

# Medicaid, non-home discharge tied to longer hospital stays

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discharged home," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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(HealthDay)—Prolonged hospital length of stay (LOS) is more likely among patients who are Medicaid enrollees with complex hospital stays who were not discharged home, according to a study published in the September issue of the *Journal of Hospital Medicine*.

Mary E. Anderson, M.D., from the University of Colorado in Aurora, and colleagues retrospectively evaluated administrative discharge data (2012 to 2014) to characterize predictors of prolonged hospitalizations (>21 days) among general medicine patients.

The researchers found that of 18,363 discharges, 2.3 percent had prolonged LOS (18.6 percent of total inpatient days). Younger age (odds ratio [OR], 0.8 per 10-year increase in age) and Medicaid insurance (OR, 1.99) were associated with prolonged hospitalizations. Prolonged LOS patients were more likely to have methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* septicemia (OR, 8.83); require a palliative care consult (OR, 4.63), ICU stay (OR, 6.66), or surgery (OR, 5.04); and be discharged to a postacute-care facility (OR, 10.37) compared with patients without prolonged LOS.

"Prolonged hospitalizations in a small proportion of [patients](#) were an important contributor to overall LOS and particularly affected Medicaid enrollees with complex [hospital](#) stays who were not

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