

Dying for the weekend: a retrospective cohort study on the association between day of hospital presentation and the quality and safety of stroke care.

January 7, 2015

Palmer WL, Bottle A, Davie C, et al. Dying for the weekend: a retrospective cohort study on the association between day of hospital presentation and the quality and safety of stroke care. Arch Neurol. 2012;69(10):1296-302.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/dying-weekend-retrospective-cohort-study-association-between-day-hospital-presentation-and>

Multiple prior studies have identified increased [mortality](#), [preventable complications](#), and delays in undergoing [urgent procedures](#) for patients admitted to the hospital on the [weekend](#). This phenomenon has been termed the "[weekend effect](#)." With this large, retrospective cohort study, evidence of inferior weekend care now includes patients with acute stroke. The study, which involved nearly 100,000 stroke patients admitted to hospitals in the United Kingdom, found significantly lower performance across 5 of 6 quality and safety indicators for patients admitted on the weekend. Most notably, the rate of 7-day in-hospital mortality for Sunday admissions was 11.0%, compared with 8.9% for weekday admission. The authors note that 350 in-hospital deaths may be avoidable each year if care provided on weekends equaled that provided on weekdays.