Discussion with the Quality Committee of the Federation of American Hospitals

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THE LEAPFROG GROUP

Notable Changes for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey

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- Health Equity Standard, Stratified NTSV C-Sections, Early Elective Deliveries, Hand Hygiene, Surgical Volumes

Planned Updates for the Fall 2024 Hospital Safety Grade

- Imputation updates for CPOE, BCMA, IPS, and hand hygiene

Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix

- NQF-endorsed measures

- Single nursing workforce composite

- Public comments

Notable Changes for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey

Health Care Equity Standard

Leapfrog will start scoring and publicly reporting hospitals on a health care equity standard that focuses on the following:

- Collecting patient-reported demographic data

- Training staff on the best practices for collecting self-reported demographic data

- Stratifying quality and safety measures by patient-reported demographic data to identify potential disparities and making efforts to address any that are found

- Holding the Board accountable

- Maintaining public transparency

Notable Changes for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey

Stratified NTSV C-Sections

- Research has found hospital-level variation in cesarean delivery rates for nulliparous, term, singleton, vertex (NTSV) births can be 4x-6x higher for Black patients, which is only minimally explained by patient and hospital characteristics. A substantial portion of NTSV c-section rates are driven by unit culture and clinician attitudes.

- Hospitals are asked to provide their NTSV cesarean data stratified by patient race and ethnicity.

- In 2024, these questions will now be required but <u>will not</u> be scored or publicly reported. Stratified rates, noting potential disparities, will be confidentially shared with hospitals on their Hospital Details page.

Notable Changes for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey

Early Elective Deliveries

- Removed from the survey, as CMS and TJC have removed the measure from their reporting initiatives

- Replaced with a structural measure that asks hospitals if they have a policy in place to prevent early elective deliveries

Other Updates on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey

Hand Hygiene

- Leapfrog continues to see increases in the number and percentage of hospitals that are fully meeting the hand hygiene standard.

- Leapfrog has seen a growing number of hospitals that indicate they have adopted electronic compliance monitoring systems to capture hand hygiene observations.

Surgical Volumes

- Leapfrog is having some early conversations with the American College of Surgeons to understand potential opportunities to incorporate surgical outcomes into a "volume +" standard for additional high-risk surgeries.

- Leapfrog currently incorporates a hospital's mortality and morbidity outcomes from STS into its mitral valve replacement and repair standard (to augment the hospital and surgeon volume).

Planned Updates for the Fall 2024 Hospital Safety Grade

- Leapfrog wants to ensure that the public has timely, transparent, and trustworthy information about a hospital's patient safety performance. Leapfrog's longstanding commitment is to use the best and most recent data publicly available to calculate Hospital Safety Grades.

- To ensure the Hospital Safety Grade methodology continues to support these goals, Leapfrog's blue-ribbon Expert Panel advised Leapfrog on modifying the current imputation method for missing data.

- Planned imputation updates for CPOE, BCMA, IPS, and hand hygiene for fall 2024 include:

  - New Step 1 Imputation: Use a hospital's historical data from the last two rounds of HSGs, a reduction from last four rounds (exception is BCMA, where the standard is changing for 2024, so no historical data will be used).

  - New Step 2 Imputation: Hospitals with missing data will be assigned a point value that is equivalent to "Limited Achievement" on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, reflecting Leapfrog's lack of current information about a hospital's status; this is a change from imputed score based on cohort mean.

Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix

- Leapfrog includes three NQF-endorsed measures from the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI):
  - Total Nursing Care Hours per Patient Day
  - RN Hours per Patient Day
  - Nursing Skill Mix

- We also include:
  - Percentage of RNs who are BSN-Prepared
  - Select practices from NQF Safe Practice #9 and Magnet or Pathway to Excellence recognitions

- In November 2023, we proposed to combine four of the nursing workforce measures to publicly report out a single nursing workforce composite:
  - Total Nursing Care Hours per Patient Day
  - RN Hours per Patient Day
  - Nursing Skill Mix
  - NQF Safe Practice #9 – Nursing Workforce

Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix

- We received several public comments in opposition, including those from the Federation of American Hospitals:

  - Outdated nurse staffing model doesn't account for technology that can enhance patient care

  - Outdated evidence on nursing ratios that may not apply to today's health care landscape

  - Concerns about the emphasis on educational background amidst a staffing shortage

  - Concerns about accuracy

- We also received opposition from employers:

  - Nursing ratio measures are important to them, as are indicators of practices that promote excellence in nursing, and they don't want findings embedded in a composite

Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix

- Leapfrog reviewed the comments, re-assessed the literature and evidence, met with NDNQI to discuss their research on correlations with outcomes, and consulted with our experts.

- We decided not to move forward with our proposal to develop a nursing workforce composite.

- Instead, we are continuing to score and publicly report total nursing hours per patient day, RN hours per patient day, and nursing skill mix separately and report all three measures individually as we did in 2023.

- We will also continue to score and publicly report hospitals that respond "Did Not Measure" as Limited Achievement.

- And, as we did last year, we will increase the score of hospitals that have achieved Magnet Status, the 2020 Pathway to Excellence designation, or responded "Yes" to all the Safe Practice #9 questions from Limited Achievement to Some Achievement.

Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix

Nursing Workforce in 2025 and Beyond

- Many hospital leaders offered insights on the emergence of new innovative nurse staffing models that include expanded utilization of LPNs and telenursing models and expressed concern that these new models were not recognized in the endorsed measures.

- Leapfrog agrees that these are promising models and will continue to review the evidence supporting their benefits to patient safety and outcomes as well as continue to monitor the endorsement process.