

Association of hospital participation in a quality reporting program with surgical outcomes and expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries.

May 1, 2015

Osborne NH, Nicholas LH, Ryan AM, et al. Association of hospital participation in a quality reporting program with surgical outcomes and expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries. *JAMA*. 2015;313(5):496-504. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.25.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-hospital-participation-quality-reporting-program-surgical-outcomes-and>

This large study used 9 years of national fee-for-service Medicare data to examine differences in surgical outcomes between hospitals participating in the [National Surgical Quality Improvement Program](#) (NSQIP) and nonparticipating hospitals. There was no statistically significant difference in the rate of improvement for any of the measured outcomes—risk-adjusted 30-day mortality, serious complications, reoperation, or 30-day readmissions—at 1, 2, or 3 years after enrollment in NSQIP versus well-matched controls. Notably, over 6 years there has been a trend toward reductions in mortality, serious complications, and readmissions across hospitals, regardless of NSQIP participation. The results of this study strengthen those of the [study](#) by Etzioni and colleagues in the same issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In an accompanying editorial, [Dr. Donald Berwick](#) states, "it is implausible to conclude that knowing results is not useful—perhaps essential—for systematic improvement of outcomes," but that hospitals must realize measurement alone is insufficient.