

REDUCING HOSPITAL READMISSIONS — A LONG-TERM PROPOSAL



CASE FOR CHANGE

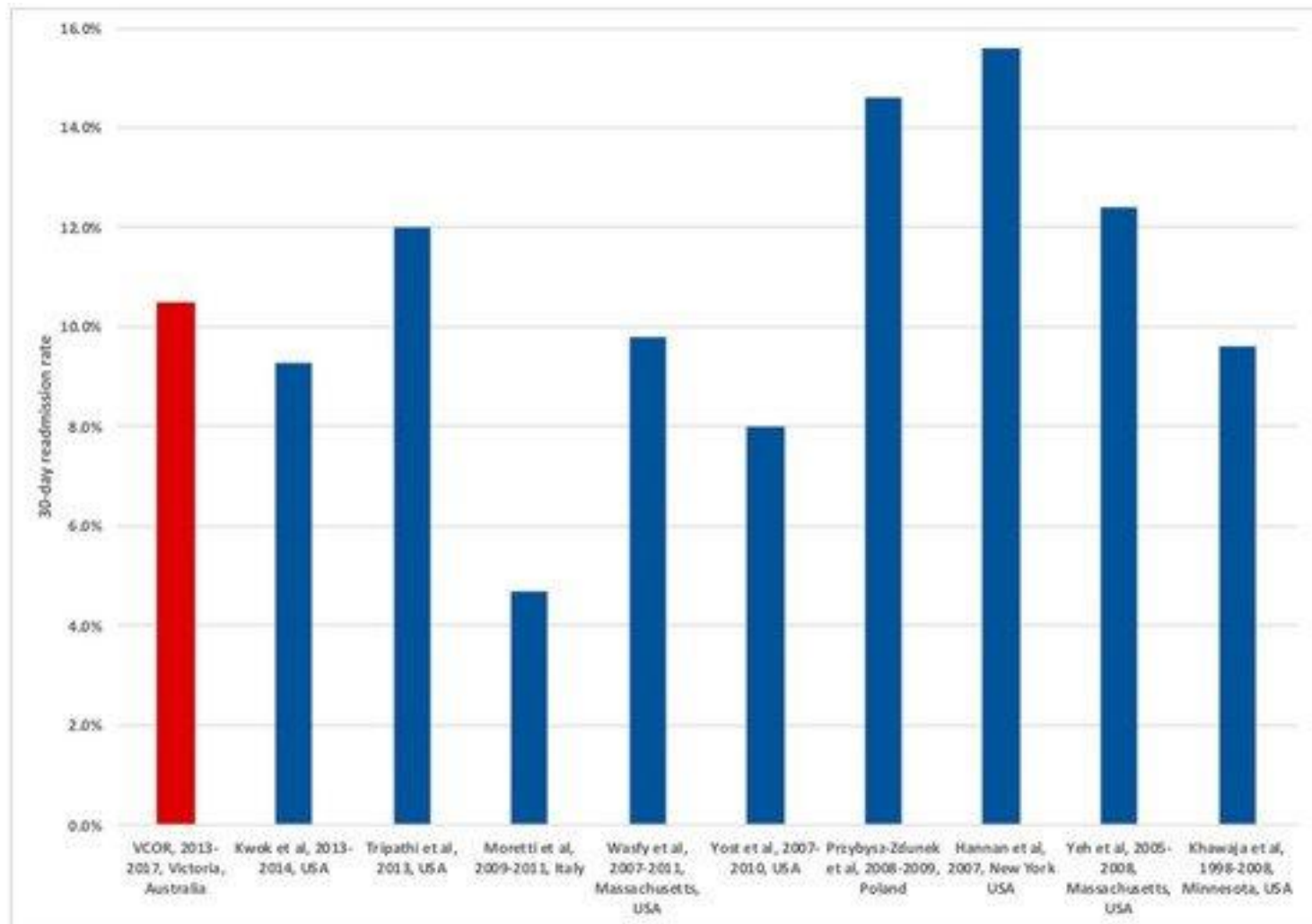
Background – The Issue of Hospital Readmissions

- Hospital readmission – Patient is admitted to the hospital within a certain time period after discharge
- Some are for routine care – dialysis or chemotherapy
- Some are potentially avoidable
- Reasons for avoidable readmission – inappropriate clinical management and discharge planning



CASE FOR CHANGE

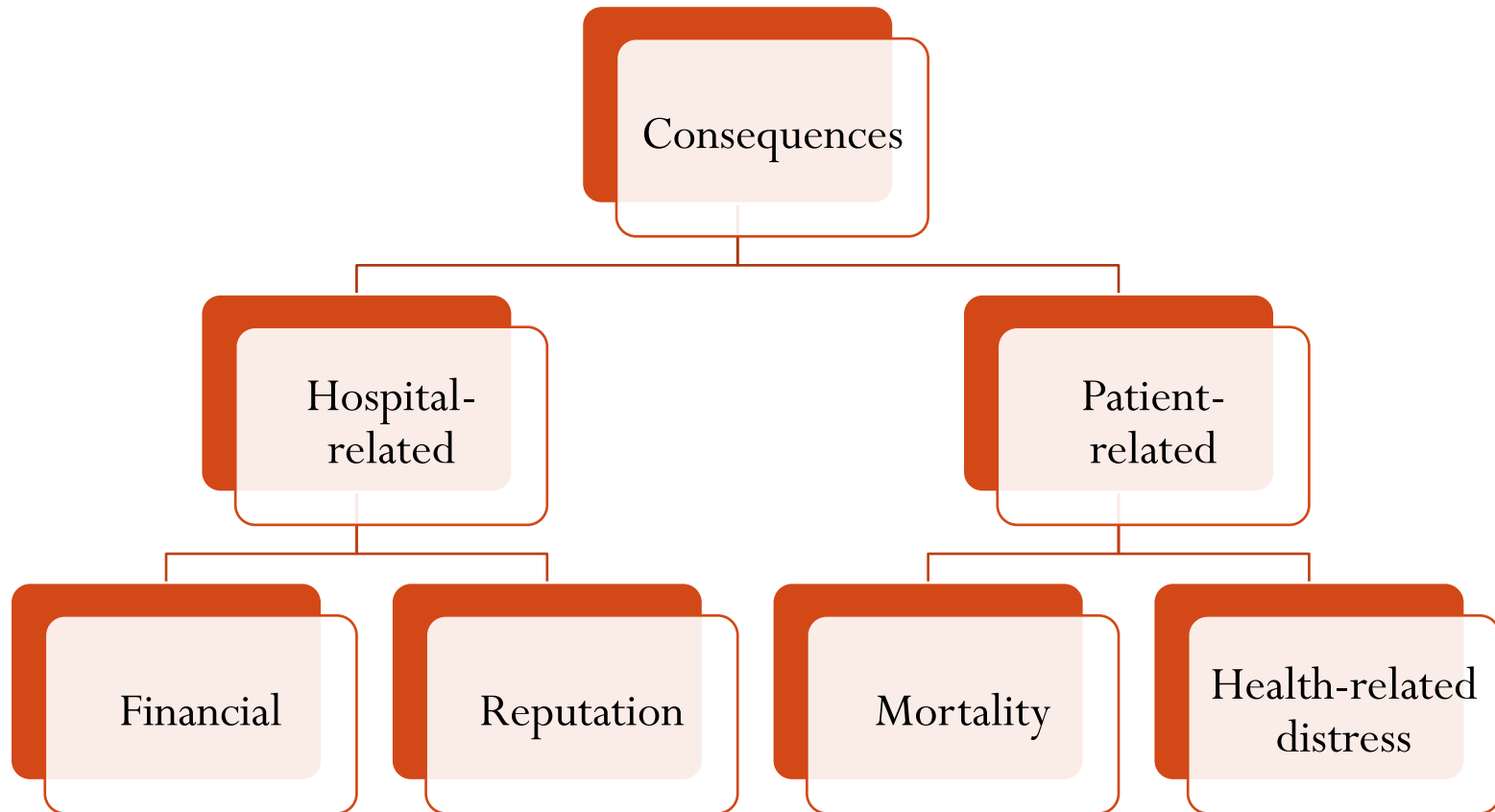
Background – Statistics of Hospital Readmission



Source: Biswas et al., 2020

CASE FOR CHANGE

Background – Consequences of Hospital Readmissions



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Background – Adhering to NSW Health Priorities 2021



MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT

Improving the efficiency of discharge planning

What are we trying to accomplish?

- Improve discharge planning through careful evaluation
- Ensure the patient no longer requires in-facility healthcare services prior to discharge.

How will we know that a change is an improvement?

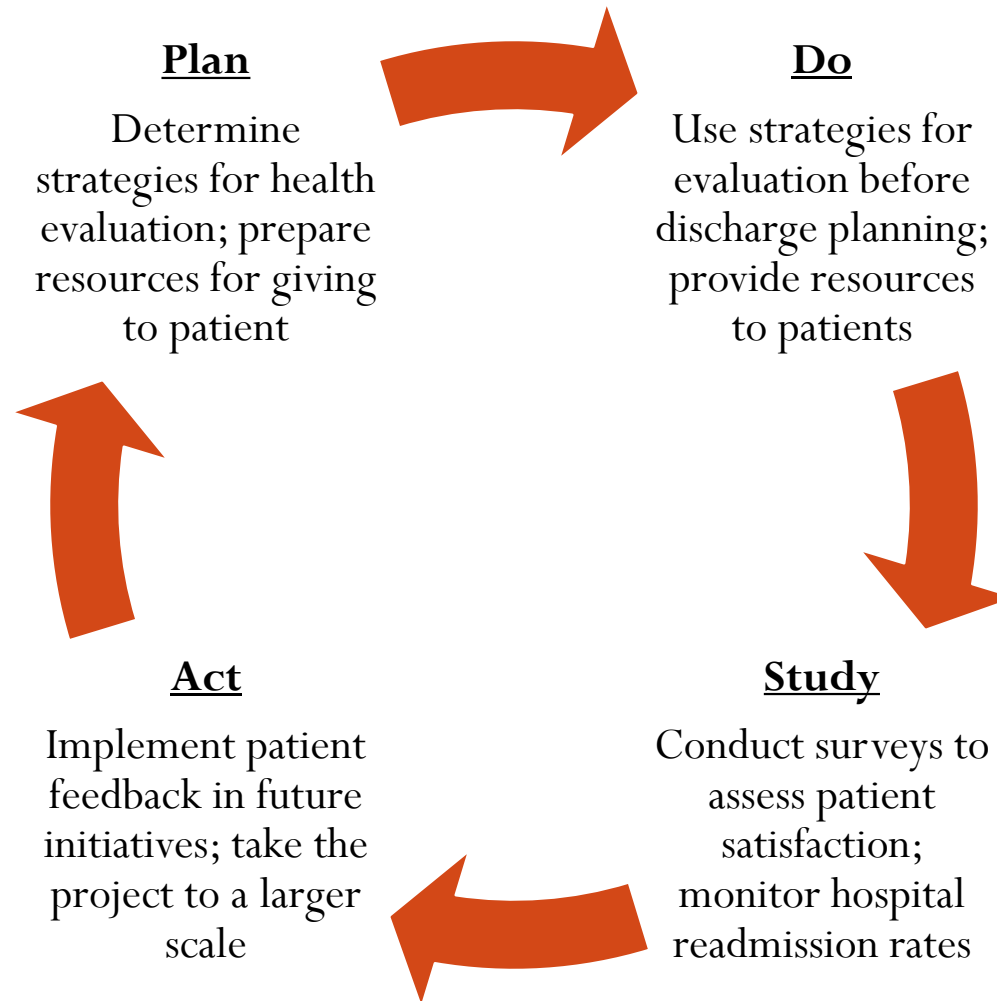
- Over time, there should be a reduction in hospital readmission rates.

What change can we make that will result in improvement?

- Careful evaluation of patients' health status
- Improved observation strategies for assessing patient readiness for discharge
- Provision of sufficient resources and information to help patient take care of their health needs post discharge

MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT

PDSA Cycle



MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT

Aim Statement

The AIM of this project is to reduce the rate of hospital readmissions within a 30-day period in the emergency care department from 10% to 5% within a period of 6 months.

MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT

Outcome Measures

Tracking hospital readmission rate

- Direct Measure

Patient survey

- Feedback regarding implemented strategies

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Note the major categories of patients that come to the emergency department of the facility
- Understand the underlying reasons for high hospital readmission rates in these patients
- Evaluate current strategies for health assessment before patient discharge
- Prepare infographics and other resources to help patients monitor their health condition at home

CONCLUSION

- High rates of hospital readmission is a cause for concern as it affects the hospital's reputation as well as finances, apart from increasing patient distress and mortality.
- Appropriate discharge planning through evaluation of health assessment strategies and provision of relevant materials to patients should be done.
- Progress should be tracked through monitoring hospital readmission rates and patient surveys for continuous improvement.

REFERENCES

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