Congress gave CMS the power under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to cut hospitals’ pay by up to 1% if they exceed a to-be-determined estimated 30-day readmission rate for patients with heart failure, heart attack or pneumonia.

There are many dynamics that influence readmission.

Patient care is complex:
- Involves many members of the healthcare team = creates several standard of care opinions.
- Involves a lot of data = potential to miss key data points.

Current Initiatives:
- National trend identify the key problems and develop specific
- One in five elderly patients is readmitted to the hospital 30 days after leaving.
- 2.3 million re-admissions.
- $17 billion in annual Medicare costs.

Vanderbilt trend:
- 21 to 29% (2008-2011) heart failure patients were re-admitted back to Vanderbilt.
- 18% (2008) & 13% (average for July 2011 until April 2012) of acute coronary syndrome patients were re-admitted back to Vanderbilt.
- 10% of patients undergoing PCI have a 30 day readmission rate. This is associated with a higher risk of 1-year mortality.
- Days 1-15 are crucial, as these are the days that are most prevalent to re-admission.
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