Chart Book: Preliminary COVID-19 Medicare Claims Analysis

November 2020
Overview
This chart book focuses on the national hospital discharge trends evidenced during the months of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. ATI Advisory will update this chart book quarterly as new data are released.

Data Source
100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – May 2020 and paid through June 2020.
National Short-Term Acute Care Hospital (STACH) Discharges
Nationally, STACH discharges declined in March through May 2020 as compared to 2019.

In March, April, and May 2020, STACH discharges were considerably lower than discharges in 2019. With the currently available data, April 2020 showed the largest disparity, reaching a 41% decrease as compared to April 2019.

Data Source: 100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – May 2020 and paid through June 2020.
National STACH Discharges to Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
Substantially fewer patients were discharged from a STACH to a SNF in March-May 2020, as compared to 2019.

While total STACH discharges were lower in March through May of 2020 than in 2019, SNFs were receiving disproportionately less volume from STACHs in these months. In April 2020, STACH discharges to SNFs declined by almost 50% as compared to April 2019.

Data Source: 100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – May 2020 and paid through June 2020
National STACH Discharges by Care Setting
STACH discharges shifted from Home and SNF to HHA, Hospice, and Death in May 2020 as compared to May 2019

May 2019 Hospital Discharges

- Home, 57%
- SNF, 19%
- HHA, 11%
- LTACH, 1%
- Hospice, 3%
- Death, 3%
- Other, 2%

Total STACH discharge volume
May 2019 = 801,464

May 2020 Hospital Discharges

- Home, 50%
- SNF, 15%
- HHA, 19%
- LTACH, 1%
- Hospice, 4%
- Death, 5%
- Other, 2%

Total STACH discharge volume
May 2020 = 558,296

The STACH discharge trends dramatically changed between May 2019 and May 2020. The share of discharges to:
- **Home and SNF decreased** (by 7% and 4%, respectively)
- **HHA, Death, and Hospice increased** (by 8%, 2%, and 1%, respectively)
- **IRF and LTACH remained the same**

Data Source: 100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – May 2020 and paid through June 2020
National STACH COVID-19 Discharges by Care Setting
SNFs received the highest share of COVID-19 discharges (among post-acute care settings)

COVID-19 hospital discharges followed a much different trend than total across all discharges:

- 29% of COVID-19 discharges went home compared to the 50% of total discharges
- Although overall STACH discharges shifted away from SNFs in 2020, SNFs received the highest share of COVID-19 discharges (among post-acute care settings)
- More than one quarter of COVID-19-positive beneficiaries expired at a STACH

Note: COVID-19 discharges identified in claims using the ICD-10 codes of B97.29 for January-March and U07.1 for April-May.
Data Source: 100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – May 2020 and paid through June 2020
**Data Source and Methodology**

This chart book reflects the experiences of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries only. All analyses were created using 100% Medicare claims files for claims incurred January 2019 – May 2020 and paid through June 2020.

Please use caution when interpreting this data analysis due to “claims lag.” All data will be updated retroactively as additional quarters of data are released.