Leapfrog Standard: ICU Physician Staffing (IPS)

NQF#: Not NQF Endorsed

Developer: The Leapfrog Group

Data Source: Leapfrog Hospital Survey

Secondary Data Source: AHA Annual Survey

Description: Hospitals fulfilling the IPS Standard will operate adult or pediatric general medical and/or surgical ICUs and neuro ICUs that are managed or co-managed by intensivists who:

- Are present during daytime hours and provide clinical care exclusively in the ICU and,
- When not present on site or via telemedicine, returns pages at least 95% of the time, (i) within five minutes and (ii) arranges for a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or a FCCS-certified nurse to reach ICU patients within five minutes.

Rationale: More than two million patients are admitted to urban intensive care units (ICUs) each year in the U.S. Mortality rates in patients admitted to the ICU average 10-20% in most hospitals. Overall, approximately 200,000 patients die in U.S. ICUs each year. Given the high stakes involved, quality of care in ICUs is particularly important. Unfortunately, evidence suggests that quality varies widely across hospitals. A growing body of evidence suggests that quality of care in hospital ICUs is strongly influenced by (i) whether “intensivists” are providing care and (ii) the staff organization in the ICU. Intensivists are familiar with the complications that can occur in the ICU and, thus are better equipped to minimize errors. Mortality rates are significantly lower in hospitals with closed ICUs managed exclusively by board certified intensivists. A systematic review of the existing literature regarding ICU physician staffing and quality found that high intensity staffing is associated with a 30% reduction in hospital mortality and a 40% reduction in ICU mortality. This data suggests that over 54,855 deaths that occur in the ICU could be avoided if this IPS Safety Standard were implemented in all urban hospitals with ICUs across the U.S.

Evidence for Rationale:


Impact:

- Affects large numbers of patients
- More than 2 million patients are admitted to urban ICUs each year.
- Mortality rates in patients admitted to the ICU average 10-20% in most hospitals.
- Overall, approximately 200,000 patients die in U.S. ICUs each year.
- Data suggests that over 54,855 deaths that occur in the ICU could be avoided if the Leapfrog Group IPS Safety Standard were implemented in all urban hospitals with ICUs across the U.S.

Evidence of High Impact:


Opportunity:

- The 2010 Leapfrog survey reflects that only 34.5% of responding hospitals fully meet Leapfrog’s IPS Standard.
- Opportunity for improvement exists, as demonstrated by the coefficient of variation for the measure.

Citations for Opportunity:


Evidence:

- Evidence ratings vary from level III to IV.

Citations for Evidence:


http://www.leapfroggroup.org/media/file/FactSheet_IPS.pdf