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You have been selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics to participate in the National Hospital Care Survey.

To understand the changes that occur in health care delivery and provide for effective resource allocation, this study will offer a comprehensive picture of hospital care across various treatment settings and will provide better insight into the continuum of care across those settings. Data collected will link patient care between inpatient services, emergency departments, outpatient departments and/or ambulatory service locations as well as outside data sources such as the National Death Index and Medicare and Medicaid to allow for inclusive analyses.

Hospital administrators, professional associations, health service researchers, policymakers and the medical community recognize that this study will be a valuable resource for monitoring hospital and ambulatory care delivered in the United States.

These new data will address health care policy questions related to the cost of care, inpatient quality and safety, disparities, access and burden of preventable diseases on the health care system.

The data will support efforts to track drug-related emergencies (e.g., opioid overdose) on a national level.

I urge you to support this effort and participate in this worthwhile study and help contribute to monitoring health care nationally and in your community by helping to plan for future services.

Sincerely,

Edward Bernstein, MD
Professor of Emergency Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine
& Professor of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health