Heart Failure

Table Notes

Heart Failure: Inability of the heart to pump enough blood to meet the needs of the body leading to swelling of the legs and shortness of breath from fluid build-up in the lungs. Common causes of heart failure include heart disease (e.g., coronary artery disease and heart valve problems) and long-standing hypertension (high blood pressure).

Total Number of Cases includes all inpatient hospitalizations, after exclusions, for patients 18 years and older who were treated for a principal diagnosis of heart failure. Patients with a diagnosis of COVID-19 were excluded, as well as those who were transferred to another acute care hospital or left against medical advice.

Mortality represents patients who died during the hospital stay.

Readmission represents patients who were readmitted to a Pennsylvania general or specialty general acute care hospital within 30 days of the discharge date of the original hospitalization. Out-of-state residents were excluded because readmission data was not available for patients readmitted to a non-Pennsylvania hospital. Planned readmissions were not counted.

Average Hospital Charge represents the entire length of stay and is trimmed and case-mix adjusted. Professional fees were not included. In almost all cases, hospitals typically receive actual payments from private insurers or government payers that are considerably less than the listed charge.

Understanding the Symbols

The symbols displayed in this report represent a comparison of a hospital's actual mortality (or readmission) rate to what is expected, after accounting for patient risk.

The ○ symbol indicates the **hospital's rate was significantly lower than expected.** Fewer patients died (or were readmitted) than could be attributed to patient risk and random variation.

The ◉ symbol indicates the **hospital's rate was not significantly different than expected.** The number of patients who died (or were readmitted) was within the range anticipated based on patient risk and random variation.

The ● symbol indicates the **hospital's rate was significantly higher than expected.** More patients died (or were readmitted) than could be attributed to patient risk and random variation.

See *About the Report* section or *Technical Notes* for further details.

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