Is higher Medicare spending for an episode of heart failure care associated with better outcomes?

Heart failure mortality rates among Medicare beneficiaries are suboptimal.

Higher hospital-level 30-day spending on HF care was associated with lower patient mortality.

Incentives to reduce spending through pay-for-performance programs may more strongly affect hospitals that achieve better outcomes.

Pay-for-performance programs incentivize hospitals to improve 30-day HF mortality rates and reduce episode spending.

↑ $1000 hospital-level spending
↓ 4.0% odds of 30-day mortality

Wadhera RK, Joynt Maddox KE, Wang Y, Shen C, Yeh RW. April 2018