



SILVER CHAIN

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Predicting Hospital Admissions of Silver Chain Clients

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Objectives

Describe the hospital admissions of Silver Chain home care clients over a period of 5 ½ years to identify “frequent flyers” and determine whether we are able to predict which clients are most at risk of frequent hospitalisation.

Method

Using data from the WA Data Linkage System, Silver Chain client data was linked with admissions and diagnostic data from the hospital morbidity data system (HMDS) and date of death data from the mortality register.

Using variables from both the HMDS and Silver Chain databases, subgroup analyses of Silver Chain clients with high hospital use was performed. High hospital use was defined in terms of usage ie: admission rates and cumulative and average lengths of stay.

Result

In the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 2004, 67,674 of Silver Chain’s clients who were at the time of hospitalisation receiving services were admitted to hospital. During the period, these clients had 286,185 admissions to a hospital. Diagnoses of chronic diseases such as chronic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, diabetes, cerebral vascular disease, osteoporosis and dementia significantly increase the odds of having a long hospital stay, multiple admissions or long cumulative length of stays. While having a diagnosis of one of these conditions alone was predictive of being a frequent flyer, having multiple conditions significantly increased the odds of long and frequent hospital admissions. Demographic characteristics such as living alone also influence the chances of hospitalisation.

Conclusions

A large number of Silver Chain clients are admitted to hospital each year for a wide variety of reasons and many are in hospital frequently or for a very long time. Having a diagnosis of one or more of a select group of chronic conditions is predictive of having very long and very frequent hospital stays.

Report Available

http://www.silverchain.org.au/Documents/Research/Reports/22%20Hospital%20Admissions%20report_FINAL-111108.pdf

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