

# Coordinated care model leads to decreases in unscheduled, preventable hospitalizations

October 7 2019, by Steve Lundeberg

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Oregon Medicaid enrollees are less likely to make unscheduled trips to the hospital following the implementation of the state's accountable-care model, new research by Oregon State University shows.

The study suggests the Oregon system of coordinated care organizations, or CCOs, which have been serving Medicaid enrollees since 2012, can provide lessons to other states regarding the three-pronged pursuit of better [health](#), better care and lower cost.

Health economist and health policy researcher Jangho Yoon of the OSU College of Public Health and Human Sciences led the study.

Among all types of patients, privately and publicly insured as well as the uninsured, hospitalizations account for nearly one-third of U.S. health expenditures, so reducing them in ways that don't compromise care is an important goal.

"Between 2003 and 2009, elective hospital admissions remained stable, but non-elective admissions grew from 25.3 million to 26.7 million," Yoon said. "And hospitals' emergency departments have become the primary gateway to inpatient care."

Oregon's 15 CCOs emphasize [primary care](#), disease prevention and population health measurements, not just individual outcomes. They work with Medicaid patients under a lump sum payment system that rewards the CCOs for hitting certain [quality standards](#), including efficient use of hospital emergency rooms.

Oregon is one of 13 states with an accountable-care system for Medicaid patients and is considered to have implemented the most progressive model of accountable care.

Yoon and collaborators from the College of Public Health and Human Sciences analyzed Oregon Medicaid eligibility files from 2011 to 2013 for more than 86,000 women ages 15-44, looking at total hospital admissions: scheduled, unscheduled and preventable.

Scheduled admissions refer to hospitalizations for reasons that are elective. Unscheduled admissions are all non-elective hospitalizations, including transfers from other hospitals, direct admissions from outpatient providers and admissions through an emergency room. A preventable [admission](#) is one that arises from a condition that, if managed properly, could have been avoided or treated without hospitalization.

"The accountable-care model implemented for Oregon Medicaid enrollees led to a decrease in preventable hospital admissions in the study group," Yoon said. "That suggests the Oregon model, which emphasizes primary care and care coordination aligned with strong financial incentives on provider care coordination, may promote more efficient use of resources in the health care system."

**More information:** Can Accountable Care Divert the Sources of Hospitalization? [www.ajmc.com/journals/issue/20...s-of-hospitalization](http://www.ajmc.com/journals/issue/20...s-of-hospitalization)

Provided by Oregon State University

Citation: Coordinated care model leads to decreases in unscheduled, preventable hospitalizations (2019, October 7) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-10-decreases-unscheduled-hospitalizations.html>

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