

Studies Demonstrate Federally Qualified Health Centers Help Control Health Care Costs

FQHCs Reduce Hospital Admissions

A Colorado study¹ compared claims data of Medicaid patients with two or more primary care visits in one year at FQHC and non-FQHC settings:

- The odds of a Medicaid FQHC patient being admitted to the hospital were 32% less likely than for a Medicaid non-FQHC patient;
- The odds of an FQHC patient being readmitted 90 days after discharge were 35% less likely; and
- The odds of an FQHC patient being admitted for a primary care preventable condition were 36% less likely.



FQHCs Save Money

A comparison of costs for FQHC and non-FQHC patients demonstrates FQHC savings of **\$1,263 per person per year** in hospital emergency department, hospital inpatient, ambulatory, and other services (\$4,043 vs. \$5,306).²

FQHCs Reduce Utilization of Hospital Services

A review of 1.6 million Medicaid beneficiaries in four states (Alabama, California, Georgia, Pennsylvania)³ showed that FQHC Medicaid patients compared to other providers:

- had 1/3 fewer Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) hospitalizations;
- were 19% less likely to use the Emergency Department for an ACS condition; and
- were 11% less likely to be hospitalized for an ACS condition.



¹ Rothkopf, J, Brookler K, Wadhwa, S, Sajovetz, M. "Medicaid Patients Seen At Federally Qualified Health Centers Use Hospital Services Less than Those Seen By Private Providers." Health Affairs 30, No. 7 (2011): 1335-1342.

² Ku L, et al. Using Primary Care to Bend the Curve: Estimating the Impact of a Health Center Expansion in Senate Reforms. GWU Department of Health Policy. Policy Research Brief No. 14, September 2009.

³ Falik M, Needleman J, Herbert R, et al. "Comparative Effectiveness of Health Centers as Regular Source of Care." January-March 2006 Journal of Ambulatory Care Management 29(1): 24-35.