Hospital Productivity

USC-BROOKINGS SCHAEFFER INITIATIVE FOR HEALTH POLICY
JUNE 25, 2019

CHAPIN WHITE
SENIOR POLICY RESEARCHER (ADJUNCT), RAND
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

This briefing represents the views of the author, and not RAND or RAND's funders.

The Challenge

Most products



Hospitals



Why Bother Measuring P's and Q's?

- Spending (S) = Price (P) * Quantity (Q)
- General ?: Are we paying more (P) or getting more (Q)?
- ? in Health Care: Are P's fair?
 - service price indexes (SPIs) do a good job at this
 - quality/outcome-adjusted P's muddy the waters
 - o if survivorship rises, do hospitals get credit?
 - o if readmissions fall, should hospitals get to keep the money?