Our Parents, Ourselves: Health Care for an Aging Population
Variations in Practice and Spending

The Dartmouth Atlas
Motivation for Current JAHF-Funded Report

• Health Care for Aging Population requires attention to the populations special characteristics and needs

• Report Covers:
  – Population characteristics
  – Areas where benefits/risks & preferences important
  – Indicators for how interact with health system
  – Areas showing improvement
  – Focus on dementia and multiple chronic conditions
Percent of U.S. population age 75 years and older, by HRR (2012)

Population Characteristics

- 7.4% to 17.1% (61)
- 6.7% to < 7.4% (56)
- 6.1% to < 6.7% (60)
- 5.3% to < 6.1% (64)
- 2.7% to < 5.3% (65)
- Not populated
Benefit/Harm with Age: Guidelines recommend against screening men over 75
Percent of Medicare decedents enrolled in hospice care during the last three days of life, by HRR (2012)

Preferences matter: Late identification and referral limits potential benefits of Hospice
Percent of Medicare beneficiaries readmitted within 30 days following medical discharge, by HRR

U.S. average

2008: 16.2%
2010: 15.9%
2012: 15.5%

Areas of Improvement: Readmission declining lower but still room to improve
Number of days spent in inpatient settings among three patient cohorts, by HRR (2012)

Special Populations: Multiple Chronic Conditions or Dementia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S. average</th>
<th>All beneficiaries</th>
<th>Multiple chronic conditions</th>
<th>Dementia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient days</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>per Medicare beneficiary</td>
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How many days of the year does the **average** FFS Medicare beneficiary leave the home to receive health care?  
(doctors visits, procedures, labs and imaging, inpatient days)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>National Average</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17 days</td>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>25 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People with Two or More Chronic Conditions</strong></td>
<td>3 ½ business day weeks</td>
<td>2 business day weeks</td>
<td>5 business day weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>33 days</td>
<td>22 days</td>
<td>46 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People with Two or More Chronic Conditions</strong></td>
<td>6 ½ business day weeks</td>
<td>4 ½ business day weeks</td>
<td>9 business day weeks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Number of contact days with the health care system among three patient cohorts, by HRR (2012)

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<th>Dementia</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. average</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average number of contact days with the health care system per beneficiary.
Percent of beneficiaries who had a primary care physician as their predominant provider of care, by HRR (2012)

York, PA 73.4%
McAllen, TX 70.9%
Jonesboro, AR 70.8%
Florence, SC 69.7%
Youngstown, OH 68.7%
U.S. average 56.9%
Missoula, MT 45.8%
Idaho Falls, ID 45.8%
New Orleans, LA 45.8%
Gulfport, MS 43.4%
Metairie, LA 42.6%
Percent of beneficiaries who had a primary care physician as their predominant provider of care, by HRR (2012)

Interacting with Health System: Specialty of the Doctor seen most as outpatient