On December 20, 2019, this report was posted as an MMWR Early Release on the MMWR website (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr).

CDC, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), state and local health departments, and public health and clinical stakeholders continue to investigate a nationwide outbreak of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use–associated lung injury (EVALI) (1–4). Characterizing EVALI patients who experience rehospitalization or death after hospital discharge might identify risk factors for higher morbidity and mortality. CDC analyzed national data on EVALI patients to determine the prevalence of rehospitalization and death after discharge and to identify characteristics associated with EVALI patients who require rehospitalization and those who die after discharge, compared with other EVALI patients. As of December 10, 2019, a total of 2,409 EVALI cases requiring hospitalization have been reported to CDC, as have 52 deaths. Among the 1,139 EVALI patients discharged on or before October 31, 2019, 31 (2.7%) were rehospitalized after discharge, with a median of 4 days (interquartile range [IQR] = 2–20 days) between discharge and rehospitalization; seven deaths (13.5% of EVALI deaths) occurred after discharge, with a median of 3 days (IQR = 2–13 days) between discharge and death. Characteristics of EVALI patients who were rehospitalized or died after hospital discharge suggest that chronic medical conditions, including cardiac disease, chronic pulmonary disease (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and obstructive sleep apnea), and diabetes, are risk factors leading to higher morbidity and mortality among some EVALI patients. For example, 70.6% of patients who were rehospitalized and 83.3% of those who died had one or more chronic conditions, compared with 25.6% of those who were neither rehospitalized nor died. In addition, EVALI patients who were rehospitalized or died after discharge were older: the median ages of patients who died, were rehospitalized, and who neither died nor were rehospitalized were 54, 27, and 23 years, respectively. EVALI patient follow-up optimally within 48 hours after hospital discharge might minimize risk for rehospitalization and death, especially among patients with chronic conditions. In addition, interventions for EVALI patients, including intensive hospital discharge planning and optimized case management, might minimize risks for morbidity and mortality after a hospital discharge (5).

CDC partnered with state health departments and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Vaping Associated Pulmonary Illness Task Force to develop and disseminate EVALI surveillance case definitions* and data collection tools† beginning in August 2019. States and jurisdictions voluntarily report data on confirmed and probable hospitalized or deceased EVALI patients to CDC weekly. States might also include available data from medical record abstractions and interviews of patients, or proxies (e.g., spouses or parents) if patients were too ill or had died.

This report compares clinical characteristics of EVALI patients who were rehospitalized or died after hospital discharge with those of patients who were neither rehospitalized nor died after hospital discharge, among cases reported to CDC by December 10, 2019. Rehospitalized patients were defined as those who had a second hospitalization, regardless of reason for admission, that occurred one or more days after the date of discharge from the first hospitalization. A death after hospital discharge was defined as death, regardless of reason for death, that occurred one or more days after the date of last hospital discharge. Rehospitalized patients and those who died after discharge were compared separately with hospitalized EVALI patients who met the following criteria: 1) an initial hospital discharge date on or before October 31, 2019, to allow time for the two outcomes of interest to potentially occur; 2) no reports of rehospitalization nor death as of December 10, 2019; and 3) available data for at least one variable in all of the following categories: medical history, EVALI symptoms reported, and clinical course of EVALI illness. Percentages and distributions of categorical and continuous indicators were compared using Fisher’s exact tests and Kruskal-Wallis tests, respectively; p-values <0.05 were considered statistically significant for pair-wise comparisons between 1) the comparison group and patients who were rehospitalized or 2) the comparison group and those who died after discharge. To assess the impact of

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*  https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/healthcare-providers/pdfs/National-Case-Report-Form-v01.pdf.

†  https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/assets/2019-Lung-Injury-Surveillance-Case-Definition-508.pdf.
multiple comorbidities on rehospitalization or death after discharge among EVALI patients, the additive effect of several specific chronic conditions was studied; chronic conditions included for this comorbidity analysis were cardiac disease; asthma; obstructive sleep apnea; COPD; other respiratory conditions not including asthma, obstructive sleep apnea, or COPD (e.g., interstitial lung disease); and diabetes. The IQR was included where median values were reported. All analyses were conducted using SAS software (version 9.4; SAS Institute).

As of December 10, 2019, a total of 2,409 EVALI cases requiring hospitalization have been reported to CDC, as have 52 deaths. Among the 1,139 EVALI patients discharged on or before October 31, 2019, 31 (2.7%) were rehospitalized after discharge without subsequent report of death. An additional seven deaths (13.5% of EVALI deaths) occurred after hospital discharge. The comparison group included 768 EVALI patients who met the inclusion criteria. The age distributions differed among EVALI patients who were rehospitalized, who died after discharge, and who were neither rehospitalized nor died (Table 1). The median ages of patients who died, who were rehospitalized, and who neither died nor were rehospitalized were 54, 27, and 23 years, respectively. Among deaths after discharge, five (71.4%) occurred among females, although females accounted for 33.6% of comparison cases.

EVALI patients who were rehospitalized or died after hospital discharge had more chronic medical conditions. For example, 70.6% and 17.6% of patients who were rehospitalized had at least one or at least two chronic conditions, respectively, and 83.3% and 50.0% of those who died had at least one or at least two chronic conditions, respectively, compared with 25.6% and 3.8%, respectively, of those who were neither rehospitalized nor died (p<0.05) (Table 1).

Neither symptoms reported when initially seeking medical care nor the location of this initial care were associated with rehospitalization or death after discharge (Table 2). All patients who died after hospital discharge had been admitted to an intensive care unit during their previous hospitalization (p = 0.006), compared with 41.9% of the comparison group and 47.4% of the surviving rehospitalized patients (Table 3). Respiratory failure necessitating intubation and mechanical ventilation during initial hospitalization was more common among patients who died (100%) than among patients who were neither rehospitalized nor died (15.6%) (p = 0.03). No significant difference among the three groups with respect to receipt of corticosteroid therapy or antibiotic therapy during initial hospitalization was observed. Duration of initial hospitalization did not differ among the three groups. Among rehospitalized patients, a median of 4 days (IQR = 2–20) elapsed between discharge from the first hospitalization and rehospitalization. Among patients who died after discharge, a median of 3 days (IQR = 2–13) elapsed between hospital discharge and death.

**Discussion**

As of December 10, 2019, 2.7% of EVALI patients reported to CDC have required rehospitalization, and approximately one in seven deaths among EVALI patients has occurred after discharge. Compared with other hospitalized EVALI patients, the prevalence of one or more chronic conditions was higher among those who required rehospitalization and those who died after discharge. EVALI patients who died also were more likely to have been admitted to an intensive care unit, experienced respiratory failure necessitating intubation and mechanical ventilation, and were significantly older. EVALI patients with chronic comorbidities and these initial hospitalization characteristics might require a higher threshold for hospital discharge and focused efforts during discharge planning and transition to the outpatient setting, such as intensive case management and rapid follow-up (5).

At least one quarter of rehospitalizations occurred within 2 days of initial discharge, which suggests that ensuring clinical stability before discharge as well as postdischarge follow-up optimally within 48 hours might minimize risk for rehospitalization and death, especially among patients with chronic conditions (5). A higher frequency of rehospitalizations among EVALI patients after a longer interval has been reported elsewhere (6): differences observed in the current study might reflect its larger study population and wider geographic distribution of EVALI cases. Concurrent with this report, CDC is publishing additional clinical guidance for discharge planning for EVALI patients (5).

The findings in this report are subject to at least seven limitations. First, the limited proportion of reported cases with detailed clinical data might limit generalizability. Second, the small number of rehospitalizations and deaths after discharge limit the ability to identify significant differences and assess confounding factors. Third, EVALI patients in the comparison group might not fully represent a cohort at lower risk; some patients might still be rehospitalized or die. However, limiting comparison cases to those patients discharged on or before October 31, 2019, was intended to mitigate this effect. Fourth, reported data do not include the reason for rehospitalization or death after hospital discharge of EVALI patients; rehospitalization or death was possibly not related to EVALI, especially among patients with multiple comorbidities. Fifth, use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products, as well as compliance with recommended postdischarge treatment, was not assessed. Sixth, available data might represent an underestimation of rehospitalized EVALI patients. These data might not be as rigorously reported as those concerning patients initially
TABLE 1. Demographic and medical history characteristics of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use–associated lung injury (EVALI) patients, by rehospitalization, death after discharge, and no rehospitalization nor death after discharge — United States, 2019*

| Characteristic | Rehospitalization (N = 31) |  | Death after discharge (N = 7) |  | No rehospitalization nor death† (N = 768) |  |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| No. (%) or median (IQR) | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value‡ | No. (%) or median (IQR) | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value§ | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value¶ |
| Age, median (IQR) | 31 27 (17–39) | 0.35 | 7 54 (34–75) | <0.001 | 766 23 (18–32) |  |
| Age group (yrs) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13–17 | 31 8 (25.8%) | 0.01 | 7 0 (0.0%) | <0.001 | 766 128 (16.7%) |  |
| 18–24 | 17 (54.8%) | 0.001 | 2 (28.6%) | 0.001 | 54 (34–75) | 305 (39.8%) |
| ≥51 | 2 (6.5%) | 5 (71.4%) | 43 (5.6%) |  |  |  |
| Gender |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 31 18 (58.1%) | 0.36 | 7 2 (28.6%) | 0.06 | 766 508 (66.3%) |  |
| Female | 13 (41.9%) | 5 (71.4%) | 257 (33.6%) |  |  |  |
| Other | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (0.1%) |  |  |  |
| Medical history |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Any cardiac disease | 16 4 (25.0%) | 0.07 | 6 5 (83.3%) | <0.001 | 591 59 (10.0%) |  |
| Any chronic respiratory disease | 22 10 (45.5%) | 0.00 | 5 2 (40.0%) | 0.62 | 681 187 (27.5%) |  |
| Asthma | 16 3 (18.8%) | 0.74 | 5 0 (0.0%) | >0.99 | 599 99 (16.5%) |  |
| Obstructive sleep apnea | 16 3 (18.8%) | 0.002 | 5 2 (40.0%) | 0.002 | 599 8 (1.3%) |  |
| COPD | 16 2 (12.5%) | 0.12 | 5 2 (40.0%) | 0.01 | 599 21 (3.5%) |  |
| Diabetes mellitus | 16 3 (18.8%) | 0.009 | 5 1 (20.0%) | 0.13 | 599 15 (2.5%) |  |
| Chronic conditions** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presence of ≥1 chronic condition | 19 13 (68.4%) | 0.10 | 5 4 (80.0%) | 0.20 | 645 310 (48.1%) |  |
| Presence of ≥2 chronic conditions |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Anxiety | 17 10 (58.8%) | 0.13 | 5 3 (60.0%) | 0.38 | 558 214 (38.4%) |  |
| Depression | 16 5 (31.3%) | 0.80 | 5 3 (60.0%) | 0.37 | 553 204 (36.9%) |  |
| ADHD | 16 2 (12.5%) | 0.19 | 5 0 (0.0%) | >0.99 | 599 29 (4.8%) |  |
| Chronic conditions** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presence of ≥1 chronic condition | 17 12 (70.6%) | <0.001 | 6 5 (83.3%) | 0.006 | 665 170 (25.6%) |  |
| Presence of ≥2 chronic conditions | 3 (17.6%) | 0.03 | 3 (50.0%) | 0.001 | 25 (3.8%) |  |
| No. of chronic conditions† (median [IQR]) | 1 (0–1) | <0.001 | 1.5 (1–3) | <0.001 | 0 (0–1) |  |

Abbreviations: ADHD = attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; IQR = interquartile range.

* For cases reported by December 10, 2019.
† Includes hospitalized EVALI patients who met the following criteria: 1) an initial hospital discharge date on or before October 31, 2019; 2) no reports of rehospitalization nor death as of December 10, 2019; and 3) available data for at least one variable in all of the following categories: medical history, EVALI symptoms reported, and clinical course of EVALI illness.
‡ Comparing EVALI patients who died after discharge to those who were not rehospitalized nor died. Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables, and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare continuous variables.
§ Comparing EVALI patients who died after discharge to those who were not rehospitalized nor died. Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables, and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare continuous variables.
¶ Chronic conditions included here are cardiac disease; asthma; obstructive sleep apnea (OSA); COPD; other respiratory conditions not including asthma, OSA, or COPD; and diabetes mellitus. Examples of “other respiratory conditions” observed among EVALI patients included interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, and hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

Among EVALI patients, careful and comprehensive discharge planning ensuring clinical stability before discharge, follow-up optimally within 48 hours after hospital discharge, and enhanced efforts to coordinate care and address comorbidities might minimize risk for rehospitalizations or death after discharge (5). The latest national and state data from patient reports and product sample testing suggest tetrahydrocannabinol-containing e-cigarette, or vaping, products, particularly from informal sources such as friends, family members, or in-person or online dealers, are linked to most of the cases and play a major role in the outbreak (1,7,8). Thus, CDC and FDA recommend that persons not use tetrahydrocannabinol -containing e-cigarette, or vaping, products, particularly from informal sources. Vitamin E acetate, found in product samples tested by the FDA and state laboratories, has also been found in patient lung fluid specimens from a number of geographically diverse states tested by CDC (9). However, evidence is not yet sufficient to rule out the contribution of other chemicals of concern. While it appears that vitamin E acetate is associated with EVALI, there are many different substances and product sources that are being investigated, and there may be more than one cause. Therefore, the best way for persons to ensure that they are not at risk while the investigation continues is to consider...
refraining from the use of all e-cigarette, or vaping, products. Adults who continue to use e-cigarette, or vaping, products should carefully monitor themselves for symptoms and see a health care provider immediately if they develop symptoms similar to those reported in this outbreak (5,10). Irrespective of the ongoing investigation, e-cigarette, or vaping, products should never be used by youths, young adults, or pregnant women. Adults using e-cigarette, or vaping, products as an alternative to cigarettes should not go back to smoking; they should weigh all available information and consider using FDA-approved cessation medications.⁶

**Acknowledgments**

Sarah Khalidi, Sondra Reese, Alabama Department of Public Health; Eric Q. Mooring, Joseph B. McLaughlin, Alaska Division of Public Health; Emily M. Carlson, Tiana Galindo, Arizona Department of Health Services; Allison James, Appathurai Balamurugan, Brandy Sutphin, Arkansas Department of Health; Courtney Dewart, Kirtana Ramadugu, Delaware Department of Health; Kodi Pinks, Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health; Caroline Judd, Amanda Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Stephen Perez, Lisa McHugh, New Jersey Department of Health; Joseph T. Hicks, Alex Gallegos, New Mexico Department of Health; Kristen Navarette, Sanjaya Kumar, New York State Department of Health; Laura L. Williamson, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; Matthew Donahue, Tom Safranek, Nebraska Department of Health; Sarah E. Seith, Eden V. Wells, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Stacy Holzbauer, Tiera Wiens, Minnesota Department of Health; Paul Byers, Kathryn Taylor, Mississippi State Department of Health; Valerie Howard, George Turabelidze, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; Laura L. Williamson, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; Matthew Donahue, Tom Safranek, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Melissa Peek-Bullock, Victoria LeGarde, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Darlene Morse, Pascal Kalin, Suzann Beauregard, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Stephen Perez, Lisa McHugh, New Jersey Department of Health; Joseph T. Hicks, Alex Gallegos, New Mexico Department of Health; Kristen Navarette, Sanjaya Kumar, New York State Department of Health; Lauren J. Tan, Ariel Christensen, Aaron Fleischauer, North Carolina Division of Public Health; Kodi Pinks, Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health; Courtney Dewart, Kirtana Ramadugu.

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TABLE 2. Clinical characteristics upon first reported clinical encounter of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use–associated lung injury (EVALI) patients, by rehospitalization, death after discharge, and no rehospitalization nor death after discharge — United States, 2019⁹

| Characteristic | Rehospitalization (N = 31) | Death after discharge (N = 7) | No rehospitalization nor death† (N = 768) |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|               | No. | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value§                   | No. | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value¶                   | No. | No. (%) or median (IQR) |
| Symptoms at first reported clinical encounter | | | | | | | | |
| Any respiratory** | 25 | 25 (100%) | 0.62 | 7 | 7 (100%) | >0.99 | 760 | 726 (95.5%) |
| Any gastrointestinal†† | 24 | 19 (79.2%) | 0.79 | 6 | 4 (66.7%) | 0.31 | 732 | 598 (81.7%) |
| Any constitutional§§ | 25 | 21 (84.0%) | 0.14 | 7 | 5 (71.4%) | 0.10 | 743 | 684 (92.1%) |
| Days between date of symptom onset and first clinical encounter | 23 | 6 (1–15) | 0.35 | 7 | 3 (1–5) | 0.09 | 679 | 5 (3–8) |
| Location of first reported clinical encounter | | | | | | | | |
| Hospital*** | 31 | 25 (80.6%) | 0.76 | 7 | 5 (71.4%) | 0.84 | 762 | 554 (72.7%) |
| Emergency department only | 3 (9.7%) | 1 (14.3%) | 0.10 | 1 (14.3%) | 0.14 | 1 (14.3%) | 117 | 15.4% |
| Outpatient/Urgent care | 3 (9.7%) | 1 (14.3%) | 0.10 | 1 (14.3%) | 0.14 | 1 (14.3%) | 91 | 11.9% |

**Abbreviation:** IQR = interquartile range. ⁹ For cases reported by December 10, 2019. ⁷ Includes hospitalized EVALI patients who met the following criteria: 1) an initial hospital discharge date on or before October 31, 2019; 2) no reports of rehospitalization nor death as of December 10, 2019; and 3) available data for at least one variable in all of the following categories: medical history, EVALI symptoms reported, and clinical course of EVALI illness. ⁸ Comparing EVALI patients who were rehospitalized to those who were not rehospitalized nor died. Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables, and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare continuous variables. ⁹ Comparing EVALI patients who died after discharge to those who were not rehospitalized nor died. Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables, and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare continuous variables. ¹¹ Common examples include: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. ¹² Common examples include: cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, and difficulty breathing. ¹³ Includes hospitalizations that occurred directly from the emergency department. ¹⁴ Does not include emergency department encounters resulting in hospitalization.

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⁶https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/quit-smoking/index.html?s_cid.
**TABLE 3. Clinical course during initial hospitalization of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use–associated lung injury (EVALI) patients, by rehospitalization, death after discharge, and no rehospitalization nor death after discharge — United States, 2019**

| Characteristic                                      | Rehospitalization (N = 31) | Death after discharge (N = 7) | No rehospitalization nor death‡ (N = 768) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                     | No. | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value§                      | No. | No. (%) or median (IQR) | P-value¶                      | No. | No. (%) or median (IQR) |
| Admission to intensive care unit                    | 19  | 9 (47.4%)               | 0.65                         | 6   | 6 (100%)                 | 0.006                         | 677 | 284 (41.9%)             |
| Respiratory failure necessitating intubation and mechanical ventilation | 11  | 4 (36.4%)               | 0.08                         | 2   | 2 (100%)                 | 0.03                          | 347 | 54 (15.6%)              |
| Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation                 | 15  | 0 (0.0%)                >0.99                       | 5   | 1 (20.0%)                | 0.05                         | 459 | 4 (0.9%)                |
| Corticosteroids                                      | 19  | 17 (89.5%)              >0.99                       | 5   | 5 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 629 | 555 (88.2%)            |
| Days after initial hospital admission that steroid treatment was initiated | 6   | 1.5 (0–3)               0.40                         | 1   | 9 \(\text{N/A}\)          >0.99                       | 200 | 1 (0–3)                |
| Duration of steroid treatment (days)                | 3   | 20 (5–30)               0.38                         | 1   | 18 \(\text{N/A}\)        >0.99                       | 97  | 10 (5–17)              |
| Antibiotics received                                | 15  | 15 (100%)               >0.99                       | 4   | 4 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 518 | 507 (97.9%)            |
| Imaging                                             |     |                         |                              |     |                         |                              |     |                         |
| CT performed                                        | 16  | 16 (100%)               0.38                         | 6   | 6 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 547 | 498 (91.0%)            |
| Any infiltrates or opacities on CT                  | 11  | 11 (100%)               >0.99                       | 2   | 2 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 254 | 253 (99.6%)            |
| Bilateral findings on CT                            | 10  | 10 (100%)               >0.99                       | 2   | 2 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 254 | 244 (96.1%)            |
| X-ray performed                                     | 16  | 16 (100%)               >0.99                       | 6   | 6 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 538 | 522 (97.0%)            |
| Any infiltrates or opacities on x-ray               | 7   | 5 (71.4%)               0.13                         | 2   | 2 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 249 | 227 (91.2%)            |
| Bilateral findings on x-ray                         | 10  | 6 (60.0%)               0.23                         | 2   | 2 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 262 | 206 (78.6%)            |
| CT, x-ray, or both performed                        | 17  | 17 (100%)               >0.99                       | 6   | 6 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 578 | 578 (100%)            |
| Any infiltrates or opacities                        | 11  | 11 (100%)               >0.99                       | 2   | 2 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 307 | 307 (100%)            |
| Bilateral findings on CT, x-ray, or both            | 11  | 10 (90.9%)              0.51                         | 2   | 2 (100%)                 >0.99                       | 308 | 289 (93.8%)            |
| Duration of hospitalization (days)                  |     |                         |                              |     |                         |                              |     |                         |
| First admission                                     | 31  | 4 (2–8)                 0.11                         | 7   | 9 (2–23)                 0.33                         | 762 | 5 (3–8)                |
| Second admission                                    | 27  | 4 (2–8)                 \(\text{N/A}\)         | N/A | N/A                     \(\text{N/A}\)       | N/A | N/A                     |
| Days between discharge from first hospitalization and admission for second hospitalization | 31  | 4 (2–20)                \(\text{N/A}\)         | N/A | 1                       \(\text{N/A}\)       | N/A | N/A                     |
| Days between discharge from first hospitalization and death | N/A | N/A                     N/A            | 7   | 3 (2–13)                \(\text{N/A}\)       | N/A | N/A                     |

**Abbreviations:** CT = computed tomography; IQR = interquartile range; N/A = not applicable.

* For cases reported by December 10, 2019.

† Includes hospitalized EVALI patients who met the following criteria: 1) an initial hospital discharge date on or before October 31, 2019; 2) no reports of rehospitalization nor death as of December 10, 2019; and 3) available data for at least one variable in all of the following categories: medical history, EVALI symptoms reported, and clinical course of EVALI illness.

§ Comparing EVALI patients who were rehospitalized to those who were not rehospitalized nor died. Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables, and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare continuous variables.

¶ Comparing EVALI patients who died after discharge to those who were not rehospitalized nor died. Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables, and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare continuous variables.

Ohio Department of Health; Tracy Wendling, Claire B. Nguyen, Oklahoma State Department of Health; Tasha Poissant, Amanda Faulkner, Steve Rekan, Laurel Boyd, Oregon Health Authority; Pennsylvania Department of Health; Ada Lily Ramírez Osorio, Departamento de Salud de Puerto Rico; Ailis Clyne, James Rajotte, Morgan Orr, Rhode Island Department of Health; Virginie Daguise, Sharon Biggers, Daniel Kilpatrick, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control; Joshua L. Clayton, Jonathan Steinberg, Kipp Stahl, South Dakota Department of Health; Kelly Squires, Julie Shaffner, Tennessee Department of Health; Ketki Patel, Varun Shetty, Haylea Stuteville, DeLaYana Goulding, Texas Department of State Health Services; Esther M. Ellis, US Virgin Islands Department of Health; Leah Goldstein, Hillary Campbell, Utah Department of Health; Vermont Department of Health; Lilian Peake, Jonathan Falk, Virginia Department of Health; Trevor Christensen, Melanie Payne, Washington State Department of Health; Shannon McBee, Christy Reed, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources; Jonathan Meiman, Ian Pray, Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Melissa Taylor, Wyoming Department of Health.

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All authors have completed and submitted the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors form for disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.
Summary
What is already known about this topic?
Some patients hospitalized for e-cigarette, or vaping, product use–associated lung injury (EVALI) have been rehospitalized or have died after hospital discharge.

What is added by this report?
Compared with other EVALI patients, rehospitalized patients and patients who died after hospital discharge were more likely to have one or more chronic conditions, including cardiac disease, chronic pulmonary disease, and diabetes, and to be older. At least one quarter of rehospitalizations and deaths occurred within 2 days after discharge.

What are the implications for public health practice?
Intensive discharge planning, ensuring clinical stability before discharge, optimized case management, and follow-up optimally within 48 hours after hospital discharge might minimize EVALI patients’ risk for rehospitalization and death, especially among patients with chronic conditions.

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