

For Immediate Release

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Hawaii Best in Nation at Lowering Hospital Readmissions in Recent Years, Government Data Shows

Honolulu – Hawaii had the steepest drop in hospital readmissions in the nation between 2010 and 2015, according to data released this week by the federal government.

This means Hawaii - already among the states with the lowest readmission rates in the nation - made the most progress in ensuring patients got the care they needed during their stay and after leaving the hospital. It also shows that while hospitals around the country lowered the overall readmission rate by 8%, Hawaii hospitals outperformed the national average by achieving a larger 13.4% drop.

“This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Hawaii’s hospitals and the talented employees committed to improving the care they provide. It also shows what can be done when we work together with each other, and our community partners,” said Healthcare Association of Hawaii President and Chief Executive Officer George Greene.

Hospital readmissions occur when patients need to make an unanticipated return to the hospital for additional care after discharge. Reducing readmissions, and healthcare costs, has been one of the core aims of the Affordable Care Act.

Hawaii was tied for seventh place in having the lowest rate of hospital readmissions in the nation in 2010. The 2015 data show Hawaii is now tied for third place. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Hawaii’s rate of hospital readmissions dropped from 14.9% in 2010, to 12.9% in 2015.

One of the reasons cited for the national improvement in hospital readmissions is the federal government’s Partnership for Patients program. Administered by CMS, the program assists hospitals in tracking and improving their performance.

Hawaii hospitals have participated in Partnership for Patients going back to 2012. The second round of the program will finish at the end of September, and a third round is expected to be announced by CMS.

In Hawaii, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii coordinates the Partnership for Patients activity via the health engagement network Premier Inc., which is contracted by CMS to assist hospitals in the Partnership for Patients program.

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ABOUT the Healthcare Association of Hawaii

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 180 member organizations include the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the skilled nursing facilities, the Medicare-certified home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities, and durable medical equipment suppliers. Members represent healthcare providers from throughout the continuum including case management, air and ground ambulance, blood bank, dialysis, and more. For more information please visit www.hah.org. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @HealthcareHAH.

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