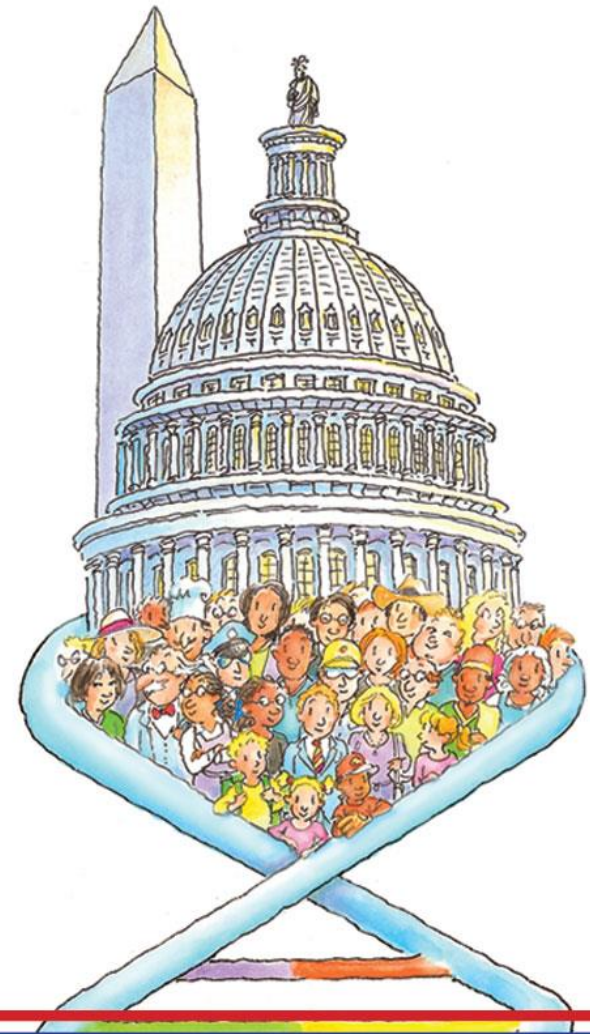


# GSA 2014 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

NOVEMBER 5-9, 2014  
WASHINGTON, DC

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
Washington Marriott Marquis



*Making Connections: From Cells to Societies*



# Hospital Readmissions: Organizational Approaches to Reduce Readmissions

Robert Weech-Maldonado, PhD

Department of Health Services Administration

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



# Hospital Readmissions

- Preventable patient-level adverse outcome and an important measure of overall health system performance
- Prior research has linked higher rates of readmissions with poorer outcomes including increased mortality
- ~ 20% of Medicare beneficiaries readmitted within 30 days of discharge
- Readmissions are expensive
  - Annual cost for the Medicare fee-for-service program estimated at \$17 billion
- Reasons for the high rate of readmissions include poor quality of care, premature hospital discharges, and improper transitions of care



# Hospital Readmissions Policies

- Policymakers have increasingly stressed the importance of reducing hospital readmissions
  - Volume-based to value-based care
  - Increase quality while lowering costs
- Hospital Compare
  - Joint effort between Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and Hospital Quality Alliance
  - Public reporting of readmission measures (2010)



# Hospital Readmissions Policies (cont.)

- Affordable Care Act
  - Readmissions Reduction Program- reduction in Medicare payments to hospitals that have excessive 30-day readmissions
    - For three conditions (October 2012)
      - Heart failure
      - Acute myocardial infarction
      - Pneumonia
    - CMS to expand program to other conditions in 2014
  - Incentives to reduce readmissions through value-based purchasing and accountable care organizations





# Symposium

- Explore organizational strategies that have the potential to reduce readmissions
- Examine potential implications on racial/ethnic disparities of reducing payments to hospitals with higher readmission rates



# Symposium Papers

- Paper 1: Do Hospitalists Reduce Pneumonia Readmission Rates?
  - Josue P. Epane
- Paper 2: Do Hospitals with Skilled Nursing Units Have Lower Readmission Rates?
  - Shivani Gupta
- Paper 3: Racial/Ethnic Patient Mix in Hospitals: Impact on Readmissions and Financial Performance
  - Robert Weech-Maldonado
- Discussant: Rohit Pradhan