



# Characteristics associated with high hospital spending over 1 year among patients hospitalised for COVID-19 in the USA: a cohort study

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**To cite:** Nair-Desai S, Chambers LC, Soto MJ, *et al*. Characteristics associated with high hospital spending over 1 year among patients hospitalised for COVID-19 in the USA: a cohort study. *BMJ Public Health* 2023;1:e000263. doi:10.1136/bmjph-2023-000263

► Additional supplemental material is published online only. To view, please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjph-2023-000263>).

Received 5 June 2023  
Accepted 28 September 2023



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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction** Despite complex care needs during critical COVID-19, the associated long-term healthcare spending is poorly understood, limiting the ability of policy-makers to prioritise necessary care and plan for future medical countermeasures.

**Methods** We conducted a retrospective cohort study of adults hospitalised with COVID-19 in the USA (April–June 2020) using data from the national PINC AI Healthcare Database. Patients were followed for 365 days to measure hospital spending starting on the date of admission. We used a multivariable logistic model to identify characteristics associated with high spending.

**Results** Among 73 606 patients hospitalised with COVID-19, 73% were aged ≥50 years, 51% were female, and 37% were non-Hispanic white. Mean hospital spending per patient over 90 days was US\$28 712 (SD=US\$48 583) and over 365 days was US\$31 768 (SD=US\$52 811). Patients who received care in the intensive care unit (36% vs 23% no intensive care,  $p<0.001$ ), received a non-recommended COVID-19 treatment (28% vs 25% no treatment,  $p<0.001$ ), had a longer length of stay ( $p<0.001$ ), and had Medicare (27% vs 22% commercial,  $p<0.001$ ) or Medicaid (25% vs 22% commercial,  $p<0.001$ ) insurance were associated with a higher predicted probability of high hospital spending over 365 days. Patients who received recommended treatment (21% vs 25% no treatment,  $p<0.001$ ) and were Hispanic and any race (24% vs 26% non-Hispanic white,  $p<0.001$ ), non-Hispanic Asian (25% vs 26% non-Hispanic white,  $p=0.011$ ), ‘other’ or unknown race and ethnicity (24% vs 26% non-Hispanic white,  $p<0.001$ ), or female (25% vs 26% male,  $p<0.001$ ) were associated with a lower predicted probability of high hospital spending.

**Conclusions** Most hospital spending incurred over 1 year was for care within 90 days of admission. Patients receiving complex care or non-recommended treatments were associated with higher spending, while those receiving recommended treatments were associated with lower spending. These findings can inform pandemic preparedness planning.

## WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ Despite complex care needs during critical COVID-19 illness, the associated long-term healthcare spending is poorly understood, limiting the ability of policy-makers to prioritise necessary care and plan for future medical countermeasures.

## WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

⇒ Our study suggests that the average hospital spending per patient hospitalised for COVID-19 over 1 year was nearly US\$32 000. Hospitalised COVID-19 patients receiving more complex acute care or non-recommended treatments were associated with higher spending, while those receiving recommended treatments were associated with lower spending.

## HOW THIS STUDY MIGHT AFFECT RESEARCH, PRACTICE OR POLICY

⇒ These findings provide important empirical foundations for the spending for a bundle of care associated with a COVID-19 hospitalisation episode and can inform future pandemic preparedness planning.

## INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 100 million cases and one million deaths in the USA.<sup>1</sup> This extraordinary disease burden has caused unprecedented stress on the healthcare system. Additionally, the long-term health consequences of COVID-19 remain an urgent public health and medical priority. A substantial percentage of patients hospitalised for COVID-19 subsequently experience long-term symptoms of postacute sequelae of COVID-19 and/or postintensive care syndrome.<sup>2–7</sup> The extent of healthcare spending associated with COVID-19 among hospitalised people surviving to discharge remains critically important for policy-makers assessing the long-term consequences of

COVID-19 on healthcare and broader economic costs in the USA.<sup>8–11</sup>

Despite complex care needs during critical illness and the potential for long-term healthcare needs following acute infection, the associated long-term healthcare spending is poorly understood. Prior studies have estimated the spending associated with initial COVID-19 hospitalisations<sup>12–14</sup> but provide limited information on long-term spending following discharge. Additionally, due to the rapidly changing evidence landscape and misinformation that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, use of COVID-19 treatments such as ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine persisted without evidence of effectiveness. The spending associated with non-recommended treatments remains unknown. This is particularly salient as COVID-19 spending during the public health emergency was reimbursed by payors and available to patients without any cost-sharing. With healthcare access and coverage returning to pre-pandemic channels after expiration of the public health emergency, evidence on the healthcare spending associated with COVID-19 is important for policy-makers, clinicians and patients.

Therefore, the primary objectives of this study were to assess the hospital spending over 365 days among patients hospitalised with COVID-19 and identify socio-demographic, clinical and treatment-related factors associated with higher spending. A secondary objective was to identify common new diagnoses in the 365 days after COVID-19 hospitalisation among those with the highest spending.

## METHODS

### Data source

This study used data from January 2019 to June 2021 from the PINC AI Healthcare Database (PHD).<sup>15</sup> This database includes deidentified data from over one billion patient encounters at over 700 hospitals across the USA, accounting for nearly 25% of all inpatient admissions. The PHD has been used by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in prior studies assessing clinical outcomes and healthcare utilisation during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>16–19</sup> Compared with hospitals in the American Hospital Association, hospitals in the PHD were less likely to have fewer than 200 beds (57% vs 71%) and more likely to be teaching hospitals (72% vs 59%) (online supplemental e table 1).

### Study design and sample

We conducted a retrospective cohort study of adults who had an inpatient hospital admission with a primary or secondary COVID-19 diagnosis (ICD-10 code U07.1) between April 2020 and June 2020 in the PHD (hereafter referred to as the ‘index admission’). Patients who died during the index admission were excluded from this study. Patients were followed for 365 days starting

on the date of their index admission to measure hospital spending and new clinical diagnoses.

## Key measures

### Outcomes

The primary outcome was total unadjusted hospital spending across encounter types over 365 days starting on the date of the index admission. Hospital spending included both variable and fixed expenses related to the delivered care such as labour, supplies and depreciation. Hospital spending did not include physician professional fees or care delivered outside of the hospital setting. Hospital spending over 365 days was categorised into quartiles based on the distribution among the study cohort. For the primary analyses, patients were classified as having ‘high’ spending (quartile 4) or lower spending (quartiles 1–3).

To gain insight into potential postacute sequelae of COVID-19, we considered new clinical diagnoses during the 365-day follow-up period among patients with at least one prior inpatient admission between January 2019 and March 2020 as a secondary outcome. New diagnoses made during, but not after, the index admission were excluded. Diagnosis categories were defined using the Clinical Classifications Software Refined.<sup>20</sup> To do this, we classified all diagnosis codes from encounters prior to and during the index admission and compared them to all classified diagnoses from after the index admission across encounter types. Diagnosis categories present after and not prior to or during the index admission were considered new diagnoses.

### Other measures

Other measures considered included patient sociodemographic, index admission and hospital characteristics. Patient sociodemographic characteristics included age groups (18–34, 35–49, 50–64, 65–74, 75–84, or ≥85 years), race and ethnicity (Hispanic (any race), non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic white, or ‘other’ or unknown), sex (female or male), primary insurance type (commercial, Medicaid, Medicare, other, or none (self-pay)) and Elixhauser comorbidities.<sup>21</sup> Elixhauser comorbidities were defined based on diagnosis codes from all available claims during the study period. Index admission characteristics included length of hospital stay (days), intensive care unit (ICU) usage (yes or no), COVID-19 treatments provided (recommended, not recommended, or neither), and discharge to a skilled nursing facility (yes or no) or rehabilitation facility (yes or no). ‘Recommended’ treatment was defined as remdesivir with or without corticosteroids, while ‘not recommended’ treatment was defined as ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, according to National Institutes of Health and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines during the study period. Hospital characteristics included size (number of beds), teaching status (yes or no), geographical region (Midwest, Northeast, South, or West), urbanicity (rural or urban), profit status

(for-profit, public, or non-profit) and disproportionate share hospital index.<sup>22</sup>

### Statistical analysis

Analyses were conducted using Stata V.16 (Cary, North Carolina), with a significance-level of  $\alpha=0.05$ . Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology guidelines were used throughout this report.

Characteristics of patients' index admission by quartile of spending in the 365 days starting on the date of the index admission were compared using non-parametric tests for trend.<sup>23</sup> The mean and SD of spending during the 365-day period were summarised per patient, by department and by treatment(s) provided during the index admission, and the non-parametric test for trend was used to test for differences by quartile of spending.

We fit a logistic model to estimate the association between select patient sociodemographic (age group, race and ethnicity, sex, primary insurance type and Elixhauser comorbidities) and inpatient admission (length of stay, ICU usage and treatments provided) characteristics and having high spending during the 365-day period. The model used robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and included hospital-level and month-year fixed effects to control for unobservable differences in provider behaviour between hospitals and during different phases of the pandemic. A logistic model was used due to the binary outcome. Among patients with at least one prior inpatient admission between January 2019 and March 2020, the percentage of patients with select new clinical diagnoses during the 365-day period was summarised for those with the highest (quartile 4) and lowest (quartile 1) spending. Finally, several sensitivity analyses were conducted with each of the following adjustments: (1) substitution of hospital characteristics for hospital fixed effects, (2) use of a continuous measure of total unadjusted hospital spending as the outcome, (3) use of top quartile of hospital spending over 90 days starting on the date of index admission as the outcome, (4) exclusion of patients who died in-hospital following the index admission and (5) restriction to patients with a *primary* COVID-19 diagnosis during their index admission. For the analysis with a continuous outcome of total hospital spending, we used a generalised linear model with the outcome log transformed, otherwise specified as above.

### Patient and public involvement

This study did not involve patients or the public.

## RESULTS

### Characteristics of sample

From April 2020 to June 2020, 73 606 adult patients had an inpatient hospital admission with a primary or secondary COVID-19 diagnosis (table 1). Overall, 73% of patients (n=53 900) were aged 50 years or older, and 51% were female (n=37 489). The largest number of

**Table 1** Characteristics of the study sample of adult patients with an inpatient COVID-19 admission, April 2020–June 2020

	n=73 606 n (%)
Age group (years)	
18–34	7239 (10)
35–49	12 467 (17)
50–64	21 929 (30)
65–74	14 507 (20)
75–84	10 535 (14)
85+	6929 (9)
Race and ethnicity	
Hispanic (any race)	14 863 (20)
Non-Hispanic Asian	2327 (3)
Non-Hispanic black	17 979 (24)
Non-Hispanic white	27 266 (37)
Other or unknown	11 171 (15)
Sex	
Female	37 489 (51)
Male	36 117 (49)
Primary insurance type	
Commercial	19 770 (27)
Medicaid	14 347 (19)
Medicare	33 349 (45)
Other	3602 (5)
None (self-pay)	2538 (3)
Elixhauser comorbidities	
No comorbidities	8037 (11)
Any comorbidities	65 569 (89)
Number of comorbidities	
1	11 864 (16)
2–3	29 033 (39)
4+	24 672 (34)
Select specific comorbidities	
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	10 435 (14)
Diabetes	28 910 (39)
Hypertension	42 436 (58)
Obesity	17 914 (24)
Geographical region*	
Midwest	15 071 (20)
Northeast	28 162 (38)
South	23 735 (32)
West	6692 (9)
*Based on the location of the hospital attended for the index admission.	

patients were non-Hispanic white (37%, n=27 266), followed by non-Hispanic black (24%, n=17 979) and Hispanic (20%, n=14 863). Just under half of patients (45%, n=33 349) had Medicare insurance, while 27%

**Table 2** Characteristics of patients' index COVID-19 admission, overall and by quartile of total unadjusted hospital spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission

	Total hospital spending over 365 days					P value†
	Overall n=73 606 n (%)*	Quartile 1 n=18 406 n (%)*	Quartile 2 n=18 398 n (%)*	Quartile 3 n=18 395 n (%)*	Quartile 4 n=18 407 n (%)*	
Length of stay, median (IQR)	6 (3–11)	2 (2–3)	5 (3–6)	8 (5–10)	16 (11–25)	<0.001
ICU usage	21 427 (29)	2497 (12)	3689 (17)	5484 (26)	9757 (46)	<0.001
Provided recommended treatment‡	15 136 (21)	3052 (20)	3651 (24)	4017 (27)	4416 (29)	<0.001
Provided not recommended treatment‡	24 921 (34)	4488 (18)	5595 (23)	6468 (26)	8370 (34)	<0.001
Discharged to skilled nursing facility	12 630 (17)	1447 (12)	2561 (20)	3747 (30)	4875 (39)	<0.001
Discharged to rehabilitation facility	1899 (3)	39 (2)	148 (8)	344 (18)	1368 (72)	<0.001

\*Unless otherwise specified.  
†Non-parametric test for trend.  
‡Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.  
ICU, intensive care unit.

(n=19 770) had commercial insurance. Most patients (89%, n=65 569) had at least one Elixhauser comorbidity, with hypertension (58%, n=42 436) and diabetes (39%, n=28 910) being most common. Additionally, the largest number of patients attended hospitals in the Northeast (38%, n=28 162). Compared with all PHD hospitals, PHD hospitals with at least one patient included in the study sample (ie, adult admitted for COVID-19) were more likely to have 400 or more beds (33% vs 18%) and to be located in the Northeast (25% vs 15%) and less likely to be a teaching hospital (47% vs 72%) and located in the Midwest (16% vs 27%) (online supplemental e table 1).

### Characteristics of the index COVID-19 admission

The median length of stay in the hospital during the index COVID-19 admission was 6 days (IQR=3–11) (table 2), and 29% of patients (n=21 427) received care in the ICU. About one-third of patients (34%, n=24 921) were provided a COVID-19 treatment that was not recommended (ie, ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine), while 21% (n=15 136) were provided a recommended treatment (ie, remdesivir with or without corticosteroids). Overall, 17% of patients (n=12 630) were discharged to a skilled nursing facility, and 3% (n=1899) were discharged to a rehabilitation facility.

Characteristics of the index admission differed by quartile of total unadjusted hospital spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission (all p<0.001). Compared with patients with the lowest spending (quartile 1), those with the highest spending (quartile 4) had a longer length of stay (median 16 vs 2 days), were more likely to have received care in the ICU (46% vs 12%), were more likely to have been provided recommended (29% vs 20%) and not recommended (34% vs 18%) treatments, and were more likely to have been discharged to skilled nursing (39% vs 12%) and rehabilitation (72% vs 2%) facilities.

Of note, 4% of patients (n=2708) died in-hospital following discharge from their index admission. The percentage of patients who died in-hospital following the index admission ranged from 10% (n=232) among those with the lowest spending to 40% (n=909) among those with the highest spending during the 365-day period (p<0.001).

### Characteristics associated with high hospital spending

The mean total unadjusted hospital spending per patient in the 90 days starting on the date of index admission was US\$28 712 (SD=US\$48 583) and in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission was US\$31 768 (SD=US\$52 811) (table 3). Over the 365-day period, spending per patient was highest for inpatient services (mean=US\$30 731, SD=US\$52 174) and primarily driven by room and board, pharmacy, laboratory and respiratory services (online supplemental e table 2). The mean spending overall and by department and treatment provided during the index admission differed by quartile of spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission (all p<0.001). Mean overall spending per patient ranged from US\$4849 (SD=US\$1723) in quartile 1 to US\$88 230 (SD=US\$81 842) in quartile 4.

In multivariable analyses, most patient and index admission characteristics were associated with high spending (quartile 4 vs quartiles 1–3) in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission (table 4). Patients who received care in the ICU during the index admission had a higher predicted probability of high spending than those who did not (36% (95% CI 35% to 37%) vs 23% (95% CI 23% to 23%), p<0.001). Additionally, compared with patients who received neither COVID-19 treatment during the index admission (25% (95% CI 25% to 25%)), those who received a non-recommended treatment had a higher predicted probability of high spending (28% (95% CI 27% to 28%), p<0.001) and

**Table 3** Summary of total unadjusted hospital spending, overall and by quartile of spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission

	Total hospital spending over 365 days					P value*
	Overall n=73 606 Mean (SD)	Quartile 1 n=18 406 Mean (SD)	Quartile 2 n=18 398 Mean (SD)	Quartile 3 n=18 395 Mean (SD)	Quartile 4 n=18 407 Mean (SD)	
Spending per patient						
First 90 days (US\$)	28 712 (48 583)	4717 (1720)	10 673 (2499)	21 203 (6234)	78 575 (77 371)	<0.001
365 days (US\$)	31 768 (52 811)	4849 (1723)	11 145 (2193)	22 812 (5242)	88 230 (81 842)	<0.001
Department						
Inpatient (US\$)	30 731 (52 174)	4645 (1722)	10 644 (2481)	21 825 (5749)	85 778 (81 540)	<0.001
Outpatient (US\$)	775 (5489)	99 (429)	312 (1116)	706 (2423)	1981 (10 538)	<0.001
Emergency department (US\$)	262 (1668)	106 (353)	188 (626)	280 (1028)	472 (3079)	<0.001
Treatment(s) provided during index admission†						
Recommended (US\$)	35 292 (57 364)	4964 (1706)	11 185 (2184)	22 814 (5249)	88 802 (85 132)	<0.001
Not recommended (US\$)	40 339 (62 961)	4984 (1708)	11 246 (2190)	23 031 (5287)	95 934 (87 418)	<0.001
Neither (US\$)	23 735 (39 424)	4757 (1727)	11 060 (2195)	22 631 (5195)	77 481 (69 561)	<0.001

\*Non-parametric test for trend.  
†Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.

those who received a recommended treatment had a lower predicted probability of high spending (21% (95% CI 19% to 23%),  $p<0.001$ ). Each additional day of hospitalisation during the index admission was also associated with a higher predicted probability of high spending (2% (95% CI 2% to 2%),  $p<0.001$ ). Patients aged 35–49 years (25% (95% CI 25% to 26%),  $p=0.013$ ), 50–64 years (26% (95% CI 26% to 27%),  $p<0.001$ ), and 65–74 years (26% (95% CI 25% to 26%),  $p=0.004$ ) were more likely to have high spending than those aged 18–34 years (24% (95% CI 23% to 25%)); however, the oldest age group ( $\geq 85$  years) had a lower predicted probability of high spending relative to the youngest group (22% (95% CI 22% to 23%),  $p=0.023$ ). Hispanic patients of any race (24% (95% CI 23% to 24%),  $p<0.001$ ), non-Hispanic Asian patients (25% (95% CI 24% to 26%),  $p=0.011$ ), patients of ‘other’ or unknown race and ethnicity (24% (95% CI 23% to 24%),  $p<0.001$ ), and females (25% (95% CI 24% to 25%),  $p<0.001$ ) were less likely to have high spending compared with non-Hispanic white (26% (95% CI 26% to 26%)) and male (26% (95% CI 25% to 26%)) patients, respectively. Finally, patients with Medicare (27% (95% CI 27% to 28%),  $p<0.001$ ) and Medicaid (25% (95% CI 25% to 26%),  $p<0.001$ ) insurance had a higher predicted probability of high spending compared with those with commercial insurance (22% (95% CI 21% to 22%)). Of 38 Elixhauser comorbidities included in the multivariable models, most were also associated with a higher predicted probability of high spending (online supplemental e table 3). In sensitivity analyses,

the characteristics associated with high spending were generally similar (online supplemental e table 4, e table 5, e table 6, e table 7, and e table 8).

### New clinical diagnoses following the index admission

Among the subset of 8251 patients with a previous inpatient admission between January 2019 and March 2020, compared with those with low spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission (quartile 1), those with high spending (quartile 4) were more likely to be diagnosed with ‘other’ nutritional or metabolic disorders (10% vs  $<1\%$ ), nervous system disorders that were neither hereditary nor degenerative (10% vs  $<1\%$ ), hypotension (9% vs  $<1\%$ ), septicaemia (9% vs  $<1\%$ ), urinary tract infections (9% vs  $<1\%$ ) and aplastic anaemia (9% vs  $<1\%$ ) (figure 1).

### DISCUSSION

In this cohort study of over 73 000 patients hospitalised for COVID-19 between April 2020 and June 2020, patients incurred an average of US\$28 712 in hospital spending within 90 days of admission to the hospital and an additional US\$3056 over the remainder of the 365-day follow-up period. Most spending was for inpatient services. High spending over 365 days was associated with a longer length of stay in the hospital, receipt of care in the ICU, and receipt of non-recommended treatments (ie, hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin). In contrast, lower spending was associated with receipt of recommended

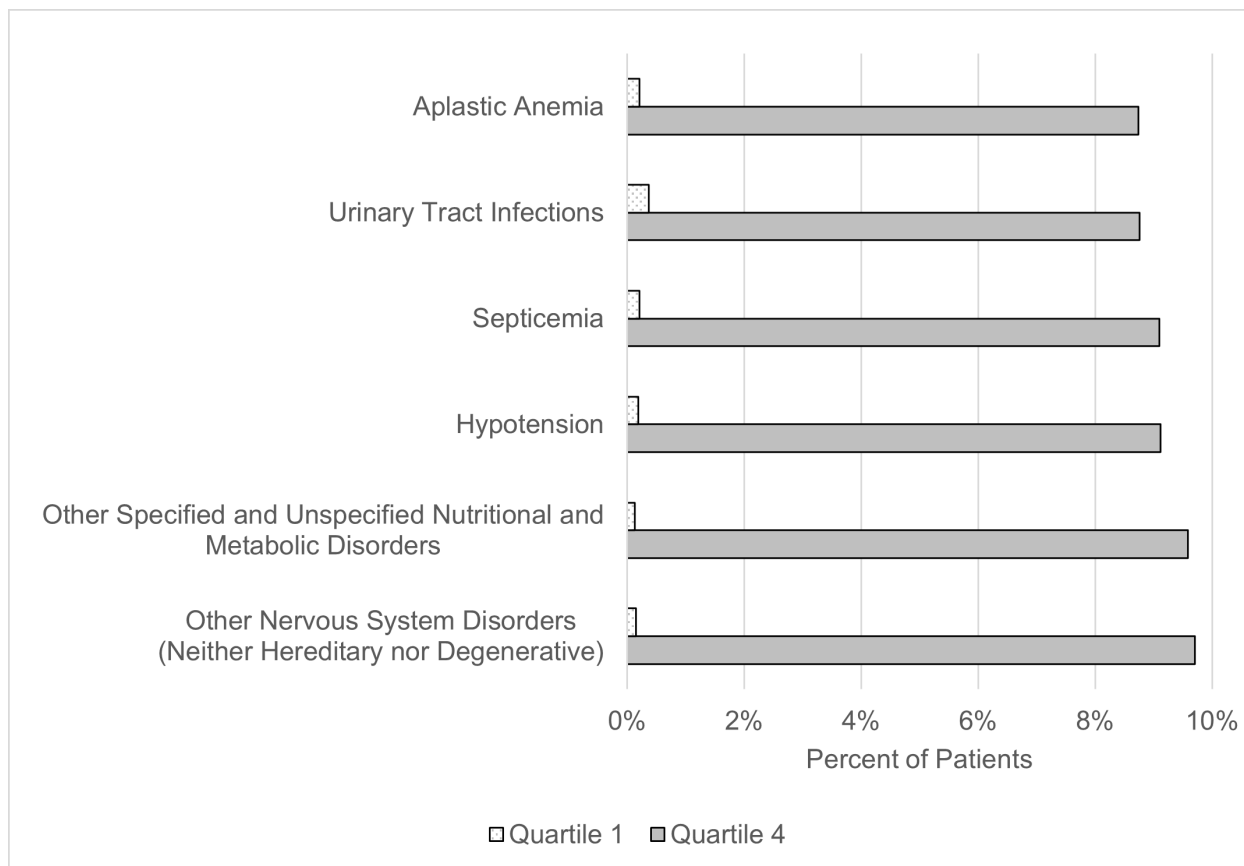
**Table 4** Multivariable analyses to estimate the association between patient sociodemographic characteristics and index COVID-19 admission characteristics and subsequently being in quartile 4 (vs any other quartile) of total unadjusted hospital spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission

	n=73 606 Unadjusted predicted probability (95% CI)*	P value	n=73 606 Adjusted predicted probability (95% CI)†	P value
Patient sociodemographic characteristics				
Age group (years)				
18–34—Ref.	11% (10% to 13%)	–	24% (23% to 25%)	–
35–49	18% (17% to 20%)	<0.001	25% (25% to 26%)	0.013
50–64	27% (25% to 29%)	<0.001	26% (26% to 27%)	<0.001
65–74	32% (30% to 34%)	<0.001	26% (25% to 26%)	0.004
75–84	31% (28% to 33%)	<0.001	25% (24% to 25%)	0.118
85+	23% (20% to 26%)	<0.001	22% (22% to 23%)	0.023
Race and ethnicity				
Hispanic (any race)	21% (19% to 23%)	<0.001	24% (23% to 24%)	<0.001
Non-hispanic Asian	28% (24% to 32%)	0.091	25% (24% to 26%)	0.011
Non-hispanic black	25% (23% to 27%)	0.502	26% (26% to 27%)	0.583
Non-hispanic white—Ref.	25% (24% to 27%)	–	26% (26% to 26%)	–
Other or unknown	29% (23% to 36%)	0.170	24% (23% to 24%)	<0.001
Sex				
Female	22% (21% to 24%)	<0.001	25% (24% to 25%)	<0.001
Male—Ref.	28% (25% to 30%)	–	26% (25% to 26%)	–
Primary insurance type				
Commercial—Ref.	20% (18% to 21%)	–	22% (21% to 22%)	–
Medicaid	25% (22% to 27%)	<0.001	25% (25% to 26%)	<0.001
Medicare	30% (28% to 33%)	<0.001	27% (27% to 28%)	<0.001
Other	16% (14% to 18%)	<0.001	21% (20% to 22%)	0.163
None (self-pay)	14% (12% to 16%)	<0.001	22% (21% to 23%)	0.847
Index admission characteristics				
Length of stay (days)	3% (2% to 3%)	<0.001	2% (2% to 2%)	<0.001
ICU Usage				
No—Ref.	18% (15% to 20%)	–	23% (23% to 23%)	–
Yes	57% (54% to 60%)	<0.001	36% (35% to 37%)	<0.001
Treatment(s) provided‡				
Not recommended	38% (35% to 41%)	<0.001	28% (27% to 28%)	<0.001
Recommended	18% (14% to 22%)	0.148	21% (19% to 23%)	<0.001
Neither—Ref.	22% (19% to 24%)	–	25% (25% to 25%)	–

\*Logistic model with robust standard errors and clustered by hospital.  
 †Logistic model with robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including hospital and month-year fixed effects (pseudo-R<sup>2</sup>=0.51). Model includes terms for all characteristics in this table, as well as the 38 Elixhauser comorbidities (estimates for the comorbidity terms are available in online supplemental e table 3).  
 ‡Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.  
 ICU, intensive care unit; Ref, referent group.

treatments (ie, remdesivir with or without corticosteroids). New diagnoses associated with care following hospital discharge included metabolic, neurological and infectious conditions. Taken together, we found substantial hospital spending associated with COVID-19 among patients surviving hospitalisation to discharge.

Consistent with the intensity of care in the acute setting, we found that most hospital spending associated with COVID-19 illness requiring hospitalisation is incurred within 90 days of admission. On average, patients incurred just under US\$30 000 in spending during this period, which is likely reflective of care received for acute



**Figure 1** Per cent of patients with select new clinical diagnoses\* in the 365 days following the index COVID-19 admission for quartile 4 versus quartile 1 of total Unadjusted hospital spending in the 365 days starting on the date of index admission, among patients with at least one hospital admission between January 2019 and March 2020. \*New clinical diagnosis categories with the highest frequency in quartile 4 are displayed. Categories were defined using the Clinical Classifications Software Refined.

COVID-19 during the initial hospitalisation and immediately following discharge. Previous studies of the cost of COVID-19 hospitalisations have found a median cost of roughly US\$11 300 to US\$12 000 per patient in the USA from April to October/December 2020.<sup>12 13</sup> In the USA, the early phase of the pandemic has been associated with higher hospitalisation spending per patient.<sup>11 12</sup> The higher spending within 90 days of admission identified in the present study may be explained, in part, by the inclusion of postdischarge spending incurred within 90 days. As care after the public health emergency transitions into prepandemic models, such as value-based care, these findings provide important empirical foundations for the spending for a bundle of care associated with a COVID-19 hospitalisation episode.

We found substantial patient-level variation in hospital spending, suggesting varying treatment intensity across patients. Spending varied from just under US\$5000 in the lowest quartile to nearly US\$90 000 in the highest quartile. Consistent with prior studies, high spending was most strongly associated with complex care during the initial COVID-19 hospitalisation, including a longer length of stay and receipt of care in the ICU.<sup>12–14 24</sup> Patients with high spending were also much more likely to have been

discharged from the hospital to a rehabilitation or skilled nursing facility.<sup>12</sup> Further research is needed to understand the relationship between spending variation and quality of COVID-19 care, as accountability for COVID-19 care transitions from public health to the medical and healthcare delivery system.

Notably, receipt of the non-recommended COVID-19 treatments hydroxychloroquine and/or ivermectin during the initial COVID-19 hospitalisation was associated with high hospital spending. This may be reflective of a ‘Hail Mary’ approach for the sickest patients or a broader marker of low-quality inpatient care for COVID-19, given the lack of evidence of their effectiveness at the time (and subsequent evidence of their ineffectiveness<sup>25–27</sup>). The finding of substantial utilisation of non-recommended treatment during this period warrants further study and has significant implications for the quality and value of care received by patients. Treatment with remdesivir with or without corticosteroids was associated with lower spending, consistent with studies demonstrating effectiveness of remdesivir for preventing disease progression and mortality among non-ventilated hospitalised patients with COVID-19<sup>28</sup> and of corticosteroids for preventing mortality among critically ill patients with COVID-19.<sup>29 30</sup>

We further identified that approximately 10% of the overall annual spending for patients hospitalised with COVID-19 and surviving discharge occurred after the initial 90-day period. This may represent, in part, ongoing care for postacute sequelae of COVID-19 or postintensive care syndrome. Prior studies suggest that more than 50% of patients hospitalised for COVID-19<sup>2 3</sup> and up to 75% of those who received care in the ICU<sup>4</sup> experience persistent symptoms 6–12 months following discharge. Among the subset of patients in the present study with a recent prior hospitalisation and high hospital spending over 365 days, the most common new clinical diagnoses following discharge from the COVID-19 hospitalisation were ‘other’ nutritional or metabolic disorders, nervous system disorders that were neither hereditary nor degenerative, hypotension, septicemia, urinary tract infections and aplastic anaemia. Some of these new diagnoses (eg, neurologic disorders) may be related to postacute sequelae of COVID-19, but further work is needed to understand COVID-19’s chronic complications.

This study had several important limitations. First, the analysis included index admissions from the first 3 months of the pandemic, which allowed for a 1-year follow-up period but limits the generalisability to admissions from later periods of the pandemic. Additionally, we used the U07.1 ICD-10 code to identify hospitalisations for COVID-19, which may have missed some COVID-19 hospitalisations particularly early in the pandemic when there was more heterogeneity in the diagnosis codes assigned by providers. However, our approach was conservative in that hospitalisations with this ICD-10 code were likely to be true COVID-19 hospitalisations. Hospitals contributing data to the PHD were more likely to have less than 200 beds and to be teaching hospitals than all hospitals in the American Hospital Association, which may also limit generalisability. The PHD only includes information on symptoms and conditions that prompted use of healthcare services, and the analysis of new diagnoses following hospitalisation for COVID-19 is expected to underestimate the frequency of many conditions. We used hospital spending for the estimates of spending, and these estimates may not reflect spending for specific healthcare markets. Nonetheless, the study was strengthened by its large, national patient population.

## Conclusions

In this national study of patients hospitalised with COVID-19 from April to June 2020, while the vast majority of hospital spending incurred over 1 year was for care within 90 days of admission to the hospital, approximately 10% of spending occurred in the period beyond the initial acute and postacute care period. Patients who received more complex care and/or COVID-19 treatments that were not recommended during the acute COVID-19 hospitalisation were associated with higher spending, while those who received recommended treatments during acute COVID-19 hospitalisation were associated with lower spending. Some patients with additional

spending incurred following the first 90 days may be experiencing persistent symptoms of postacute sequelae of COVID-19 or postintensive care syndrome. These findings can inform future pandemic preparedness planning, including anticipation of long-term healthcare spending.

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**Funding** This work was supported by funding from the Commonwealth Fund and the Hassenfeld Family Foundation. LCC was supported, in part, by the National Institutes of Health (grant R25MH083620).

**Disclaimer** The funders were not involved in the study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; or decision to submit the article for publication.

**Competing interests** None declared.

**Patient and public involvement** Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research.

**Patient consent for publication** Not applicable.

**Ethics approval** This study was approved by the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health Institutional Review Board (IRB21-1383).

**Provenance and peer review** Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

**Data availability statement** Data may be obtained from a third party and are not publicly available.

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manuscript is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Commonwealth Fund; Hassenfeld Family Foundation; National Institutes of Health; Brown University School of Public Health; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Premier Inc.; Brigham and Women's Hospital; Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research; Meridian Collective; or University of Colorado School of Medicine.

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## Supplementary Appendix

**Manuscript Title:** Characteristics Associated With High Hospital Spending Over One Year Among Patients Hospitalized for COVID-19 in the United States: A Cohort Study

**Investigators:** Sameer Nair-Desai, Laura C. Chambers, Mark J. Soto, Caroline Behr, Leah Lovgren, Tamsin Zandstra, Scott A. Rivkees, Ning Rosenthal, Francesca L. Beaudoin, Thomas C. Tsai

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**eTable 1.** Characteristics of Hospitals in the Study Sample, Hospitals in the PHD, and Hospitals in the AHA

	PHD 2018		AHA 2018
	Study Sample* N=631	All Hospitals N=766	All Hospitals N=4,354
Size (Number of Beds)			
<200	45%	57%	71%
200-399	33%	26%	18%
≥400	33%	18%	10%
Teaching Hospital			
No	53%	28%	41%
Yes	47%	72%	59%
Geographic Region			
Midwest	16%	27%	30%
Northeast	25%	15%	12%
South	46%	44%	37%
West	14%	14%	20%
Urbanicity			
Rural	22%	30%	24%
Urban	78%	70%	76%

Abbreviations: AHA, American Hospital Association; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; PHD, PINC AI Healthcare Database.

\* Hospitals with at least one adult inpatient COVID-19 admission, April 2020 – June 2020.

**eTable 2.** Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 90 and 365 Days Starting on the Date of Index COVID-19 Admission by Department

	<b>90 Days Mean (SD)</b>	<b>365 Days Mean (SD)</b>
Cardiology	\$160 (755)	\$225 (1,099)
Emergency Room	\$474 (639)	\$578 (919)
Laboratory	\$1,357 (2,585)	\$1,716 (3,480)
Labor	\$17 (233)	\$15 (224)
Operating Room	\$628 (3,806)	\$746 (4,377)
Outpatient	\$361 (2,502)	\$774 (5,498)
Pharmacy	\$2,906 (7,786)	\$2,345 (7,430)
Physical Therapy	\$328 (982)	\$399 (1,390)
Radiology	\$409 (866)	\$491 (1,175)
Respiratory	\$797 (3,266)	\$1,084 (4,428)
Room and Board	\$11,451 (21,806)	\$15,964 (29,802)
Supplies	\$475 (3,182)	\$441 (2,655)
Other	\$744 (4,194)	\$934 (5,456)

Abbreviations: COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; SD, standard deviation.

**eTable 3.** Analyses to Estimate the Association Between Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics and Index COVID-19 Admission Characteristics and Subsequently Being in Quartile 4 (Versus Any Other Quartile) of Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 365 Days Starting on the Date of Index Admission, Including Estimates for Elixhauser Comorbidities

	<b>N=73,606</b> <b>Unadjusted</b> <b>Predicted</b> <b>Probability</b> <b>(95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>N=73,606</b> <b>Adjusted</b> <b>Predicted</b> <b>Probability</b> <b>(95% CI)†</b>	<b>P-value</b>
<b>Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>				
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
18-34 – <i>Ref.</i>	11% (10, 13)	--	24% (23, 25)	--
35-49	18% (17, 20)	<0.001	25% (25, 26)	0.013
50-64	27% (25, 29)	<0.001	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
65-74	32% (30, 34)	<0.001	26% (25, 26)	0.004
75-84	31% (28, 33)	<0.001	25% (24, 25)	0.118
85+	23% (20, 26)	<0.001	22% (22, 23)	0.023
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic (Any Race)	21% (19, 23)	<0.001	24% (23, 24)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic Asian	28% (24, 32)	0.091	25% (24, 26)	0.011
Non-Hispanic Black	25% (23, 27)	0.502	26% (26, 27)	0.583
Non-Hispanic White – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (24, 27)	--	26% (26, 26)	--
Other or Unknown	29% (23, 36)	0.170	24% (23, 24)	<0.001
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	22% (21, 24)	<0.001	25% (24, 25)	<0.001
Male – <i>Ref.</i>	28% (25, 30)	--	26% (25, 26)	--
<b>Primary Insurance Type</b>				
Commercial – <i>Ref.</i>	20% (18, 21)	--	22% (21, 22)	--
Medicaid	25% (22, 27)	<0.001	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
Medicare	30% (28, 33)	<0.001	27% (27, 28)	<0.001
Other	16% (14, 18)	<0.001	21% (20, 22)	0.163
None (Self-Pay)	14% (12, 16)	<0.001	22% (21, 23)	0.847
<b>Alcohol Abuse†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	33% (29, 36)	<0.001	29% (27, 30)	<0.001
<b>Deficiency Anemias†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	21% (19, 23)	--	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	40% (38, 42)	<0.001	29% (29, 30)	<0.001
<b>Arthropathies†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	19% (16, 23)	<0.001	26% (25, 28)	0.159
<b>Chronic Blood Loss†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	22% (17, 26)	0.143	26% (23, 28)	0.543
<b>Cancer, Leukemia†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	41% (34, 48)	<0.001	31% (27, 35)	0.008
<b>Cancer, Lymphoma†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	42% (36, 49)	<0.001	32% (28, 36)	<0.001
<b>Cancer, Metastatic†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	41% (37, 46)	<0.001	35% (32, 39)	<0.001
<b>Cancer, In Situ†</b>				

	<b>N=73,606 Unadjusted Predicted Probability (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>N=73,606 Adjusted Predicted Probability (95% CI)†</b>	<b>P-value</b>
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	22% (-5, 49)	0.842	13% (-7, 33)	0.229
<b>Cancer, Malignant†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	37% (33, 41)	<0.001	31% (29, 34)	<0.001
<b>Cerebrovascular Disease†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	32% (28, 35)	<0.001	26% (24, 28)	0.181
<b>Congestive Heart Failure†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	34% (31, 37)	<0.001	28% (27, 29)	<0.001
<b>Coagulopathy†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	36% (33, 39)	<0.001	27% (26, 28)	<0.001
<b>Dementia†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (24, 29)	0.027	23% (22, 24)	<0.001
<b>Depression†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (26, 30)	<0.001	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Diabetes With Chronic Complications†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	21% (19, 23)	--	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	37% (35, 40)	<0.001	28% (28, 29)	<0.001
<b>Diabetes Without Chronic Complications†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (24, 28)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	21% (19, 23)	<0.001	25% (25, 26)	0.244
<b>Drug Abuse†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	32% (28, 37)	<0.001	28% (26, 30)	0.009
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	29% (23, 35)	0.125	27% (25, 30)	0.095
<b>Hypertension, Complicated†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	23% (21, 25)	--	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	32% (29, 35)	<0.001	26% (25, 27)	0.013
<b>Hypertension, Uncomplicated†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	27% (25, 29)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	22% (19, 24)	<0.001	25% (25, 25)	0.804
<b>Liver Disease, Mild†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (24, 30)	0.016	26% (25, 28)	0.044
<b>Liver Disease, Severe†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	33% (26, 40)	0.014	33% (28, 38)	0.002
<b>Chronic Pulmonary Disease†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (24, 28)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	20% (18, 23)	<0.001	25% (25, 26)	0.483
<b>Neurological Disorders Affecting Movement†</b>				

	<b>N=73,606 Unadjusted Predicted Probability (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>N=73,606 Adjusted Predicted Probability (95% CI)†</b>	<b>P-value</b>
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (24, 31)	0.028	26% (24, 28)	0.391
<b>Other Neurological Disorders†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	35% (32, 38)	<0.001	27% (27, 28)	<0.001
<b>Seizures or Epilepsy†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	34% (31, 36)	<0.001	29% (27, 30)	<0.001
<b>Obesity†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	28% (26, 29)	<0.001	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Paralysis†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	34% (31, 37)	<0.001	28% (26, 30)	0.001
<b>Peripheral Vascular Disease†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	31% (27, 35)	<0.001	29% (27, 31)	<0.001
<b>Psychoses†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	32% (30, 35)	<0.001	27% (26, 28)	0.001
<b>Pulmonary Circulation Disease†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	37% (34, 41)	<0.001	29% (27, 31)	<0.001
<b>Renal Failure, Moderate†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	16% (14, 19)	<0.001	23% (21, 24)	0.002
<b>Renal Failure, Severe†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	42% (39, 46)	<0.001	33% (32, 35)	<0.001
<b>Hypothyroidism†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (27, 32)	<0.001	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Other Thyroid Disorders†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (27, 34)	<0.001	26% (24, 28)	0.233
<b>Peptic Ulcer With Bleeding†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	34% (28, 41)	0.003	31% (25, 37)	0.043
<b>Valvular Disease†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 27)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	35% (32, 39)	<0.001	29% (27, 31)	<0.001
<b>Weight Loss†</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (22, 26)	--	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	45% (41, 49)	<0.001	29% (27, 31)	<0.001
<b>Index Admission Characteristics</b>				
Length of Stay (Days)	3% (2, 3)	<0.001	2% (2, 2)	<0.001
<b>ICU Usage</b>				
No – <i>Ref.</i>	18% (15, 20)	--	23% (23, 23)	--
Yes	57% (54, 60)	<0.001	36% (35, 37)	<0.001
<b>Treatment(s) Provided‡</b>				

	<b>N=73,606 Unadjusted Predicted Probability (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>N=73,606 Adjusted Predicted Probability (95% CI)†</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Not Recommended	38% (35, 41)	<0.001	28% (27, 28)	<0.001
Recommended	18% (14, 22)	0.148	21% (19, 23)	<0.001
Neither – <i>Ref.</i>	22% (19, 24)	--	25% (25, 25)	--

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; ICU, intensive care unit; *Ref.*, referent group.

\* Logistic model with robust standard errors and clustered by hospital.

† Logistic model with robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including hospital and month-year fixed effects (pseudo-R-squared=0.51).

‡ Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.



**eTable 4.** Multivariable Analyses to Estimate the Association Between Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics, Index COVID-19 Admission Characteristics, and Hospital Characteristics and Subsequently Being in Quartile 4 (Versus Any Other Quartile) of Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 365 Days Starting on the Date of Index Admission

	N=73,606 Predicted Probability (95% CI)*	P-value
<b>Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>		
Age Group (Years)		
18-34 – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (24, 26)	--
35-49	26% (25, 26)	0.352
50-64	26% (25, 26)	0.559
65-74	25% (25, 26)	0.720
75-84	25% (24, 25)	0.548
85+	23% (22, 24)	0.001
Race and Ethnicity		
Hispanic (Any Race)	24% (24, 25)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic Asian	25% (24, 26)	0.056
Non-Hispanic Black	25% (25, 26)	0.020
Non-Hispanic White – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (26, 27)	--
Other or Unknown	24% (23, 24)	<0.001
Sex		
Female	25% (24, 25)	<0.001
Male – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (25, 26)	--
Primary Insurance Type		
Commercial – <i>Ref.</i>	23% (23, 24)	--
Medicaid	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
Medicare	26% (26, 26)	<0.001
Other	23% (22, 24)	0.207
None (Self-Pay)	24% (23, 25)	0.495
Alcohol Abuse†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	29% (27, 30)	<0.001
Deficiency Anemias†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	28% (28, 29)	<0.001
Arthropathies†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (25, 28)	0.021
Chronic Blood Loss†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (25, 30)	0.064
Cancer, Leukemia†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	31% (27, 35)	<0.001
Cancer, Lymphoma†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (27, 33)	0.002
Cancer, Metastatic†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	35% (32, 38)	<0.001
Cancer, In Situ†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	17% (6, 28)	0.240
Cancer, Malignant†		

	<b>N=73,606</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability (95%</b>	<b>P-value</b>
	<b>CI)*</b>	
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (28, 32)	<0.001
<b>Cerebrovascular Disease†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 28)	0.006
<b>Congestive Heart Failure†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (27, 29)	<0.001
<b>Coagulopathy†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Dementia†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 26)	--
Yes	24% (23, 24)	<0.001
<b>Depression†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.004
<b>Diabetes With Chronic Complications†</b>		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (27, 28)	<0.001
<b>Diabetes Without Chronic Complications†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Drug Abuse†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 29)	0.016
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (26, 31)	0.011
<b>Hypertension, Complicated†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 27)	0.003
<b>Hypertension, Uncomplicated†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.510
<b>Liver Disease, Mild†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 28)	<0.001
<b>Liver Disease, Severe†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	33% (29, 37)	<0.001
<b>Chronic Pulmonary Disease†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.002
<b>Neurological Disorders Affecting Movement†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 28)	0.114
<b>Other Neurological Disorders†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 27)	0.001
<b>Seizures or Epilepsy†</b>		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (27, 29)	<0.001

	<b>N=73,606</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>
<b>Obesity†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
<b>Paralysis†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (25, 28)	0.023
<b>Peripheral Vascular Disease†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	29% (27, 30)	<0.001
<b>Psychoses†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.014
<b>Pulmonary Circulation Disease†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (26, 30)	<0.001
<b>Renal Failure, Moderate†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (24, 27)	0.729
<b>Renal Failure, Severe†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	31% (30, 33)	<0.001
<b>Hypothyroidism†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Other Thyroid Disorders†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 28)	0.178
<b>Peptic Ulcer With Bleeding†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	32% (28, 35)	<0.001
<b>Valvular Disease†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (27, 30)	<0.001
<b>Weight Loss†</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	0.002
<b>Index Admission Characteristics</b>		
Length of Stay (Days)	2% (2, 2)	<0.001
ICU Usage		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	23% (23, 23)	--
Yes	35% (34, 36)	<0.001
Treatment(s) Provided†		
Not Recommended	28% (27, 28)	<0.001
Recommended	22% (20, 24)	0.004
Neither – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
<b>Hospital Characteristics</b>		
Size (Number of Beds)		
<200 – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (22, 27)	--
200-399	25% (23, 27)	0.884
≥400	25% (24, 27)	0.610
Teaching Hospital		

<b>N=73,606</b>		
	<b>Predicted Probability (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>
No – <i>Ref.</i>	22% (20, 24)	--
Yes, Major	28% (25, 30)	0.003
Yes, Minor	24% (22, 26)	0.106
<b>Geographic Region</b>		
Midwest	21% (19, 24)	<0.001
Northeast – <i>Ref.</i>	31% (29, 33)	--
South	20% (19, 22)	<0.001
West	22% (19, 25)	<0.001
<b>Urbanicity</b>		
Rural	28% (22, 33)	0.320
Urban – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (24, 26)	--
<b>Profit Status</b>		
For-Profit	23% (18, 28)	0.508
Non-Profit – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (24, 26)	--
Public	29% (25, 33)	0.041
<b>DSH Index</b>		
Quartiles 1-3 – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 26)	--
Quartile 4	25% (23, 28)	0.628

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; DSH, disproportionate hospital share; ICU, intensive care unit; *Ref.*, referent group.

\* Logistic model with robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including month-year fixed effects (pseudo-R-squared=0.45).

† Elixhauser comorbidities.

‡ Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.

**eTable 5.** Multivariable Analyses to Estimate the Association Between Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics and Index COVID-19 Admission Characteristics and Subsequent Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 365 Days Starting on the Date of Index Admission

	<b>N=73,606</b>	
	<b>Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>
<b>Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>		
Age Group (Years)		
18-34 – <i>Ref.</i>	\$23,238 (17,614, 28,863)	--
35-49	\$31,595 (29,641, 33,549)	0.010
50-64	\$33,692 (32,243, 35,141)	0.003
65-74	\$36,194 (34,383, 38,004)	0.001
75-84	\$34,981 (33,050, 36,911)	0.002
85+	\$33,154 (31,090, 35,219)	0.006
Race and Ethnicity		
Hispanic (Any Race)	\$32,268 (30,737, 33,800)	0.928
Non-Hispanic Asian	\$32,382 (29,628, 35,135)	0.898
Non-Hispanic Black	\$35,160 (33,313, 37,006)	0.009
Non-Hispanic White – <i>Ref.</i>	\$32,190 (31,062, 33,317)	--
Other or Unknown	\$33,549 (30,135, 36,962)	0.488
Sex		
Female	\$30,565 (28,890, 32,240)	<0.001
Male – <i>Ref.</i>	\$35,335 (34,263, 36,407)	--
Primary Insurance Type		
Commercial – <i>Ref.</i>	\$32,393 (30,766, 34,020)	--
Medicaid	\$34,727 (32,514, 36,940)	0.098
Medicare	\$33,175 (31,309, 35,042)	0.567
Other	\$33,568 (29,931, 37,206)	0.602
None (Self-Pay)	\$27,250 (24,557, 29,942)	0.001
Alcohol Abuse†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,055 (32,147, 33,963)	--
Yes	\$35,999 (33,128, 38,871)	0.028
Deficiency Anemias†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$31,814 (30,728, 32,900)	--
Yes	\$37,336 (36,283, 38,388)	<0.001
Arthropathies†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,172 (32,255, 34,089)	--
Yes	\$30,049 (26,821, 33,277)	0.075
Chronic Blood Loss†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,099 (32,194, 34,003)	--
Yes	\$37,367 (31,051, 43,683)	0.151
Cancer, Leukemia†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,035 (32,162, 33,907)	--
Yes	\$48,037 (36,460, 59,614)	0.001
Cancer, Lymphoma†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,052 (32,171, 33,933)	--
Yes	\$43,944 (35,647, 52,241)	0.001
Cancer, Metastatic†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,063 (32,163, 33,962)	--
Yes	\$39,400 (32,258, 46,542)	0.053
Cancer, In Situ†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,132 (32,222, 34,041)	--
Yes	\$35,286 (26,029, 44,543)	0.644
Cancer, Malignant†		

	<b>N=73,606</b>	
	<b>Total Unadjusted Hospital</b>	
	<b>Spending (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>
No – Ref.	\$33,030 (32,115, 33,945)	--
Yes	\$38,934 (32,778, 45,090)	0.043
<b>Cerebrovascular Disease†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,044 (32,155, 33,932)	--
Yes	\$35,685 (30,816, 40,554)	0.257
<b>Congestive Heart Failure†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,235 (32,299, 34,170)	--
Yes	\$32,389 (30,585, 34,192)	0.354
<b>Coagulopathy†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,198 (32,132, 34,263)	--
Yes	\$32,619 (29,452, 35,786)	0.755
<b>Dementia†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,576 (32,517, 34,635)	--
Yes	\$29,788 (26,717, 32,860)	0.042
<b>Depression†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$32,894 (31,981, 33,806)	--
Yes	\$35,474 (33,073, 37,874)	0.026
<b>Diabetes With Chronic Complications†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$31,443 (30,378, 32,509)	--
Yes	\$37,170 (35,679, 38,661)	<0.001
<b>Diabetes Without Chronic Complications†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$32,951 (31,950, 33,951)	--
Yes	\$34,337 (32,978, 35,695)	0.085
<b>Drug Abuse†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,253 (32,228, 34,278)	--
Yes	\$27,806 (12,885, 42,727)	0.524
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,082 (32,184, 33,981)	--
Yes	\$40,109 (34,150, 46,068)	0.007
<b>Hypertension, Complicated†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,655 (32,767, 34,542)	--
Yes	\$31,326 (29,223, 33,428)	0.036
<b>Hypertension, Uncomplicated†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$34,634 (33,431, 35,837)	--
Yes	\$30,339 (29,118, 31,559)	<0.001
<b>Liver Disease, Mild†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,150 (32,276, 34,025)	--
Yes	\$32,655 (30,057, 35,253)	0.650
<b>Liver Disease, Severe†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,119 (32,220, 34,018)	--
Yes	\$37,424 (24,008, 50,841)	0.496
<b>Chronic Pulmonary Disease†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,679 (32,690, 34,668)	--
Yes	\$29,057 (27,748, 30,367)	<0.001
<b>Neurological Disorders Affecting Movement†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$33,105 (32,216, 33,994)	--
Yes	\$34,449 (30,874, 38,023)	0.403
<b>Other Neurological Disorders†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$32,788 (31,861, 33,715)	--
Yes	\$35,938 (34,288, 37,589)	<0.001
<b>Seizures or Epilepsy†</b>		
No – Ref.	\$32,907 (32,017, 33,797)	--
Yes	\$38,653 (35,459, 41,847)	<0.001

	<b>N=73,606</b>	
	<b>Total Unadjusted Hospital</b>	
	<b>Spending (95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Obesity <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$32,124 (31,142, 33,106)	--
Yes	\$36,230 (34,464, 37,997)	<0.001
Paralysis <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,160 (32,226, 34,093)	--
Yes	\$32,392 (29,079, 35,706)	0.664
Peripheral Vascular Disease <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,032 (32,061, 34,003)	--
Yes	\$37,583 (33,743, 41,423)	0.036
Psychoses <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,475 (32,605, 34,344)	--
Yes	\$27,450 (21,604, 33,297)	0.068
Pulmonary Circulation Disease <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,059 (32,122, 33,995)	--
Yes	\$37,053 (33,246, 40,859)	0.046
Renal Failure, Moderate <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,464 (32,533, 34,395)	--
Yes	\$22,950 (21,318, 24,583)	<0.001
Renal Failure, Severe <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$32,955 (32,017, 33,893)	--
Yes	\$36,640 (34,094, 39,186)	0.005
Hypothyroidism <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$32,818 (31,811, 33,824)	--
Yes	\$35,469 (31,561, 39,376)	0.207
Other Thyroid Disorders <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,082 (32,191, 33,973)	--
Yes	\$36,852 (31,791, 41,913)	0.100
Peptic Ulcer With Bleeding <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,158 (32,249, 34,066)	--
Yes	\$26,410 (19,046, 33,773)	0.106
Valvular Disease <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,131 (32,251, 34,012)	--
Yes	\$33,152 (27,663, 38,641)	0.994
Weight Loss <sup>†</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$33,013 (31,846, 34,181)	--
Yes	\$34,351 (31,399, 37,302)	0.490
<b>Index Admission Characteristics</b>		
Length of Stay (Days)	\$439 (364, 515)	<0.001
ICU Usage		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	\$26,288 (25,339, 27,237)	--
Yes	\$57,612 (53,413, 61,811)	<0.001
Treatment(s) Provided <sup>‡</sup>		
Not Recommended	\$45,575 (42,220, 48,930)	<0.001
Recommended	\$27,579 (24,705, 30,453)	0.341
Neither – <i>Ref.</i>	\$29,142 (27,537, 30,748)	--

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; ICU, intensive care unit; *Ref.*, referent group.

\* Generalized linear model with log link function and log transformed outcome, robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including hospital and month-year fixed effects.

<sup>†</sup> Elixhauser comorbidities.

<sup>‡</sup> Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.

**eTable 6.** Multivariable Analyses to Estimate the Association Between Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics and Index COVID-19 Admission Characteristics and Subsequently Being in Quartile 4 (Versus Any Other Quartile) of Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 90 Days Starting on the Date of Index Admission

	N=416,920*	
	Predicted Probability (95% CI) <sup>†</sup>	P-value
<b>Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>		
Age Group (Years)		
18-34 – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 25)	--
35-49	24% (24, 25)	0.839
50-64	25% (25, 25)	0.002
65-74	25% (25, 25)	0.006
75-84	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
85+	24% (24, 25)	0.924
Race and Ethnicity		
Hispanic (Any Race)	24% (24, 24)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic Asian	24% (24, 25)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic Black	25% (24, 25)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic White – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (25, 26)	--
Other or Unknown	24% (24, 25)	<0.001
Sex		
Female	24% (24, 25)	<0.001
Male – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (25, 26)	--
Primary Insurance Type		
Commercial – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (23, 24)	--
Medicaid	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
Medicare	26% (26, 26)	<0.001
Other	24% (23, 24)	0.902
None (Self-Pay)	24% (23, 24)	0.613
Alcohol Abuse <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (27, 28)	<0.001
Deficiency Anemias <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (27, 28)	<0.001
Arthropathies <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Chronic Blood Loss <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 29)	<0.001
Cancer, Leukemia <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	29% (28, 30)	<0.001
Cancer, Lymphoma <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	33% (31, 34)	<0.001
Cancer, Metastatic <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	33% (32, 34)	<0.001
Cancer, In Situ <sup>‡</sup>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	34% (27, 42)	0.007
Cancer, Malignant <sup>‡</sup>		



	<b>N=416,920*</b> <b>Predicted Probability</b> <b>(95% CI)†</b>	<b>P-value</b>
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (29, 31)	<0.001
<b>Cerebrovascular Disease‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Congestive Heart Failure‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (27, 27)	<0.001
<b>Coagulopathy‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Dementia‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	23% (23, 24)	<0.001
<b>Depression‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
<b>Diabetes With Chronic Complications‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
<b>Diabetes Without Chronic Complications‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
<b>Drug Abuse‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 28)	<0.001
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 28)	0.003
<b>Hypertension, Complicated‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
<b>Hypertension, Uncomplicated‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 25)	0.029
<b>Liver Disease, Mild‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	0.005
<b>Liver Disease, Severe‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	32% (30, 34)	<0.001
<b>Chronic Pulmonary Disease‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (26, 26)	<0.001
<b>Neurological Disorders Affecting Movement‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.002
<b>Other Neurological Disorders‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
<b>Seizures or Epilepsy‡</b>		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001

	<b>N=416,920*</b> <b>Predicted Probability</b> <b>(95% CI)†</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Obesity‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
Paralysis‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Peripheral Vascular Disease‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (28, 29)	<0.001
Psychoses‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.099
Pulmonary Circulation Disease‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (27, 28)	<0.001
Renal Failure, Moderate‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (24, 25)	0.725
Renal Failure, Severe‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (30, 31)	<0.001
Hypothyroidism‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
Other Thyroid Disorders‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	0.169
Peptic Ulcer With Bleeding‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (26, 29)	<0.001
Valvular Disease‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Weight Loss‡		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	0.006
<b>Index Admission Characteristics</b>		
Length of Stay (Days)	3% (3, 3)	<0.001
ICU Usage		
No – Ref.	23% (23, 23)	--
Yes	37% (36, 37)	<0.001
Treatment(s) Provided§		
Not Recommended	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Recommended	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
Neither – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; ICU, intensive care unit; Ref., referent group.

\* Includes index COVID-19 admissions from April 2020 to March 2021.

† Logistic model with robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including hospital and month-year fixed effects (R-squared=0.51).

‡ Elixhauser comorbidities.

§ Recommended treatment includes remdesivir and/or corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.

**eTable 7.** Multivariable Analyses to Estimate the Association Between Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics and Index COVID-19 Admission Characteristics and Subsequently Being in Quartile 4 (Versus Any Other Quartile) of Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 365 Days Starting on the Date of Index Admission, Excluding Patients Who Died In-Hospital Following the Index Admission

	<b>N=71,032</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability</b>	<b>P-value</b>
	<b>(95% CI)*</b>	
<b>Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>		
Age Group (Years)		
18-34 – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (24, 26)	--
35-49	26% (25, 26)	0.507
50-64	25% (25, 26)	0.927
65-74	25% (24, 25)	0.361
75-84	24% (23, 25)	0.062
85+	22% (22, 23)	<0.001
Race and Ethnicity		
Hispanic (Any Race)	24% (23, 24)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic Asian	25% (24, 26)	0.074
Non-Hispanic Black	25% (24, 25)	0.036
Non-Hispanic White – <i>Ref.</i>	26% (25, 26)	--
Other or Unknown	22% (21, 23)	0.084
Sex		
Female	24% (24, 24)	0.003
Male – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Primary Insurance Type		
Commercial – <i>Ref.</i>	23% (23, 23)	--
Medicaid	25% (24, 25)	<0.001
Medicare	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
Other	22% (21, 23)	0.084
None (Self-Pay)	23% (22, 25)	0.584
Alcohol Abuse†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	28% (27, 30)	<0.001
Deficiency Anemias†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	28% (27, 28)	<0.001
Arthropathies†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (24, 27)	0.077
Chronic Blood Loss†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (24, 29)	0.055
Cancer, Leukemia†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (27, 34)	<0.001
Cancer, Lymphoma†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (25, 31)	0.006
Cancer, Metastatic†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	33% (30, 36)	<0.001
Cancer, In Situ†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	17% (7, 28)	0.268

	<b>N=71,032</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability</b>	
	<b>(95% CI)*</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Cancer, Malignant†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	29% (27, 31)	<0.001
Cerebrovascular Disease†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 28)	0.010
Congestive Heart Failure†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (26, 28)	<0.001
Coagulopathy†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.009
Dementia†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	23% (22, 24)	<0.001
Depression†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.011
Diabetes With Chronic Complications†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Diabetes Without Chronic Complications†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
Drug Abuse†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	27% (25, 29)	0.005
Human Immunodeficiency Virus†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (24, 30)	0.050
Hypertension, Complicated†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	0.001
Hypertension, Uncomplicated†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (24, 25)	0.421
Liver Disease, Mild†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.015
Liver Disease, Severe†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	31% (26, 35)	0.002
Chronic Pulmonary Disease†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.003
Neurological Disorders Affecting Movement†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (24, 28)	0.062
Other Neurological Disorders†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	0.001
Seizures or Epilepsy†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--

	<b>N=71,032</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability</b>	<b>P-value</b>
	<b>(95% CI)*</b>	
Yes	28% (26, 29)	<0.001
Obesity†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	<0.001
Paralysis†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 28)	0.017
Peripheral Vascular Disease†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	28% (27, 30)	<0.001
Psychoses†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (24, 26)	0.139
Pulmonary Circulation Disease†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	27% (25, 29)	0.001
Renal Failure, Moderate†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	24% (23, 26)	0.664
Renal Failure, Severe†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	30% (29, 32)	<0.001
Hypothyroidism†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
Other Thyroid Disorders†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	26% (24, 28)	0.165
Peptic Ulcer With Bleeding†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (27, 34)	<0.001
Valvular Disease†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	27% (26, 29)	<0.001
Weight Loss†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.006
<b>Index Admission Characteristics</b>		
Length of Stay (Days)	2% (2, 2)	<0.001
ICU Usage		
No – Ref.	22% (22, 22)	--
Yes	35% (34, 36)	<0.001
Treatment(s) Provided‡		
Not Recommended	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Recommended	22% (20, 23)	0.014
Neither – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; ICU, intensive care unit; Ref., referent group.

\* Logistic model with robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including hospital and month-year fixed effects (pseudo-R-squared=0.52).

† Elixhauser comorbidities.

‡ Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.

**eTable 8.** Multivariable Analyses to Estimate the Association Between Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics and Index COVID-19 Admission Characteristics and Subsequently Being in Quartile 4 (Versus Any Other Quartile) of Total Unadjusted Hospital Spending in the 365 Days Starting on the Date of Index Admission, Restricting to Patients Admitted with a Primary COVID-19 Diagnosis

	N=45,515 Predicted Probability (95% CI)*	P-value
<b>Patient Sociodemographic Characteristics</b>		
Age Group (Years)		
18-34 – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (23, 26)	--
35-49	25% (24, 26)	0.594
50-64	25% (25, 26)	0.363
65-74	24% (24, 25)	0.818
75-84	24% (23, 25)	0.579
85+	23% (22, 24)	0.027
Race and Ethnicity		
Hispanic (Any Race)	23% (23, 24)	<0.001
Non-Hispanic Asian	24% (23, 25)	0.144
Non-Hispanic Black	25% (25, 26)	0.869
Non-Hispanic White – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 26)	--
Other or Unknown	24% (23, 25)	0.011
Sex		
Female	24% (24, 24)	0.008
Male – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Primary Insurance Type		
Commercial – <i>Ref.</i>	23% (22, 23)	--
Medicaid	25% (24, 25)	<0.001
Medicare	26% (25, 26)	<0.001
Other	22% (21, 24)	0.580
None (Self-Pay)	24% (22, 25)	0.326
Alcohol Abuse†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	28% (25, 30)	0.011
Deficiency Anemias†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	28% (27, 29)	<0.001
Arthropathies†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	24% (22, 26)	0.629
Chronic Blood Loss†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	37% (30, 43)	<0.001
Cancer, Leukemia†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (23, 32)	0.179
Cancer, Lymphoma†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (23, 30)	0.292
Cancer, Metastatic†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	31% (27, 35)	<0.001
Cancer, In Situ†		
No – <i>Ref.</i>	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (14, 42)	0.587

	<b>N=45,515</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability</b>	<b>P-value</b>
	<b>(95% CI)*</b>	
Cancer, Malignant†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	30% (28, 33)	<0.001
Cerebrovascular Disease†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (23, 27)	0.784
Congestive Heart Failure†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (26, 28)	<0.001
Coagulopathy†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.021
Dementia†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	23% (22, 24)	<0.001
Depression†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	<0.001
Diabetes With Chronic Complications†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (26, 27)	<0.001
Diabetes Without Chronic Complications†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.061
Drug Abuse†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	30% (28, 33)	<0.001
Human Immunodeficiency Virus†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (24, 31)	0.072
Hypertension, Complicated†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	27% (25, 28)	<0.001
Hypertension, Uncomplicated†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (24, 25)	0.526
Liver Disease, Mild†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (24, 27)	0.090
Liver Disease, Severe†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	30% (22, 38)	0.164
Chronic Pulmonary Disease†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	<0.001
Neurological Disorders Affecting Movement†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (23, 27)	0.435
Other Neurological Disorders†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	<0.001
Seizures or Epilepsy†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--



	<b>N=45,515</b>	
	<b>Predicted Probability</b>	<b>P-value</b>
	<b>(95% CI)*</b>	
Yes	28% (27, 30)	<0.001
Obesity†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	25% (25, 26)	0.032
Paralysis†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (24, 28)	0.176
Peripheral Vascular Disease†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	29% (27, 31)	<0.001
Psychoses†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 28)	0.010
Pulmonary Circulation Disease†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	27% (24, 29)	0.067
Renal Failure, Moderate†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	24% (22, 25)	0.186
Renal Failure, Severe†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	30% (29, 32)	<0.001
Hypothyroidism†		
No – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	<0.001
Other Thyroid Disorders†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	25% (23, 28)	0.502
Peptic Ulcer With Bleeding†		
No – Ref.	25% (25, 25)	--
Yes	28% (23, 33)	0.139
Valvular Disease†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 28)	0.045
Weight Loss†		
No – Ref.	25% (24, 25)	--
Yes	26% (25, 27)	0.025
<b>Index Admission Characteristics</b>		--
Length of Stay (Days)	3% (3, 3)	<0.001
ICU Usage		
No – Ref.	23% (23, 23)	--
Yes	36% (34, 37)	<0.001
Treatment(s) Provided‡		
Not Recommended	27% (26, 28)	<0.001
Recommended	22% (20, 24)	0.048
Neither – Ref.	24% (24, 24)	--

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019; ICU, intensive care unit; Ref., referent group.

\* Logistic model with robust standard errors, clustered by hospital, and including hospital and month-year fixed effects (R-squared=0.52).

† Elixhauser comorbidities.

‡ Recommended treatment includes remdesivir with or without corticosteroids. Not recommended treatment includes ivermectin and/or hydroxychloroquine.