

**Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors):** Description of scales used by physician reviewers to rate readmission causation and “avoidability”

RATING	CAUSATION	“AVOIDABILITY”
1	No evidence for management causation	No evidence for preventability
2	Slight evidence for management causation	Slight evidence for preventability
3	Management causation less than 50–50 but close call	Preventability less than 50–50 but close call
4	Management causation more than 50–50 but close call	Preventability more than 50–50 but close call
5	Strong evidence for management causation	Strong evidence for preventability
6	Virtually certain evidence for management causation	Virtually certain evidence for preventability

For each domain, a rating of 4 or more indicated that the reviewer felt that evidence existed for causation or avoidability in that case.