



# 2006 Arthritis-related Inpatient Hospital Discharges and Costs

Notes on

# ARTHRITIS

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Arthritis is a major public health issue in Utah, and data from the 2006 Utah Hospital Inpatient Discharge data confirm it.

- There were 9,006 inpatient hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of arthritis in 2006, representing 3.5 percent of all hospital discharges.
- Total charges for patients with a primary diagnosis of arthritis were \$240 million, and the average charge per visit was slightly more than \$27,000.
- The number of discharges among women with arthritis (5,275) was nearly one and a half times greater than among men (3,731).
- The average inpatient length-of-stay for a patient with a primary diagnosis of arthritis was 3.4 days.
- Hospital discharges for arthritis-associated knee and hip replacements accounted for 75.8 percent or 6,832 hospital discharges due to arthritis in 2006.
- Total charges for arthritis-associated knee and hip replacements accounted for \$193 million or 80.9 percent of all hospital charges for arthritis. (Table 1)

Table 1. Arthritis-related Inpatient Hospital Discharges and Charges, Utah Residents, 2006

Diagnosis/ Procedure	Total Discharges*	Total Charges*	Average Charge	Average Length of Stay
Hip Replacement	1,653			
Knee Replacement	5,085	\$49,804,372	\$30,130	3.3 days
Other	2,123	\$144,621,712	\$28,441	3.5 days
Total	8,861	\$45,810,862	\$21,578	3.4 days
		\$240,236,946	\$27,112	3.4 days

Source: Utah Inpatient Hospital Discharge Data 2006, Office of Health Care Statistics, Utah Department of Health  
\* Numbers may not sum to the total due to missing information for some cases

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# 2006 Arthritis-related Inpatient Hospital Discharges and Costs Cont...

Age is associated with hospitalization of adults with arthritis. Persons 55 and older accounted for:

- Three-fourths (77.4%) of all arthritis-related hospital discharges.
- Nearly two-thirds (63.0%) of knee and hip replacements due to arthritis.
- 78.6 percent of all hospital charges due to arthritis.
- 82.5 percent of arthritis-associated knee and hip replacement charges. (See Table 2)

As seen in Table 3, Medicare was the primary source of payment for nearly half (49.1%) of all arthritis related hospital discharges.

Since most people with arthritis do not require hospital care, hospitalization charges reflect only a part of the entire burden. Other costs include physician visits, emergency room visits, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing home care, mental health counseling, x-rays, laboratory tests, and prescription and over-the-counter medications. Assistive devices like canes, crutches, and walkers, and "alternative" therapies such as chiropractic care also contribute to the cost of arthritis. Intangible costs include pain, psychological suffering, and the stress placed on families.

Table 2. Arthritis-related Inpatient Hospital Discharges and Charges, Utah Residents Age 55 and Older, 2006

Diagnosis/ Procedure	Total Discharges*	Total Charges*	Average Charge	Average Length of Stay
Hip Replacement	1,340	\$40,154,777	\$29,966	3.3 days
Knee Replacement	4,248	\$120,155,041	\$28,285	3.4 days
Other	1,261	\$28,421,618	\$22,539	3.4 days
Total	6,849	\$188,731,436	\$27,561	3.4 days

Source: Utah Inpatient Hospital Discharge Data 2006, Office of Health Care Statistics, Utah Department of Health

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Table 3. Arthritis-related Charges by Primary Payer, Utah Residents 2006

Primary Payer	Number of Discharges*	Total Charges*	Average Charge
Medicare	4,343	\$117,953,155	\$27,159
Managed Care	2,649	\$71,222,933	\$26,886
Blue Cross/Blue Shield/Other Commercial	1,294	\$36,238,796	\$28,005
Medicaid	229	\$6,504,410	\$28,404
Industrial and Workers Compensation	137	\$3,261,991	\$23,810
Other Government	108	\$3,014,192	\$27,909
Charity/Unclassified	46	\$1,033,013	\$22,456
Self Pay	53	\$960,488	\$18,122
Total	8,859	\$240,188,978	\$27,112

Source: Utah Inpatient Hospital Discharge Data 2006, Office of Health Care Statistics, Utah Department of Health

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