Percentage of new home care patients who had an unplanned emergency department visit within 30 days after acute hospital discharge

Alternate Name*
Percentage of home care patients who had unplanned emergency department visits within 30 days for referrals from hospital to Community Care Access Centre after acute hospital discharge

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Description*
This indicator measures the percentage of patients who were newly referred for home care services from the hospital that had an unscheduled emergency department (ED) visit within 30 days of initial hospital discharge. Generally, a lower percentage is better.

Indicator Status*
Active

HQO Reporting tool/product
Public reporting

Dimension*
Efficient

Type*
Outcome

DEFINITION AND SOURCE INFORMATION

Unit of Measurement*
Percentage

Calculation Methods*
The percentage is calculated as: numerator divided by the denominator times 100.

Numerator including inclusion/exclusion*
The number of unscheduled emergency department visits by home care patients newly referred to home care services within 30 days of initial hospital discharge.

Exclusions:
1. Planned or scheduled emergency department visits
2. Transfers between emergency departments

Denominator including inclusion/exclusion*
Percentage of new home care patients who had an unplanned emergency department visit within 30 days after acute hospital discharge.

Number of patients referred to home care from hospital who were discharged from hospital and received their first home care service visit within the time period of interest.
The first home care service visit corresponds to the service associated with the home care referral and does not include case management, placement services, respite or other.

**Exclusions:**
1. Not an Ontario resident
2. Invalid age (age < 0 or age > 120 years)
3. If age >= 65 years and date of last contact > 5 years prior to hospitalization (e.g., invalid age, invalid ICES Key Number, non-Ontarians)
4. Missing home care service date
5. First home care service date precedes home care admission date
6. Not defined as a long-stay or acute/short-stay home care patient

**Adjustment (risk, age/sex standardization)- detailed**
None

**Data Source**
Home Care Database (HCD)
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)
Registered Persons Database (RPDB)

**Data provided to HQO by**
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)

**Reported Levels of comparability / stratifications (defined)**
Province
Region

**RESULT UPDATES**

**Indicator Results**
[Click here to view Health Quality Ontario results for this indicator](http://indicatorlibrary.hqontario.ca/Indicator/Detailed/Unplanned-emergency-department-visits-home-care-patients/EN)

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**

**Caveats and Limitations**
The ED visit may occur before or after the first home care service visit.

**Comments Detailed**
1) 30 days are subtracted from the end of each fiscal year (i.e., March) to allow for 30 day follow up during the last reported quarter. This is done for results by fiscal year and by fiscal quarter, resulting in the fourth fiscal quarter having smaller counts than the other three quarters. 2) Indicator is reported for new home care clients only (i.e. numerator counts referrals and referrals only occur for patients not already receiving home care). 3) Indicator assumes that referrals with a referral date between hospital admission date and seven days after hospital discharge are referrals from hospital. It does not capture the location of the referral.
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