

Medicare spends more than \$6 billion on secondary fractures

October 2 2019



(HealthDay)—Medicare could save billions of dollars if secondary

fractures could be prevented with improved osteoporosis screening, according to a new National Osteoporosis Foundation report conducted by Milliman.

Milliman used administrative medical claims data from a Medicare Limited Data Set to identify new [osteoporotic fractures](#) not associated with a high-trauma event among Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries in 2015. The postfracture follow-up period to assess the economic and clinical burden associated with fractures lasted two to three years.

The researchers found that about 4 percent of Medicare beneficiaries suffered a fracture in 2015. Spine and hip fractures were the most common types identified, accounting for 40 percent of all osteoporotic fractures. More than 40 percent of patients with a new osteoporotic fracture were hospitalized within one week after the fracture (among those with a hip fracture, 90 percent were hospitalized). More than one in seven Medicare patients with a new osteoporotic fracture suffered another fracture within 12 months of the initial fracture, and nearly one in five with a new osteoporotic fracture developed a pressure ulcer during follow-up. One in five Medicare beneficiaries died within 12 months following a new osteoporotic fracture. In the year after a new osteoporotic fracture, [medical costs](#) were more than twice the costs incurred in the 12-month period prior to the fracture for the same beneficiary, yielding an incremental annual medical cost of \$21,800 for a new osteoporotic fracture. An estimated 307,000 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries had a subsequent fracture during two- to three-year follow-up, which the researchers estimated accounted for \$6.3 billion in allowed cost to Medicare. Fewer than one in 10 female Medicare beneficiaries were evaluated for osteoporosis with a bone mineral density test within six months of a new fracture.

"Increased focus on the identification and management of individuals who have experienced an osteoporotic fracture through a secondary

fracture prevention program may lead to reduced rates of subsequent [fractures](#) and result in [cost savings](#) to payers, such as Medicare," the authors write.

More information: [Research Report: Medicare Cost of Osteoporotic Fractures](#)

Copyright © 2019 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Medicare spends more than \$6 billion on secondary fractures (2019, October 2)
retrieved 6 May 2023 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-10-medicare-billion-secondary-fractures.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.