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HOSPITALIZATIONS AMONG VERMONT’S MEDICARE POPULATION: 2007

Highlights

- Of the 106,791 Medicare beneficiaries in 2007, 15% (16,582) experienced at least one hospitalization.
- Of the 16,582 Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized in 2007, over one third (35%) had more than one inpatient stay during the year.

Introduction

The Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC) has obtained comprehensive Medicare data for Vermonters in 2007. This data includes Part A and Part B information as well as durable medical equipment and assessment files. All files are linked by a unique and anonymous beneficiary identification code.

This report is the first in a series that present information about Vermont Medicare beneficiaries who were hospitalized during 2007. The analysis includes all hospitalizations for Vermont residents with Medicare coverage regardless of where they were hospitalized. The report describes a basic demographic profile for Medicare beneficiaries with a hospitalization in 2007.

About Medicare

Medicare is the government health insurance program administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Medicare is the largest health insurance service in the country, with around 40 million Americans participating. Individuals are typically eligible for Medicare services if they meet one of the following requirements: are 65 years of age or older, are under 65 years of age but have certain disabilities, or have End-Stage Renal Disease (kidney failure that requires a transplant or dialysis).

Findings

Age & Gender

In 2007, the Vermont Medicare population was composed of 106,791 individuals. Of this population, 15% (n=16,582) experienced at least one hospitalization. Approximately 55% of Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized were female; 63% were aged 65 to 84; and almost 22% were age 85 or over (Table 1).



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County of Residence

Chittenden, Rutland and Windsor counties had the highest number of Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized. This is not surprising since these counties also had the highest number of residents covered by Medicare over the course of the year. However, when looking at beneficiaries hospitalized as a percent of individuals covered by Medicare, Bennington, Rutland, and Franklin counties had higher rates of hospitalization among their Medicare beneficiaries (see Table 2).

Multiple Hospitalizations

Of the 16,582 Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized in 2007, almost two-thirds (65%) had a one inpatient stay during the year and 22% had two inpatient stays during the year. One percent of Medicare beneficiaries had 6 or more inpatient stays during the year (Figure 1).

Appendix

Table 1: Gender and Age Distribution among Hospitalized Medicare Beneficiaries: 2007

	Hospitalized Medicare Beneficiaries	
	Number	Percent
Gender	16,582	
Male	7,495	45%
Female	9,087	55%
Age		
Under 18	Not reported	<1%
18 – 49	1,028	6%
50 - 64	1,574	9.5%
65 – 84	10,418	62.8%
85+	3,559	21.5%



Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.

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Table 2: Geographic Distribution of Medicare Beneficiaries Hospitalized, 2007

County	Number of Beneficiaries Hospitalized	Percent of Beneficiaries in County
Chittenden	2,831	15%
Rutland	2,362	18%
Windsor	1,778	15%
Washington	1,477	14%
Bennington	1,451	19%
Windham	1,301	16%
Franklin	1,128	17%
Caledonia	826	15%
Orleans	796	14%
Orange	778	16%
Addison	746	14%
Lamoille	683	14%
Essex	238	15%
Grand Isle	180	14%

Figure 1: Multiple hospitalizations among VT Medicare beneficiaries, 2007

