Grafton Base Hospital

Return to acute care following hospitalisation for six acute conditions and two elective surgeries

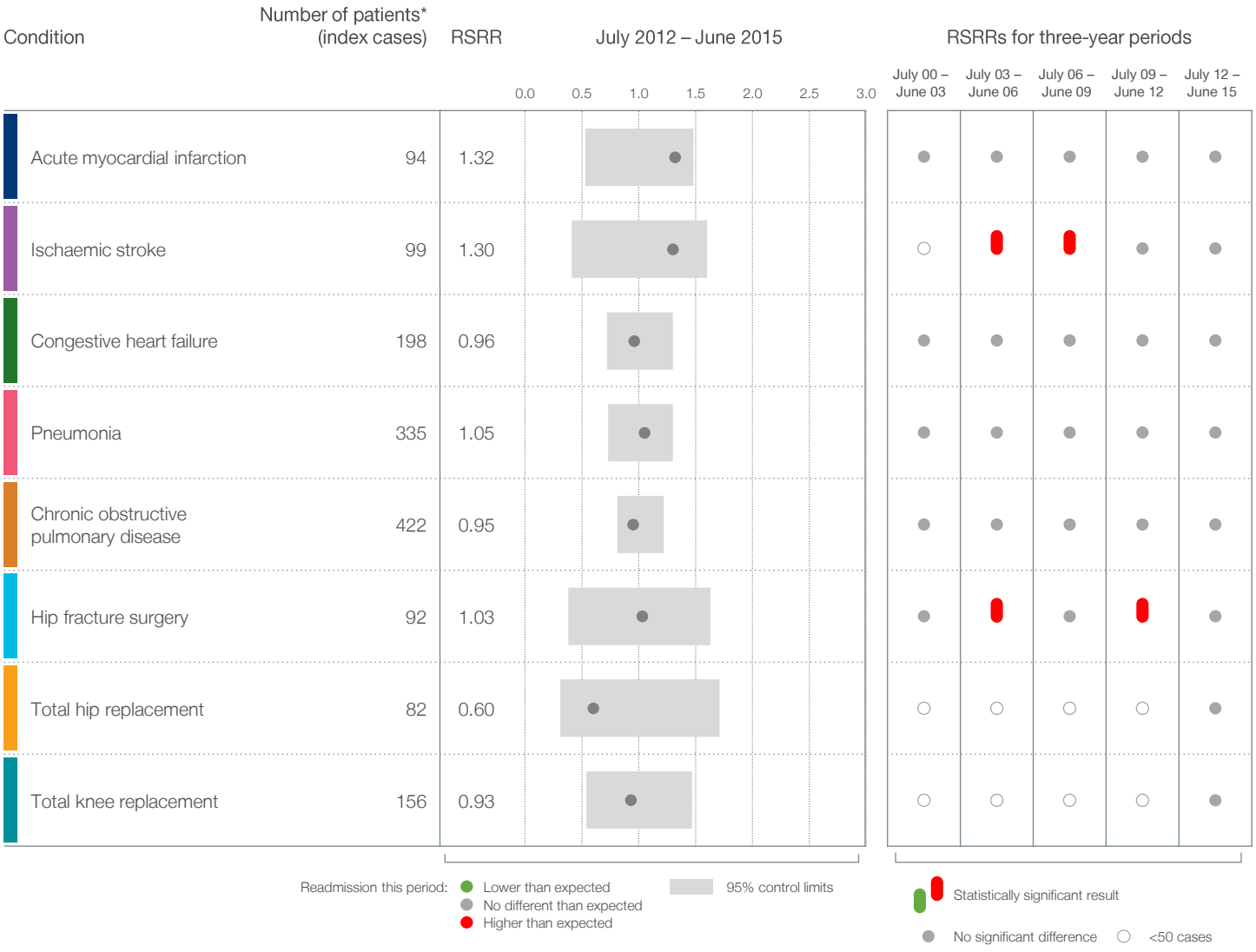
A hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio (RSRR) is the 'observed' number of readmissions that occurred among its patient cohort divided by the 'expected' number of readmissions among its patients[1]. For this report, readmission is defined as a return to acute care[2].

Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to interpret the ratios and identify outlier hospitals – those with 'special cause' variation that may warrant further investigation. The RSRR does not enable direct comparisons between hospitals. It assesses each hospital's results given its particular case mix.

Slightly different approaches are used for the conditions. A 30-day time period is used for the six acute conditions while a 60-day period is used for the elective surgeries. The analyses focused on acute conditions only consider readmission episodes that are classed as acute emergencies while analyses for the elective surgeries also include some 'planned' readmissions, such as planned returns to theatre for wound wash-outs.

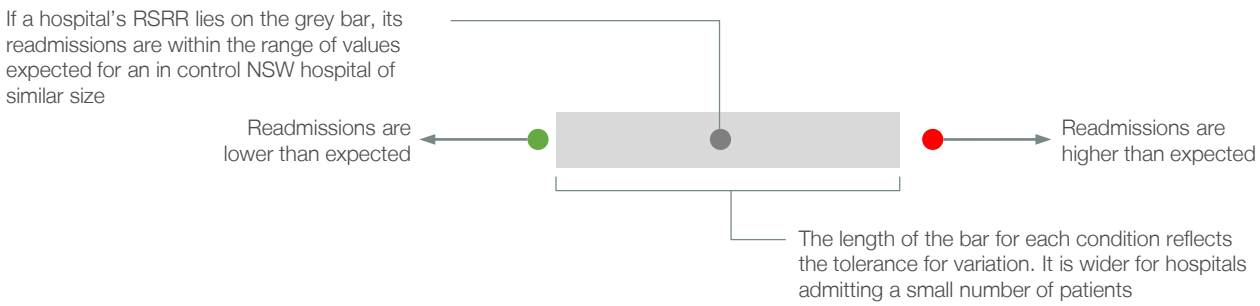
RSRRs do not distinguish readmissions that are avoidable from those that are a reflection of the natural course of illness.

Risk-standardised readmission ratios (RSRRs) for six acute conditions and two elective surgeries

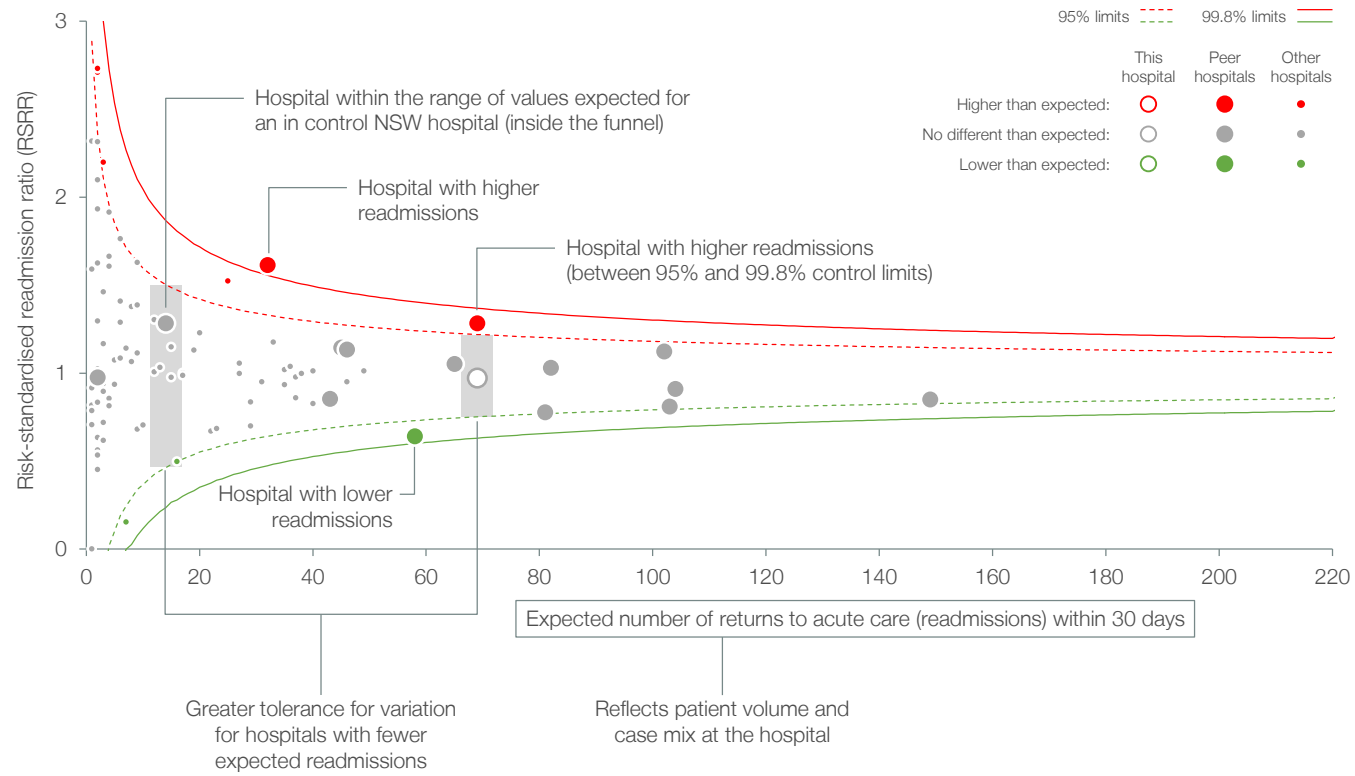


* Index cases exclude those with <30 days follow up information.
Note: More than 5% of total patients underwent hip fracture surgery at another hospital.

How to interpret the dashboard



How to interpret a funnel plot



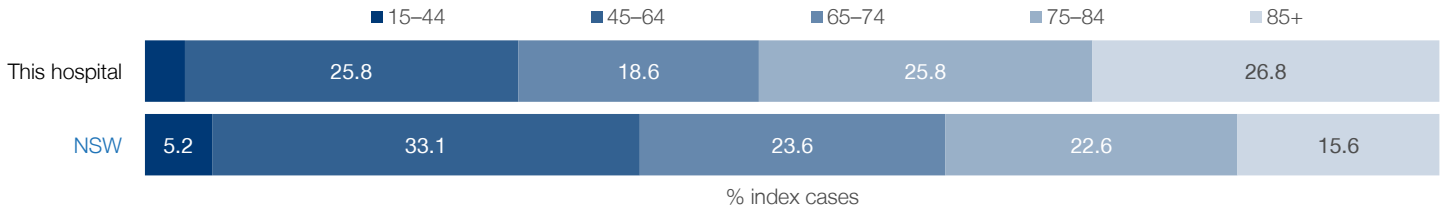
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction

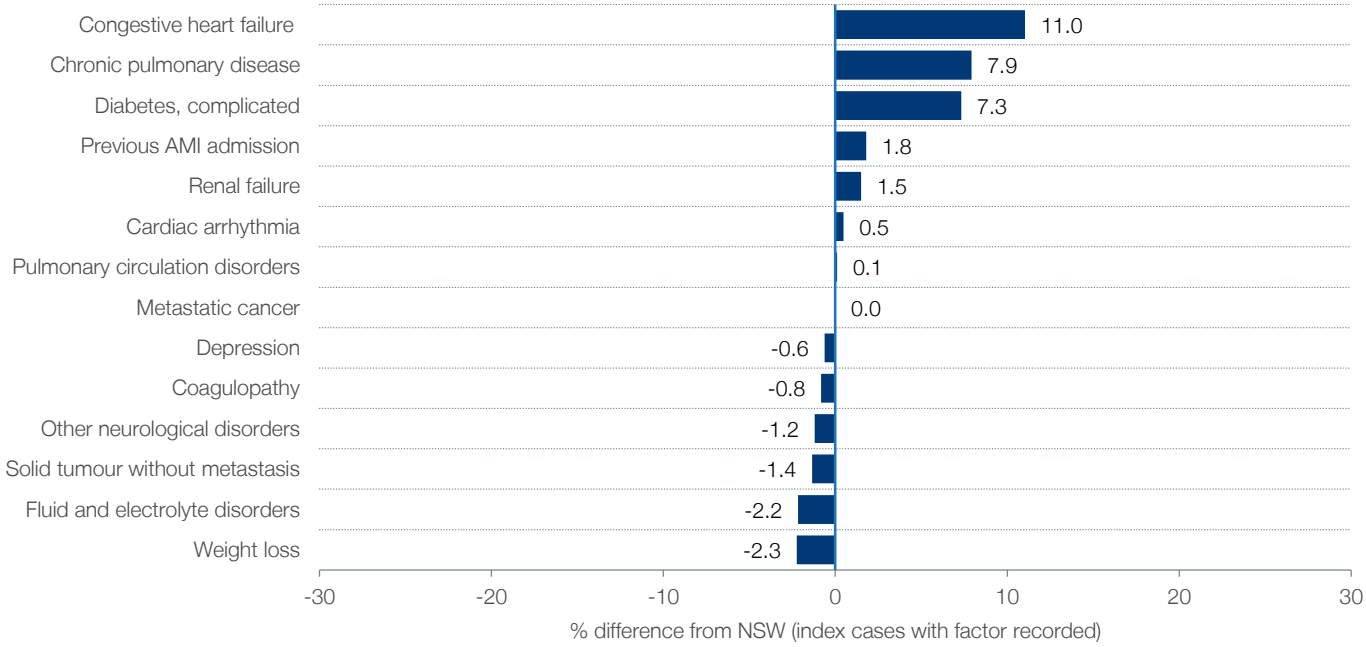
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for acute myocardial infarction	97	28,105
Average length of stay (days)	3.9	5.5
Patients transferred in from acute care in another hospital	56	11,790
Discharge destination:		
Home	81	24,910
Other	16	3,195

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 30-day acute myocardial infarction return to acute care[6]



*Age was a significant factor in the final model of 30-day readmission following hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction.

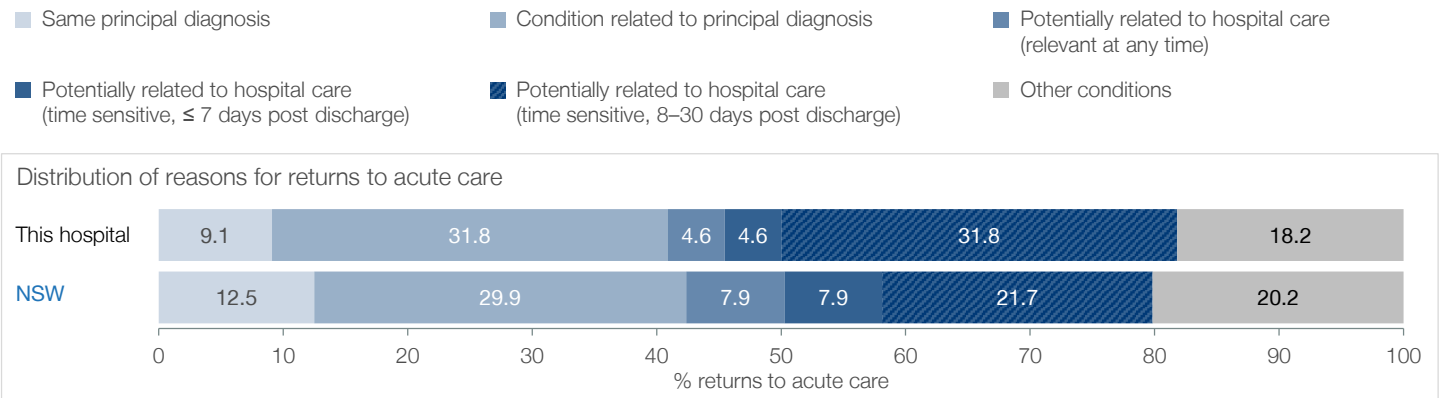
Grafton Base Hospital

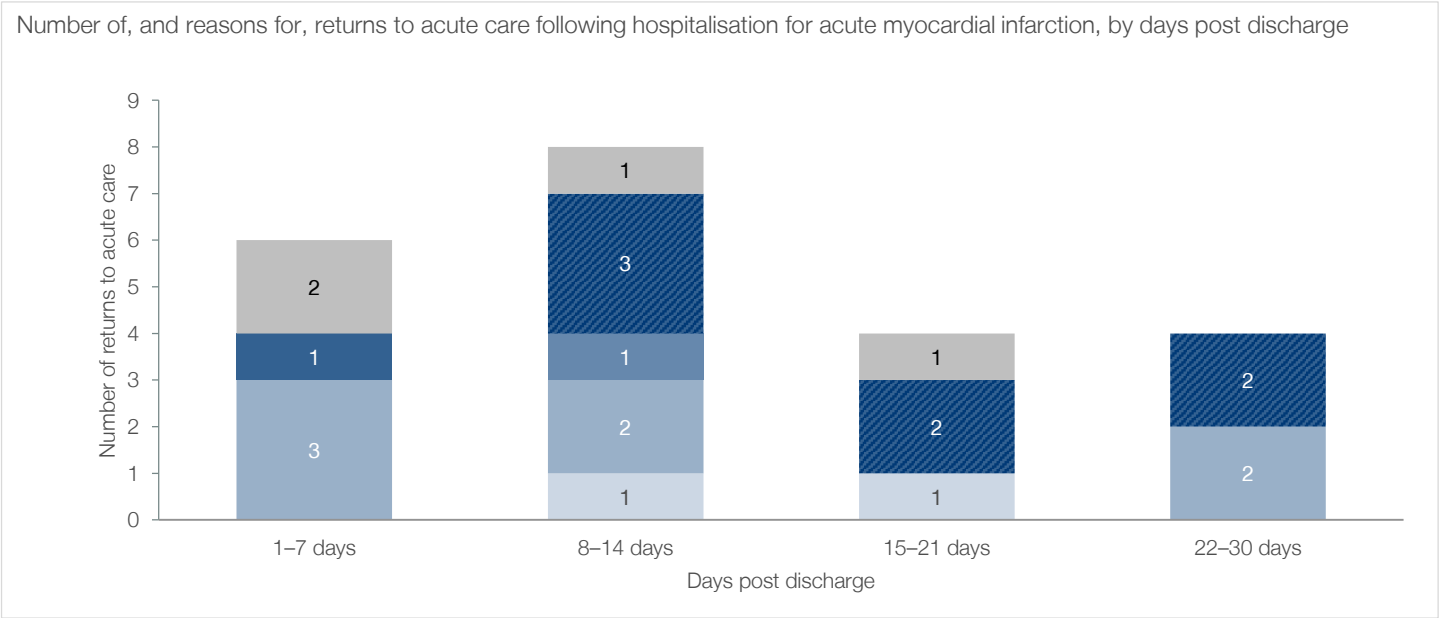
30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction	22	4,534
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	22	3,066
Readmitted to a different hospital	0	1,468
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital		
To a regional or rural public hospital		
To a private hospital		

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





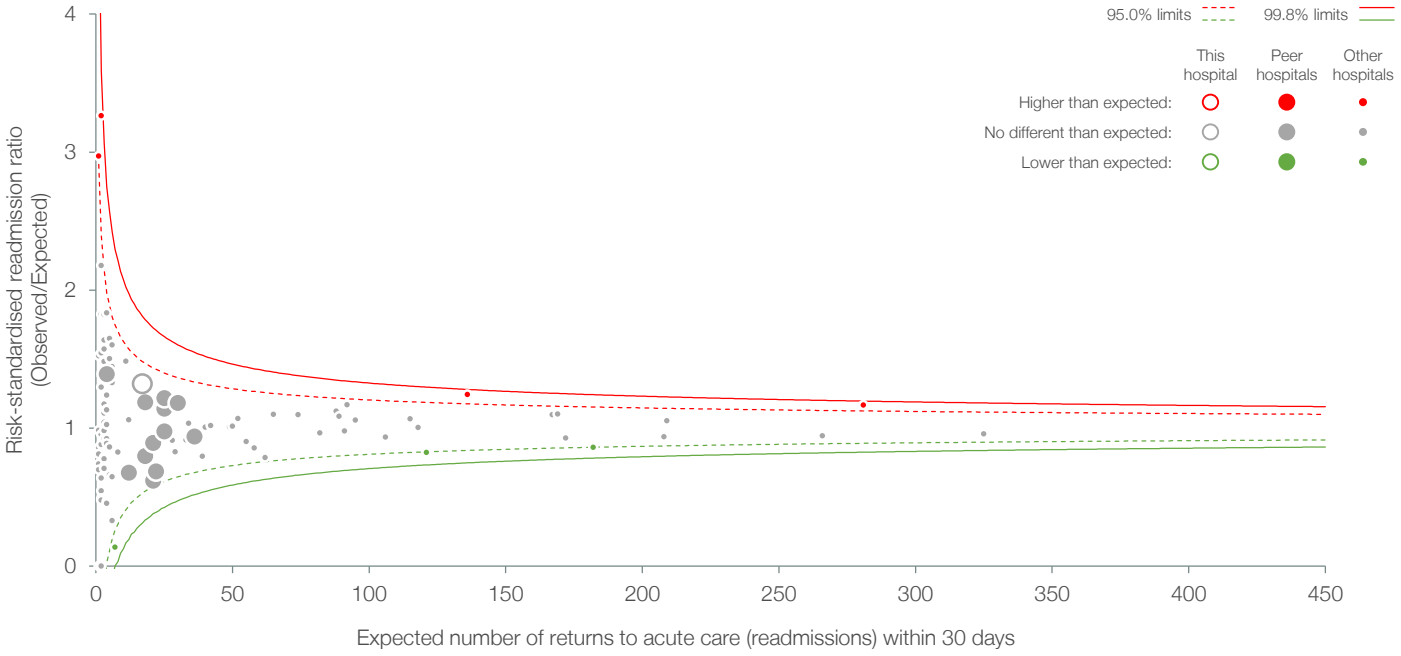
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

An RSRR less than 1.0 indicates lower-than-expected returns to acute care, and a ratio higher than 1.0 indicates higher-than-expected returns. Small deviations from 1.0 are not considered to be meaningful. Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to identify outliers.

Hospital level acute myocardial infarction RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 30 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
1.43	1.33	1.32

Ratio: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 4.9 diagnoses in this hospital and 4.9 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 5.8 diagnoses in this hospital and 5.6 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

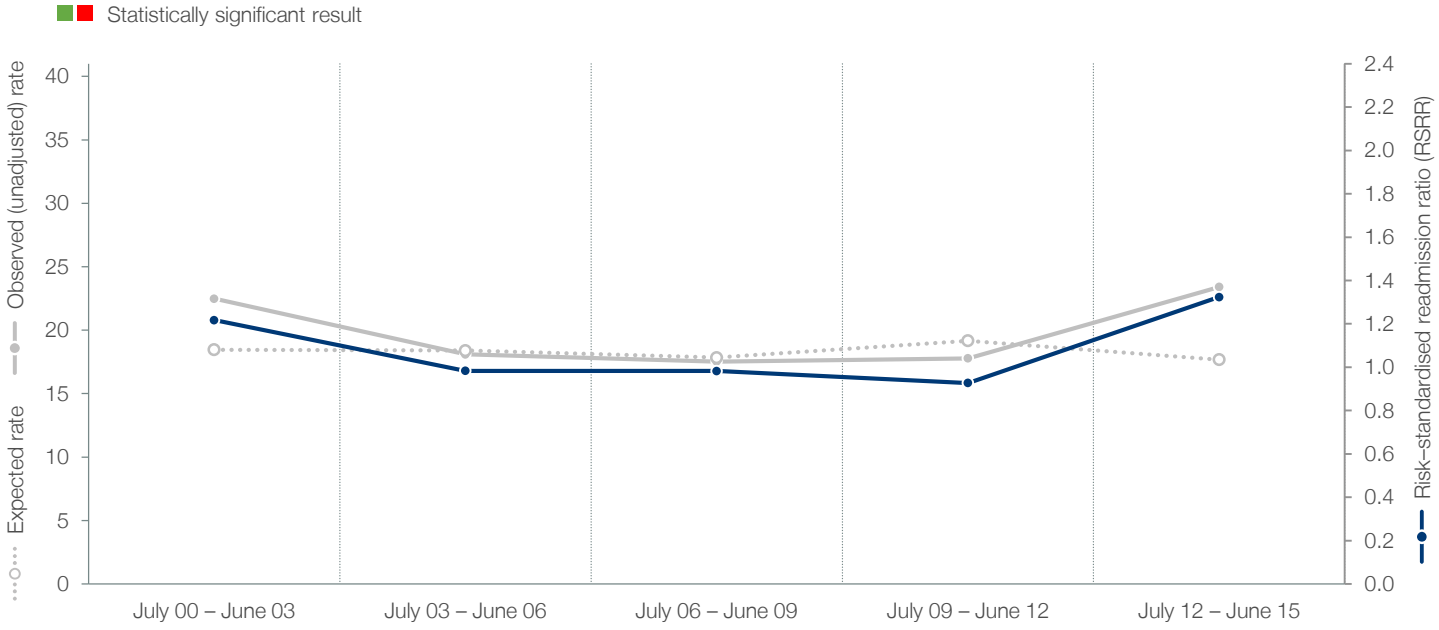
The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

RSRR: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction

Acute myocardial infarction, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation with AMI as principal diagnosis (ICD-10-AM codes I21, I22).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
4. Discharge destinations are based on the mode of separation of the index case. For episodes coded as 'Discharged by hospital' or 'Discharged on leave', patients are considered to be destined for their place of usual residence. All other modes of separation are deemed to indicate a discharge destination other than a patient's place of usual residence.
5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission (P<0.05) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
8. Reasons for return to acute care are classified according to a draft specification made available to BHI by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Principal diagnoses for the return to acute care episode, are stratified as: the same as the index hospitalisation; related to that of the index hospitalisation (same ICD-10-AM chapter); potentially related to hospital care (i.e. complications and adverse events) using various time horizons; and, other reasons. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
9. Results for hospitals with <1 expected readmission are not shown. Peer hospitals are identified according to the NSW Ministry of Health's peer grouping as of April 2012.
10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

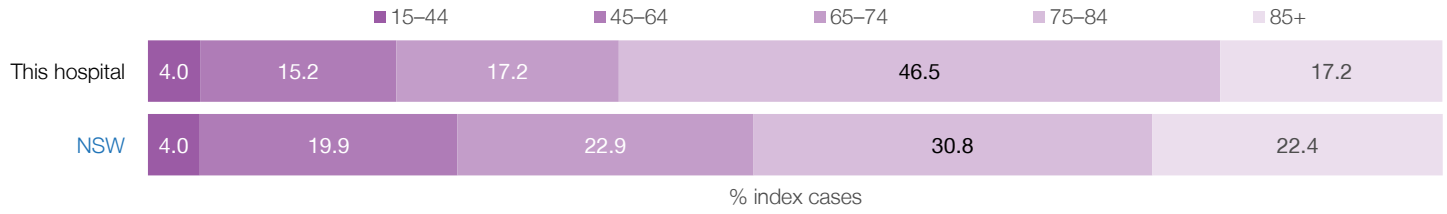
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for ischaemic stroke

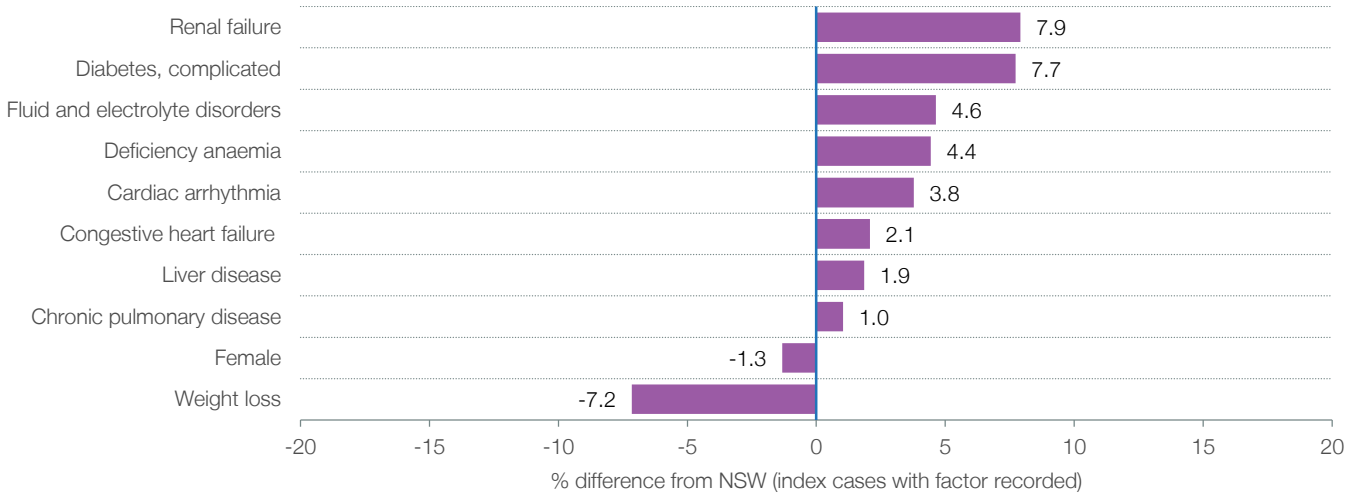
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for ischaemic stroke	99	14,471
Average length of stay (days)	6.0	8.3
Patients transferred in from acute care in another hospital	18	1,943
Discharge destination:		
Home	48	7,760
Other	51	6,711

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 30-day ischaemic stroke return to acute care[6]



*Age was not a significant factor in the final model of 30-day readmission following hospitalisation for ischaemic stroke.

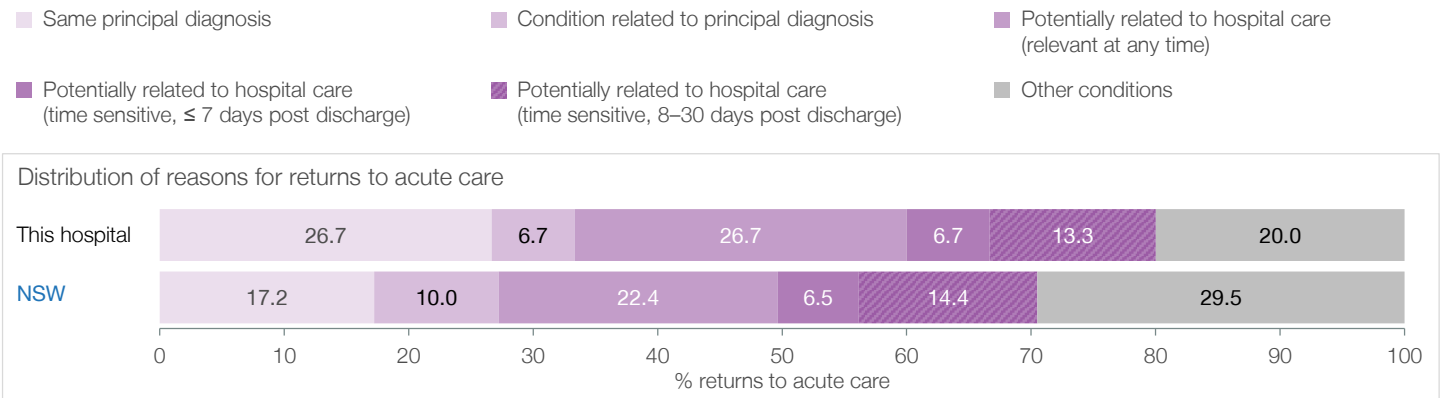
Grafton Base Hospital

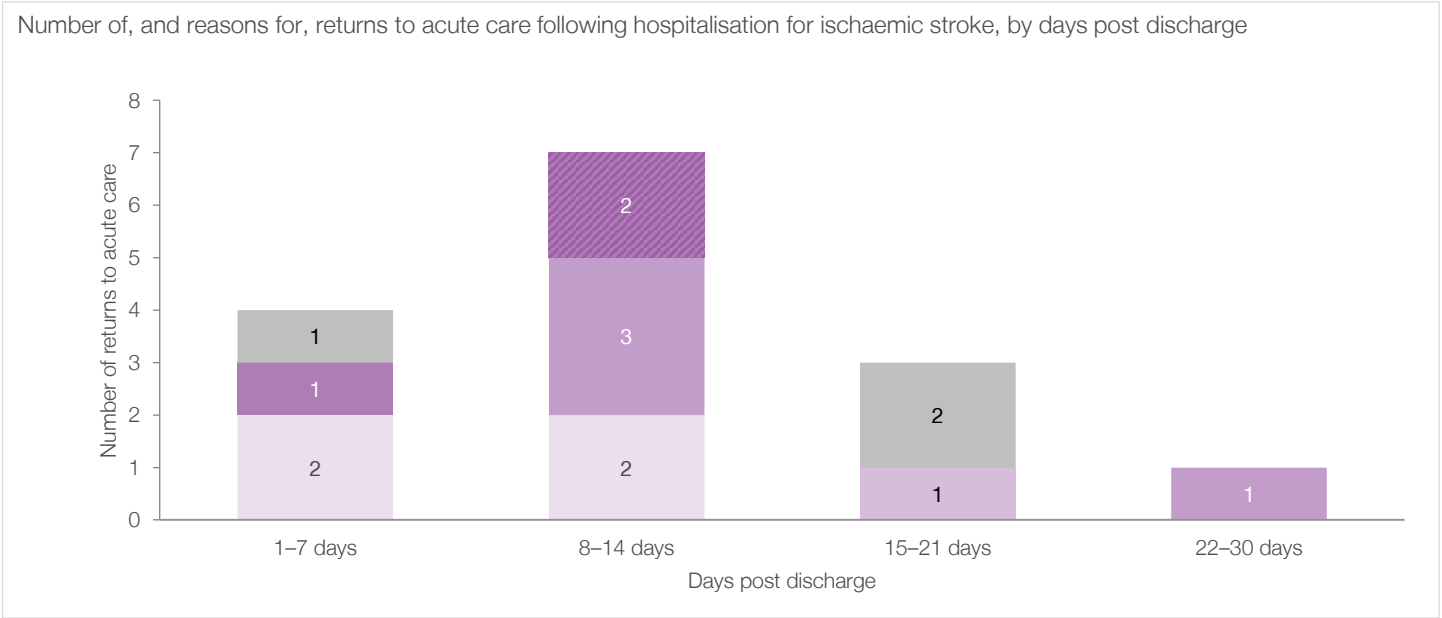
30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for ischaemic stroke

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for ischaemic stroke	15	1,539
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	11	1,188
Readmitted to a different hospital	4	351
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital	0	
To a regional or rural public hospital	4	
To a private hospital	0	

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





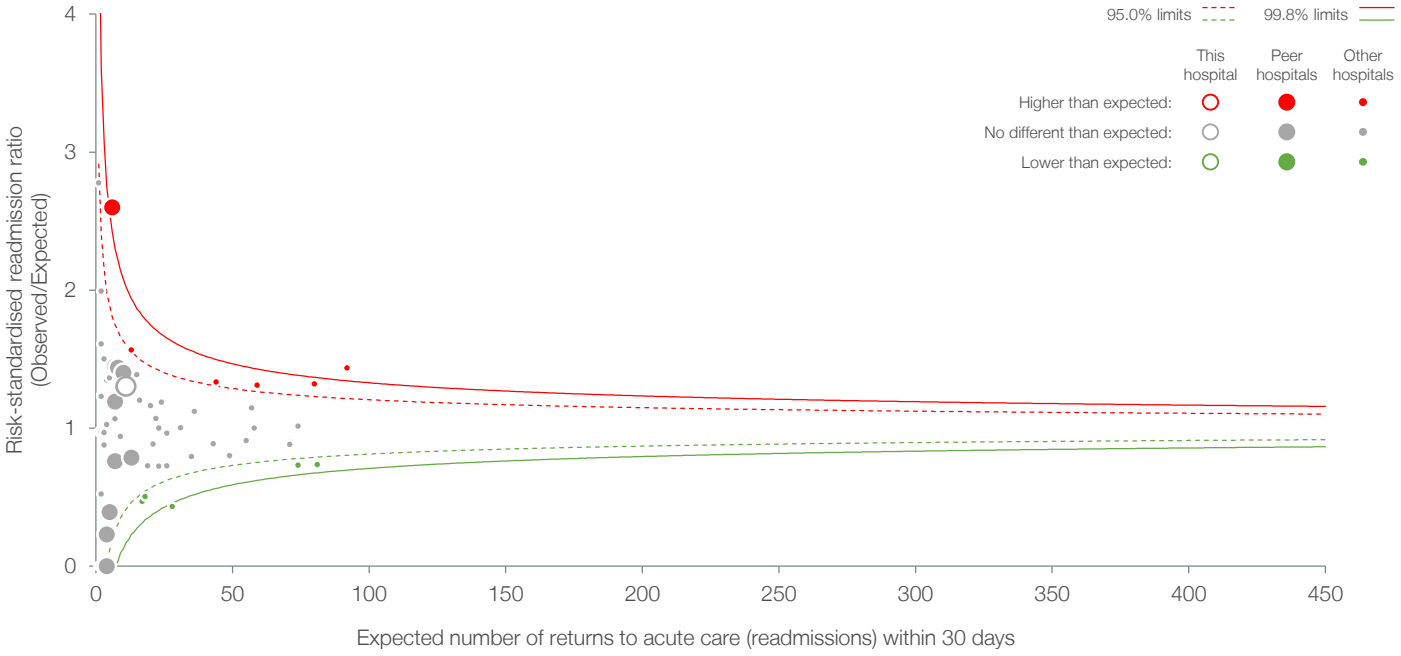
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for ischaemic stroke

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

An RSRR less than 1.0 indicates lower-than-expected returns to acute care, and a ratio higher than 1.0 indicates higher-than-expected returns. Small deviations from 1.0 are not considered to be meaningful. Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to identify outliers.

Hospital level ischaemic stroke RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 30 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
1.40	1.39	1.30

Ratio: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 5.0 diagnoses in this hospital and 6.3 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 6.8 diagnoses in this hospital and 7.0 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

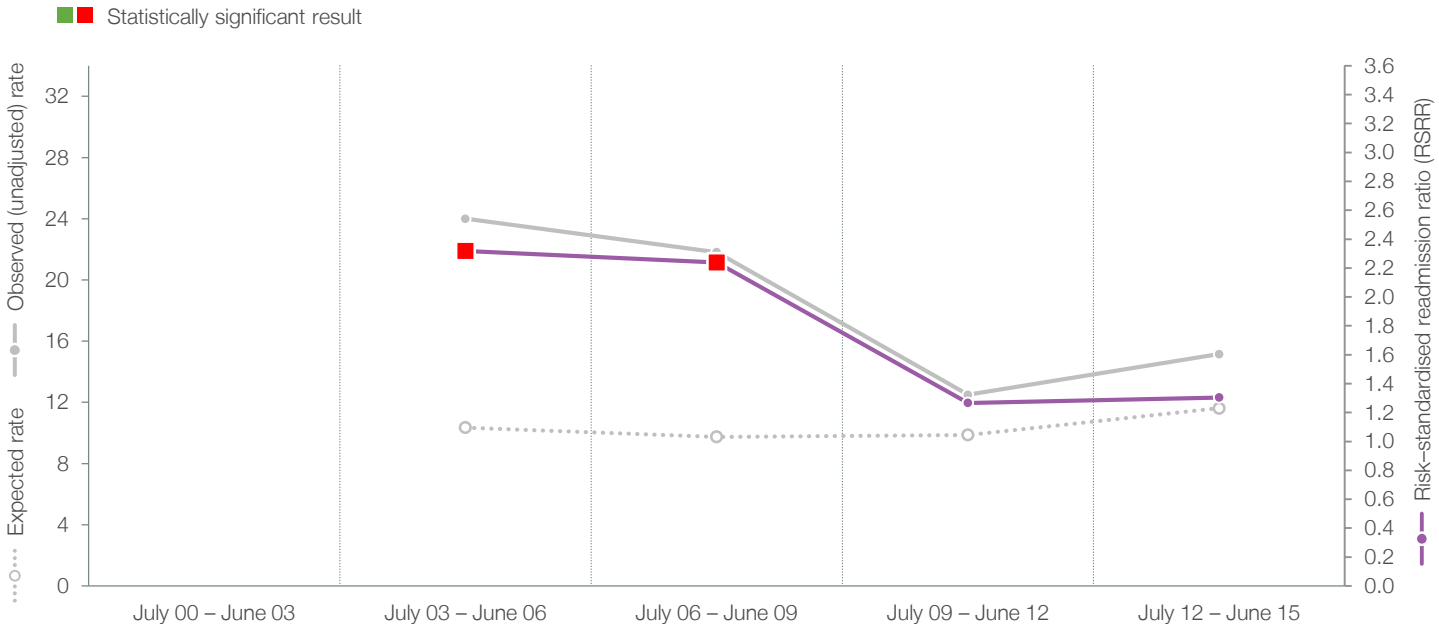
The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

RSRR: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for ischaemic stroke

Ischaemic stroke, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation with ischaemic stroke as principal diagnosis (ICD-10-AM code I63).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
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5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission (P<0.05) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
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9. Results for hospitals with <1 expected readmission are not shown. Peer hospitals are identified according to the NSW Ministry of Health's peer grouping as of April 2012.
10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

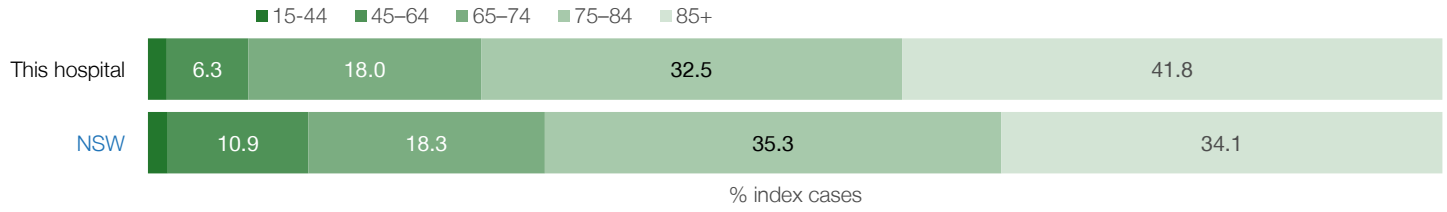
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for congestive heart failure

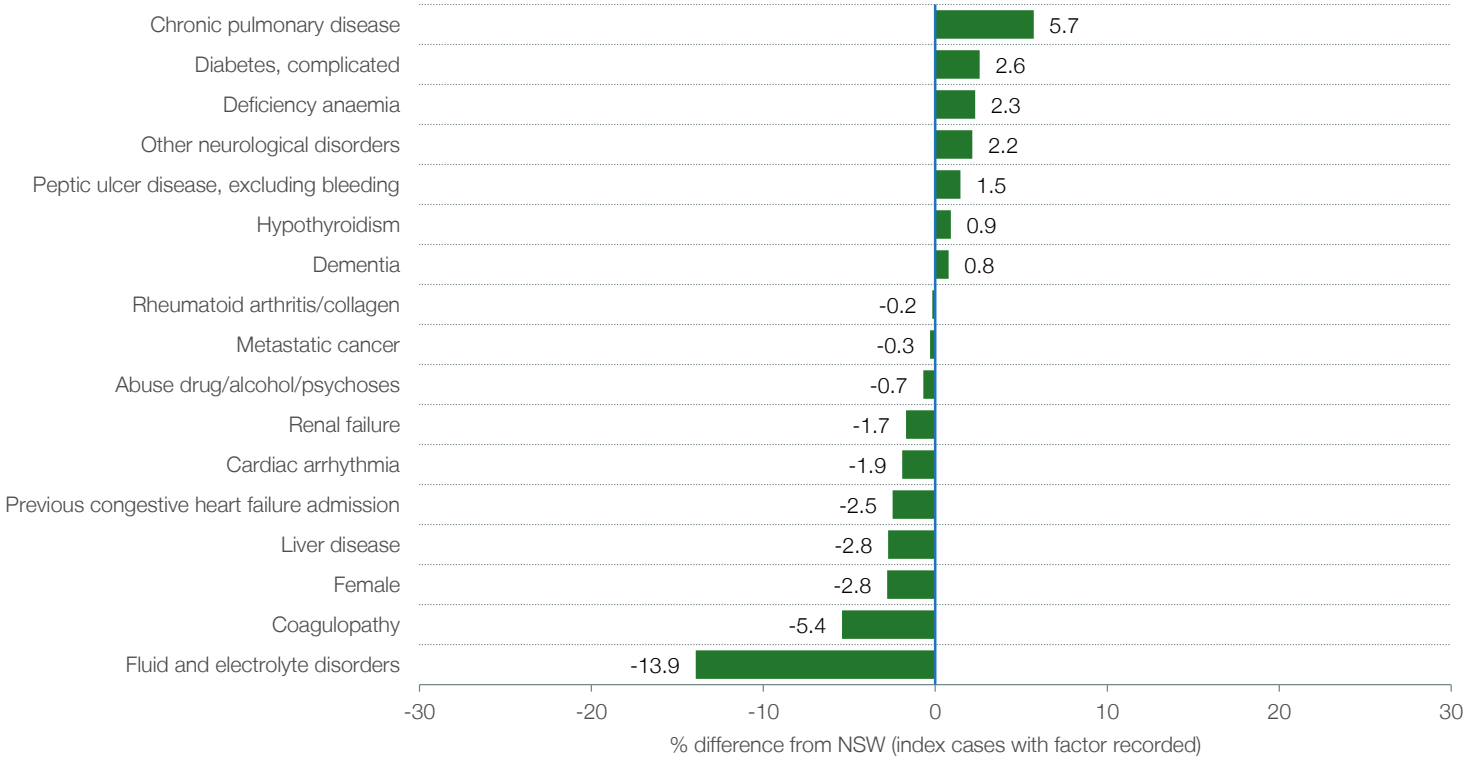
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for congestive heart failure	206	33,450
Average length of stay (days)	5.3	6.1
Patients transferred in from acute care in another hospital	11	3,216
Discharge destination:		
Home	160	28,883
Other	46	4,567

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 30-day congestive heart failure return to acute care[6]



*Age was a significant factor in the final model of 30-day readmission following hospitalisation for congestive heart failure.

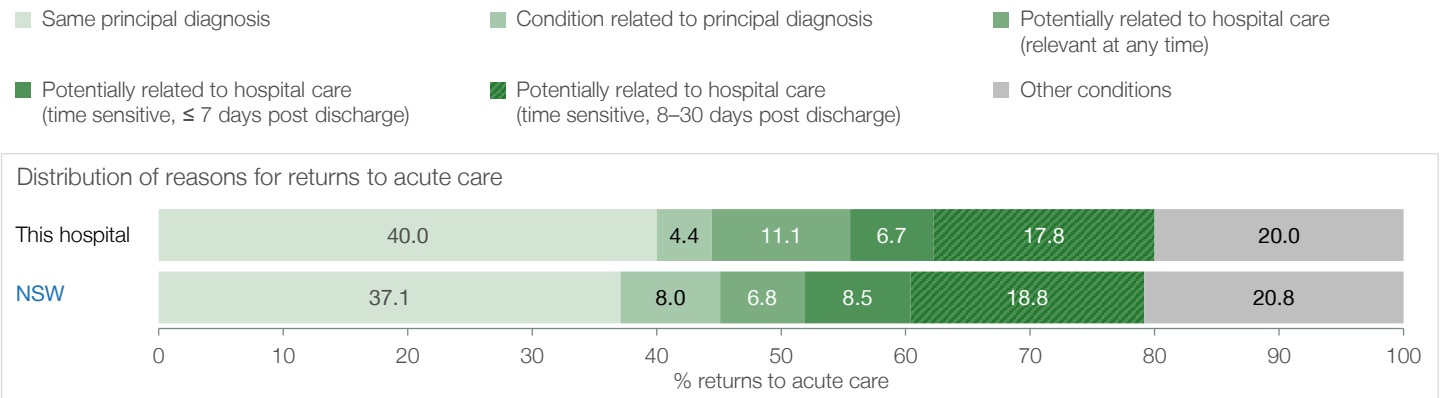
Grafton Base Hospital

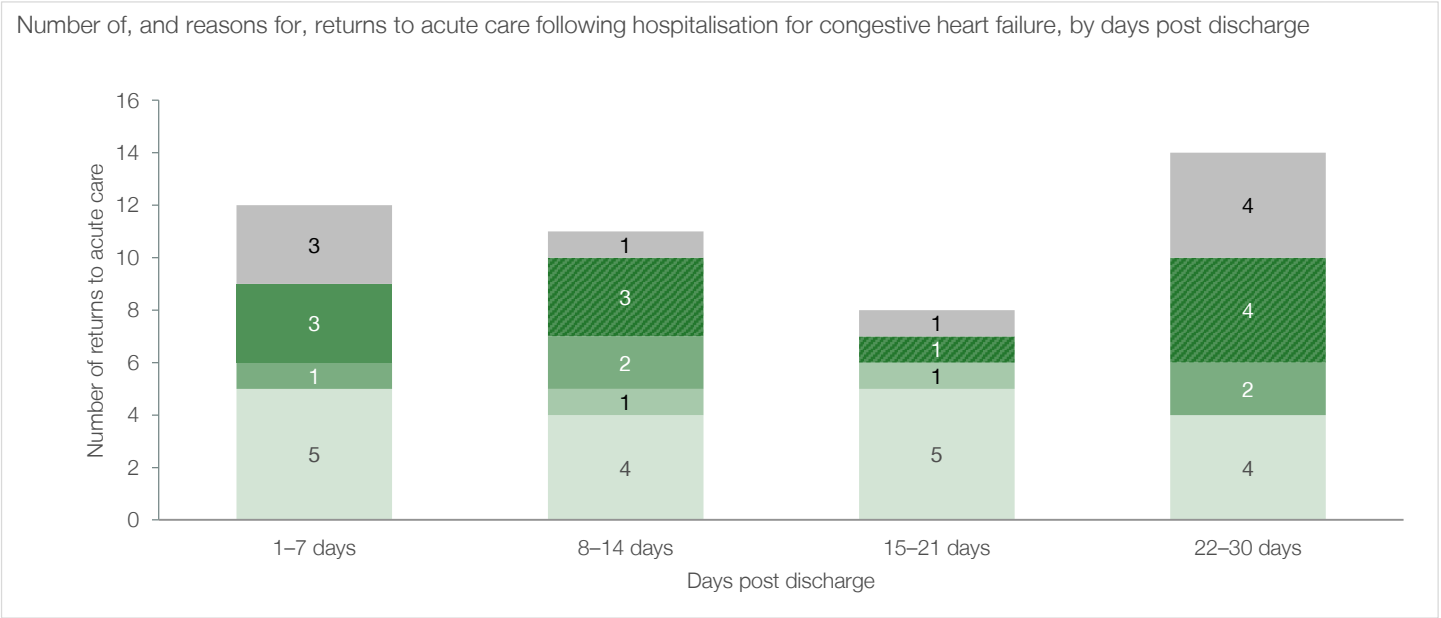
30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for congestive heart failure

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for congestive heart failure	45	7,602
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	42	6,256
Readmitted to a different hospital	3	1,346
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital	0	
To a regional or rural public hospital	3	
To a private hospital	0	

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for congestive heart failure

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

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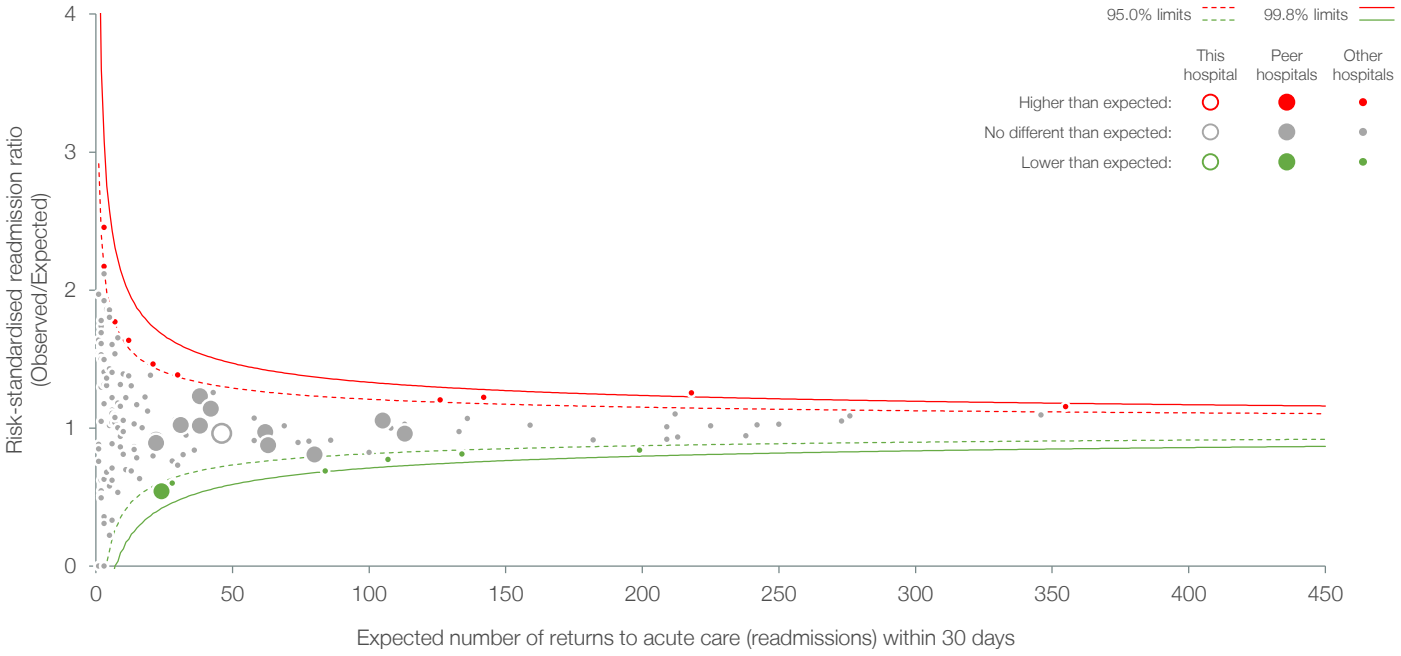
Hospital level congestive heart failure RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 30 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
0.96	0.96	0.96

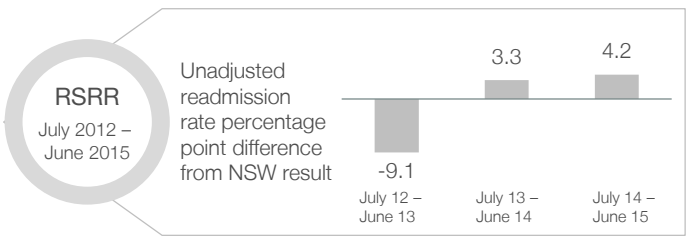
Ratio: Lower than expected; No different than expected; Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 5.3 diagnoses in this hospital and 4.8 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 5.4 diagnoses in this hospital and 5.9 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

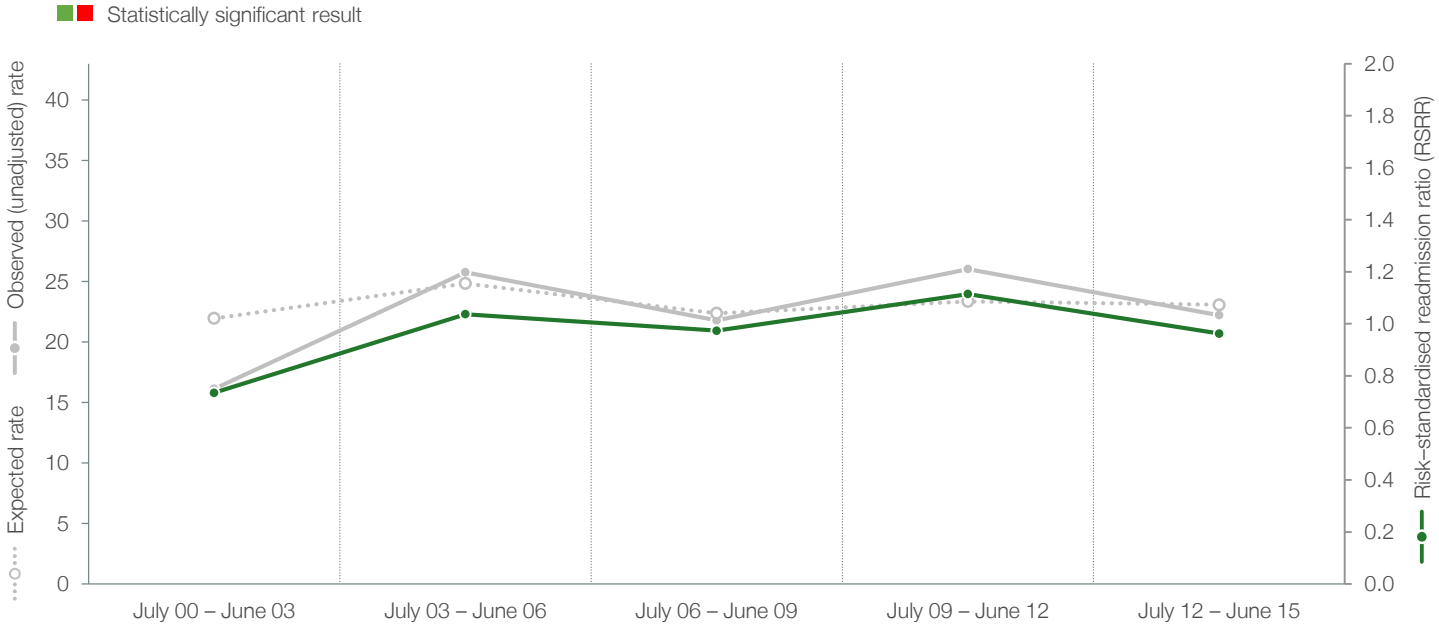
RSRR: Lower than expected; No different than expected; Higher than expected



Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for congestive heart failure

Congestive heart failure, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation with congestive heart failure as principal diagnosis (ICD-10-AM codes I11.0, I13.0, I13.2, I50.0, I50.1, I50.9).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
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5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission ($P<0.05$) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
8. Reasons for return to acute care are classified according to a draft specification made available to BHI by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Principal diagnoses for the return to acute care episode, are stratified as: the same as the index hospitalisation; related to that of the index hospitalisation (same ICD-10-AM chapter); potentially related to hospital care (i.e. complications and adverse events) using various time horizons; and, other reasons. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
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10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

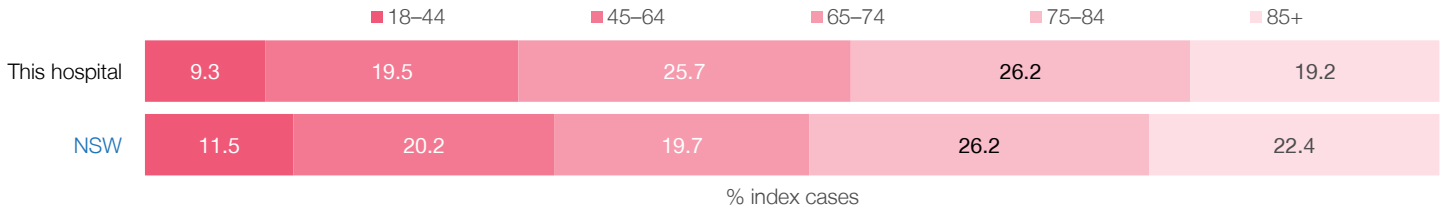
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for pneumonia

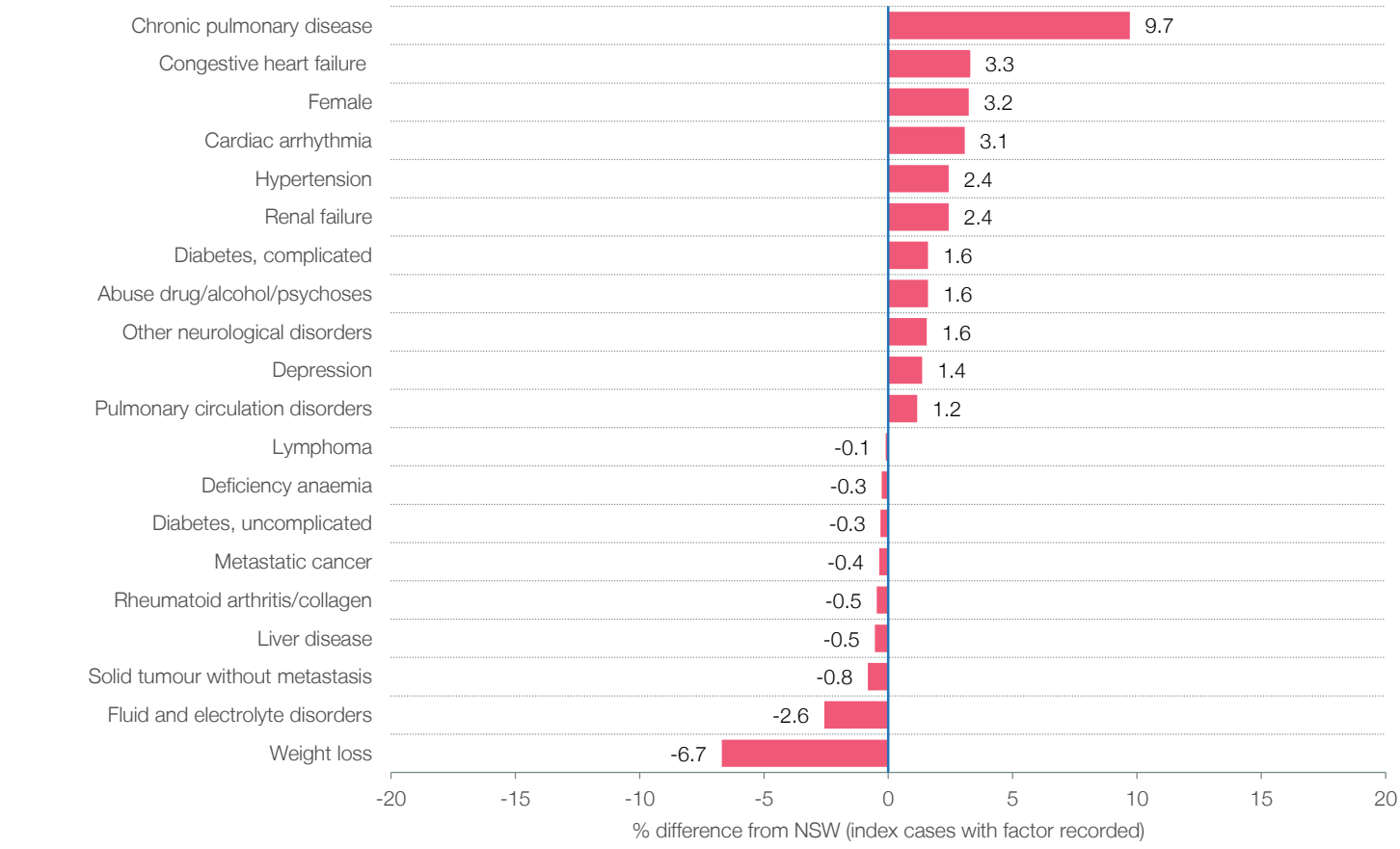
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for pneumonia	343	46,422
Average length of stay (days)	5.0	5.6
Patients transferred in from acute care in another hospital	33	4,505
Discharge destination:		
Home	287	40,374
Other	56	6,048

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 30-day pneumonia return to acute care[6]



*Age was a significant factor in the final model of 30-day readmission following hospitalisation for pneumonia.

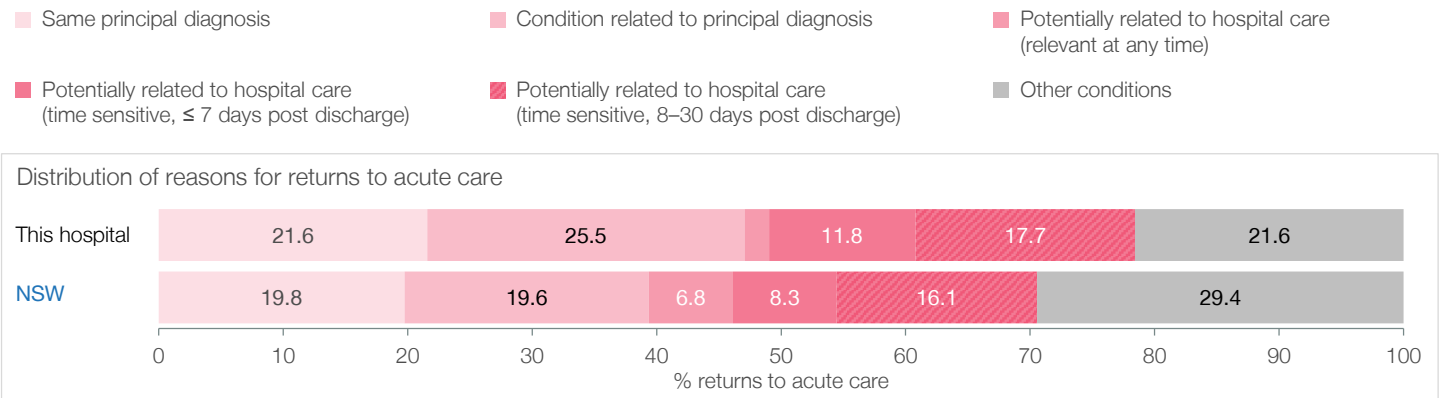
Grafton Base Hospital

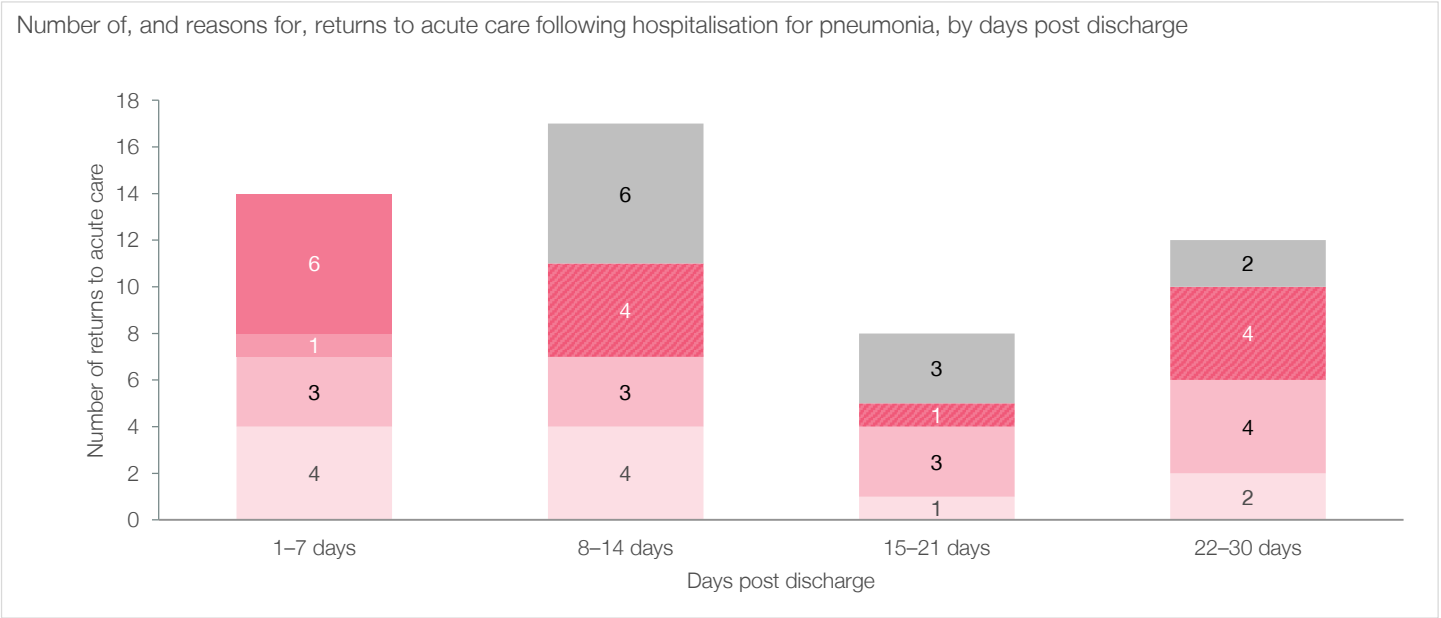
30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for pneumonia

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for pneumonia	51	6,543
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	44	5,304
Readmitted to a different hospital	7	1,239
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital	2	
To a regional or rural public hospital	5	
To a private hospital	0	

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





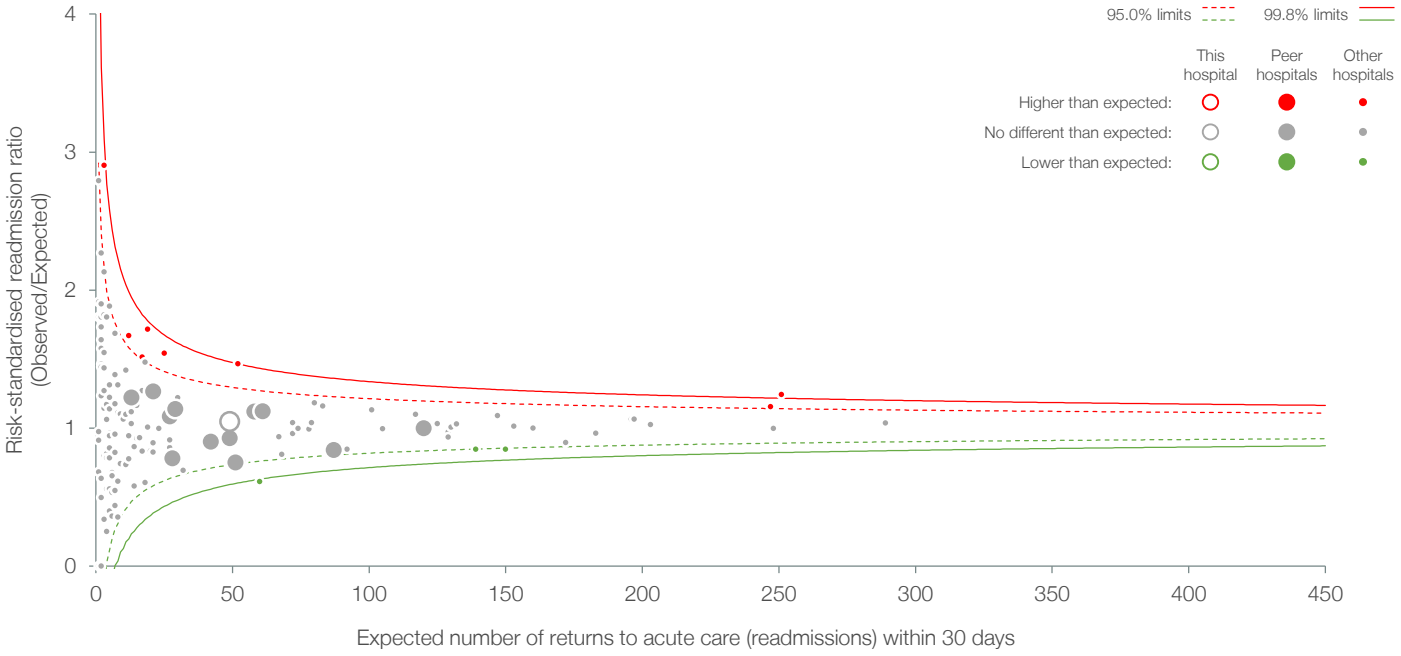
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for pneumonia

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

An RSRR less than 1.0 indicates lower-than-expected returns to acute care, and a ratio higher than 1.0 indicates higher-than-expected returns. Small deviations from 1.0 are not considered to be meaningful. Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to identify outliers.

Hospital level pneumonia RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 30 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
1.05	1.06	1.05

Ratio: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 3.4 diagnoses in this hospital and 3.7 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 4.6 diagnoses in this hospital and 4.8 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

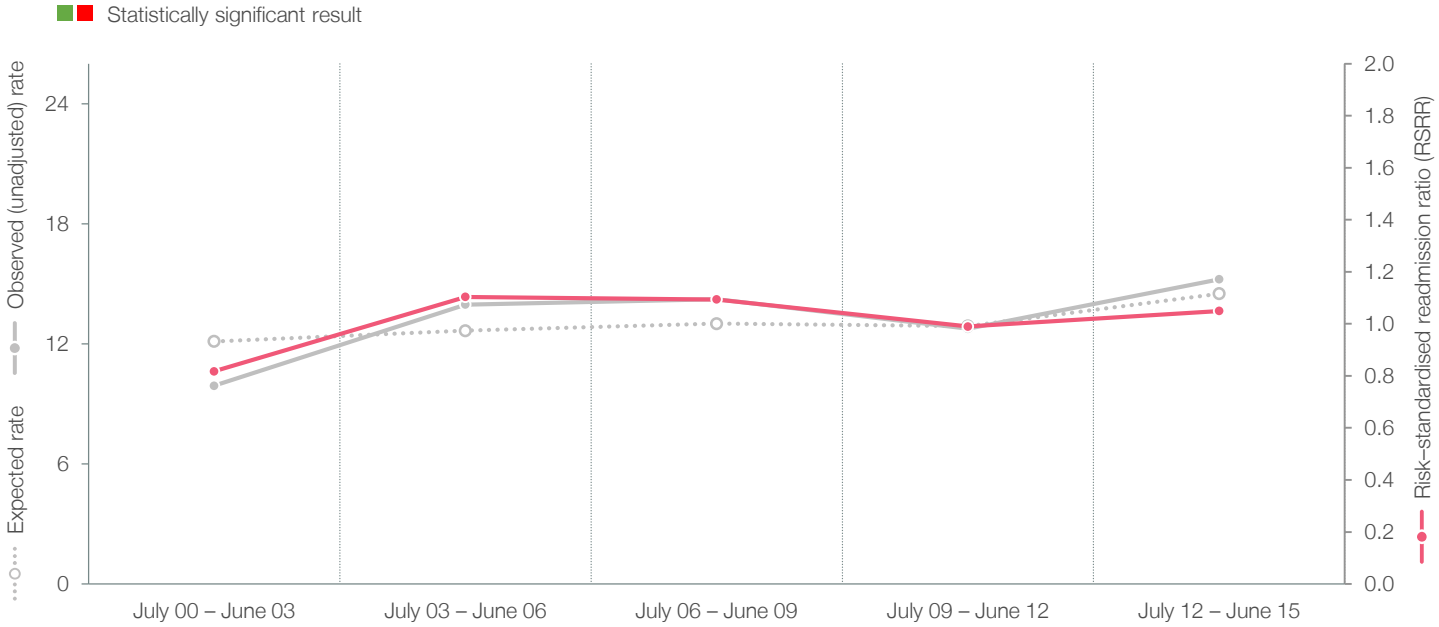
The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

RSRR: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for pneumonia

Pneumonia, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation with pneumonia as principal diagnosis (ICD-10-AM codes J13, J14, J15, J16, J18).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
4. Discharge destinations are based on the mode of separation of the index case. For episodes coded as 'Discharged by hospital' or 'Discharged on leave', patients are considered to be destined for their place of usual residence. All other modes of separation are deemed to indicate a discharge destination other than a patient's place of usual residence.
5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission ($P<0.05$) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
8. Reasons for return to acute care are classified according to a draft specification made available to BHI by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Principal diagnoses for the return to acute care episode, are stratified as: the same as the index hospitalisation; related to that of the index hospitalisation (same ICD-10-AM chapter); potentially related to hospital care (i.e. complications and adverse events) using various time horizons; and, other reasons. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
9. Results for hospitals with <1 expected readmission are not shown. Peer hospitals are identified according to the NSW Ministry of Health's peer grouping as of April 2012.
10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

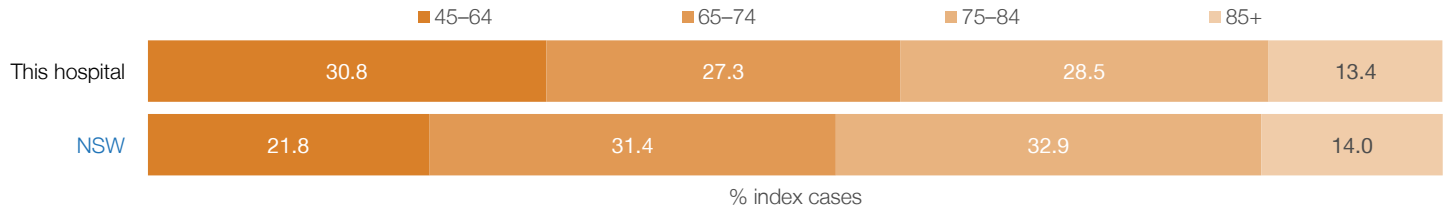
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

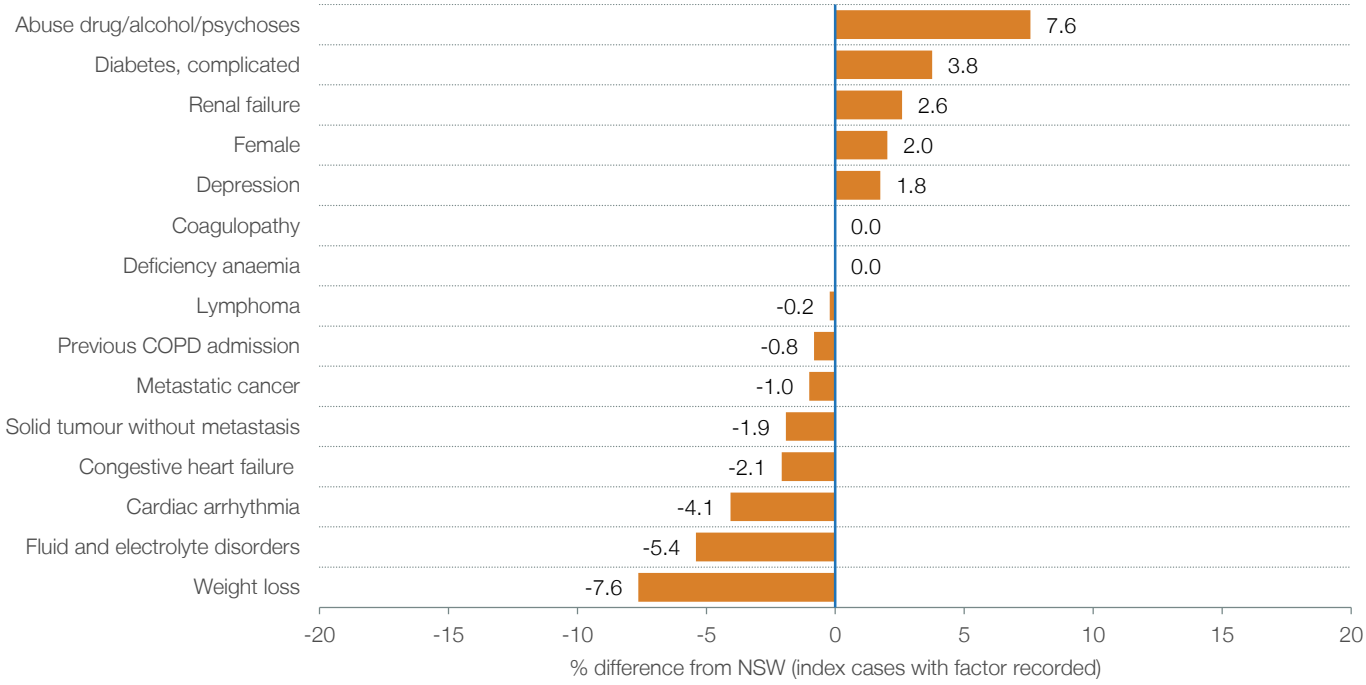
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	432	47,359
Average length of stay (days)	5.4	5.3
Patients transferred in from acute care in another hospital	17	3,367
Discharge destination:		
Home	386	42,937
Other	46	4,422

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 30-day chronic obstructive pulmonary disease return to acute care[6]



*Age was a significant factor in the final model of 30-day readmission following hospitalisation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

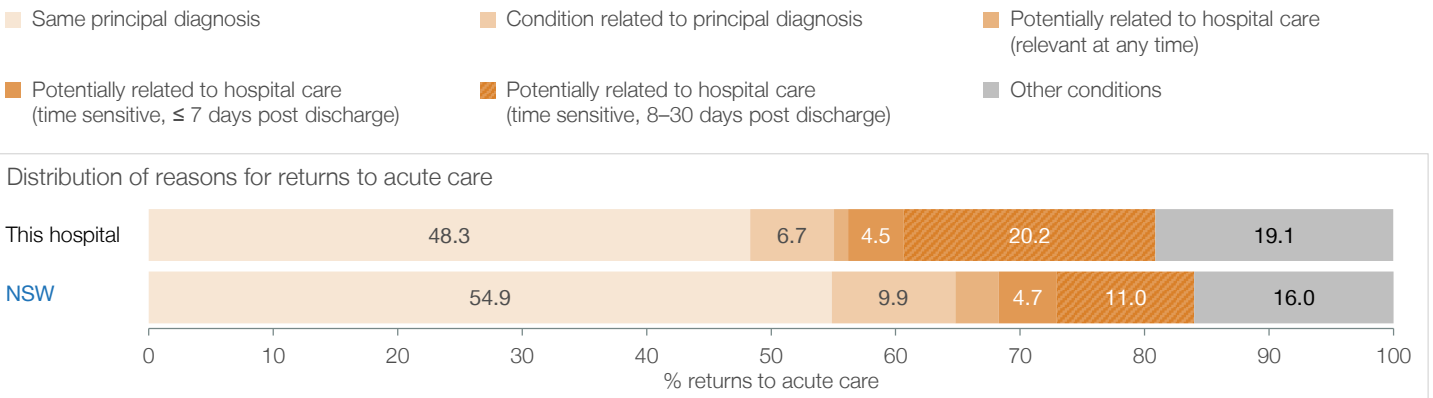
Grafton Base Hospital

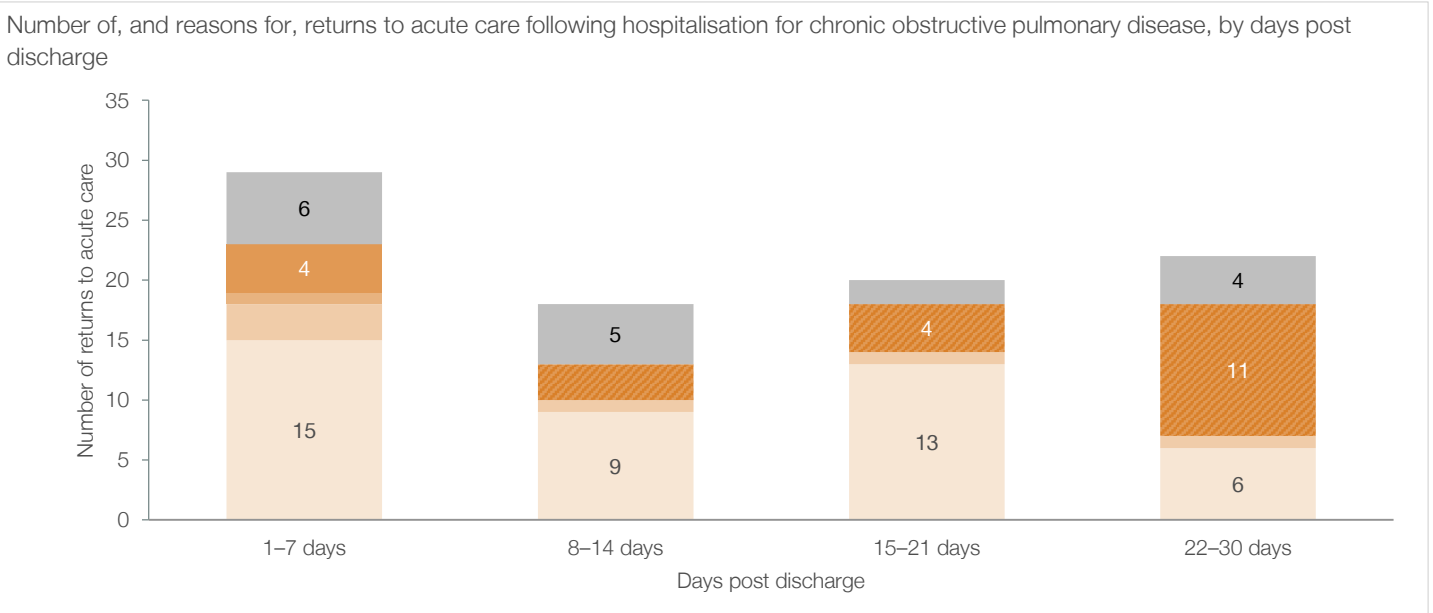
30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	89	10,293
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	88	8,696
Readmitted to a different hospital	1	1,597
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital	0	
To a regional or rural public hospital	1	
To a private hospital	0	

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





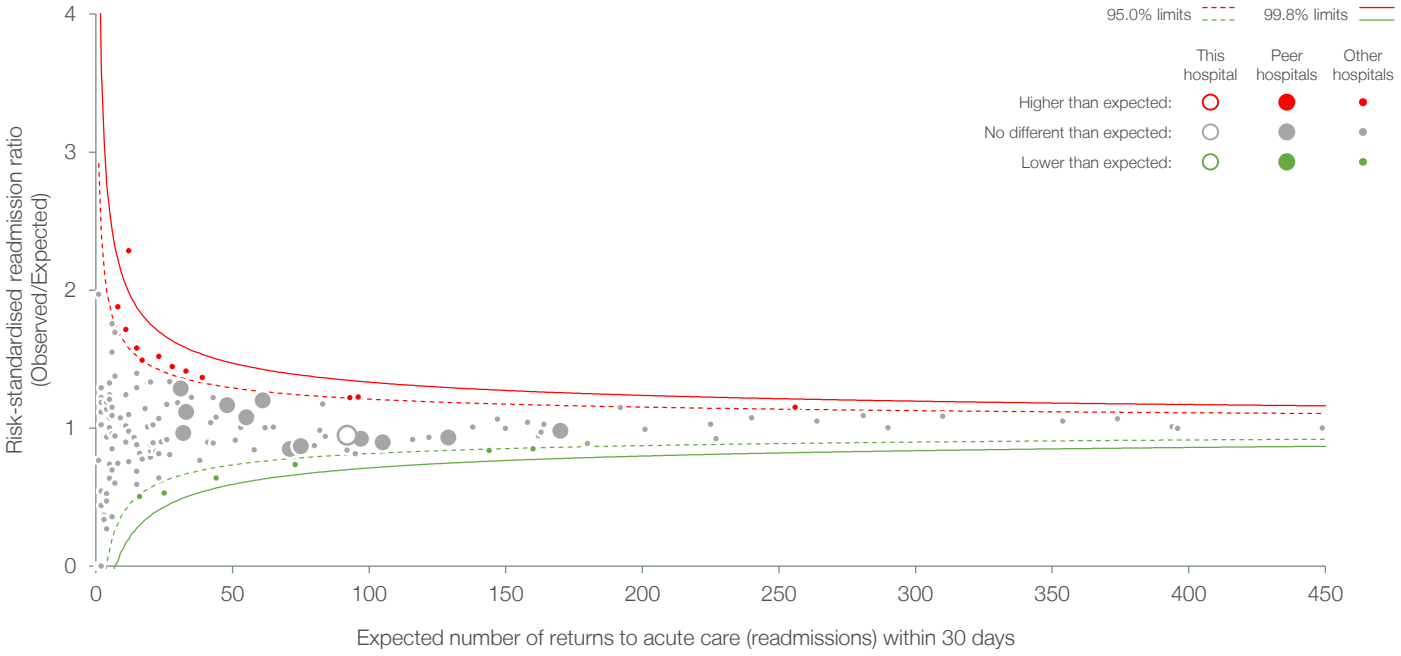
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

An RSRR less than 1.0 indicates lower-than-expected returns to acute care, and a ratio higher than 1.0 indicates higher-than-expected returns. Small deviations from 1.0 are not considered to be meaningful. Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to identify outliers.

Hospital level chronic obstructive pulmonary disease RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 30 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
0.93	0.95	0.95

Ratio: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 3.4 diagnoses in this hospital and 3.2 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 4.0 diagnoses in this hospital and 4.1 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

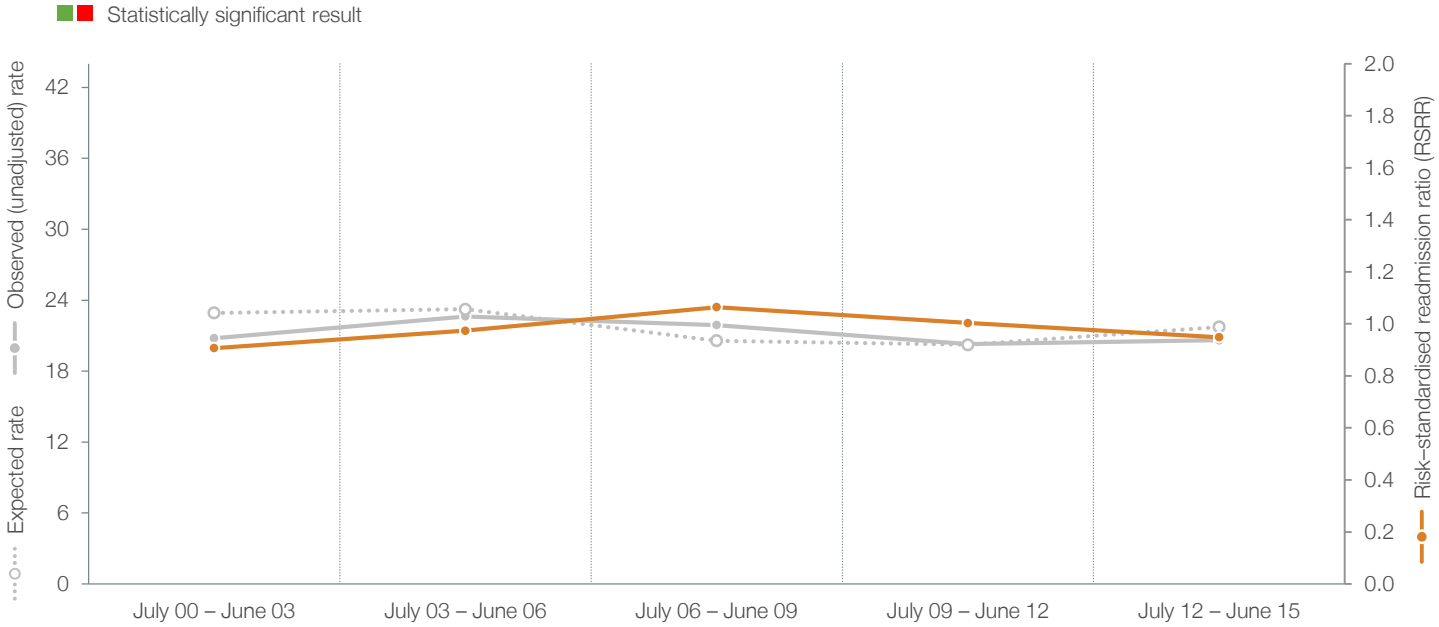
The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

RSRR: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation with COPD as principal diagnosis (ICD-10-AM code J41, J42, J43, J44, J47, and J20 and J40 if accompanied by J41, J42, J43, J44 and J47 in any secondary diagnoses).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
4. Discharge destinations are based on the mode of separation of the index case. For episodes coded as 'Discharged by hospital' or 'Discharged on leave', patients are considered to be destined for their place of usual residence. All other modes of separation are deemed to indicate a discharge destination other than a patient's place of usual residence.
5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission ($P<0.05$) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
8. Reasons for return to acute care are classified according to a draft specification made available to BHI by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Principal diagnoses for the return to acute care episode, are stratified as: the same as the index hospitalisation; related to that of the index hospitalisation (same ICD-10-AM chapter); potentially related to hospital care (i.e. complications and adverse events) using various time horizons; and, other reasons. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
9. Results for hospitals with <1 expected readmission are not shown. Peer hospitals are identified according to the NSW Ministry of Health's peer grouping as of April 2012.
10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

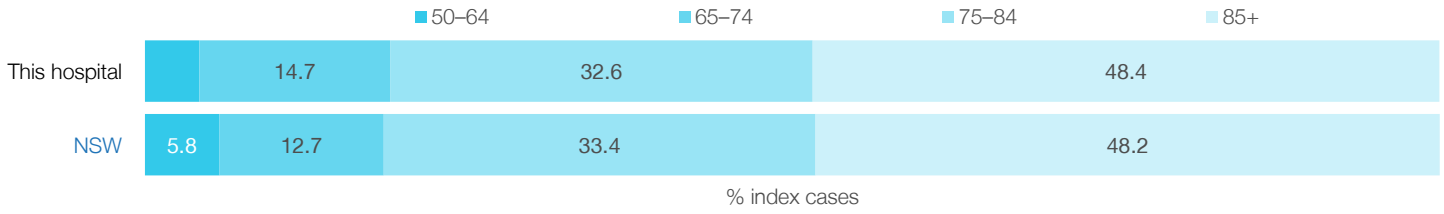
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for hip fracture surgery

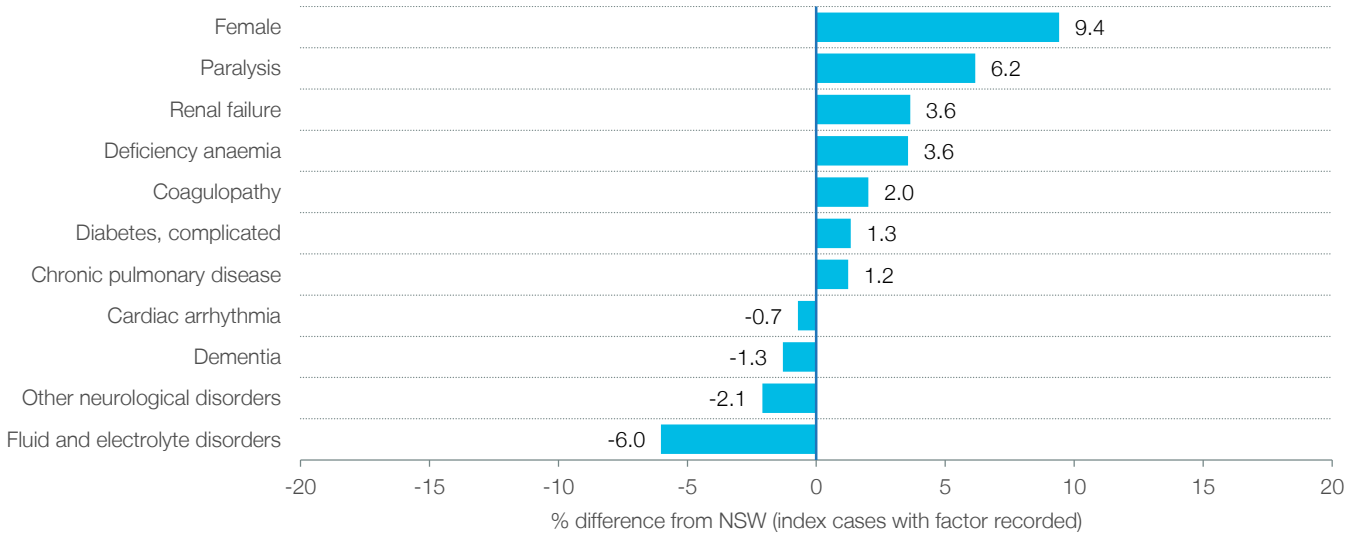
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for hip fracture surgery	95	14,581
Average length of stay (days)	10.4	10.7
Patients transferred in from acute care in another hospital	45	2,728
Discharge destination:		
Home	22	4,873
Other	73	9,708

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 30-day hip fracture surgery return to acute care[6]



*Age was not a significant factor in the final model of 30-day readmission following hospitalisation for hip fracture surgery.

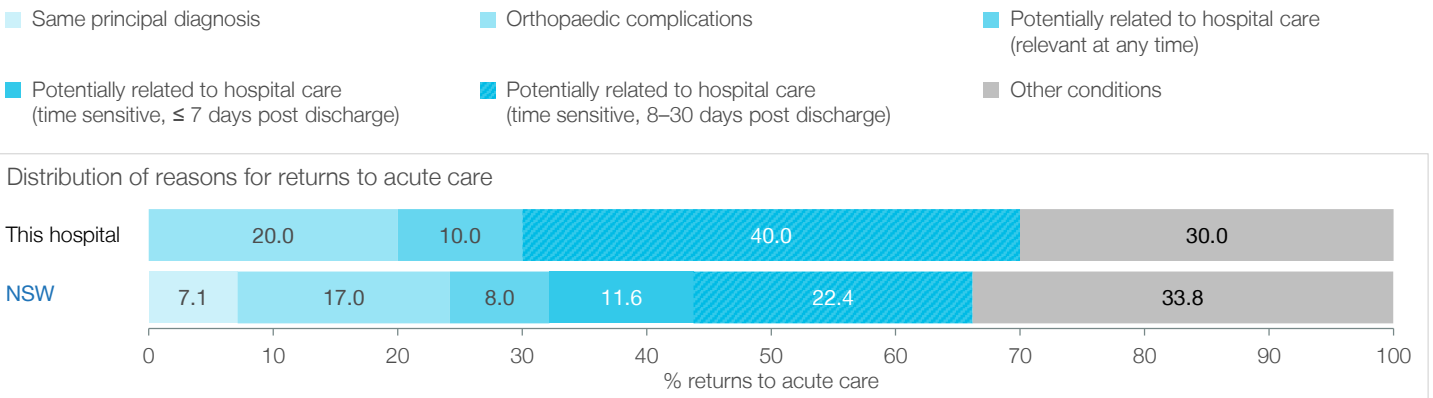
Grafton Base Hospital

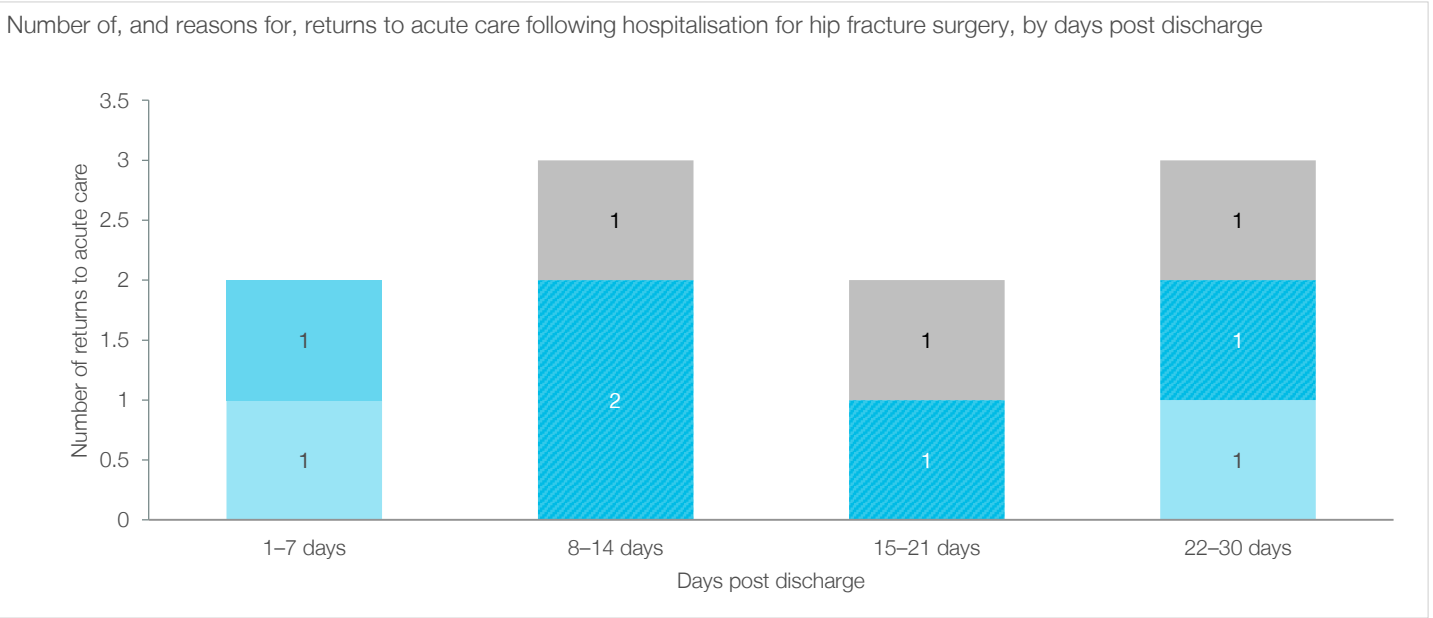
30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for hip fracture surgery

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for hip fracture surgery	10	1,485
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	10	1,135
Readmitted to a different hospital	0	350
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital		
To a regional or rural public hospital		
To a private hospital		

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





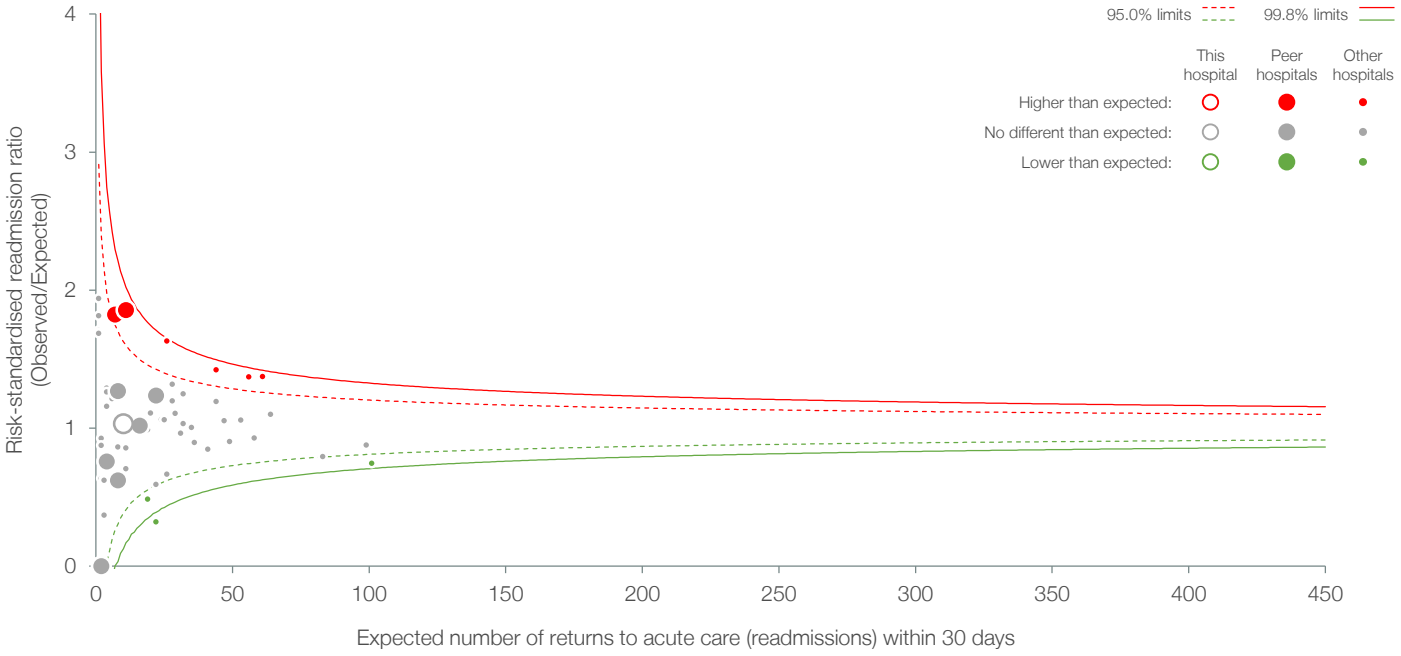
Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for hip fracture surgery

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

An RSRR less than 1.0 indicates lower-than-expected returns to acute care, and a ratio higher than 1.0 indicates higher-than-expected returns. Small deviations from 1.0 are not considered to be meaningful. Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to identify outliers.

Hospital level hip fracture surgery RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 30 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
1.05	1.09	1.03

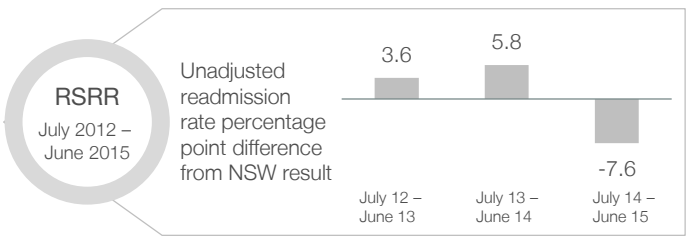
Ratio: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 8.1 diagnoses in this hospital and 8.3 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 9.7 diagnoses in this hospital and 9.2 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

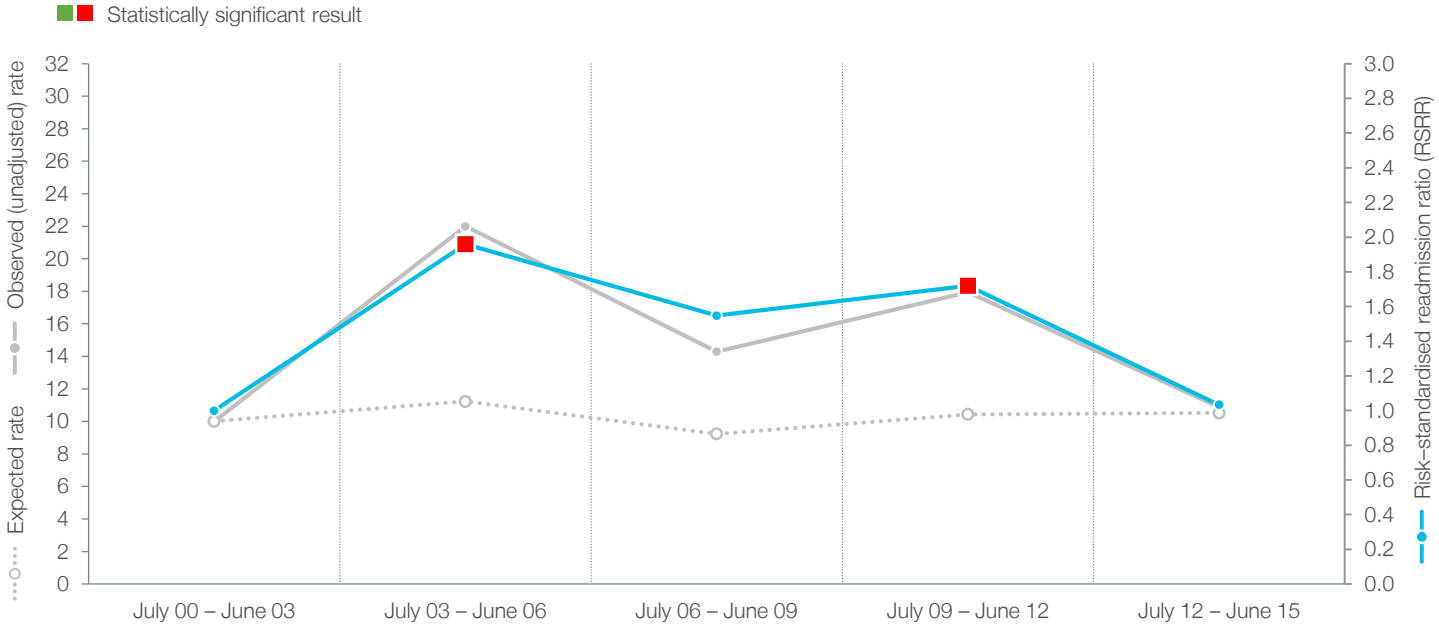
RSRR: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected



Grafton Base Hospital

30-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for hip fracture surgery

Hip fracture surgery, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation with hip fracture as principal diagnosis and treated with surgery (ICD-10-AM codes for hip fracture S72.0, S72.1, S72.2 accompanied with a fall codes W00-W19 and R29.6 and treated with a surgical procedure).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
4. Discharge destinations are based on the mode of separation of the index case. For episodes coded as 'Discharged by hospital' or 'Discharged on leave', patients are considered to be destined for their place of usual residence. All other modes of separation are deemed to indicate a discharge destination other than a patient's place of usual residence.
5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission ($P<0.05$) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
8. Reasons for return to acute care are classified according to a draft specification made available to BHI by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Principal diagnoses for the return to acute care episode, are stratified as: the same as the index hospitalisation; orthopaedic complications; potentially related to hospital care (i.e. complications and adverse events) using various time horizons; and, other reasons. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
9. Results for hospitals with <1 expected readmission are not shown. Peer hospitals are identified according to the NSW Ministry of Health's peer grouping as of April 2012.
10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

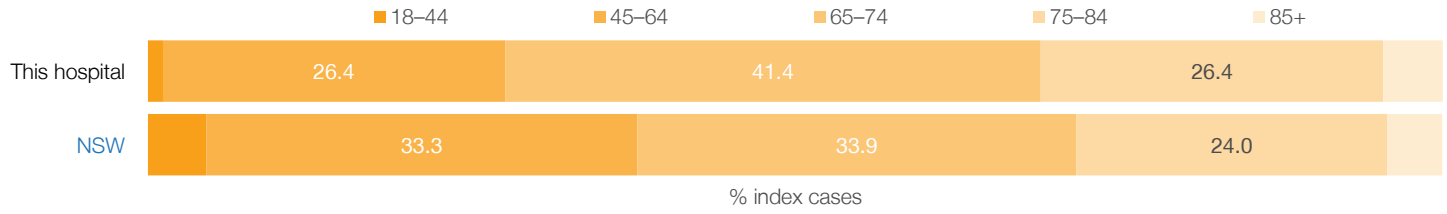
Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total hip replacement

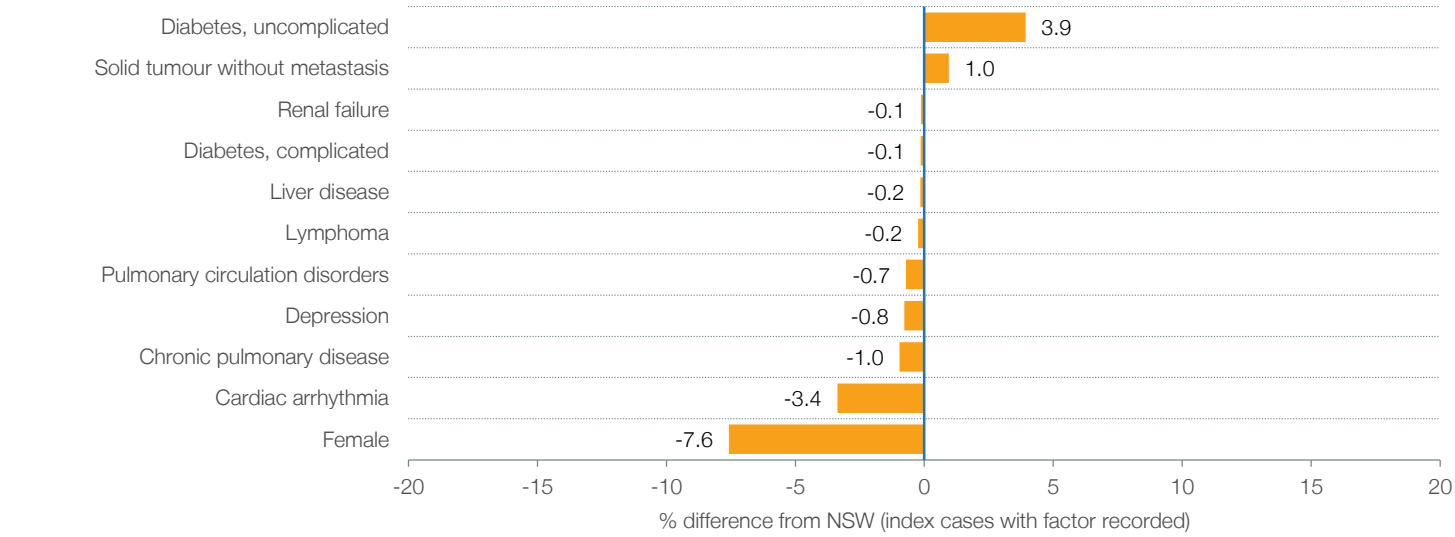
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for total hip replacement	87	8,312
Average length of stay (days)	4.9	5.4
Discharge destination:		
Home	75	7,084
Other	12	1,228

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 60-day total hip replacement return to acute care[6]



*Age was a significant factor in the final model of 60-day readmission following hospitalisation for total hip replacement.

Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total hip replacement

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for total hip replacement	6	764
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	<10 readmissions Detailed results not shown	
Readmitted to a different hospital		
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital		
To a regional or rural public hospital		
To a private hospital		

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]

- Orthopaedic complications (within time specified)
- Orthopaedic complications (outside time specified)
- Potentially related to hospital care (within time specified)
- Potentially related to hospital care (outside time specified)
- Other conditions

Distribution of reasons for returns to acute care

<10 readmissions
Detailed results not shown

Number of, and reasons for, returns to acute care following hospitalisation for total hip replacement, by days post discharge

<10 readmissions
Detailed results not shown

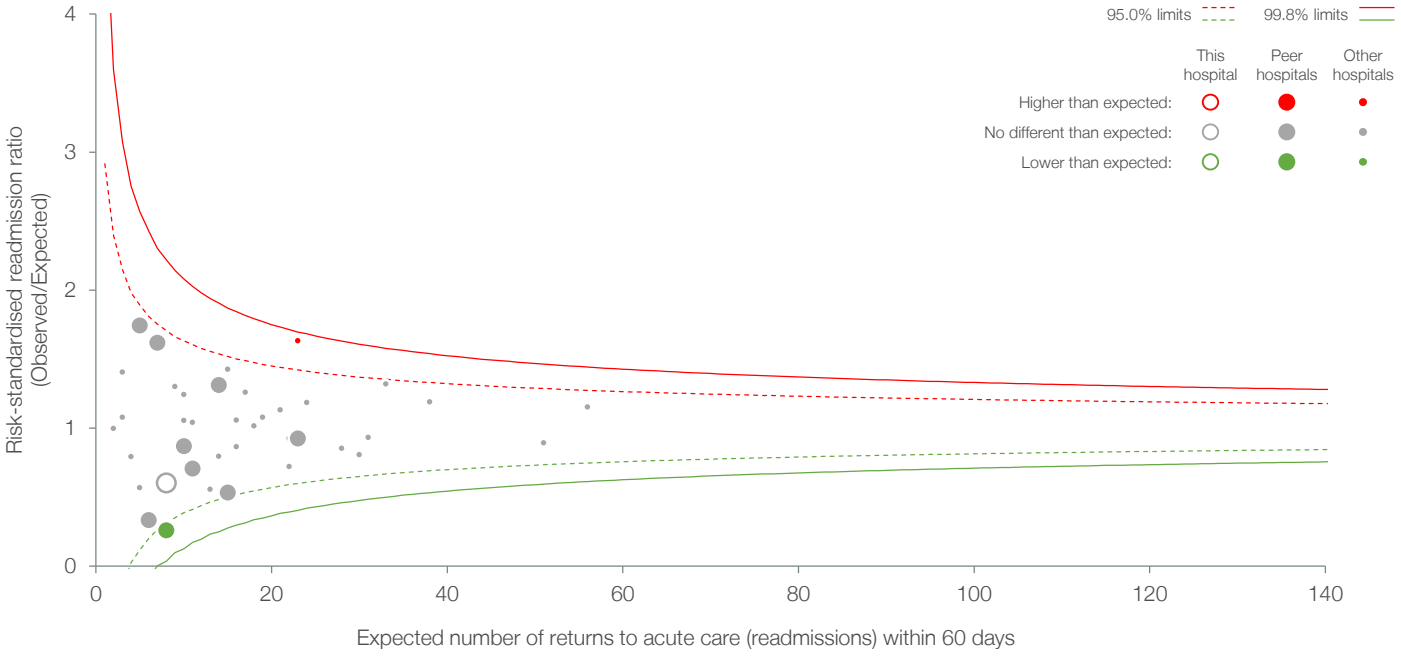
Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total hip replacement

Hospital-specific RSRRs report the ratio of actual or 'observed' number of returns to acute care to the 'expected' number of returns. A competing risk regression model draws on the NSW patient population's characteristics and outcomes to estimate the expected number of returns for each hospital, given the characteristics of its patients.

An RSRR less than 1.0 indicates lower-than-expected returns to acute care, and a ratio higher than 1.0 indicates higher-than-expected returns. Small deviations from 1.0 are not considered to be meaningful. Funnel plots with 95% and 99.8% control limits around the NSW ratio are used to identify outliers.

Hospital level total hip replacement RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

In order to make fair comparisons, a number of risk adjustments are made to readmission data. These take into account patient factors that influence the likelihood of returning to acute care within 60 days. The table below illustrates the effect of statistical adjustments on this hospital's results.

Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
0.64	0.61	0.60

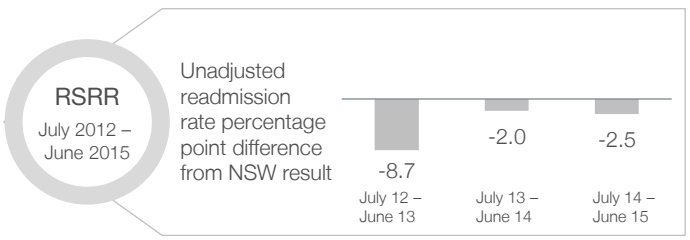
Ratio: Lower than expected; No different than expected; Higher than expected

The extent to which comorbidities are coded in the patient record may affect risk adjustment. Therefore the 'depth of coding'[10] has been assessed across NSW hospitals. In July 2009 – June 2012, the average depth of coding was 4.0 diagnoses in this hospital and 2.5 in NSW public hospitals; and in July 2012 – June 2015, there were 2.0 diagnoses in this hospital and 2.6 in NSW public hospitals.

Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

The RSRR is calculated on the basis of three years of data. It takes account of differences in patient characteristics so that assessments of hospital performance are fair. To give an indication of results within the three-year period, the figure below shows the RSRR result for July 2012 – June 2015 alongside differences between this hospital and the NSW result for annual unadjusted readmission rates.

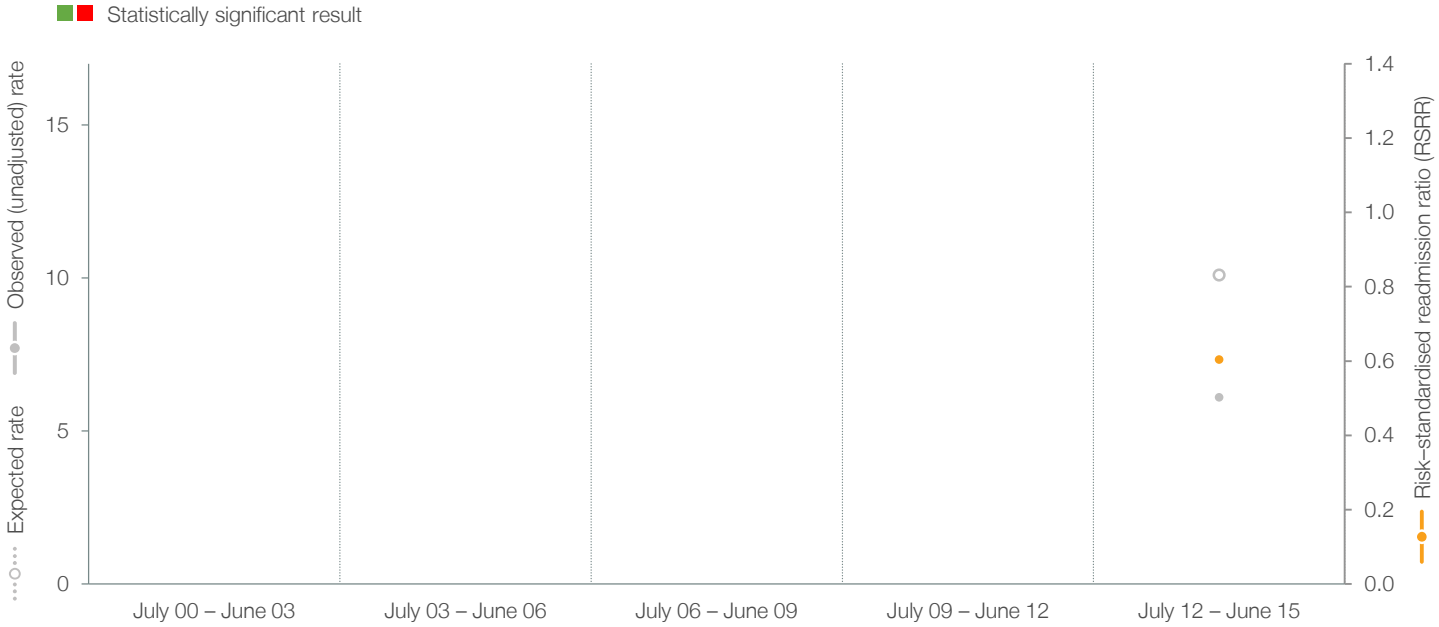
RSRR: Lower than expected; No different than expected; Higher than expected



Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total hip replacement

Total hip replacement, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation for an elective total hip replacement (ACHI codes 49318-00, 49319-00).
2. Returns to acute care are to any NSW hospital in the 30 days (for acute conditions) or 60 days (for elective surgeries) following discharge, and are attributed to the last discharging hospital. For patients whose acute hospitalisation ended in discharge home, a return to acute care involves readmission to hospital; while for patients whose acute hospitalisation ended with a 'discharge' to non-acute care, a return involved a move back into an acute care setting regardless of whether they physically left the hospital.
3. For calculation of average length of stay, index admissions that were transferred in from, or transferred out to, another acute care hospital were excluded. Unreasonably long episodes are trimmed on the basis of the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) of the episode. The trim point is the third quartile plus 1.5 x the interquartile range of all in-scope episodes in each DRG.
4. Discharge destinations are based on the mode of separation of the index case. For episodes coded as 'Discharged by hospital' or 'Discharged on leave', patients are considered to be destined for their place of usual residence. All other modes of separation are deemed to indicate a discharge destination other than a patient's place of usual residence.
5. Age at admission date.
6. Comorbidities are identified from the hospital discharge records using the Elixhauser comorbidity set (plus dementia) with a one year look-back from the admission date of the index case. Only those conditions that were shown to have a significant impact on readmission ($P<0.05$) are shown.
7. Hospitals are classified as urban and regional/rural using the geocoded address of the hospital assigned to ABS statistical areas (SA2) and the Australian remoteness index for areas.
8. Reasons for return to acute care are classified according to a draft specification made available to BHI by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Principal diagnoses for the return to acute care episode, are stratified as: orthopaedic complications using various time horizons; potentially related to hospital care (i.e. complications and adverse events) using various time horizons; and, other reasons. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
9. Results for hospitals with <1 expected readmission are not shown. Peer hospitals are identified according to the NSW Ministry of Health's peer grouping as of April 2012.
10. The depth of coding has been defined as the average number of secondary diagnosis coded for the index cases. The one year look back method which is used for risk adjustment, to some extent accounts for possible lower depth of coding in some hospitals.

Details of analyses are available in *Spotlight on Measurement: Measuring return to acute care following discharge from hospital, 2nd edition*.

Data source: SAPHaRI, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.

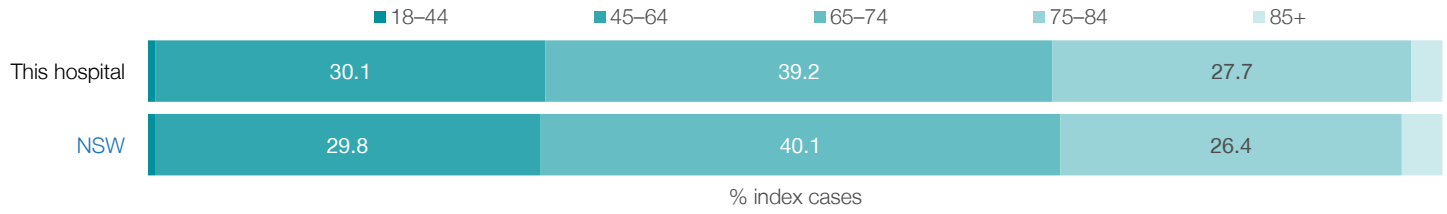
Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total knee replacement

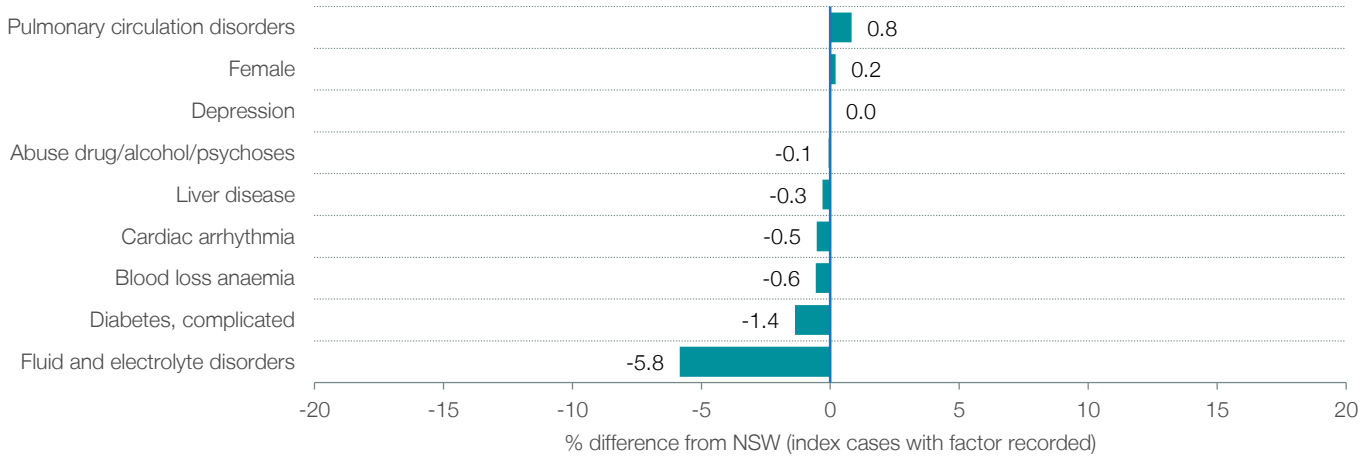
Patient cohort, index cases[3,4]

	This hospital	NSW
Total index cases for total knee replacement	166	14,961
Average length of stay (days)	4.7	5.6
Discharge destination:		
Home	141	12,362
Other	25	2,599

Age profile for index cases (years)*[5]



Factors associated with 60-day total knee replacement return to acute care[6]



*Age was a significant factor in the final model of 60-day readmission following hospitalisation for total knee replacement.

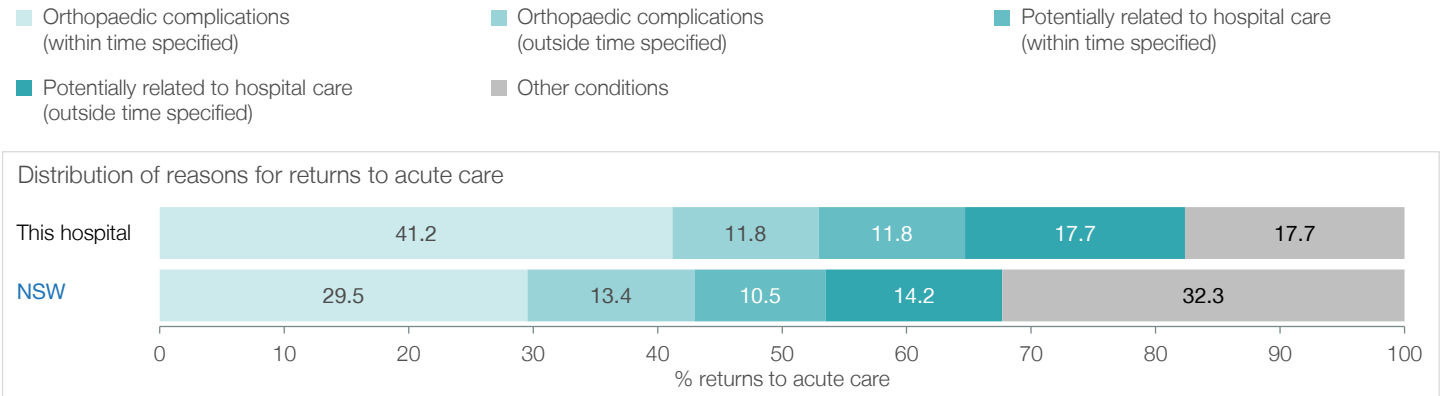
Grafton Base Hospital

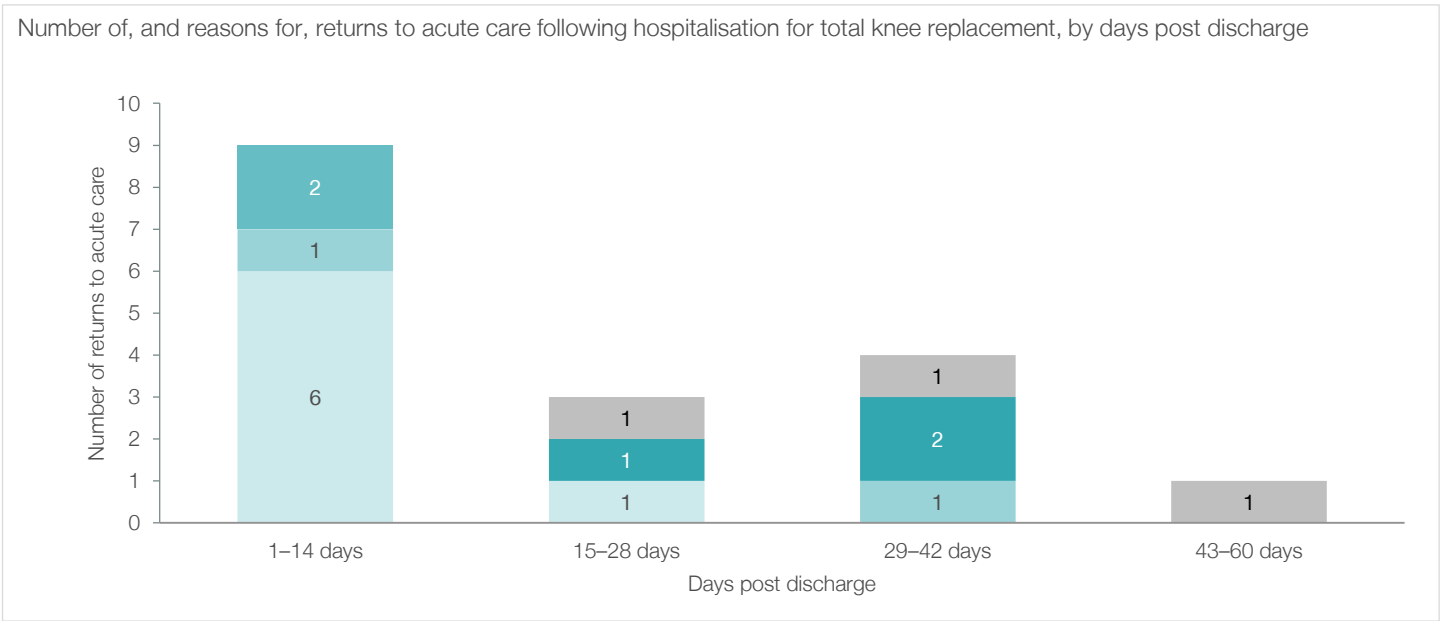
60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total knee replacement

Location of returns to acute care[7]

	This hospital	NSW
Total readmissions following index hospitalisation for total knee replacement	17	1,727
Readmitted to the hospital where acute care was completed	15	1,011
Readmitted to a different hospital	2	716
Of these:		
To an urban public hospital	0	
To a regional or rural public hospital	2	
To a private hospital	0	

Reasons for and time to returns to acute care[8]





Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total knee replacement

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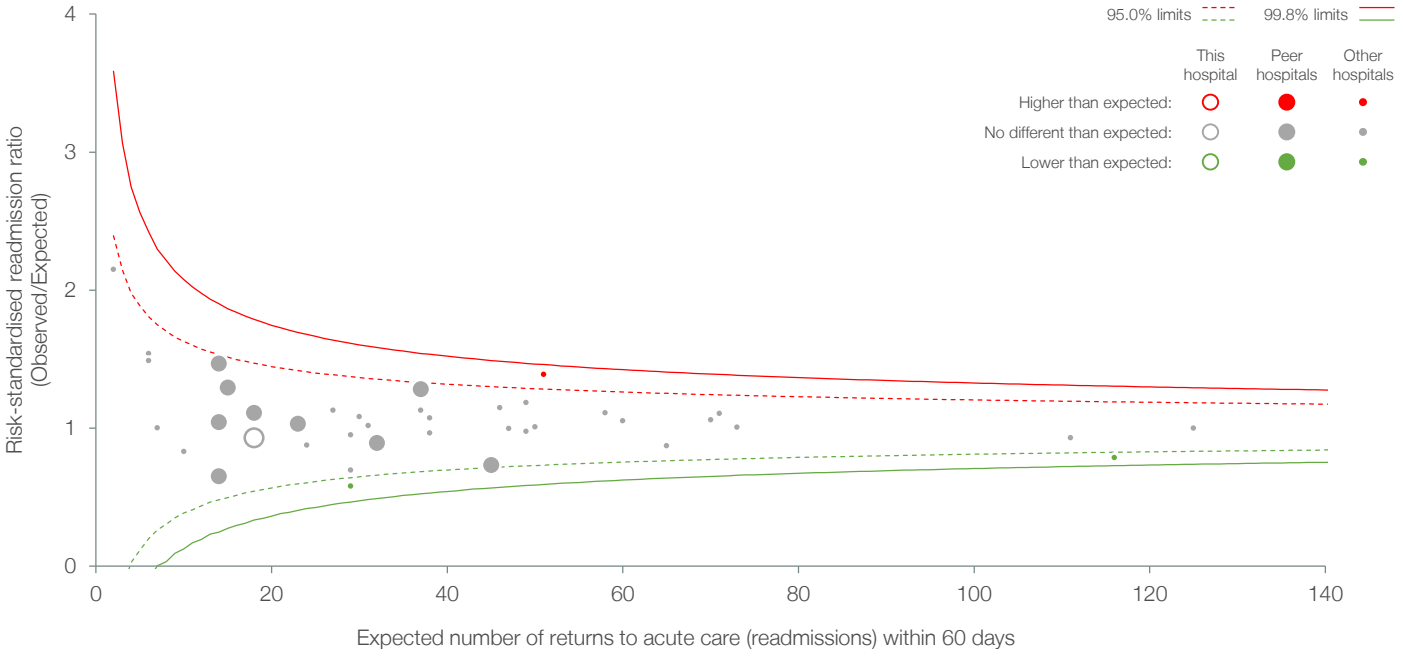
Hospital level total knee replacement RSRR by number of expected returns to acute care (readmissions)[9]



Illustrating the effect of standardisation, July 2012 – June 2015

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Unadjusted ratio	Age and sex standardised ratio	Risk-standardised readmission ratio
0.92	0.92	0.93

Ratio: Lower than expected | No different than expected | Higher than expected

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Three-yearly RSRR and annual unadjusted readmission rates

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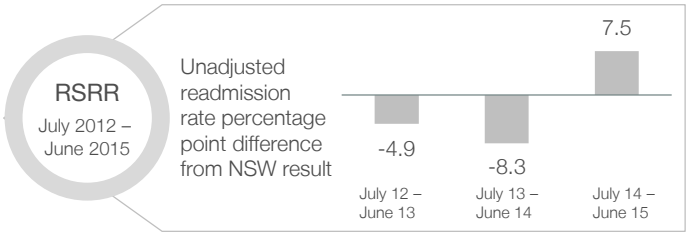
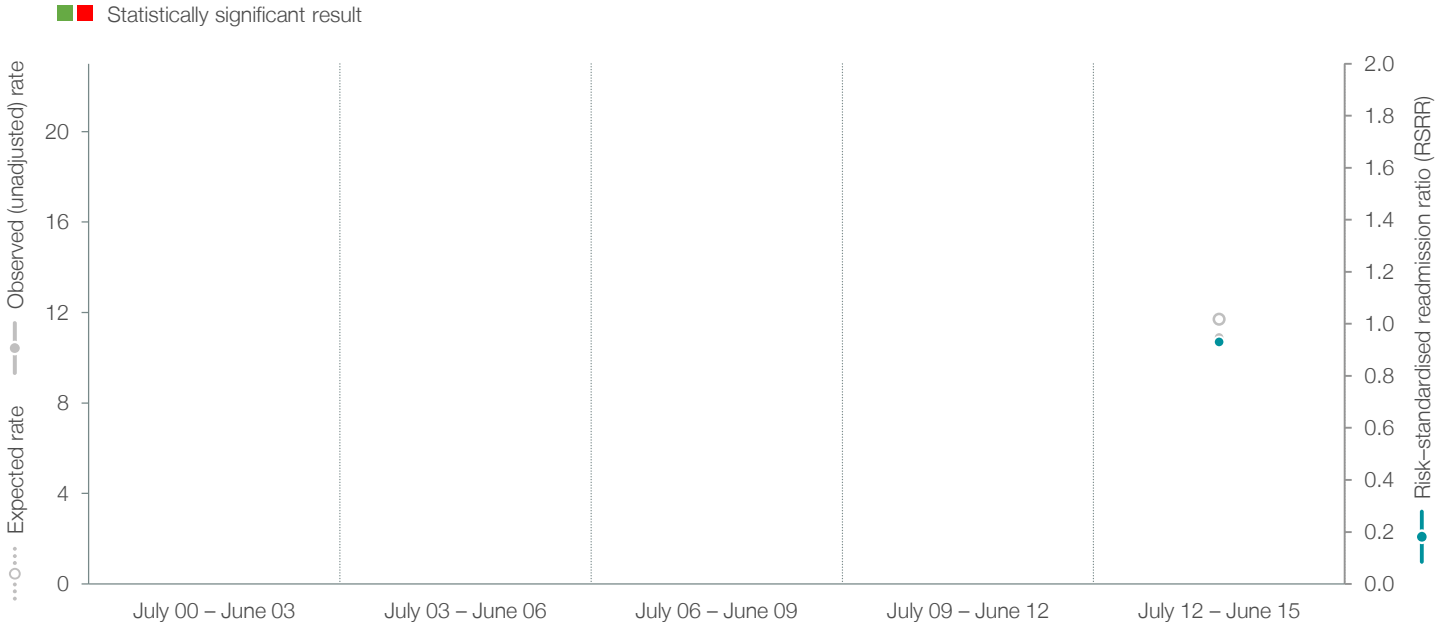


Grafton Base Hospital

60-day return to acute care following hospitalisation for total knee replacement

Total knee replacement, this hospital's risk-standardised readmission ratio, expected readmission rates and observed (unadjusted) readmission rates, July 2000 – June 2015



Notes

1. Data refer to patients who were discharged from this hospital, between July 2012 and June 2015, following an acute hospitalisation for an elective total knee replacement (ACHI codes 49518-00, 49519-00, 49521-00, 49521-01, 49521-02, 49521-03, 49524-00, 49524-01).
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