

Components of Potentially Avoidable Utilization (PAU)

PAU is defined as hospital care that is unplanned and can be prevented through improved care, care coordination, or effective community based care or care cost increases that result from a potentially preventable complication occurring in a hospital. The HSCRC intends to continue to refine the measurement of PAU.

Currently, the following measures are included as PAU cost measures:

- 30 day, all cause, all hospital inpatient readmissions excluding planned readmissions based on specifications for Maryland Readmission Reduction Incentive Program.
- Prevention quality indicator overall composite measure (PQI #90) as defined by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The composite measure combines 12 acute and chronic PQIs, however it does not include PQI 02 (Perforated Appendix) or PQI 09 (low birth weight). Technical specifications:
[Quality Indicators from AHRQ](#)
- 65 potentially preventable conditions (PPCs) calculated under the Maryland Hospital Acquired Conditions Program and estimated average cost of PPCs
- Outpatient rehospitalizations in the emergency room or observation occurring between 1 to 30 days of an inpatient admission.