

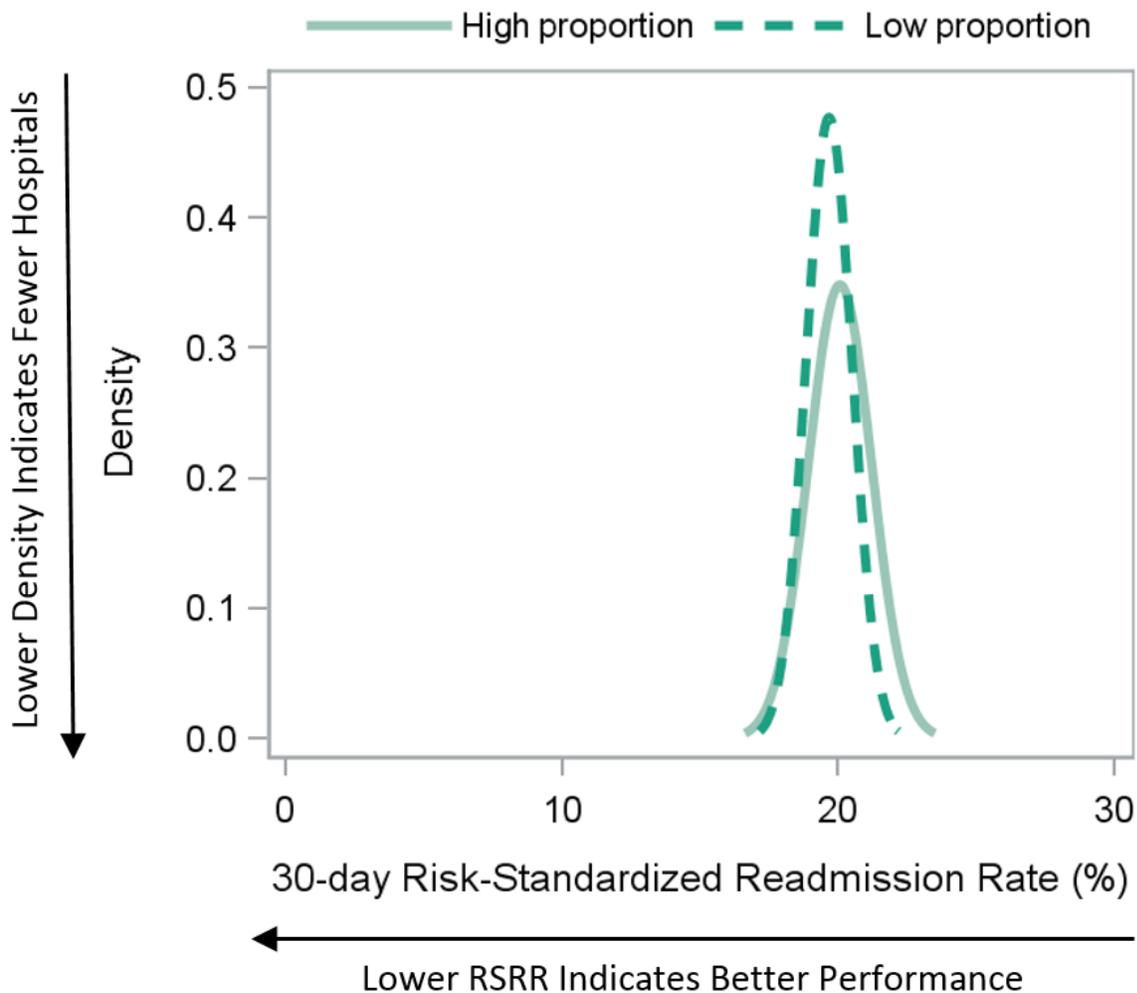
► **Performance on the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease readmission measure:** Hospitals that serve high and low proportions of African-American patients.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) evaluates hospital performance in relation to the proportion of African-American patients served in order to monitor patterns, changes, and potential unintended consequences in the measure results. This information allows CMS to better understand the current state of care within U.S. hospitals.

The chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) readmission measure includes Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older and assesses the occurrence of unplanned readmission for any cause within 30 days after discharge from a hospitalization for COPD [1].

CMS began publicly reporting 30-day risk-standardized readmission rates (RSRRs) following hospitalizations for COPD 2014 [2]. Publicly reported measure results are updated annually on the [Hospital Compare](#) website. The COPD readmission measure has been included in the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) since 2015 [3].

**FIGURE I.** Distributions of COPD RSRRs (%) for hospitals with low and high proportions of African-American patients, July 2013-June 2016.



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Variation in RSRRs reflects differences in performance among hospitals; lower RSRRs suggest better quality and higher RSRRs suggest worse quality. To understand how caring for African-American patients might impact a hospital's RSRR, we examined RSRRs among hospitals with high and low proportions of African-American patients. We compared the COPD RSRRs for the 482 hospitals with 0% African-American Medicare FFS patients to the 370 hospitals with  $\geq 22.2\%$  African-American Medicare FFS patients for the July 2013 – June 2016 reporting period. We defined hospitals with low and high proportions of African-American patients as those that fall within the lowest and highest deciles of all hospitals with 25 or more qualifying discharges (N= 3,702). The proportion of African-American Medicare FFS patients for each hospital was determined using the Medicare Part A Inpatient Claims from 2015. All hospitals with 0% African-American patients were included in the lowest decile. To ensure accurate assessment of each hospital, the COPD readmission measure uses a statistical model to adjust for key differences in patient risk factors that are clinically relevant and that have a strong relationship with the readmission outcome [1].

**TABLE I.** Distributions of COPD RSRRs (%) for hospitals with low and high proportions of African-American patients, July 2013-June 2016.

	COPD RSRR (%)	
	Hospitals with low proportions (0%) of African-American patients n = 482	Hospitals with high proportions ( $\geq 22.2\%$ ) of African-American patients n = 370
Maximum	23.3	23.7
90%	20.8	21.6
75%	20.2	20.8
Median (50%)	19.6	20.0
25%	19.1	19.3
10%	18.7	18.7
Minimum	17.2	16.7

The median COPD RSRR for hospitals with low proportions of African-American patients was 19.6% (interquartile range [IQR]: 19.1%-20.2%; Figure 1 and Table 1). The median COPD RSRR for hospitals with high proportions of African-American patients was 20.0% (IQR: 19.3%- 20.8%; Figure 1 and Table 1).

Hospitals with low proportions of African-American patients had a median COPD RSRR that was 0.4 percentage points lower than hospitals with high proportions.

1. Jaymie Simoes, Jacqueline N. Grady, Jo DeBuhr, et al. 2017 Condition-Specific Measures Updates and Specifications Report Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measures: Acute Myocardial Infarction – Version 10.0 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – Version 6.0 Heart Failure – Version 10.0 Pneumonia – Version 10.0 Stroke – Version 6.0. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1219069855841>. Available as of April 4, 2017.

2. Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Overview. QualityNet website. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1138115987129>. Accessed March 1, 2017.

3. Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program Overview. QualityNet website. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772412458>. Accessed March 1, 2017.