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# Acute Hospitalizations from Home Health Care

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# Acute Hospitalizations from 60-day Home Health Episodes

## Summary

Over 1 in 8 patients are hospitalized yearly from home health care settings, which are managed by agencies offering services to Medicare beneficiaries over a 60-day episode period. Per year, over 6.5 million home health episodes are managed for millions of Medicare beneficiaries. With Value based care being promoted by CMS (e.g. BPCI, BPCI-A and CJR) and Commercial payors, there is a growing trend to discharge patients to home health care to reduce cost per beneficiary while improving care and quality of life for the patients. Our studies have shown significant hospitalization rates across the US during the first few days of home health care. New initiatives are needed by CMS to reexamine transitions of care from multiple settings (not just Acute) into home health care and timely data sharing to orient care and reduce acute hospitalizations.

***“Acute hospitalizations from home health care are on the rise, prompting the need for early identification”***

**Principal Findings:** Our findings show high rates of acute care hospitalizations within the first 7, 14 and 30 days of the 60-day home health episodes. Across all episodes over 16% are hospitalized per year nationwide, and amongst those hospitalized over 20% are within the first 7-days of home health care, and higher hospitalization rates for complex patients with multiple comorbid conditions. **Study:** data for analyses included several million Medicare claims (de-identified) over a 2-year period from 2016-Q1 to 2018-Q1. We conclude that early identification of hospitalization risk and improved care transitions to home health care will help orient appropriate services to patients during the first few days of the home health care services. With better monitoring there are opportunities to improve quality of care while reducing costs. Hospitalizations interrupt recovery, and become a burden on the already stressed US health system.

**Access:** Report is available upon request: [analytics@capsicohealth.com](mailto:analytics@capsicohealth.com)