

Complication rates, hospital size, and bias in the CMS Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program.

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The [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) decision to withhold payment for certain [hospital-acquired conditions](#) has prompted widespread efforts to prevent such events, including [health care-associated infections](#). [Prior research](#) suggests that academic centers and safety-net hospitals may be disproportionately affected by financial penalties imposed by CMS through various pay-for-performance initiatives. In this study, investigators analyzed how hospital size affected performance in the Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program. They concluded that hospital size leads to bias when evaluating hospital performance, disproportionately penalizing larger hospitals when the expected complication rate for a particular event is low. The authors provide numerous suggestions for improving the [evaluation](#) of hospital performance within the program.