

## Early death after discharge from emergency departments: analysis of national US insurance claims data.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/early-death-after-discharge-emergency-departments-analysis-national-us-insurance-claims-data>

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The emergency department is considered a high-risk setting for [diagnostic errors](#). This analysis of Medicare claims data found that a significant number of adults age 65–89 died within a week of visiting and being discharged from an [emergency department](#), even when no life-limiting illness was noted. Hospitals that admit a lower proportion of emergency department patients to the inpatient setting had a higher mortality rate among discharged patients, even after adjusting for patient characteristics. Consistent with prior studies relating patient outcomes to [volume](#), higher-volume emergency departments had lower 7-day mortality among discharged patients. These results suggest that emergency department discharges may represent missed diagnoses. A [WebM&M commentary](#) discussed an incident involving a patient who died after being discharged from the emergency department.