



# Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) Hospital Quality Improvement Contract (HQIC) Hospital Readmissions and Care Transitions

## 1. Introduction

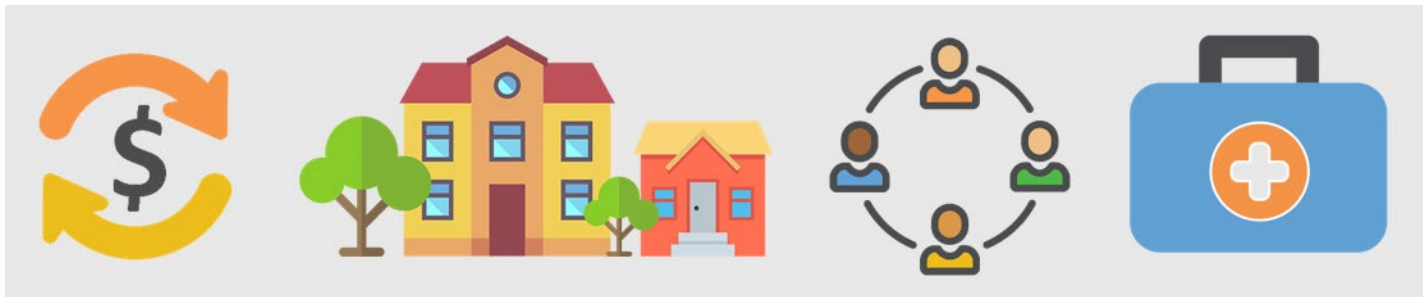
# 1. Definition of a Readmission

- A **readmission** is an unplanned inpatient admission to the hospital within 30 days of the initial hospital discharge date.
- The readmission rate is measured and tracked by Medicare.



# 1. Definition of a Readmission (cont.)

- **High utilizers** (4 admissions in 1 year, or 6 emergency department visits within 1 year)
  - Account for a larger proportion of readmission visits
  - Often require more social services interventions than a typical diagnosis-driven readmission



## 2. Context in the U.S./Incidence

- Readmissions are costly, disruptive for patients and family members, and very often are preventable.
- In addition to concerns regarding quality, readmissions are also very costly for the healthcare system and for patients.



## 2. Context in the U.S./Incidence (cont.)

- Hospitals are now financially penalized by Medicare through the Readmissions Reduction Program for higher-than-expected readmission rates
- According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data, the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP)
  - Reduced reimbursement for 2,599 hospitals for fiscal year (FY) 2019, totaling \$566 million
  - An approximately \$2 million increase over FY 2018 penalties

### 3. Factors

- Unplanned readmissions have been associated with ineffective discharge processes including:
  - Discharge planning
  - Medication reconciliation
  - Failed handoffs to post-acute care providers
  - Insufficient patient education





# Thank you!

This material was prepared by Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) Hospital Quality Improvement Contractor (HQIC), under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. Publication No. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX