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## Cardiac Care Report -- Virginians are doing better

By Prue Salasky

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Virginia Health Information released its Cardiac Care Report. Statewide, according to Executive Director Michael Lundberg, there has been a 23 percent decrease in deaths among patients hospitalized for cardiac care over the past 5 years.

The bad news: 1 out of 6 congestive heart failure patients are readmitted within 30 days. This is almost double the readmission rate for other types of cardiac care, such as coronary artery bypass, angioplasty and cardiac catheterizations.

The good news: Hospital admissions for congestive heart failure have declined by 8 percent in the past 4 years (2006-2010) for a cost savings of \$15 million.

VHI reports that studies show that experienced hospitals and doctors may have better results in heart care.

VHI is a nonprofit that publishes reports and consumer guides on health. For information, go to [www.vhi.org](http://www.vhi.org)

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