

# Impact of a Hospital-Based Transitions of Care Program and Pharmacy Services on All-Cause 30-Day Readmission Rates

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## BACKGROUND

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have stressed the importance of decreasing hospital readmissions within 30 days of discharge. The Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) by CMS works to connect hospital reimbursement to the quality of patient care as an incentive to reduce 30-day readmissions<sup>1</sup>. Since the implementation of the HRRP by CMS, health systems have expanded their services to include transitions of care.

## PURPOSE

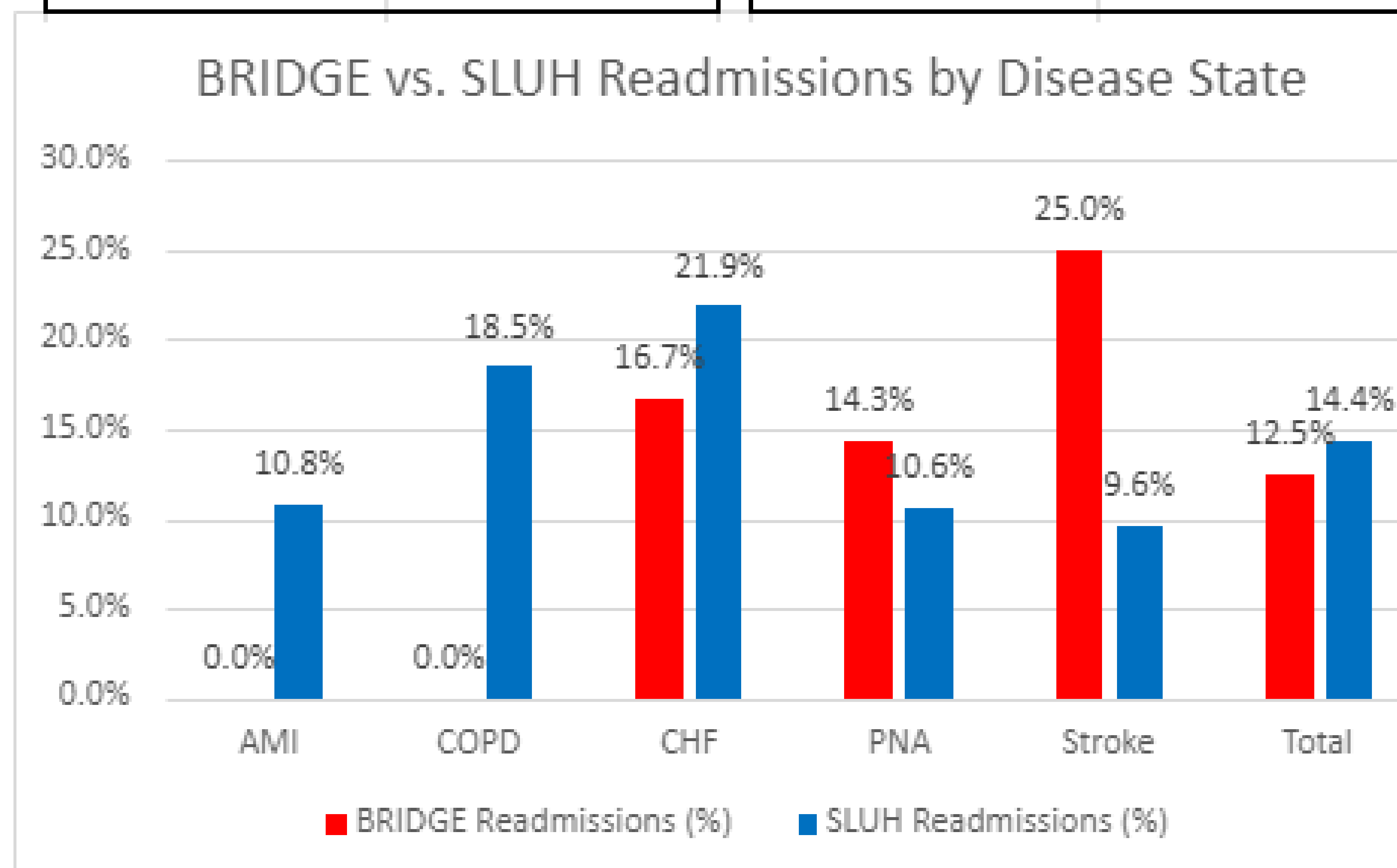
To determine if there is a correlation between all-cause 30-day hospital readmission rates for AMI, CHF, COPD, pneumonia, and stroke and completion of transitional care management appointments at the Saint Louis University Hospital BRIDGE clinic within 14 days of discharge.

## METHODS

A retrospective chart review was completed to assess if there was a reduced hospital readmission rate in patients that completed a follow-up appointment within 14 days of discharge. The primary endpoint was all-cause 30-day readmission rates between the two groups. Patients were included in the study if they were hospitalized at SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital for AMI, CHF, COPD, PNA, or stroke and had a transitions-of-care appointment within 14 days of hospital discharge. Patients were excluded if they were unable to complete their appointment for any reason.

## RESULTS

Patient Demographics			
Total Patients	40	Insurance Plan	Patients (%)
Average Age	58.6	Medicaid	30.0%
<b>Race</b>	<b>Patients (%)</b>	Medicare	52.5%
White	20.0%	Commercial	12.5%
Black	80.0%	None	5.0%



## CONCLUSIONS

Overall, there was a lower readmission rate at the BRIDGE clinic compared to the overall readmission rate at the institution as a whole from March 2022 to June 2022. The difference in these rates was 1.9%, favoring the BRIDGE clinic. The BRIDGE clinic also had lower readmission rates for AMI, COPD, and CHF. The results of this research are limited by the small sample size as well as extensive inclusion and exclusion criteria.

## REFERENCES

1. Hospital readmissions reduction program (HRRP). CMS.gov. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/Readmissions-Reduction-Program>. Published December 1, 2021. Accessed May 9, 2022.

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