

# Failed communication associated with readmission

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(HealthDay)—Failed communication attempts are associated with readmission among Medicare beneficiaries with congestive heart failure, although the correlation is no longer significant after adjustment for other variables, according to a study published online June 26 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Matthew J. Press, M.D., from the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, and colleagues conducted a retrospective cohort study involving 5,698 Medicare beneficiaries with [congestive heart failure](#) who received home health care from the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) after hospital discharge. The authors examined the correlation between patient-level measures of communication failure and all-cause readmission.

The researchers found observed high external validity using [natural language processing](#) to identify failed communication attempts (kappa, 0.850; P

"Natural language processing of electronic medical records can be used to identify failed communication attempts between home health nurses and physicians, but other variables mostly explained the association between [communication failure](#) and readmission," the authors write.

Several authors are employees of VNSNY; funding for the study was provided by the Aetna Foundation.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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