

Potentially preventable hospital admissions and emergency department visits

ISSUE: This paper begins to explore issues concerning the value of Medicare measuring preventable emergency department use and inpatient admissions to assess population-level quality of care.

KEY POINTS: Reliance on hospital emergency departments and inpatient services for care that could have either been avoided or delivered at a less costly site can harm beneficiaries. It is important to understand the prevalence of preventable services and explore the factors that may influence their frequency.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the material in preparation for discussion.

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