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Patients Readmitted to a Different Hospital within 30 Days at Higher Risk of Death

Patients discharged from one hospital then readmitted to a different hospital are more likely to die than patients readmitted to their original hospital, according to a new study in *CMAJ Open*.

About one in five patients readmitted to a hospital within 30 days of discharge spend their first visit in one hospital and the second in a different ("alternative") institution.

The study assembled a cohort of about 200 000 patients readmitted to one of 21 acute care hospitals in Canada's largest urban area. Patients undergoing alternative-hospital readmission were more likely to die within 30 days than were patients undergoing original-hospital readmission (22 percent vs. 19 percent). Patients undergoing alternative-hospital readmission also tended to be older and have more health problems. The increased mortality attenuated substantially but did not disappear after adjustment for these factors.

According to the study, it's possible that alternative-hospital readmission can compromise patient safety, but these findings also could reflect the greater burden of illness among alternative-hospital patients, particularly if that burden of illness wasn't fully captured in the databases used for the study.

The study highlights the frequency with which readmitted patients do not return to the hospital from which they were discharged, and further underscores the substantial risk of death among all readmitted patients. Regardless of the cause of increased mortality, alternative-hospital admissions should be examined more closely.

IHI Open School Curriculum Still Available

As part of the benefit of P4P, the IHI Open School is providing **free** access to its curriculum to the NJHEN. The purpose of the program is to best equip New Jersey hospitals with the tools and education necessary to improve the quality of care they provide.

Users are able to select and complete as few or as many courses as they are interested in and earn certification or continuing education credit. CME, CNE, CPHQ and ACPE credit is available for over 22 contact hours.

Courses

- 19 online, self-paced courses including 70 lessons and corresponding resources—videos, case studies, podcasts, featured articles, exercises, networking
- Developed by world-renowned expert faculty
- Additional courses are being added regularly
- Geared toward a wide audience from new to experienced providers
- Each course takes between one to two hours to complete and consists of several lessons taking 15-30 minutes each and are self-paced
- Over 22 contact hours available for CME, CNE, CPHQ and ACPE credit
- Certificate of completion

How to register and begin IHI Open School courses

Step 1: Select New Jersey Hospital Association as your organization.

Go to https://www.ihl.org/_layouts/ihl/userregistration/userregistration.aspx to register.

Save the Date

Please note: While the information below is a list of planned programs for 2014, at this time not all programs can be accessed online for registration.

May 13	CUSP for ESRD in New Jersey
May 20	Reducing Healthcare-Acquired Infections Using a Collaborative Approach
June 3	Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Reduction Strategies
June 9	Statewide Mother Baby Summit
June 10	End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium
June 18	TeamSTEPPS Train the Trainer
Sept. 18	Adverse Drug Events
Sept. 29	Geriatric Emergency Department Guidelines

[Click here to register.](#)