IS THE LENGTH OF HOSPITAL STAY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR LONGER IF THE PATIENT HAS INSURANCE?

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Background
Hospital length of stay (LOS) describes the duration of single episode of hospitalization\textsuperscript{1}. The aim of this study was to determine the association between hospital LOS in a private hospital in Colombo and presence of insurance cover among patients admitted between 2009 and 2014.

Methods
A retrospective study was conducted at a private hospital in Colombo. All admissions between 2009 and 2014 had been computerised; data pertaining to length of stay, age, sex and availability of insurance cover were extracted for all patients from the database.

Results
There were 188,557 admissions (98,116 men; 52\%) between 2009 and 2014. The mean LOS gradually declined from age less than 10 years to 30 to 40 years and then increased with increasing age.

19\% of hospital days were in the age group less than 20 years and 40\% are in the age group 21-50 years.

61\% of the patients had insurance and 17\% of them were in the age group 51 to 60 years. Male admissions were higher than females in both insured and non-insured (31\% and 21.9\%).

The LOS among the insured was significantly higher than the non-insured (2.7 vs 2.2 days) \([P<0.05]\).

Conclusions
Higher LOS was associated with older age, male patients and availability of insurance. The most of the insured patients were in the age group of 51 to 60 years.

Reference