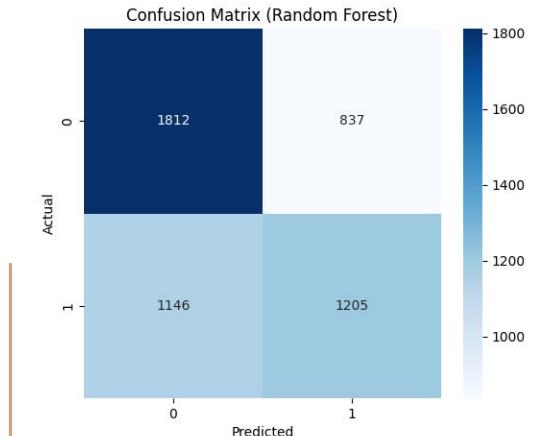
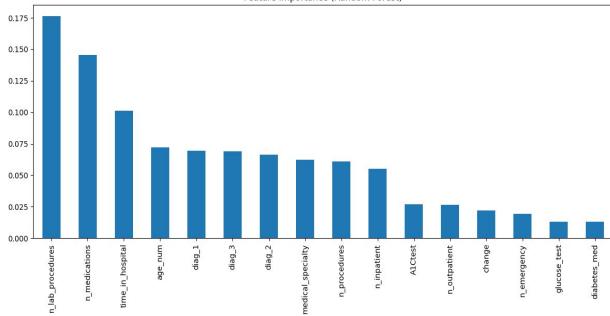
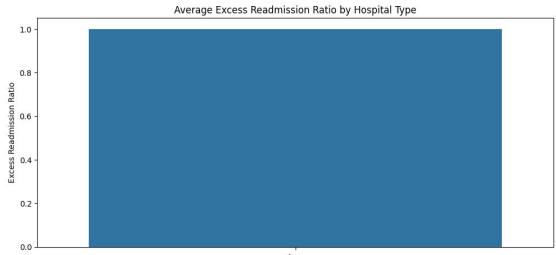
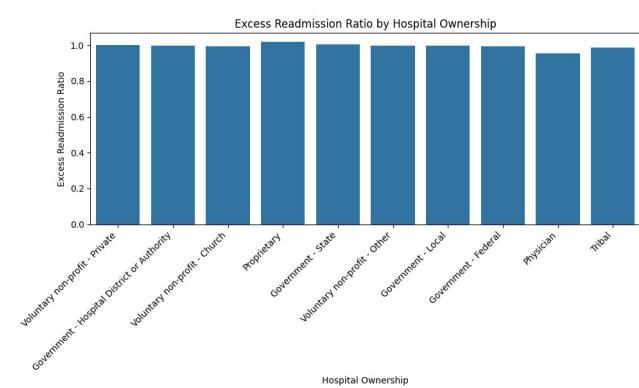


# Predicting Hospital Readmissions & Analyzing U.S. Hospital Quality Using CMS Data

DSCI-510 Final Project (Fall 2025)  
Warren Lim





# Introduction

This project investigates hospital readmission patterns in the United States by combining machine learning with national healthcare quality data. The first component uses a patient-level clinical dataset to predict the likelihood of readmission based on demographic, diagnostic, and treatment-related variables. The second component analyzes national hospital performance and readmission outcomes using publicly available CMS API datasets. Together, these analyses provide both a predictive and systemic understanding of readmissions, highlighting how patient complexity, hospital ownership, and quality ratings relate to readmission trends.

## Project Overview

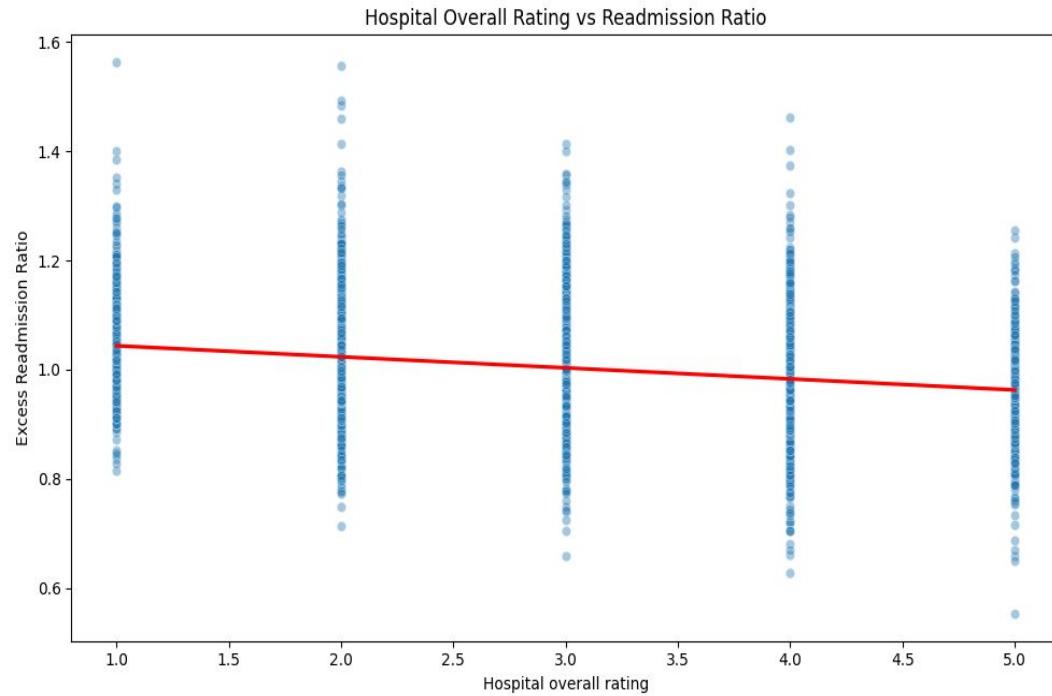
- Explore factors tied to hospital readmissions
- Predict readmission using a Kaggle clinical dataset
- Analyze national hospital quality using CMS HRRP APIs
- Identify trends in ratings, ownership, and outcomes

# Data Sources

Dataset	Description	Source	Type	Rows
CMS HRRP (Readmissions)	Hospital-level readmission and quality data	<a href="https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/9n3s-kdb3">https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/9n3s-kdb3</a>	API	18,510
CMS Hospital General Info	Includes essential data: location, type, ownership, and overall rating for hospitals.	<a href="https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/xubh-q36u">https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/xubh-q36u</a>	API	5,381
Kaggle Diabetes Readmissions	Patient-level data for predicting 30-day hospital readmission rates based on clinical and demographic features	<a href="https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/dubradave/hospital-readmissions">https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/dubradave/hospital-readmissions</a>	CSV	25,000

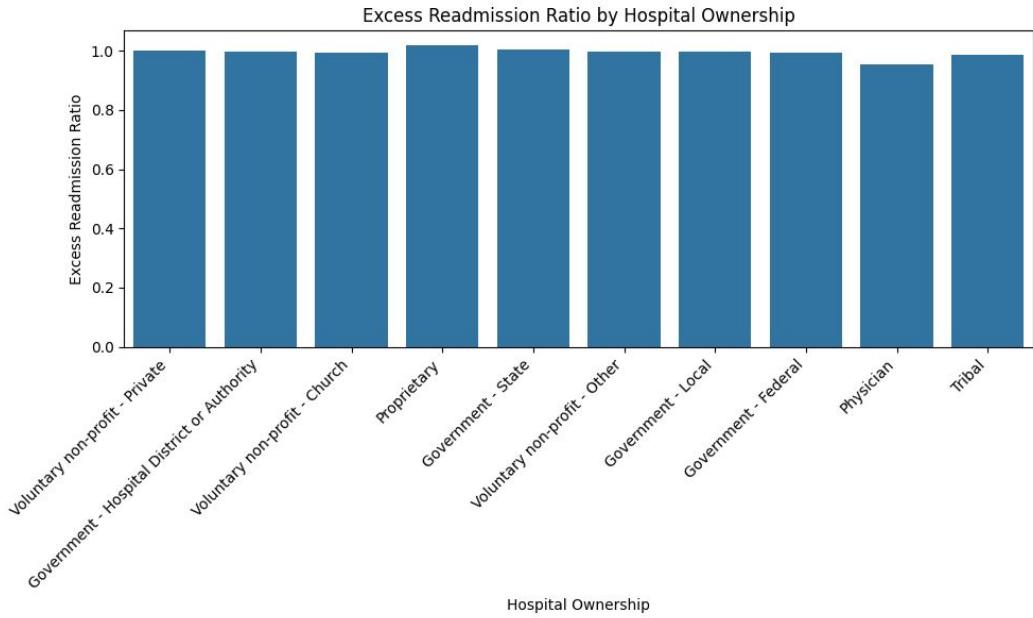
# Hospital Rating vs Readmission Ratio

- Weak negative correlation
- Higher rated hospitals → slightly fewer readmissions
- Relationship not very strong
- Here we compare hospital overall ratings to excess readmission ratios. The trend line shows a weak negative correlation—higher rated hospitals generally have lower readmission ratios. However, the variation is large, suggesting readmission outcomes depend on more than the star rating alone.



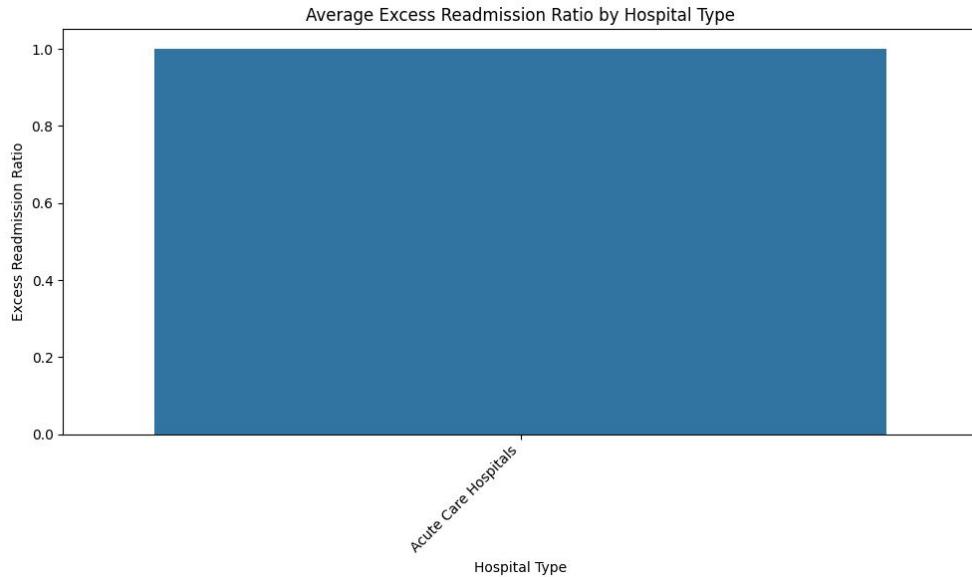
# Readmission by Hospital Ownership

- For-profit (Proprietary) hospitals → highest readmission
- Non-profit hospitals perform slightly better
- Government hospitals vary but stay close to average
- This plot shows interesting system-level differences. For-profit hospitals have higher readmission rates compared to non-profits and government-owned hospitals. This aligns with known patterns in healthcare quality literature. Still, the differences are moderate, not dramatic.



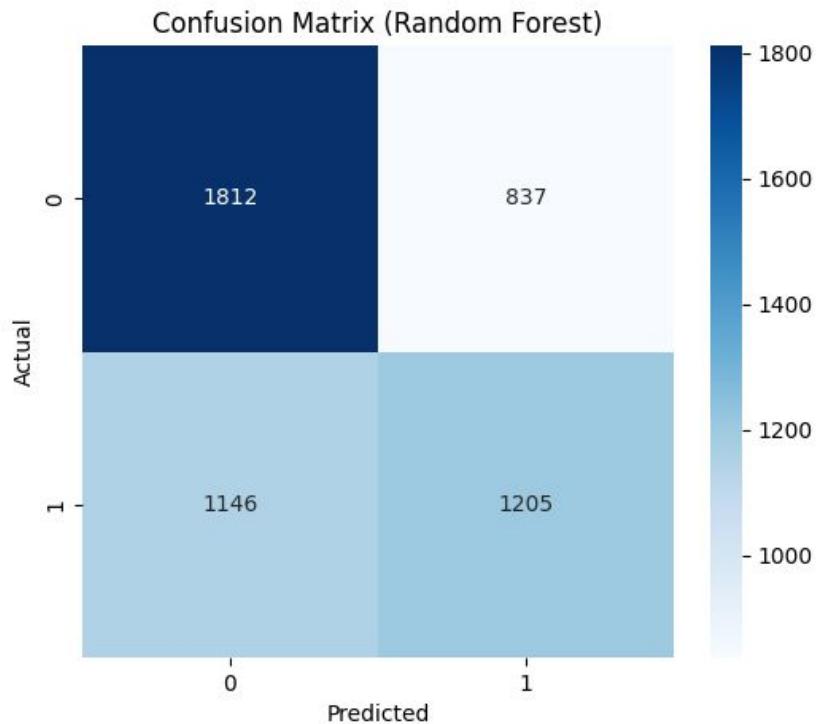
# Hospital Type Distribution (CMS)

- Almost all hospitals are Acute Care Hospitals
  - CMS HRRP primarily evaluates acute-care facilities
  - Limited variation by type
- 
- CMS HRRP focuses nearly entirely on acute-care hospitals, which is why this plot shows a single category. This means hospital-type variation is limited in this dataset.



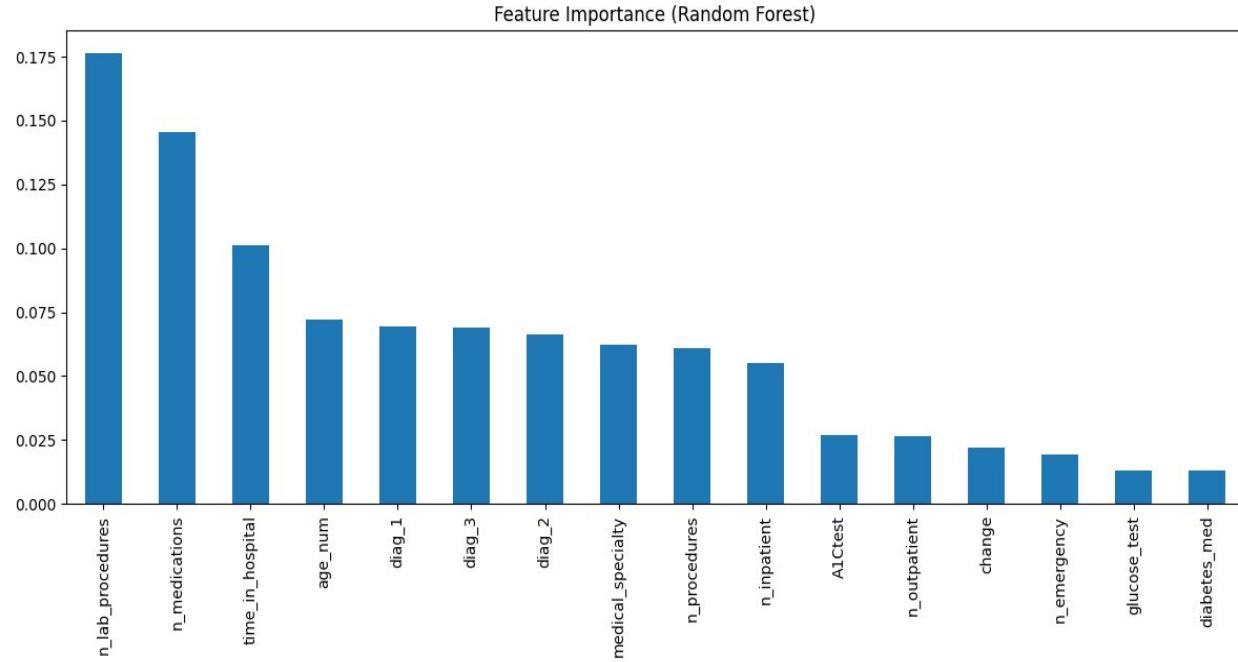
# Readmission Prediction (Kaggle Dataset)

- Accuracy of roughly 60% (0.6034)
  - Good at predicting “no readmission”
  - Struggles with identifying true readmissions
- 
- Here we trained logistic regression and random forest models, achieving around 60% accuracy. The confusion matrix shows the model correctly predicts non-readmissions more often than actual readmissions. This indicates the dataset is somewhat imbalanced and readmissions remain hard to predict.



# Top Predictors of Readmission

- Lab procedures and medication count
- Length of stay
- Age and clinical diagnoses
- Complexity drives readmission risk
- Feature importance from the random forest reveals that readmissions are driven mainly by clinical complexity — the number of lab procedures, medication count, and length of stay are the strongest predictors. These correlate with patients being sicker or needing more care.



# Conclusion

- Readmission outcomes vary more by ownership than rating
- Machine learning models show modest predictive capability
- Clinical complexity is the strongest driver of readmissions
- CMS APIs provide powerful, real-world healthcare insights
- In conclusion, hospital readmission patterns are influenced by systemic factors like ownership, but hospital rating alone is only a weak predictor. Machine learning models showed moderate success, with clinical complexity being the strongest driver of readmissions. Using real healthcare APIs gave a much deeper understanding of nationwide hospital performance.

