HOSPITAL USE DURING CHEMO/RADIATION

METRIC
Inpatient admissions and emergency department visits during Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy.

BACKGROUND
Chemotherapy and radiation therapy can have significant side effects including nausea, vomiting and pain, but these problems can usually be managed safely and effectively in the outpatient setting. Hospitalizations during treatment are generally unexpected and potentially preventable. The likelihood of hospitalization can be minimized with comprehensive management of a patient’s symptoms, including plans for anticipating and treating side effects before they become severe. Examples include clear instructions for hydration, nutrition, pain management, or nausea control. They can take place outside the hospital or emergency department setting.

RESULTS

INPATIENT ADMISSIONS: 12%

ED VISITS: 11%

POPULATION
N = 4,473
Inclusion Criteria:
› Diagnosed with colorectal, female breast, prostate, or non-small cell lung cancer
› Diagnosis January 1, 2007 to May 31, 2014
› First primary tumor
› Received chemo and/or radiation therapy within 6 months of diagnosis
› Enrolled in the initial treatment period

Exclusion Criteria:
› Stage in situ
› Surgery in the initial treatment period
› Died during initial treatment period

DEFINITIONS
› Treatment: Two chemotherapy claims at least 1 day apart or two radiation therapy claims at least 1 day apart
› Initial treatment period: 90 days following the start of chemotherapy or radiation therapy
› Concurrent therapy: Both chemotherapy and radiation therapy in the initial treatment period
› Inpatient admission: If the patient is already in the hospital at the time of their first chemotherapy or radiation therapy, only subsequent admissions are counted
› ED visit: Care in the emergency department that did not result in an inpatient admission

INPATIENT AND ED VISIT USE BY CANCER SITE AND TREATMENT TYPE

Both the site of the tumor and the type of treatment are important factors when looking at inpatient admissions and emergency department use.

INPATIENT ADMISSIONS BY CLINIC
Clinic variation in inpatient admissions during chemotherapy or radiation therapy ranges from no use at all to use in 20% of patients.

ED VISITS BY CLINIC
Clinic variation in emergency department visits during chemotherapy or radiation therapy ranges from no use at all to use in over 23% of patients.