Cardiac Hospital Performance

The Watson Health™ 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study focuses on one of healthcare’s most important service lines, one that affects hundreds of thousands of patient lives annually and adds billions of dollars to our nation’s overall healthcare costs.

We have found only the cardiovascular service line has consistently had both the inpatient volume and supplemental clinical process metrics from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare initiative to support the publication of scorecard-based benchmarks for a service line.

The information contained in our 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study is designed to put impartial, action-driving, and attainable benchmarks in the spotlight for hospital and clinical leaders across the country to leverage—as they work to raise their own organizations’ standards of performance.

Compared To Nonwinning Hospitals, The 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals Had:

The 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals managed clinical quality gains while keeping inpatient costs lower. Cost efficiency was measured by CABG and HF* wage- and severity-adjusted average cost per case. The benchmark was compared with the peer group.

The typical winning hospital spent $5,745 less per CABG patient and $1,333 less per admitted HF patient.

Our study indicated that if all cardiovascular hospitals performed at the same level of this year’s winners:

- $1.4 billion could be saved
- Nearly 3,700 heart patients could be complication-free
- More than 8,900 additional lives could be saved

Winning hospitals were more efficient, releasing patients sooner than their peers.

CABG** patients nearly a full day (0.9) sooner
AMI*** patients were released a half day sooner than nonwinning peers****

The 2018 cardiovascular study winners had 17.9% and 20.4% lower complications indexes for PCI***** and CABG, respectively, when compared to their peers.******

$5,745 less per CABG
$1,333 less per admitted HF patient

*HF stands for Heart Failure

****PCI stands for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
*****Risk-adjusted complications index developed with Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MEDPAR) 2015 and 2016 data combined.
Methodology

To determine the 50 top U.S. hospitals for heart care, IBM Watson Health researchers analyzed 2015 and 2016 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MEDPAR) data, 2016 Medicare cost reports and CMS Hospital Compare July 1, 2013–June 30, 2016 data. Hospitals were scored in key value-based performance areas: risk-adjusted inpatient mortality, risk-adjusted complications, percentage of coronary bypass patients with internal mammary artery use, 30-day mortality rates, 30-day readmission rates, severity-adjusted average length of stay, wage- and severity-adjusted average cost per case and, new this year, CMS 30-day episode of care payment measures.