



Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission

Potentially Avoidable Utilization and Guardrail Policy

04/23/2014



Guardrail Policy

- ▶ Ensuring Medicare Target
- ▶ Hospital specific adjustments
- ▶ Using Potentially Avoidable Utilization as the basis for guardrail policy
 - ▶ 0 inflation on PAU revenues
 - ▶ Shared savings policy based on target PAU reductions
- ▶ Other methodologies?

Potentially Avoidable Utilization: Unplanned Care

Definition of PAU:

“Hospital care that is unplanned and can be prevented through improved care coordination, effective primary care and improved population health.”

Reduce Avoidable Utilization By Improving Care

▶ Examples:

- 30- Day Readmissions/Rehospitalizations
- Preventable Admissions (based on AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators)
- Nursing home residents—Reduce conditions leading to admissions and readmissions
- Maryland Hospital Acquired Conditions (potentially preventable complications)
- Improved care coordination: particular focus on high needs/frequent users, involvement of social services

Work and Considerations up to date

▶ Readmissions

- ▶ Inpatient- All Hospital, All Cause 30 Day Readmissions using CMS methodology with adjustment for planned admissions
- ▶ ED – any visit within 30 days of an inpatient admission
- ▶ Observation- any observation within 30 days of an inpatient admission

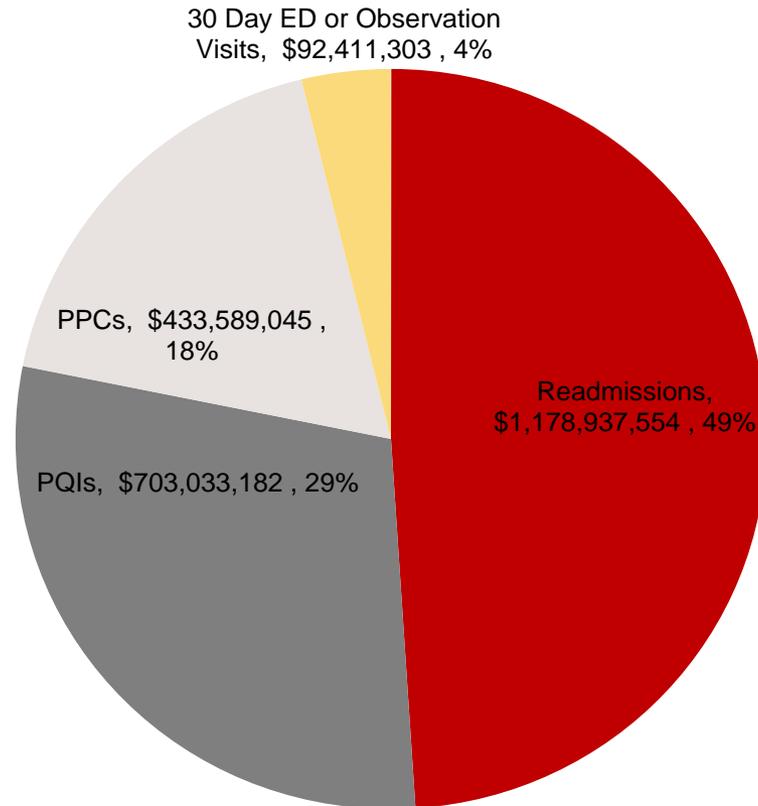
▶ Potentially Avoidable Admissions/Visits

- ▶ Inpatient- AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs)
- ▶ Outpatient - TBD

▶ Hospital Acquired Conditions

- ▶ Potentially Preventable Complications (PPCs)

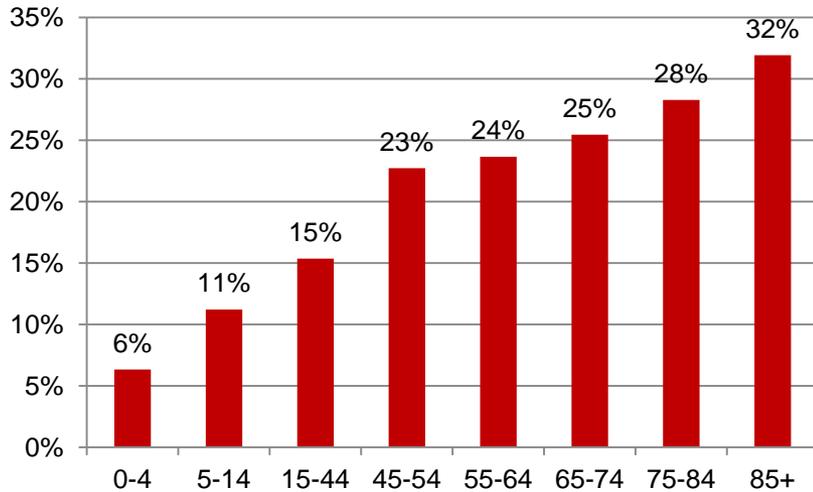
Distribution of Potentially Avoidable Utilization, FY2013



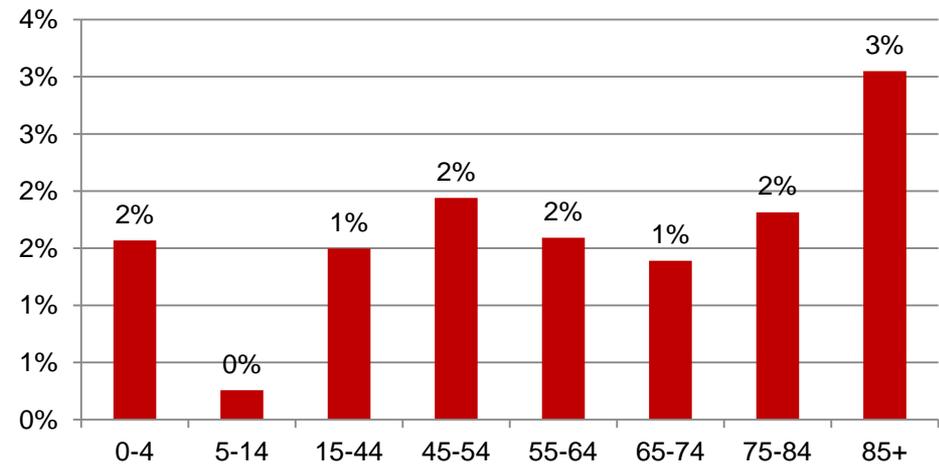
Note: Categories may overlap; Readmissions are based on ARR methodology adjusted for planned admissions.

PAU by Age

Inpatient



Outpatient



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PAU Policy Approaches

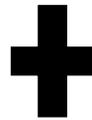
- ▶ Demographic Adjustment
- ▶ Guardrail Policy
- ▶ GBR agreements

Age Weights and Potentially Avoidable Utilization(PAU)

Age Weights:

Different age groups have different rates of health care utilization

Age weights adjust for this variation



PAU Weights:

Different age groups have different rates of opportunity to reduce PAU

PAU weights adjust for this variation



**Age/PAU
Weights**

PAU Adjustments in Demographic Volume

Cohort	Annual Growth Rate	Age Weights	Age Adjusted Growth Rate	PAU %	PAU and Age Adjusted Growth Rate	Final Weights Adjusted for PAUs
A	B	C	D=B*C	E	F=D*(1-E)	G=C*(1-E)
0-4	0.77%	0.68	0.52%	5%	0.49%	0.64
05-14	-0.07%	0.05	0.00%	4%	0.00%	0.05
15-44	-1.16%	1.63	-1.89%	9%	-1.72%	1.48
45-55	2.18%	1.21	2.64%	13%	2.29%	1.05
55-64	0.16%	1.46	0.24%	15%	0.20%	1.24
65-74	4.73%	2.21	10.46%	17%	8.72%	1.84
75-84	2.42%	3.14	7.61%	20%	6.06%	2.50
85+	1.32%	3.43	4.52%	25%	3.37%	2.56
Total	0.67%	1	1.29%	14%	1.05%	

PAU Adjustment in Demographic Volume

- ▶ **Age weights:**
 - ▶ Differential disease burden
 - ▶ Current high use rates
 - ▶ Current inefficiencies
- ▶ **Restricts the growth of PAU**
- ▶ **Immediate implementation**
- ▶ **Consistent with lower Medicare targets**
- ▶ **Population-based**

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