



Tele-ICU

Why Use Telemedicine in the ICU?

The complexity of ICU care, combined with the physician shortage, is straining hospitals across the country — especially rural hospitals. An aging patient population, high-tech devices, and new diseases are compounding these challenges. This is certainly true for cardiovascular and pulmonary patients who require life-saving care, including those with COVID-19 infection. New solutions are necessary to provide the specialist patient care that patients deserve — and in many cases, the solution is telemedicine.

The Challenge

Critical care patients require intensive life-saving care performed by highly focused and meticulous medical specialists. Favorable outcomes for these patients have been linked with high-intensity staffing, including a critical care specialist, an intensivist, who coordinates the patient's care and a pulmonologist. However, many rural hospitals have difficulty recruiting and retaining these specialists, often because there's no vacation and weekend relief — which presents a serious challenge in providing consistent ICU care.

The Solution

Telemedicine is the good news in this scenario. Tried and tested for over two decades, intensive care unit telemedicine (Tele-ICU) has been shown to improve patient outcomes. The Society of Critical Care Medicine reports that ICU costs and lengths of stay are reduced. Studies show that healthcare associated infections (HAIs) also drop, and ICU mortality decreases by 40 percent.

Leapfrog recognizes Tele-ICU care for off-hours coverage. In addition, hospitals can earn partial credit by having intensivists available via telemedicine 24 hours per day, seven days per week, with onsite care planning done by an intensivist, hospitalist, anesthesiologist, or a physician trained in emergency medicine.

Eagle Telemedicine provides a core team of tele-intensivist, pulmonologist, and others to share ICU patient care management with onsite intensivists and/or hospitalists -- via a cart with a videoconferencing monitor.

The Eagle team covers the night and weekend gaps in ICU staffing, performing proactive Eagle Eye Rounding™ with ICU nurses to assess, triage and institute early treatment in patients with an acute decline in their clinical status. Our telemedicine intensivists can run an ICU, handling everything from floor call to attending rapid responses and running codes.

TELE-ICU BENEFITS THE PATIENT & HOSPITAL

- ✓ Provide 24/7 access to expert ICU physicians
- ✓ Manage gaps in intensivist coverage
- ✓ Collaborate coverage with local physicians
- ✓ Guarantee emergency response time of 15 minutes or less
- ✓ Improve compliance with Leapfrog IPS standards
- ✓ Reduce unnecessary transfers
- ✓ Increase patient volume
- ✓ Maximize ROI with incremental DRG reimbursement

"We thought we might see a different face each time, but our Eagle team is a core group of three or four intensivists we see regularly. Nursing staff feels like they have a real camaraderie with them.

- Karen McColl, MD
VP of Medical Affairs & CMO
Meadows Regional Hospital

