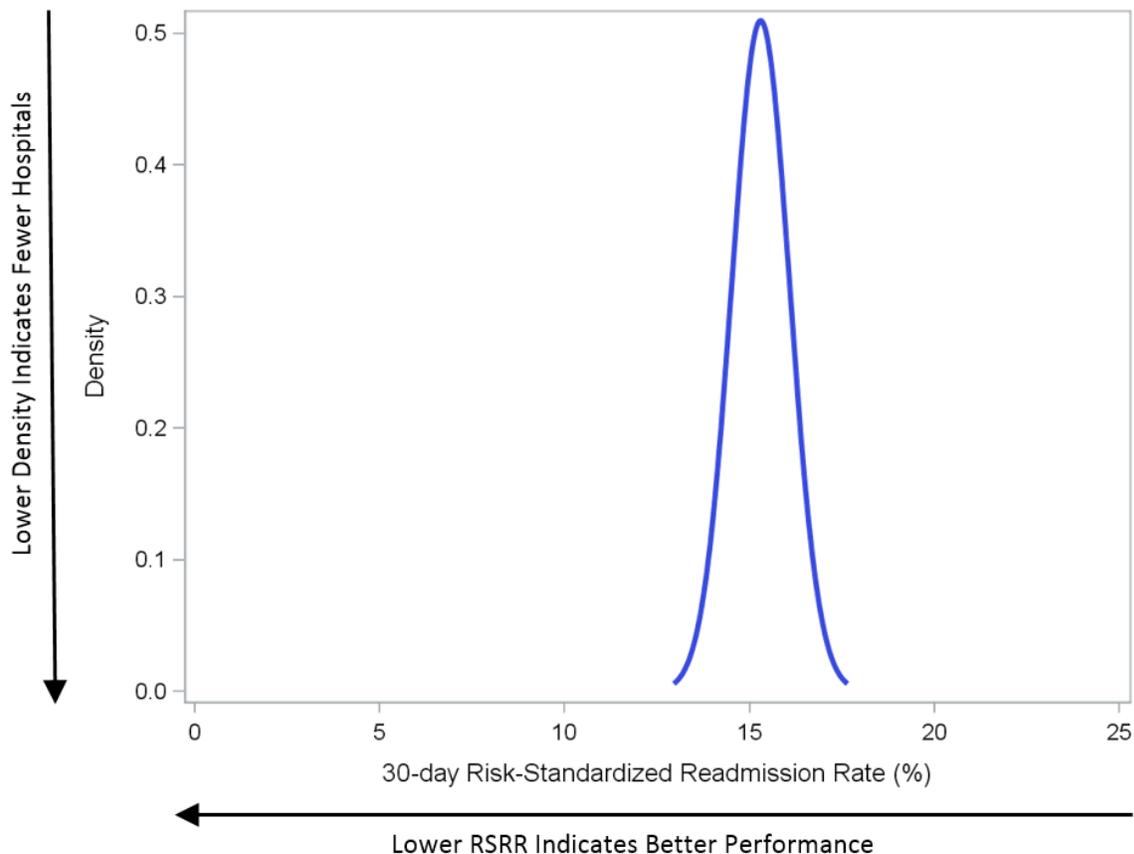
► Variation in hospital-wide 30-day readmission rates across hospitals.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) evaluates the distribution of measure results in order to monitor patterns, changes, and potential unintended consequences in the measure results. This information allows CMS to better understand the current state of care within U.S. hospitals.

The hospital-wide readmission measure assesses unplanned readmissions for any reason within 30 days of discharge from hospitalizations for patients admitted for any condition or procedure [1]. Patients can be readmitted to the same hospital or to a different hospital. This measure includes admissions for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older.

CMS began publicly reporting hospital-wide 30-day risk-standardized readmission rates (RSRRs) in 2013 [2]. Publicly reported measure results are updated annually on the [Hospital Compare](#) website.

FIGURE I. Distribution of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission, July 2015 – June 2016.



Variation in RSRRs reflects differences in performance among hospitals; wider distributions suggest more variation in quality, and narrower distributions suggest less variation in quality. To determine the extent of variation present in this measure, we examined hospital RSRRs for the July 2015 – June 2016 reporting period. We included hospitals with 25 or more qualifying cases. To ensure accurate assessment of each hospital, the measure uses a statistical model to adjust for key differences in patient risk factors that are clinically relevant and that have strong relationships with the readmission outcome [1].

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TABLE I. *Distribution of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission, July 2015 – June 2016.*

Distribution of Hospital-Wide RSRRs (%)
Number of hospitals 4,536

Maximum	21.3
90%	16.3
75%	15.7
Median (50%)	15.2
25%	14.9
10%	14.4
Minimum	11.3

Hospital RSRRs for hospital-wide readmission were normally distributed and centered at 15.2%. (Figure 1 and Table 1). Additionally, hospitals were distributed over an interquartile range (IQR) of 0.8 percentage points (Table 1).

While half of hospitals had RSRRs within 0.8 percentage points of the median hospital RSRR, the range in RSRRs was 10 percentage points. This demonstrates that there are continued opportunities for improvement.

1. Jaymie Simoes, Jacqueline N. Grady, Jo DeBuhr, et al. 2017 All-Cause Hospital-Wide Measure Updates and Specifications Report: Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure – Version 6.0. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1219069855841>. Available as of April 4, 2017.

2. Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Overview. QualityNet website. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1138115987129>. Accessed March 1, 2017.