

before an LRI episode occurs, Dr. Mehr believes that the study's prediction rule would make treatment decisions more straightforward. As a future research direction, he is interested in following up on another part of this study that identified communication barriers between nursing home staff and physicians; these barriers can account for unnecessary and often hazardous hospitalization. "Ultimately, we could probably treat at least three quarters of these cases in the nursing home," he said.

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## Reference

1. Mehr DR, Binder EF, Kruse RL, et al. Predicting mortality in nursing home residents with lower respiratory tract infection: The Missouri LRI Study. *JAMA*. 2001;286:2427-2436.

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