

Economic Costs of Perinatal Care—Health Care Utilization Project (HCUP) Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 1999

Charges associated with specific perinatal diagnoses rank among the highest of all hospital diagnoses. The most expensive category of diagnosis according to the Health Care Utilization Project (HCUP) Nationwide Inpatient Sample in 1999 was Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS), which had a mean charge of \$82,648. Other perinatal conditions included in the top ten were low birthweight (mean charge of \$56,942), cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies (mean charge of \$49,858), and intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia (mean charge of \$36,954).

Rank	Principal Diagnosis	Mean Charges* (in dollars)	Mean Length of Stay (days)
1	Respiratory distress syndrome	82,648	27.8
2	Spinal cord injury	58,690	12.4
3	Short gestation, low birthweight, and fetal growth retardation	56,942	22.7
4	Leukemias	53,252	13.8
5	Heart valve disorders	51,292	8.8
6	Cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies	49,858	7.8
7	Other CNS infection and poliomyelitis	44,060	12.6
8	Aortic, peripheral, and visceral artery aneurysms	42,461	8.7
9	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	36,954	12.1
10	Cancer of stomach	35,426	10.8

*Charges are for acute hospital care and do not include physician and other professional fees, rehabilitation expenses, or costs associated with follow-up or home care.

Source: Healthcare Utilization Project Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 1999

Prepared by March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center, 2002