The mean LOS for Medicare patients decreased from 13.4 days to 8.5 days between 1968 and 1987, due in part to the Medicare prospective payment system.1

From 1993 to 2012, the mean LOS in U.S. hospitals for all admission types has decreased from 5.7 days to 4.5 days. Bundled payments continue to exert downward pressure on LOS.

Data between 1993 and 2012 from HCUPnet (http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/, accessed September 27, 2015), representing weighted national estimates from the National Inpatient Sample. CABG = coronary artery bypass graft; CNS = central nervous system; LOS = length of stay.

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