



benefitNEWS

## Most of Emergency Room Visits Do not Result in Admissions

According to a study by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2011 to 2014, only 12% of patients who received care at the hospital emergency room were ultimately admitted to the hospital. According to the exhibit below, 66% of patients that visited the emergency room were directed back to their primary care physician. These statistics support the notion that emergency room utilization is still largely inappropriate in many instances and that patients would be better directed to receive care in an alternate setting.

Employers and plan sponsors are encouraged to continue to create alternate pathways for patients to use less cost, more appropriate settings. Contemporary solutions like tele-medicine is one way to provide lower cost, easy access to care. Larger copayments for emergency room care have also continued to prove effective in changing behaviors.

Disposition of Emergency Department Visits, United States, 2011-2014		
Disposition	Number of visits in Thousands	Percent of visits
All visits	136,296	
Admitted, transferred or died		
Admit to this hospital	16,229	12%
Critical care unit	2,094	1.5%
Step-down or telemetry unit	1,811	1.3%
Operation room	734	0.5%
Mental health or detoxification unit	822	0.6%
Cardiac catheterization lab	289	0.2%
Other bed or unit	8,047	5.9%
Unknown or blank	2,432	1.8%
Admit to observation unit	2,884	2.1%
Then hospitalized	965	0.7%
Then discharged	1,919	1.4%
Return or transfer to nursing home	434	0.3%
Transfer to psychiatric hospital	892	0.7%
Transfer to other hospital	1,950	1.4%
Died in emergency department	183	0.1%
Outpatient follow up		
Return to emergency department if needed or by appointment	46,723	34.3%
Return or refer to physician or clinic for follow-up	90,820	66.6%
No follow-up planned	6,492	4.8%
Left before completing visit		
Left before triage	550	0.4%
Left after triage	2,130	1.6%
Left against medical advice	1,659	1.2%
Other	1,246	0.9%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

Please contact your Conner Strong & Buckelew account representative toll free at 1-877-861-3220 with any questions.



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