

## HOSPITAL CHARACTERISTICS

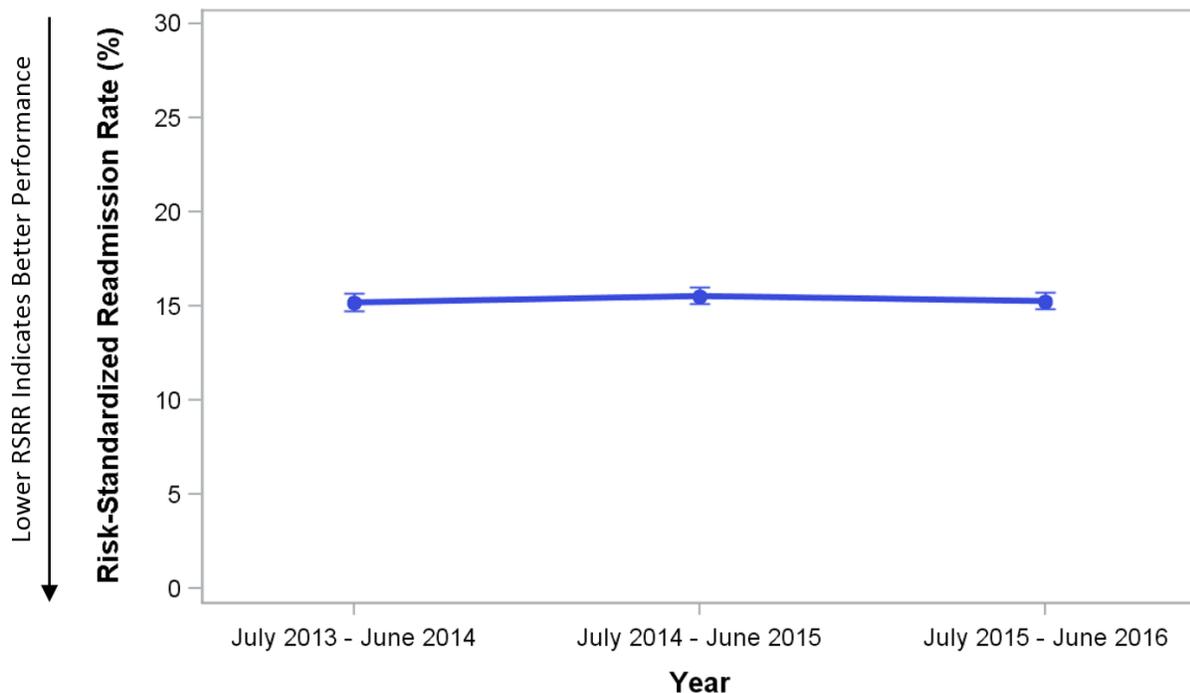
## ► Trend in hospital-wide 30-day readmission rates.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) evaluates the trends in measure results over time 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. Publicly reported measure results are updated annually on the [Hospital Compare](#) website.

**FIGURE I.** Trend in the median hospital RSRR (%) for hospital-wide readmission, July 2013-June 2016.



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Examining trends in hospital performance on the hospital-wide readmission measure provides insight into whether hospital quality varies from year to year. To determine the trends in national performance on this measure, we examined hospitals' RSRRs for each year from July 2013-June 2016. 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].

**TABLE I.** *Trend in the median hospital RSRR (%) for hospital-wide readmission, July 2013-June 2016.*

	Median (IQR) of Hospital RSRRs (%)		
	July 2013-June 2014 (4593 hospitals)	July 2014-June 2015 (4571 hospitals)	July 2015-June 2016 (4536 hospitals)
Hospital-wide	15.2 (14.7, 15.7)	15.5 (15.1, 16.0)	15.2 (14.9, 15.7)

The median hospital RSRR rose by 0.3 percentage points between June 2014 and June 2015 and then declined by 0.3 percentage points by June 2016 (Figure 1 and Table 1). The bars on the graph in Figure 1 represent the interquartile range (IQR).

Hospital-wide RSRRs rose by 0.3 percentage points between June 2014 and June 2015 and then declined by 0.3 percentage points by June 2016.

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.