

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

Heart failure mortality rates among Medicare beneficiaries are suboptimal



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

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



low high

30-day episode-of-care spending

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

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

