

## **Beating The 30 Day Readmission: Why There's Little To Celebrate**

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30 day hospital re-admission rates.

It's a statistic that keeps hospital administrators up at night. Whether you agree or disagree with the use of this statistic as a quality and reimbursement metric, if it creates change, reduces hospital re-admissions and improves patient care, then in theory I support it.

I'm reminded of Mrs G. She is emblematic of today's chronic disease patient. She was admitted to our hospital for a congestive heart failure exacerbation, complicated by a COPD (related to her smoking) exacerbation. Throw in some poorly controlled diabetes, atrial fibrillation, depression and generalized deconditioning, this lovely 64 year old lady spent 9 days in our hospital receiving absolutely excellent care. She improved to the point where our terrific inpatient team was able to discharge her directly to home on **Tuesday March 27th**. From there she was in the hands of her 2 caring daughters and her outpatient doctors at my clinic. And that's when the clock started ticking.

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