The purpose of this study was to determine nurse’s knowledge of Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HACs) and how they are reported on Hospital Compare.

The purpose of this poster is to disseminate data obtained from professional nurses regarding their knowledge of Hospital Compare.

**Poster Objectives**
- Describe Hospital Compare.
- State the mechanism that Hospital Compare uses to acquire data.
- Articulate the importance of HAC data awareness.

**Study Participants**
60 RNs attending a Midwestern faith-based university (RN-BSN Students n=40; MSN Students n=20) representing 19 regional hospitals were surveyed.

**Hospital Compare Data**
Hospitals report their data to CMS who then reports it on Hospital Compare. Misinformation is apparent. In this study 80% of participants stated that Hospital Compare derived its data from HealthGrades, a for-profit corporation. Yet, 83% of participants knew that Hospital Compare data is publicly available.

**None of the Participants in this Survey Could Identify All 8 HACs. Could You?**

**Hospital-Acquired Conditions**
- severe pressure sores (bed sores)
- objects accidentally left in the body after surgery
- infection from a urinary catheter
- falls and injuries
- blood infection from a catheter in a large vein
- air bubble in the bloodstream
- mismatched blood types
- signs of uncontrolled blood sugar

**Bibliography**

**THE IMPACT OF HOSPITAL COMPARE ON REIMBURSEMENT: THE NEED FOR NURSING EDUCATION**
Karen D. Wiegman, PhD, RN
MidAmerica Nazarene University

**HAC posting on Hospital Compare.** Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HospitalQualityInits/HACPost.html

**Participants’ Self-Assessed Knowledge of Hospital Compare**
- I have logged onto Hospital Compare as part of my job.
- I am familiar with the data contained in Hospital Compare.
- I have heard of Hospital Compare, but don’t know much about it.
- I have never heard of Hospital Compare.

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin a “Pay for Performance” system called “Value-Based Purchasing” in October 2012. CMS has not reimbursed hospitals for HACs since October 2008. It is imperative that Nurses are aware of HAC data and how to access this information.