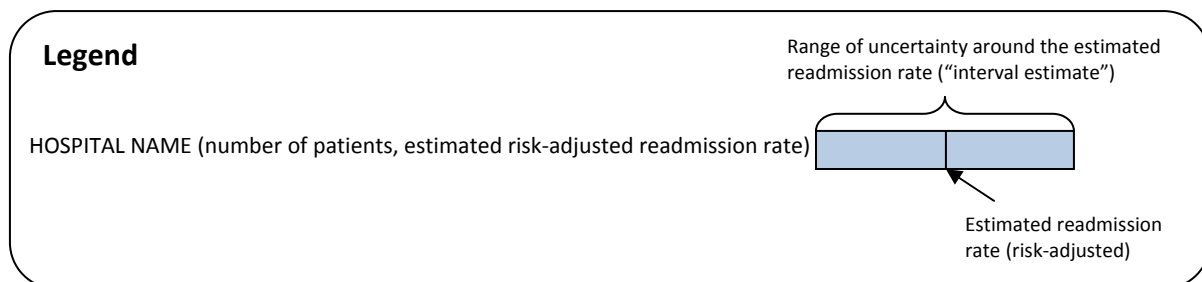


Hospital 30-Day Readmission Rates from Heart Failure

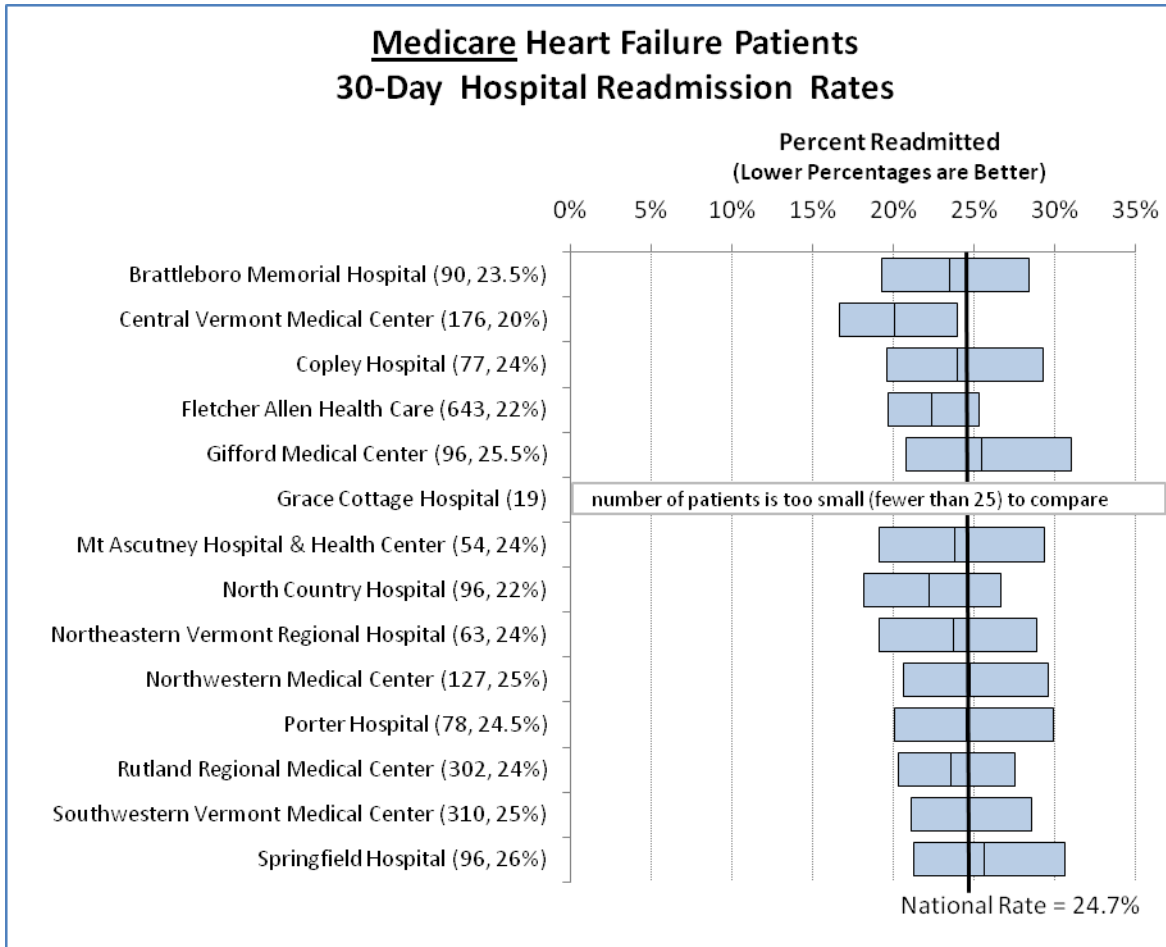
“Readmission” is when patients who have had a recent stay in the hospital go back into a hospital again. The following graph shows how often **Medicare** patients are readmitted within 30 days of discharge from a previous hospital stay for heart failure.

- Patients may have been readmitted back to the same hospital or to a different hospital or acute care facility. They may have been readmitted for the same condition as their recent hospital stay, or for a different reason.
- Each hospital's readmission rate is compared to the national readmission rate. For some hospitals, the number of cases is too small (fewer than 25) to reliably tell how well the hospital is performing, so no comparison to the national rate is shown.
- The measure takes into account how sick patients were before they were admitted to the hospital (known as “risk adjustment”). However, some factors that influence readmission are not available for this measure, and cannot be taken into account with risk adjustment.
- This measure is calculated from Medicare data on patients discharged from the hospital between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2009. It does not include people under the age of 65 or those in Medicare Advantage Plans (like an HMO or PPO), or people who do not have Medicare.

Reading these graphs: If a hospital's interval estimate crosses over the line representing the national rate, that hospital's readmission rate is similar to (not statistically different than) the national rate. If a hospital's interval estimate is completely below the line representing the national rate, that hospital's readmission rate is significantly lower (better) than the national rate. If a hospital's interval estimate is completely above the line representing the national rate, that hospital's readmission rate is significantly higher (worse) than the national rate.



Medicare Heart Failure Patients 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rates



Central Vermont Medical Center had 30-day readmission rate for heart failure patients that was statistically lower (better) than the national rate.