HCAW QAPI Roundtable

home care association of washington
REPRESENTING HOME HEALTH, HOSPICE, & HOME CARE AGENCIES

Today's Facilitator:

Amber Hahn-Keenan, MBA

MultiCare Home Health & Hospice

Director of Operations

Welcome Members!

QAPI Roundtable Committee Members:

- **Lara Safar, Clinical Director HCAW**
- **Amber Hahn-Keenan**
- **Deb Strom**
- **Gira Shah**
- **Marc Berg**
- **Geena Welch**
- **Alicia Morrison**
- **Nicole Christion**

Introductions

- Please type in the chat:
  - Name
  - Title
  - Agency

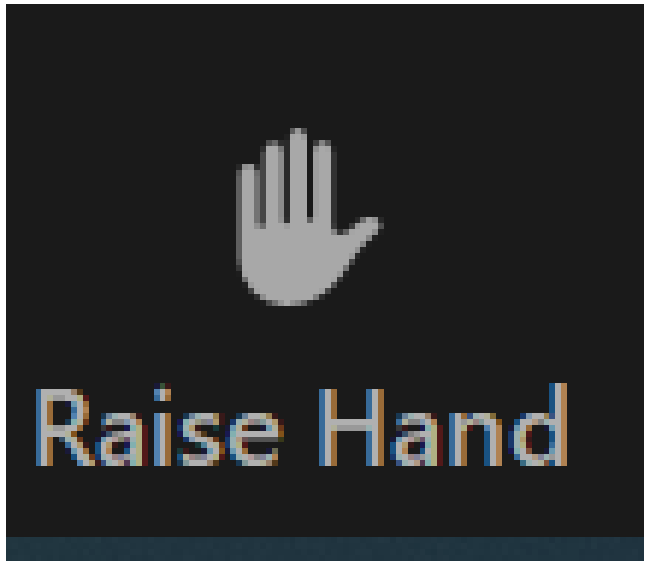
Agenda

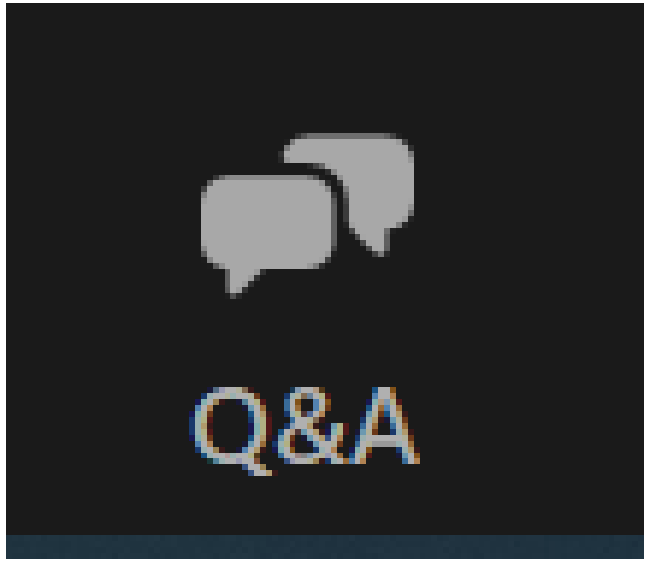
October 23, 2025, 3:30pm

TIME	ITEM
3:30pm	Welcome and Introductions
3:40pm	Purpose of Roundtable and Ground Rules
3:45pm	Topic Review and Facilitated Panel Discussion
4:15pm	Open Discussion/Round Table
4:30pm	Adjournment

Ground Rules

- Assume good intent; we are discussing areas needing growth/improvement so remember to take the high road.
- Be succinct; so more of us can participate in the discussion
- Use the chat function to enter a comment, support a point of view, or ask a question
- Be prepared to share your contact information with the group—encourage other members to learn more about how you are approaching the subject(s) of the month.
- Maintain confidentiality; discuss the learnings, not the agency
- Share best practices with others to elevate patient care throughout Washington
- Share barriers to allow group problem solving
- Make connections to partner outside of the roundtable for individual improvement projects





Q&A

- All Q&A will be managed using Zoom Q&A and addressed at the throughout the presentation
- If you need our attention or have an immediate question, use the “Raise Hand” feature

Panelist Introductions

- Lara Safar
- Geena Welch
- Marc Berg
- Gira Shah

What is the PPH Measure?

- A claim-based measure developed by CMS
- Tracks unplanned hospital admissions and observation stays
- Focuses on conditions considered preventable with effective home health care
- Diagnoses Considered Preventable
  - **Infections:** UTI, pneumonia, cellulitis
  - **Chronic conditions:** CHF, COPD, diabetes complications
  - **Other:** Dehydration, pressure ulcers, electrolyte imbalance

How the measure works

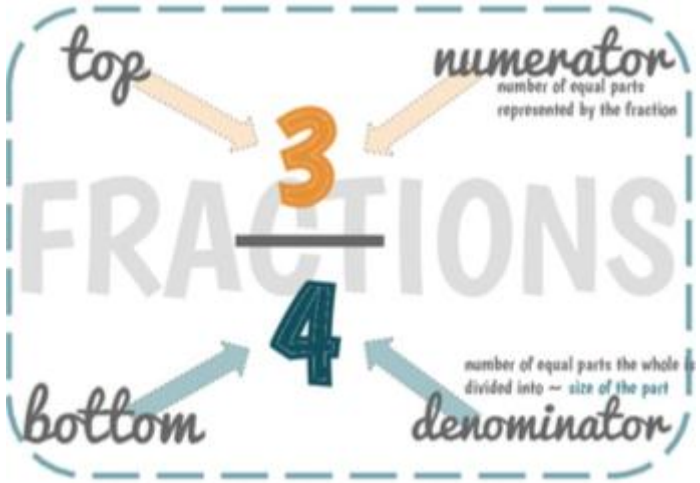
Numerator:

Unplanned hospital/observation stays for preventable conditions

Denominator:

Eligible home health stays

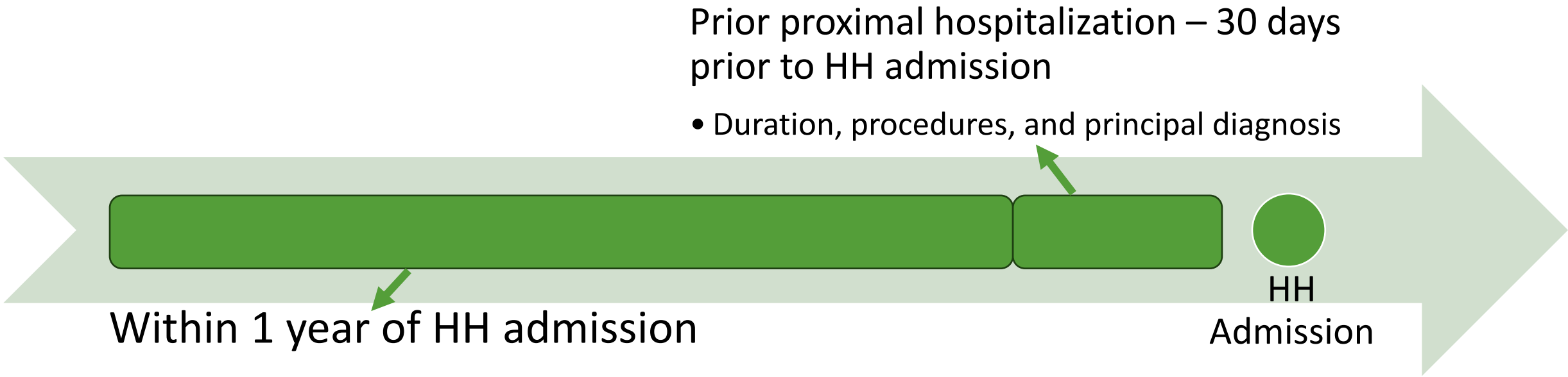
Exclusions: LUPA episodes, planned admissions, multiple agency episodes



- Data Source & Risk Adjustment
  - Based on Medicare claims data
  - Includes inpatient and outpatient observations stays
  - Risk-adjusted for patient demographics and clinical complexity

Risk Adjustment

Demographics: age, sex, functional impairment level (PDGM)



Highly Risk Adjusted Patients

Patients with a higher baseline need for care are expected to need more care ongoing

Prior proximal hospitalization principal diagnoses (odds ratio >1.5)

CHF	COPD	Chronic ulcer	Sepsis	Diabetes	Fluid and electrolyte disorders	Respiratory failure	Aspiration pneumonia	Renal Failure	UTI

Poll

If comparing to the State benchmark is your agency PPH better than your 60-day rehospitalization rate?

Has your agency initiated a QAPI project to improve PPH?

BERG DATA

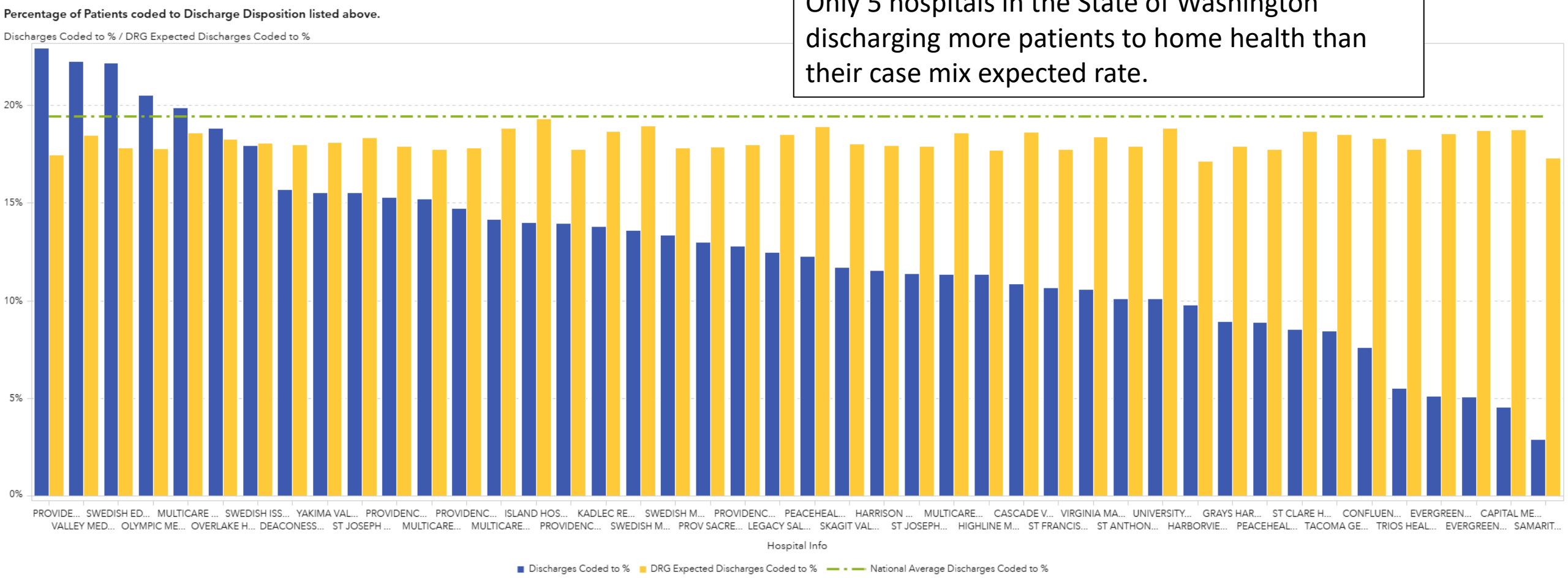
Hospital Discharges to Home Health

Data Source = 2024 Medicare FFS Claims

% of Hospital Patients Discharge to HH

BERG DATA

Only 5 hospitals in the State of Washington discharging more patients to home health than their case mix expected rate.



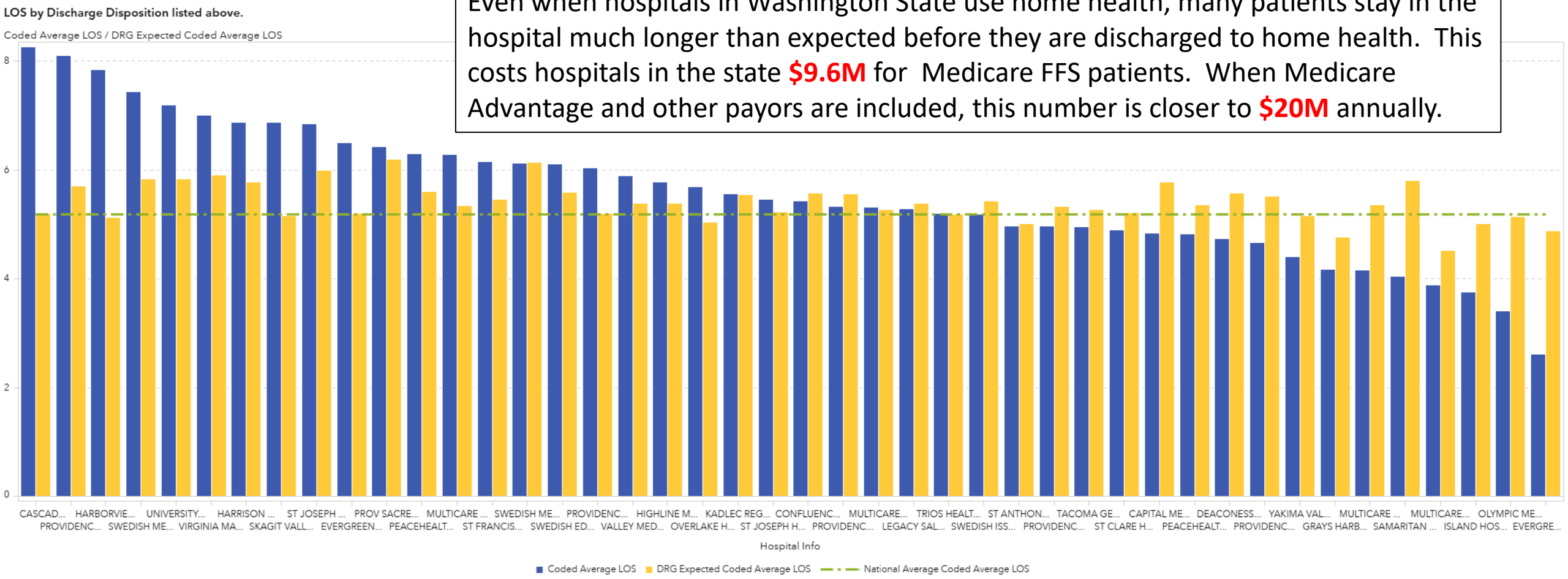
Washington State Hospitals

Blue Bar = Actual % of Patients Discharged to HH **Yellow Bar** = Expected % of Patients Discharged to HH **Green Line** = National Average

Hospital LOS for Patients Discharged to HH

BERG DATA

Even when hospitals in Washington State use home health, many patients stay in the hospital much longer than expected before they are discharged to home health. This costs hospitals in the state **$9.6M** for Medicare FFS patients. When Medicare Advantage and other payors are included, this number is closer to **$20M** annually.



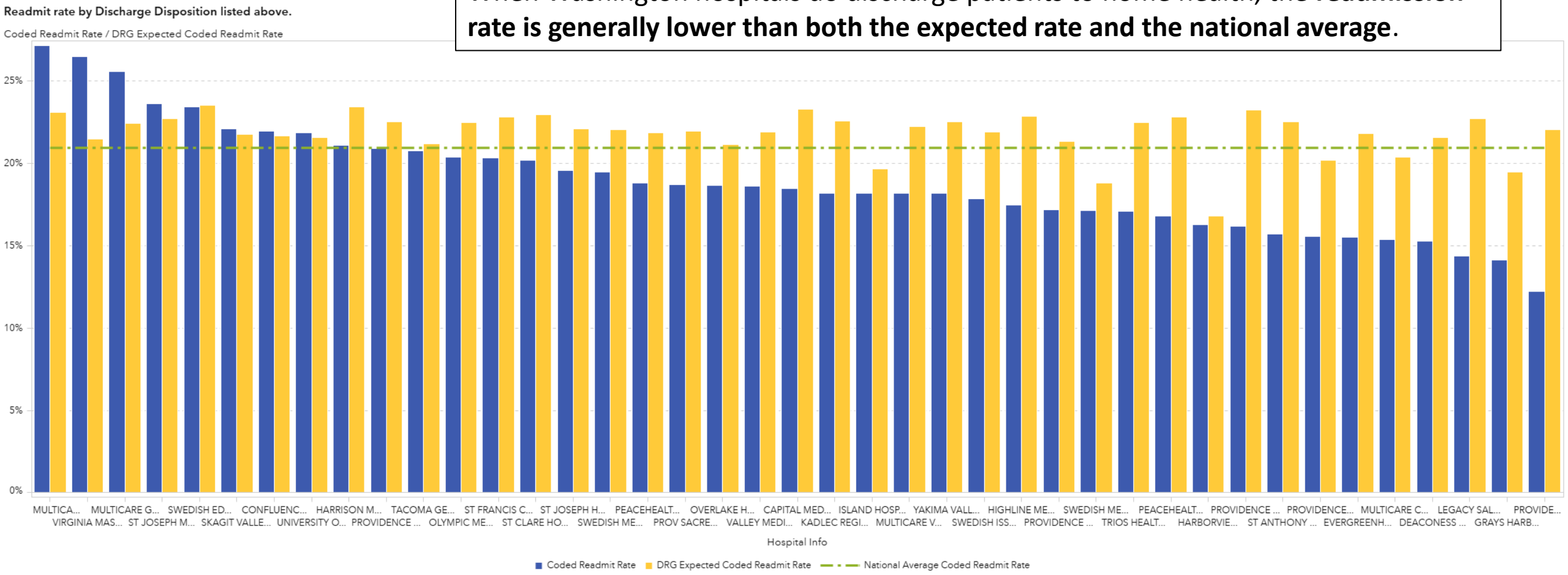
Washington State Hospitals

Blue Bar = Actual Hospital LOS for HH Discharges **Yellow Bar** = Expected Hospital LOS **Green Line** = National Average

Hospital Readmit Rate for Patients Discharged to HH

BERG DATA

When Washington hospitals do discharge patients to home health, the **readmission rate is generally lower than both the expected rate and the national average**.



Washington State Hospitals

Blue Bar = Actual Hospital Readmit Rate for HH Discharges **Yellow Bar** = Expected Hospital Readmit Rate **Green Line** = National Average

BERG DATA

Contact Information

Marc Berg
marc@bergdatasolutions.com
360-518-3226

Panel Questions:

1. Do you think front loading visits will improve PPH?
2. Do you believe length of stay impacts PPH?
3. Do you feel timeliness of admission from Inpatient Discharge impacts PPH?

Panel Questions:

4. What strategy or tactic has your agency implemented to improve your PPH measure?
5. Is your Agency providing 24-hour service? What does after-hour care look like in your agency?
6. When your clinician contacts the provider for interventions, how does your agency get the provider to engage versus recommending the patient go to the ER?

Panel Questions:

8. Does your agency use Palliative Care to complement your Home Health services with at-risk populations?
9. Does your agency have other strategies/mechanisms to help you increase contact/touches with your patients, for example remote monitoring or phone calls?

Round Table…

Contact Marie Schmidt of HCAW at info@hcaw.org for more information.