

The Association between Readmission Rates and Length of Stay for Schizophrenia Patients: A Three-year Population-based Study

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: A nationwide population-based dataset was used to explore the association between length of stay (LOS) and 30-day readmission rates for hospitalized patients with schizophrenia in Taiwan. **METHODS:** The National Health Insurance Research Database was used for the years 2001-2003 and included a total of 29,373 patients with schizophrenia divided equally into four groups according to LOS of index hospitalization. After adjusting for hospital, physician and patient characteristics, a multivariate regression analysis was used to determine the relationship between LOS and 30-day readmission rates. **RESULTS:** After discharge from their index hospitalization, 12,468 (42.5%) patients with schizophrenia were readmitted within 30 days. The adjusted odds ratio for 30-day readmission rates was increased for shorter LOS. **CONCLUSIONS:** Healthcare providers should exert caution while trying to reduce LOS within the current cost-conscious environment and balance it with creating a minimal status necessary for discharge.