

FROM THE JOURNALS

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In an era of increasing focus on the cost of health care and utilization of resources, the following article, and associated editorial, raise questions regarding the cost effectiveness of hospitalists, focusing on higher costs during the period after discharge in patients cared for by hospitalists rather than their primary care provider. Limited to a Medicare population with an identified primary care provider, the results may not be generalizable but highlight many of the challenges of providing cost effective care while also ensuring a smooth transition back to the outpatient setting.

Kuo, Yong-Fang and Goodwin, James

Association of Hospitalist Care with Medical Utilization after Discharge: Evidence of Cost Shift from a Cohort Study

Annals of Internal Medicine 2011; 155(3): 152-159

Chen, Lena and Saint, Sanjay

Moments in Time

Annals of Internal Medicine 2011; 155(3): 194-195

ID CORNER

WILLIAM SALZER MD

REDUCING DURATION OF ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY

To reduce the incidence of antibiotic resistance, it is important to both eliminate the inappropriate use of antibiotics and to reduce the duration of therapy when antibiotic treatment is indicated. The following article reviews evidence-based studies of the appropriate duration of therapy for certain infections and also reviews the use of biomarkers to determine the endpoint of antibiotic administration.

Hayashi, Y and DL Paterson

Strategies for the reduction in duration of antibiotic use in hospitalized patients

Clin Infect Dis 2011; 52:1232-1240

<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/52/10/1232.full.pdf+html>