

# Hospital Equity Measures Report

## General Information

Report Type:	Hospital Equity Measures Report
Year:	2024
Hospital Name:	PALOMAR MEDICAL CENTER
Facility Type:	General Acute Care Hospital
Hospital HCAI ID:	106374382
Report Period:	1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024
Status:	Complete
Due Date:	09/30/2025
Last Updated:	02/04/2026
Hospital Location with Clean Water and Air:	Y
Hospital Web Address for Equity Report:	<a href="http://www.palomarhealth.org">www.palomarhealth.org</a>

## Overview

Assembly Bill No. 1204 requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to develop and administer a Hospital Equity Measures Reporting Program to collect and post summaries of key hospital performance and patient outcome data regarding sociodemographic information, including but not limited to age, sex, race/ethnicity, payor type, language, disability status, and sexual orientation and gender identity.

Hospitals (general acute, children's, and acute psychiatric) and hospital systems are required to annually submit their reports to HCAI. These reports contain summaries of each measure, the top 10 disparities, and the equity plans to address the identified disparities. HCAI is required to maintain a link on the HCAI website that provides access to the content of hospital equity measures reports and equity plans to the public. All submitted hospitals are required to post their reports on their websites, as well.

## Laws and Regulations

For more information on Assembly Bill No. 1204, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1204](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1204)

## Hospital Equity Measures

### Joint Commission Accreditation

General acute care hospitals are required to report three structural measures based on the Commission Accreditation's Health Care Disparities Reduction and Patient-Centered Communication Accreditation Standards. For more information on these measures, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

<https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/r3-report/r3-report-issue-36-new-requirements-to-reduce>

-health-care-disparities/

The first two structural measures are scored as "yes" or "no"; the third structural measure comprises the percentages of patients by five categories of preferred languages spoken, in addition to one other/ unknown language category.

Designate an individual to lead hospital health equity activities (Y = Yes, N = No).

Y

Provide documentation of policy prohibiting discrimination (Y = Yes, N = No).

Y

Number of patients that were asked their preferred language, five defined categories and one other/ unknown languages category.

96790

Table 1. Summary of preferred languages reported by patients.

Languages	Number of patients who report preferring language	Total number of patients	Percentage of total patients who report preferring language (%)
English Language	78994	96790	81.6
Spanish Language	16486	96790	17
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	625	96790	0.6
Middle Eastern Languages	365	96790	0.4
American Sign Language	26	96790	0
Other Languages	285	96790	0.3

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Commitment to Health Equity Structural (HCHE) Measure**

There are five domains that make up the CMS Hospital Commitment to HCHE measures. Each domain is scored as "yes" or "no." In order to score "yes," a general acute care hospital is required to confirm all the domain's attestations. Lack of one or more of the attestations results in a score of "no." For more information on the CMS Hospital Commitment to HCHE measures, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/topics/hospitals/health-equity>

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Commitment to Health Equity Structural (HCHE) Measure Domain 1: Strategic Planning (Yes/No)**

- Our hospital strategic plan identifies priority populations who currently experience health disparities.
- Our hospital strategic plan identifies healthcare equity goals and discrete action steps to achieve these goals.
- Our hospital strategic plan outlines specific resources that have been dedicated to achieving our equity goals.
- Our hospital strategic plan describes our approach for engaging key stakeholders, such as community-based organizations.

Y

**CMS HCHE Measure Domain 2: Data Collection (Yes/No)**

- Our hospital strategic plan identifies healthcare equity goals and discrete action steps to achieve these goals.

- Our hospital has training for staff in culturally sensitive collection of demographics and/or social determinant of health information.
- Our hospital inputs demographic and/or social determinant of health information collected from patients into structured, interoperable data elements using a certified electronic health record (EHR) technology.

Y

CMS HCHE Measure Domain 3: Data Analysis (Yes/No)

- Our hospital stratifies key performance indicators by demographic and/or social determinants of health variables to identify equity gaps and includes this information in hospital performance dashboards.

Y

CMS HCHE Measure Domain 4: Quality Improvement (Yes/No)

- Our hospital participates in local, regional or national quality improvement activities focused on reducing health disparities.

Y

CMS HCHE Measure Domain 5: Leadership Engagement (Yes/No)

- Our hospital senior leadership, including chief executives and the entire hospital board of trustees, annually reviews our strategic plan for achieving health equity.
- Our hospital senior leadership, including chief executives and the entire hospital board of trustees, annually review key performance indicators stratified by demographic and/or social factors.

Y

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Social Drivers of Health (SDOH)**

General acute care hospitals are required to report on rates of screenings and intervention rates among patients above 18 years old for five health related social needs (HRSN), which are food insecurity, housing instability, transportation problems, utility difficulties, and interpersonal safety. These rates are reported separately as being screened as positive for any of the five HRSNs, positive for each individual HRSN, and the intervention rate for each positively screened HRSN. For more information on the CMS SDOH, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/key-concepts/social-drivers-health-and-health-related-social-needs>

Number of patients admitted to an inpatient hospital stay who are 18 years or older on the date of admission and are screened for all of the five HRSN

4890

Total number of patients who are admitted to a hospital inpatient stay and who are 18 years or older on the date of admission

13794

Rate of patients admitted for an inpatient hospital stay who are 18 years or older on the date of admission, were screened for an HRSN, and who screened positive for one or more of the HRSNs

35.5

Table 2. Positive screening rates and intervention rates for the five Health Related Social Needs of the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Social Drivers of Health (SDOH).

Social Driver of Health	Number of positive screenings	Rate of positive screenings (%)	Number of positive screenings who received intervention	Rate of positive screenings who received intervention (%)
Food Insecurity	122	2.5	0	0
Housing Instability	381	7.8	0	0
Transportation Problems	221	4.5	0	0
Utility Difficulties	77	1.6	0	0
Interpersonal Safety	67	1.4	0	0

## Core Quality Measures for General Acute Care Hospitals

There are two quality measures from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey. For more information on the HCAHPS survey, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

<https://hcahpsonline.org/en/survey-instruments/>

## Patient Recommends Hospital

The first HCAHPS quality measure is the percentage of patients who would recommend the hospital to friends and family. For this measure, general acute care hospitals provide the percentage of patient respondents who responded "probably yes" or "definitely yes" to whether they would recommend the hospital, the percentage of the people who responded to the survey (i.e., the response rate), and the inputs for the percentages. The percentages and inputs are stratified by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The corresponding HCAHPS question number is 19.

Number of respondents who replied "probably yes" or "definitely yes" to HCAHPS Question 19, "Would you recommend this hospital to your friends and family?"

2130

Total number of respondents to HCAHPS Question 19

2290

Percentage of total respondents who responded "probably yes" or "definitely yes" to HCAHPS Question 19

93

Total number of people surveyed on HCAHPS Question 19

13471

Response rate, or the percentage of people who responded to HCAHPS Question 19

17

Table 3. Patient recommends hospital by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>					
<b>Asian</b>					
<b>Black or African American</b>					
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>					
<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>					
<b>Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)</b>					
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>					
<b>White</b>					

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
<b>Age &lt; 18</b>					
<b>Age 18 to 34</b>					
<b>Age 35 to 49</b>					
<b>Age 50 to 64</b>					
<b>Age 65 Years and Older</b>					

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
<b>Female</b>					
<b>Male</b>					
<b>Unknown</b>					

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
<b>Medicare</b>					
<b>Medicaid</b>					
<b>Private</b>					
<b>Self-Pay</b>					
<b>Other</b>					

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
<b>English Language</b>					
<b>Spanish Language</b>					
<b>Asian Pacific Islander Languages</b>					
<b>Middle Eastern Languages</b>					
<b>American Sign Language</b>					
<b>Other/Unknown Languages</b>					

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
Does not have a disability					
Has a mobility disability					
Has a cognition disability					
Has a hearing disability					
Has a vision disability					
Has a self-care disability					
Has an independent living disability					

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual					
Straight or heterosexual					
Bisexual					
Something else					
Don't know					
Not disclosed					

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percent of "probably yes" or "definitely yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
Female					
Female-to-male (FTM)/ transgender male/trans man					
Male					
Male-to-female (MTF)/ transgender female/trans woman					
Non-conforming gender					
Additional gender category or other					
Not disclosed					

## Patient Received Information in Writing

The second HCAHPS quality measure is the percentage of patients who reported receiving information in writing on symptoms and health problems to look out for after leaving the hospital. General acute care hospitals are required to provide the percentage of patient respondents who responded "yes" to being provided written information, the percentage of the people who responded to the survey (i.e., the response rate), and the inputs for these percentages. These percentages and inputs are stratified by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The corresponding HCAHPS question number is 17.

Number of respondents who replied "yes" to HCAHPS Question 17, "During this hospital stay, did you get information in writing about what symptoms or health problems to look out for after you left the

hospital?"

1969  
Total number of respondents to HCAHPS Question 17  
2290

Percentage of respondents who responded "yes" to HCAHPS Question 17  
86

Total number of people surveyed on HCAHPS Question 17  
13471

Response rate, or the percentage of people who responded to HCAHPS Question 17  
17

Table 4. Patient reports receiving information in writing about symptoms or health problems by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Race and/or Ethnicity	Number of "yes" responses	Total number of responses	Percentage of "yes" responses (%)	Total number of patients surveyed	Response rate of patients surveyed (%)
American Indian or Alaska Native					
Asian					
Black or African American					
Hispanic or Latino					
Middle Eastern or North African					
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)					
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander					
White					

Age	Number of "yes" responses	Total number of responses	Percentage of "yes" responses (%)	Total number of patients surveyed	Response rate of patients surveyed (%)
Age < 18					
Age 18 to 34					
Age 35 to 49					
Age 50 to 64					
Age 65 Years and Older					

Sex assigned at birth	Number of "yes" responses	Total number of responses	Percentage of "yes" responses (%)	Total number of patients surveyed	Response rate of patients surveyed (%)
Female					
Male					
Unknown					

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of "yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of "yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
Medicare					
Medicaid					
Private					
Self-Pay					
Other					

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of "yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of "yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
English Language					
Spanish Language					
Asian Pacific Islander Languages					
Middle Eastern Languages					
American Sign Language					
Other/Unknown Languages					

  

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of "yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of "yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
Does not have a disability					
Has a mobility disability					
Has a cognition disability					
Has a hearing disability					
Has a vision disability					
Has a self-care disability					
Has an independent living disability					

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of "yes" responses</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of "yes" responses (%)</b>	<b>Total number of patients surveyed</b>	<b>Response rate of patients surveyed (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual					
Straight or heterosexual					
Bisexual					
Something else					
Don't know					
Not disclosed					



Gender Identity	Number of "yes" responses	Total number of responses	Percentage of "yes" responses (%)	Total number of patients surveyed	Response rate of patients surveyed (%)
Female					
Female-to-male (FTM)/ transgender male/trans man					
Male					
Male-to-female (MTF)/ transgender female/trans woman					
Non-conforming gender					
Additional gender category or other					
Not disclosed					

## Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Indicators

General acute care hospitals are required to report on two indicators from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). For general information about AHRQ indicators, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

<https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/>

## Pneumonia Mortality Rate

The Pneumonia Mortality Rate is defined as the rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges with a principal diagnosis of pneumonia or a principal diagnosis of sepsis with a secondary diagnosis of pneumonia present on admission for patients ages 18 years and older. General acute care hospitals report the Pneumonia Mortality Rate by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The corresponding AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicator is 20. For more information about this indicator, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/IQI/V2023/TechSpecs/IQI\\_20\\_Pneumonia\\_Mortality\\_Rate.pdf](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/IQI/V2023/TechSpecs/IQI_20_Pneumonia_Mortality_Rate.pdf)

Number of in-hospital deaths with a principal diagnosis of pneumonia or a principal diagnosis of sepsis with a secondary diagnosis of pneumonia present on admission

77

Total number of hospital discharges with a principal diagnosis of pneumonia or a principal diagnosis of sepsis with a secondary diagnosis of pneumonia present on admission

883

Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges with a principal diagnosis of pneumonia or a principal diagnosis of sepsis with a secondary diagnosis of pneumonia present on admission

87.2

Table 5. Pneumonia Mortality Rate by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Asian</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Black or African American</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	13	201	64.7
<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>			
<b>Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>White</b>	58	572	101.4

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Age &lt; 18</b>			
<b>Age 18 to 34</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Age 35 to 49</b>	0	59	0
<b>Age 50 to 64</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Age 65 Years and Older</b>	69	606	113.9

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Female</b>	38	437	87
<b>Male</b>	39	446	87.4
<b>Unknown</b>			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	67	611	109.7
<b>Medicaid</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Private</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Self-Pay</b>	0	11	0
<b>Other</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language			
Other/Unknown Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/ transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/ transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## Death Rate among Surgical Inpatients with Serious Treatable Complications

The Death Rate among Surgical Inpatients with Serious Treatable Complications is defined as the rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 surgical discharges among patients ages 18-89 years old or obstetric patients with serious treatable complications. General acute care hospitals report this measure by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The corresponding AHRQ Patient Safety Indicator is 04. For more information about this indicator, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:  
[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PSI/V2023/TechSpecs/PSI\\_04\\_Death\\_Rate\\_among\\_Surgical\\_Inpatients\\_with\\_Serious\\_Treatable\\_Complications.pdf](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/PSI/V2023/TechSpecs/PSI_04_Death_Rate_among_Surgical_Inpatients_with_Serious_Treatable_Complications.pdf)

Number of in-hospital deaths among patients aged 18-89 years old or obstetric patients with serious treatable complications

46

Total number of surgical discharges among patients aged 18-89 years old or obstetric patients

180

Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 surgical discharges, among patients aged 18-89 years old or obstetric patients with serious treatable complications

255.6

Table 6. Death Rate among Surgical Inpatients with Serious Treatable Complications by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Race and/or Ethnicity	Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria	Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria	Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	15	55	272.7
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	21	96	218.8

Age	Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria	Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria	Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)
Age < 18			
Age 18 to 34	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 35 to 49	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 50 to 64	16	50	320
Age 65 Years and Older	25	100	250

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Female</b>	13	68	191.2
<b>Male</b>	33	112	294.6
<b>Unknown</b>			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	25	95	263.2
<b>Medicaid</b>	12	52	230.8
<b>Private</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Self-Pay</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Other</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>English Language</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Spanish Language</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Asian Pacific Islander Languages</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Middle Eastern Languages</b>			
<b>American Sign Language</b>			
<b>Other/Unknown Languages</b>			

  

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Does not have a disability</b>			
<b>Has a mobility disability</b>			
<b>Has a cognition disability</b>			
<b>Has a hearing disability</b>			
<b>Has a vision disability</b>			
<b>Has a self-care disability</b>			
<b>Has an independent living disability</b>			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
<b>Lesbian, gay or homosexual</b>			
<b>Straight or heterosexual</b>			
<b>Bisexual</b>			
<b>Something else</b>			
<b>Don't know</b>			
<b>Not disclosed</b>			

Gender Identity	Number of in-hospital deaths that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria	Number of surgical discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria	Rate of in-hospital deaths per 1,000 hospital discharges that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/ transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/ transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) Core Quality Measures

There are three core quality maternal measures adopted from the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC).

### CMQCC Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex (NTSV) Cesarean Birth Rate

The CMQCC Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex (NTSV) Cesarean Birth Rate is defined as nulliparous women with a term (at least 37 weeks gestation), singleton baby in a vertex position delivered by cesarian birth. General acute care hospitals report the NTSV Cesarean Birth Rate by race and/or ethnicity, maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. For more information, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

<https://www.cmqcc.org/quality-improvement-toolkits/supporting-vaginal-birth/ntsv-cesarean-birth-measure-specifications>

Number of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries

197

Total number of nulliparous NTSV patients

1090

Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries

0.181

Table 7. Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex (NTSV) Cesarean Birth Rate by race and/or ethnicity, maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Age < 18	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 18 to 29	106	719	0.147
Age 30 to 39	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 40 Years and Older	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Female			
Male			
Unknown			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Medicare	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Medicaid	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Private	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Self-Pay	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other/Unknown Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of NTSV patients with cesarean deliveries</b>	<b>Total number of NTSV patients</b>	<b>Rate of NTSV patients with Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## CMQCC Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC) Rate

The CMQCC Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC) Rate is defined as vaginal births per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries. General acute care hospitals report the VBAC Rate by race and/or ethnicity, maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The VBAC Rate uses the specifications of AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicator 22. For more information, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

[https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/IQI/V2023/TechSpecs/IQI\\_22\\_Vaginal\\_Birth\\_After\\_Cesarean\\_\(VBAC\)\\_Delivery\\_Rate\\_Uncomplicated.pdf](https://qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Downloads/Modules/IQI/V2023/TechSpecs/IQI_22_Vaginal_Birth_After_Cesarean_(VBAC)_Delivery_Rate_Uncomplicated.pdf)

Number of vaginal delivery among cases with previous Cesarean delivery that meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria

120

Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery that meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria



# Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries

## 217

Table 8. Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC) Rate by race and/or ethnicity, maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Asian</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Black or African American</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>			
<b>Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>White</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
<b>Age &lt; 18</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Age 18 to 29</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Age 30 to 39</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Age 40 Years and Older</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
<b>Female</b>			
<b>Male</b>			
<b>Unknown</b>			
<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Medicaid</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Private</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Self-Pay</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Other</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language	0		
Other/Unknown Languages	0		

  

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of vaginal deliveries with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Total number of birth discharges with previous Cesarean delivery</b>	<b>Rate of vaginal delivery per 1,000 deliveries by patients with previous Cesarean deliveries (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## CMQCC Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding Rate

The CMQCC Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding Rate is defined as the newborns per 100 who reached at least 37 weeks of gestation (or 3000g if gestational age is missing) who received breast milk

exclusively during their stay at the hospital. Other criteria are that the newborns did not go to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), transfer, or die, did not reflect multiple gestation, and did not have codes for parenteral nutrition or galactosemia. General acute care hospitals report the Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding Rate by race and/or ethnicity, maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The CMQCC Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding Rate uses the Joint Commission National Quality Measure PC-05. For more information, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:  
<https://manual.jointcommission.org/releases/TJC2024B/MIF0170.html>

Number of newborn cases that were exclusively fed breast milk during their hospital stay and meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria

538

Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria

984

Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively fed breast milk during their hospital stay and meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria

54.7

Table 9. Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding Rate by race and/or ethnicity, maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Race and/or Ethnicity	Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria	Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria	Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	286	578	49.5
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	130	187	69.5

Age	Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria	Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria	Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)
Age < 18	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 18 to 29	261	491	53.2
Age 30 to 39	248	427	58.1
Age 40 Years and Older	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Female			
Male			
Unknown			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Medicare	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Medicaid	316	655	48.2
Private	166	238	69.7
Self-Pay	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language	0		
Other/Unknown Languages	0		

  

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of newborn cases that were exclusively breastfed and meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Total number of newborn cases born in the hospital that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria</b>	<b>Rate of newborn cases per 100 that were exclusively breastfed and met inclusion/exclusion criteria (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate

General acute care hospitals are required to report several HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rates, which are broadly defined as the percentage of hospital-level, unplanned, all-cause readmissions after admission for eligible conditions within 30 days of hospital discharge for patients aged 18 years and older. These rates are first stratified based on any eligible condition, mental health disorders, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and no behavioral health diagnosis. Then, each condition-stratified hospital readmission rate is further stratified by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. For more information on the HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate, please visit the following link by copying and pasting the URL into your web browser:

[https://hcai.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HCAI-All-Cause-Readmission-Rate-Exclusions\\_ADA.pdf](https://hcai.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HCAI-All-Cause-Readmission-Rate-Exclusions_ADA.pdf)

## HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate – Any Eligible Condition

Number of inpatient hospital admissions which occurs within 30 days of the discharge date of an eligible index admission and were 18 years or older at time of admission

1805

Total number of patients who were admitted to the general acute care hospital and were 18 years or older at time of admission

17265

Rate of hospital-level, unplanned, all-cause readmissions after admission for any eligible condition

within 30 days of hospital discharge for patients aged 18 and older

10.5

Table 10. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate for any eligible condition by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	34	166	20.5
<b>Asian</b>	65	687	9.5
<b>Black or African American</b>	76	450	16.9
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	518	6431	8.1
<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>			
<b>Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)</b>	23	109	21.1
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	13	71	18.3
<b>White</b>	1029	8700	11.8

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
<b>Age 18 to 34</b>	213	4280	5
<b>Age 35 to 49</b>	204	2386	8.5
<b>Age 50 to 64</b>	388	3079	12.6
<b>Age 65 Years and Older</b>	1000	7520	13.3

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
<b>Female</b>	927	10244	9
<b>Male</b>	878	7021	12.5
<b>Unknown</b>			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	1053	7232	14.6
<b>Medicaid</b>	521	6144	8.5
<b>Private</b>	207	3152	6.6
<b>Self-Pay</b>	13	374	3.5
<b>Other</b>	11	363	3

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
<b>English Language</b>	1537	14097	10.9
<b>Spanish Language</b>	238	2856	8.3
<b>Asian Pacific Islander Languages</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Middle Eastern Languages</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>American Sign Language</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
<b>Other/Unknown Languages</b>	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate - Mental Health Disorders

Number of inpatient hospital admissions which occurs within 30 days of the discharge date for mental health disorders and were 18 years or older at time of admission

452

Total number of patients who were admitted to the general acute care hospital and were 18 years or older at time of admission

3134

Rate of hospital-level, unplanned, all-cause readmissions after admission for mental health disorders within 30 days of hospital discharge for patients aged 18 and older

14.4

Table 11. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate for mental health disorders by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Age 18 to 34	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 35 to 49	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 50 to 64	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 65 Years and Older	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female	277	2014	13.8
Male	175	1120	15.6
Unknown			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Medicare	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Medicaid	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Private	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Self-Pay	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language			
Other/Unknown Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed



<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate - Substance Use Disorders

Number of inpatient hospital admissions which occurs within 30 days of the discharge date for substance use disorders and were 18 years or older at time of admission

152

Total number of patients who were admitted to the general acute care hospital and were 18 years or older at time of admission

1129

Rate of hospital-level, unplanned, all-cause readmissions after admission for substance use disorders within 30 days of hospital discharge for patients aged 18 and older

13.5

Table 12. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate for substance use disorders by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Age 18 to 34	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 35 to 49	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 50 to 64	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 65 Years and Older	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Male	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Unknown			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Medicare	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Medicaid	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Private	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Self-Pay	0	42	0
Other	0	11	0

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language			
Other/Unknown Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate - Co-occurring disorders

Number of inpatient hospital admissions which occurs within 30 days of the discharge date for co-occurring disorders and were 18 years or older at time of admission

118

Total number of patients who were admitted to the general acute care hospital and were 18 years or older at time of admission

675

Rate of hospital-level, unplanned, all-cause readmissions after admission for co-occurring disorders within 30 days of hospital discharge for patients aged 18 and older

17.5

Table 13. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate for co-occurring disorders by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Age 18 to 34	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 35 to 49	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 50 to 64	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 65 Years and Older	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Male	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Unknown			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Medicare	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Medicaid	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Private	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Self-Pay	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages			
Middle Eastern Languages			
American Sign Language			
Other/Unknown Languages			

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate - No Behavioral Health Diagnosis

Number of inpatient hospital admissions which occurs within 30 days of the discharge date with no behavioral diagnosis and were 18 years or older at time of admission

1083

Total number of patients who were admitted to the general acute care hospital and were 18 years or older at time of admission

12327

Rate of hospital-level, unplanned, all-cause readmissions after admission with no behavioral diagnosis within 30 days of hospital discharge for patients aged 18 and older

8.8

Table 14. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate with No Behavioral Diagnosis by race and/or ethnicity, non-maternal age categories, sex, payer type, preferred language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

<b>Race and/or Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Black or African American	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Hispanic or Latino	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern or North African			
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
White	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Age 18 to 34	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 35 to 49	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 50 to 64	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Age 65 Years and Older	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Sex assigned at birth</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female	570	7656	7.4
Male	513	4671	11
Unknown			

  

<b>Payer Type</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Medicare	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Medicaid	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Private	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Self-Pay	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

  

<b>Preferred Language</b>	<b>Number of inpatient admissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
English Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Spanish Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Middle Eastern Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
American Sign Language	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed
Other/Unknown Languages	suppressed	suppressed	suppressed

<b>Disability Status</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Does not have a disability			
Has a mobility disability			
Has a cognition disability			
Has a hearing disability			
Has a vision disability			
Has a self-care disability			
Has an independent living disability			

  

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Lesbian, gay or homosexual			
Straight or heterosexual			
Bisexual			
Something else			
Don't know			
Not disclosed			

  

<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Number of inpatient readmissions</b>	<b>Total number of admitted patients</b>	<b>Readmission rate (%)</b>
Female			
Female-to-male (FTM)/transgender male/trans man			
Male			
Male-to-female (MTF)/transgender female/trans woman			
Non-conforming gender			
Additional gender category or other			
Not disclosed			

## Health Equity Plan

All general acute care hospitals report a health equity plan that identifies the top 10 disparities and a written plan to address them.

## Top 10 Disparities

Disparities for each hospital equity measure are identified by comparing the rate ratios by stratification groups. Rate ratios are calculated differently for measures with preferred low rates and those with preferred high rates. Rate ratios are calculated after applying the California Health and Human Services Agency's "Data De-Identification Guidelines (DDG)," dated September 23, 2016.

Table 15. Top 10 disparities and their rate ratio values.

Measures	Stratifications	Stratification Group	Stratification Rate	Reference Group	Reference Rate	Rate Ratio
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Expected Payor	Medicare	14.6	Other	3	4.8
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Expected Payor	Medicaid	8.5	Other	3	2.8
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Age (excluding maternal measures)	65 and older	13.3	18 to 34	5	2.7
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Race and/or Ethnicity	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	21.1	Hispanic or Latino	8.1	2.6
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Race and/or Ethnicity	American Indian or Alaska Native	20.5	Hispanic or Latino	8.1	2.5
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Age (excluding maternal measures)	50 to 64	12.6	18 to 34	5	2.5
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Race and/or Ethnicity	Multiracial and/or Multiethnic (two or more races)	18.3	Hispanic or Latino	8.1	2.3
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Expected Payor	Private	6.6	Other	3	2.2
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Race and/or Ethnicity	Black or African American	16.9	Hispanic or Latino	8.1	2.1
HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate	Age (excluding maternal measures)	35 to 49	8.5	18 to 34	5	1.7

#### Plan to address disparities identified in the data

On 08/21/2025, A team presented the top 10 disparities for Palomar Escondido, Palomar Poway, and Palomar Health as a system. Our top 10 disparities for Escondido were readmissions by Age (35 to 49, 50 to 64, 65+ vs 18 to 34), Race/Ethnicity (AI/AN, Black, Multiracial, NH/PI vs Hispanic/Latino), Payer (Medicare vs Private), and unique disparities: Failure-to-Rescue (Male vs Female), Pneumonia Mortality (White vs Hispanic/Latino) and Patient safety Indicator Death among surgical inpatients with serious complications for male patients.

Our system's top disparities include recurrent 30-day readmission gaps (Medicare; older age cohorts; and Black/African American vs reference), plus patient safety and access differences. We will apply a system wide improvement bundle with local tailoring at each hospital.

#### Readmission Disparity:

Key actions: Our actions will include education to our providers and nursing staff, which will include working with our Case Management team to develop transitional care bundle(s). These care bundles will include but will not be limited to follow-up instructions by the provider and nurse at discharge, discharge medications provided to the patient before discharge, accurate medication reconciliation to ensure no medication duplications, patient and or family education to include teach-back. Palomar Medical Center will initiate home phone calls to this group of patients within 72 hours to ensure patient understanding of aftercare instructions. The RNs will provide education to the SNFs on continuity of care to ensure that the next level of care is able to facilitate care to avoid a readmission. Paloma Medical Center has SDOH screening and referrals, language-interpreters, and make every effort to provide concordant instructions, and culturally informed patient engagement.

Time frame and Objectives for readmission:

Reduce readmissions in disparity groups by greater than or equal to 20% in 12 months, and narrow



the rate ratio gap by greater than or equal to 25% over 24 months

Palomar Medical Center Disparity: Pneumonia Mortality rate white ethnicity.

Palomar Medical Center has an Antibiotic Stewardship Committee that reviews all antibiotics to ensure they are the right choice and duration based on severity and risk factors of the patient. Palomar will engage with the Antibiotic Stewardship Committee and the providers to review their evidence based order set to ensure that they follow either CDC recommendations or Diseases Society of American. By using our SDOH data, we can also determine if any of the mortalities were linked to socioeconomic factors, like income, insurance or homelessness.

Palomar Medical Center Escondido will also review and as needed revise their plan of care for patients admitted with pneumonia and develop short and long term goals such as;  
Patient will have appropriate blood cultures drawn before the administration of an antibiotic and in ICU continue to implement the ventilator associated pneumonia bundles to include, head of bed elevated, daily sedation vacation, and subglottic suctioning.

Goal and Time frame:

Reduce pneumonia mortality rates in disparity group (White vs Hispanic/Latino) by greater than or equal to 10% in 12 months and narrow the gap by greater than or equal to 15% over 24 months

Key Issues:

Death rate among surgical inpatients with serious treatable conditions, disparity white male  
Palomar Medical Center does utilize a surgical checklist for surgical patients aligned with The Joint Commission Universal Protocol standard for a performance measure. This checklist does follow recommendations for patient safety during a surgical and after a surgical procedure. The Director for Surgical Services will work with the surgical team and the providers to determine if a revision of the current surgical checklist should be done to include some elements of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. The Who Surgical Checklist does include assessments performed by the providers before surgery. The current Standardized Procedure and Adult Inpatient Standards, include post-operative monitoring and infection control monitoring for the care of the surgical patient. The Antibiotic Stewardship Committee will be engaged if continued use of antibiotics is required for the surgical patient beyond the initial provider order. Palomar Medical Center, Escondido will also utilize the SDOH data when preparing patients for surgery to determine other unknown risks to the surgical patient during recovery.

Goal and Time frame:

Reduce surgical mortality rates in disparity group by greater than or equal to 15% in 12 months and narrow the gap by greater than or equal to 20% over 24 months

Stratify PSI metrics by payer/age/race; unit dashboards; escalation simulations; and by greater than or equal to 15% reduction in disparity-linked PSI events as reducing surgical mortality and pneumonia rates

## **Performance in the priority area**

General acute care hospitals are required to provide hospital equity plans that address the top 10 disparities by identifying population impact and providing measurable objectives and specific timeframes. For each disparity, hospital equity plans will address performance across priority areas: person-centered care, patient safety, addressing patient social drivers of health, effective treatment, care coordination, and access to care.

### **Person-centered care**

Person-Centered Care for the identified top 10 disparities:

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido effectively communicates with patients when providing care,

treatment, and services. The initial phase of this is done through the nursing assessment, which is performed within 24 hours of admission. Nursing identifies the patient's oral and written communication needs, including the patient's preferred language for discussing health care. This communication includes the need for personal devices such as hearing aids or glasses, language interpreters, communication boards, and translated or plain language materials. The nursing staff communicates with the patient during initial nursing assessment and provides the patient treatment, and services in a manner that meets their oral and written communication needs. Palomar Medical Centers medical record contains information that reflects the patient's care, treatment, services, race and ethnicity. Palomar Medical Center respects, protects, and promotes patient rights. To enable and promote patient centered care the policies allow a family member, friend, or other individual to be present with the patient for emotional support during the course of stay. Palomar Medical Center, Escondido prohibits discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The nursing standards of care are written as patient centered to improve the safety and quality of care for all patients and to adopt nursing practices promoting better communication and patient engagement.

Palomar nursing standards also require care plans that are to be completed within 8 hours of admission and these care plans are maintained by the interdisciplinary team that contain specific, actionable information for staff across multiple care settings. These care plans promote communication and continuity of care/patient centered by suggesting communication strategies, treatment plans, and psychosocial resources.

Palomar Medical Centers Equity Committee is reviewing patient sub-populations to determine if they experience less safe or lower quality of care or poorer health outcomes associated with their race, ethnicity, language, disability, or sexual orientation. The Equity Committee is also reviewing other factors, to document if these disparities in health care could be caused by cultural or language barriers that impair communication with caregivers, impeded access to care, or fear of discrimination. The goal of the Equity Committee is to address cultural, communication, mobility, SDOH, and other patient needs during their patient admission

Goal and Time Frame:

Increase language concordant interactions; by greater than or equal to 90% teach back use; patient/caregiver preferences integrated and documented by greater than or equal to 90% of the time within 12 months and 100% in 24 months.

Increase care plan individualization per disparity group by greater than or equal to 90% of the time within 12 months and 100% in 24 months.

#### Patient safety

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido conducts a patient safety survey every other year and participates in Leap Frog. Palomar Medical Center Escondido received a grade A from leapfrog for their data and processes for Spring of 2025. Leapfrog is based on 30 national performance measures related to errors, accidents, injuries, infections, and the systems/processes that are in place to prevent injury or harm to a patient.

The measures that are used to calculate these grades include nursing and bedside care, nursing care for patients, staff ratios for nursing, effective leadership to prevent errors, staff working together to prevent errors, handwashing, safe ordering practices, medication reconciliation, safe medication administration, medication documentation for elective outpatient surgeries, and PSI. Palomar Medical Center Escondido achieved the standard in all of these patient safety measures.

Goal and Time Frame:

Palomar Health Escondido will ensure that the 10 top priorities, which include readmissions,

pneumonia deaths, and surgical deaths, meet all the requirements for Leapfrogs 30 national performance measures by the end of 2026. This will include a reduction by greater than or equal to 15% in the PSI score which is the patient safety indicator for patient safety events, which would include surgical and pneumonia mortalities.

#### Addressing patient social drivers of health

Palomar Medical Center, has utilized a form for over a year called Prapare. This form is incorporated into the initial nursing assessment for nursing. It is the expectation that nursing assessment includes the Prapare questions, and is within 24 hours of admission. The drivers for the Prapare questions are, food, housing, safety, medications/financial, transportation, and utility difficulties. Palomar Medical Center, Escondido selected a sub-population of patients to evaluate equity based on the Joint Commission requirements. These requirements were to select a sub-population of patients to analyze. Palomar Escondido selected stroke care for 2025. Our data demonstrated we had 7.5 % of our sub population of patients who had a housing instability and 4% interpersonal safety. Our total volume of patients ranged for 3rd quarter of 2025 from 129-135 patients. The positive results received further referrals from our Case Management team. Further analysis did also demonstrate that 2 of our questions were difficult to understand by nursing or the patient, therefore, further clarity was added to those questions to enable accurate answers.

Based on the top 10 priorities the Equity Committee has elected to analyze the top 10 priority populations for 2026.

#### Goal and Time Frame:

Initial Data for readmissions, pneumonia mortalities, and surgical mortalities, (White vs Hispanic/Latino) and Patient safety Indicator Death among surgical inpatients with serious complications for male patients) will be completed by December 31, 2025 for an overall percentage for social drivers of health. Once we receive the initial data for 2025, the Equity Committee will receive data quarterly for readmissions, pneumonia mortality, and surgical patients with mortality to analyze for social determinants of health.

The goal is to complete the prapare form within 12 months for SDOH by greater than or equal to 85%.

### **Performance in the priority area continued**

Performance across all of the following priority areas.

#### Effective treatment

To improve the care provided to patients with pneumonia, Palomar Health Escondido has established electronic power plans to facilitate evidence-based practice throughout the organization for patients admitted with pneumonia. These power plans are in place to reduce LOS, reduce cost per case, improve mortality, and improve the readmission rate. These power plans were reviewed by multiple medical staff committees including the Antibiotic Stewardship Committee, pulmonologists, Emergency Department providers, infectious disease providers, members of the nursing leadership team, case managers, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, IT staff, and quality improvement professionals..

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido supports the medical staff and interdisciplinary committee(s) in their improvement efforts by providing a dedicated dyad of improvement processes. They developed pneumonia power plan for key care phases including:

Care for patients in the Emergency Department who are treated and are not admitted to the hospital.

Triage and disposition of patients in the Emergency Department.

Care for patients admitted to the hospital (acute care and readiness for discharge).

Goal and Time Frame:

The providers will utilize the pneumonia power plans by greater than or equal to 90% of the time by the end of 2026

Surgical Mortality:

Palomar Medical Center has multiple power plans, which were developed in a comprehensive environment, which included multiple medical staff committees including the Antibiotic Stewardship Committee, infectious disease providers, surgical providers, pharmacy and members of the nursing leadership team.

These power plans include:

Preoperative care, careful patient preparation before surgery to help minimize risks and prevent deaths by identifying potential issues.

Identify high-risk patients:

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido includes managing underlying conditions, such as:

Getting blood glucose under control in patients with diabetes.

Addressing modifiable risk factors like smoking, excessive weight, and poor nutrition.

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido has in place the following processes to identify and address risk factors for the surgical patient.

Review past medical history: Common risk factors include chronic conditions like heart failure and COPD, older age, multiple medications, and previous hospitalizations.

Social determinants of Health: Assess and address patients' non-medical needs, such as access to food, housing, and transportation, by connecting them with community resources.

Goal and Time Frame:

The providers will utilize the correct surgical power plans by greater than or equal to 90% of the time by the end of 2026

Readmission Disparity:

Key actions: Our actions will include education to our providers and nursing staff, which will include working with our Case Management team to develop transitional care bundle(s). These care bundles will include but will not be limited to, follow up instructions by the provider and nurse at discharge, discharge medications provided to the patient before discharge, accurate medication reconciliation to ensure no medication duplications, patient and or family education to include teach back. Palomar Medical Center will initiate home phone calls to this group of patients within 72 hours to ensure patient understanding of aftercare instructions. The RNs will provide education to the SNFs on continuity of care to ensure that the next level of care is able to facilitate care to avoid a readmission. Paloma Medical Center has SDOH screening and referrals, language-interpreters, and make every effort to provide concordant instructions, and culturally informed patient engagement.

Goal and Time frame:

Reduce readmissions in disparity groups by greater than or equal to 20% in 12 months, and narrow the rate ratio gap by greater than or equal to 25% over 24 months

## Care coordination

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido will include the following processes for care coordination for the top 10 priorities.

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido's EMR has a robust discharge planning and patient education process that is addressed in their adult inpatient standard.

Teach-back method: Nurses ensure the patient and caregivers understand their care plan, medications, and warning signs by having them repeat the information in their own words.

Clear instructions: Discharge instructions are provided in simple, understandable language, and provided in both written and digital formats.

Shared decision-making: Involve patients in their care from the time of admission to help them

prepare for a smooth transition home.

#### Medication management

Medication reconciliation: A medical staff-led review of all medications before discharge is performed to prevent missed, duplicate, or incorrect dosages, which can cause adverse events.

Adherence support: The CRM (case management team) initiate communication with the patient to ensure patients can access and adhere to their medication schedules, which can be done through pharmacist phone calls, automated reminders, and financial assistance.

#### Post-discharge support and communication

Timely follow-up: The CRM and or nursing staff will schedule follow-up appointments with primary care providers (PCPs) or specialists within one week of discharge. This is performed at the time of discharge

Post-discharge contact: Depending on patient needs, there is a follow-up phone call from a nurse within 24 to 72 hours of discharge can assess the patient's condition and reinforce discharge instructions.

Time frame and Objectives for Disparity Group for care coordination:

CRM referrals in disparity groups by greater than or equal to 90% in 12 months, and 100% over 24 months

#### Access to care

Palomar Medical Center, Escondido does not refuse care to any patient regardless of their ability to pay for services. The Equity Committee receives overall data on the 5 SDOH measures. Based on positive results referrals are sent for further Case Management or community services.

#### Goal and Time Frame:

The goal is to complete the prapare form within 12 months for SDOH by greater than or equal to 85%. Those top priority patients who are positive for SDOH referrals will be made greater than or equal to 90% within 12 months.

## Methodology Guidelines

Did the hospital follow the methodology in the Measures Submission Guide? (Y/N)

Y