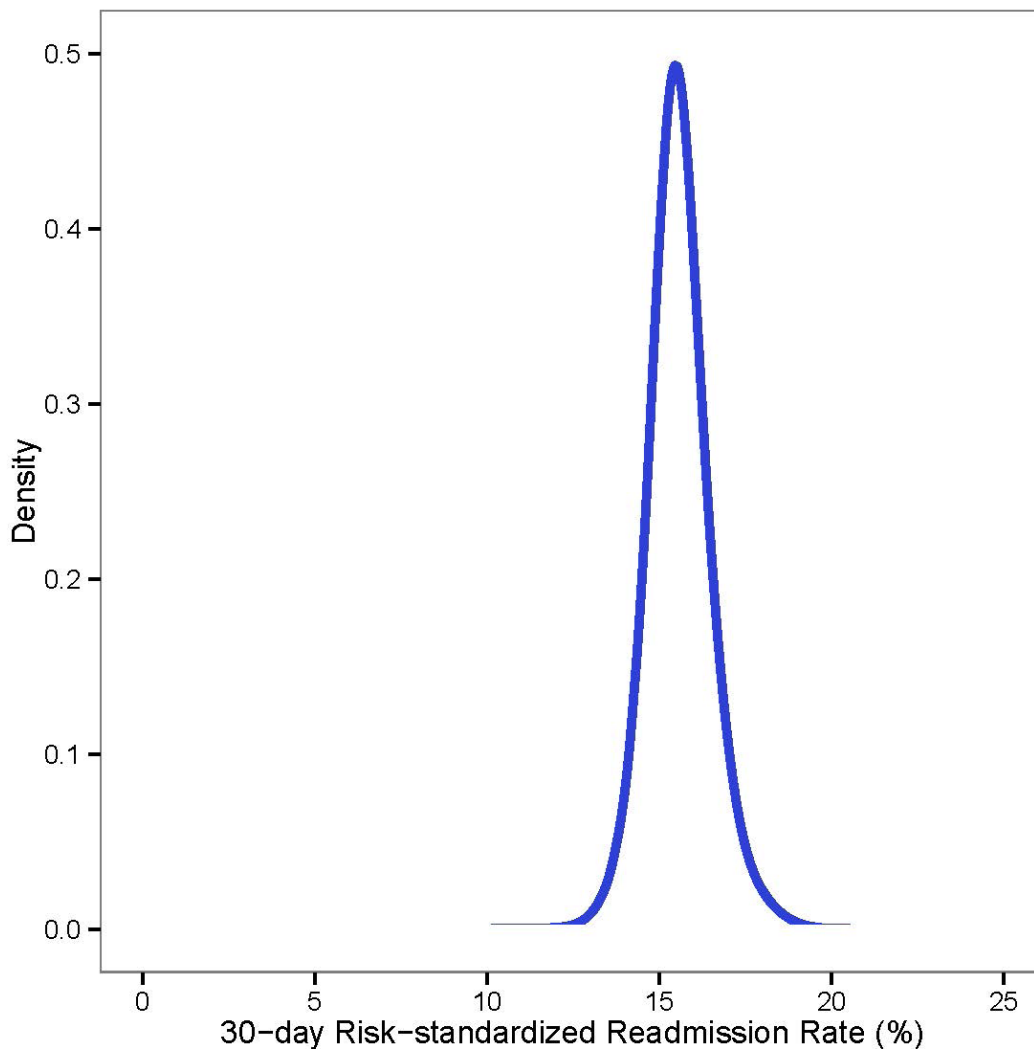


► Variation in hospital-wide 30-day readmission rates across hospitals.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically provides a comprehensive overview of national performance on the hospital-wide all-cause unplanned readmission measure for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older [1, 2]. 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 [2]. Patients can be readmitted to the same hospital or to a different hospital [2]. The hospital-wide readmission measure has been publicly reported on the [Hospital Compare](#) website since 2013 [3].

FIGURE I. *Distribution of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission, July 2014 – June 2015.*



Variation in hospital-wide risk-standardized readmission rates (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 2014 – June 2015 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 [2].

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TABLE I. *Distribution of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission, July 2014 – June 2015.*

Distribution of Hospital-Wide RSRRs (%)

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Maximum | 19.9 |
| 90% | 16.6 |
| 75% | 16.0 |
| Median (50%) | 15.5 |
| 25% | 15.1 |
| 10% | 14.7 |
| Minimum | 10.8 |

Hospital RSRRs for hospital-wide readmission were normally distributed and centered at 15.5%. (Figure 1 and Table 1). Additionally, hospitals were distributed over an interquartile range (IQR) of 0.9 percentage points (Table 1).

While half of hospitals had RSRRs within 0.9 percentage points of the median hospital RSRR, the range in RSRRs was 9.1 percentage points. This demonstrates that there are continued opportunities for improvement.

1. 2015 Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbook. Prepared by Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-initiatives-patient-assessment-instruments/hospitalqualityinits/outcomemeasures.html>. Accessed March 1, 2016.

2. Karen Dorsey, Jacqueline N. Grady, Leora I. Horwitz, et al. 2016 All-Cause Hospital-Wide Measure Updates and Specifications Report: Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure – Version 5.0. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1219069855841>. Accessed May 6, 2016.

3. 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, 2016.