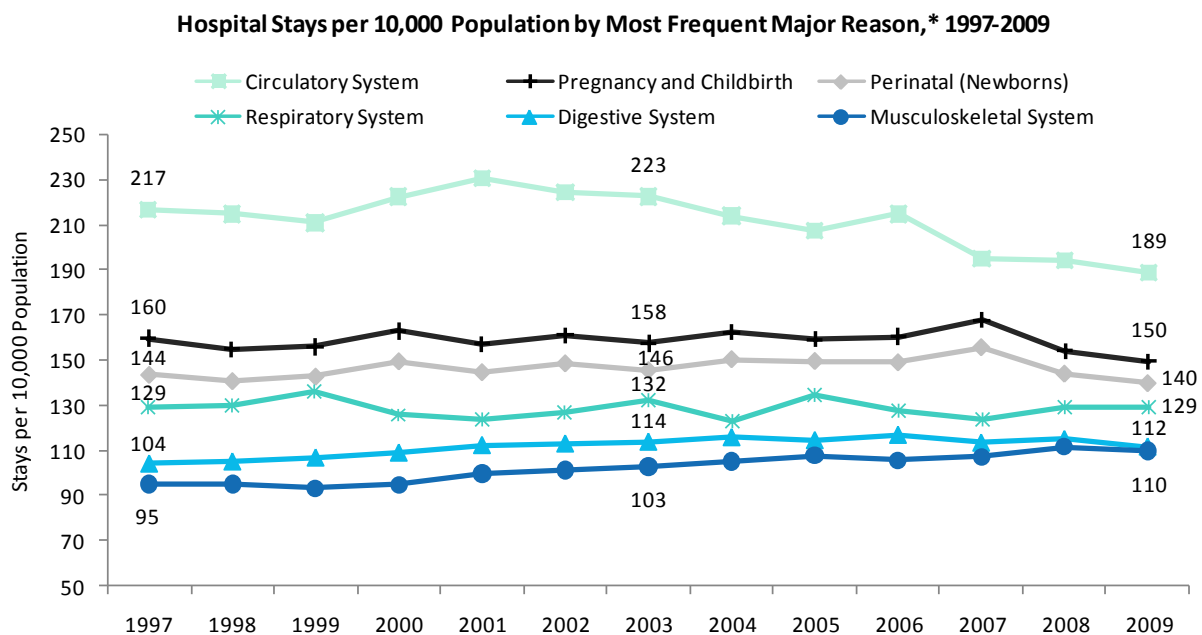


EXHIBIT 2.1 Reasons for Hospital Stays



* Based on principal diagnosis defined by Major Diagnostic Category (MDC).

Source: AHRQ, Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets, Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 1997-2009.

Changes in stays per 10,000 population between 1997 and 2009 for the most common reasons for hospitalization varied by condition.

- Hospitalizations per 10,000 population for musculoskeletal conditions increased by 15 percent, from 95 stays per 10,000 population in 1997 to 110 stays per 10,000 population in 2009.
- The rate of stays for circulatory conditions decreased by 13 percent over the 12-year period, falling from 217 stays per 10,000 population in 1997 to 189 stays per 10,000 population in 2009.
- The rate of stays was similar in 1997 and 2009 for respiratory, digestive, pregnancy and childbirth-related, and perinatal conditions. Some of these conditions experienced variation in the rates in the intervening years.