Nationwide Survey of Senior Hospital Administrators

The Tarrance Group, Inc.
Study # 8807
N = 327 Senior Hospital Administrators
Field Dates: March 28 - June 17, 2002

Hello, I'm _____ of The Tarrance Group, a national public affairs research firm. May I please speak with **[NAME ON THE SAMPLE SHEET]** ?

IF NAME ON THE SHEET IS NOT AVAILABLE, ASK:

Is there a time when I might be able to speak with [NAME] either later today or tomorrow?
(Schedule a callback and make a notation on the sample sheet) _____

IF NAME ON SHEET IS AVAILABLE, ASK:

Hello, I'm _____ of The Tarrance Group, a national public affairs research firm. We recently sent you a letter asking for your participation in our national survey of senior hospital administrators regarding trends among anesthesiologists. This survey will take approximately SIX minutes of your time, **and I want to assure you that your responses are completely confidential and will be used for summary analysis only.** May we begin the survey now?

IF "YES", CONTINUE TO Q1

IF "NO, THIS IS NOT A CONVENIENT TIME", ASK:

Is there a better time I might call you back either later today or tomorrow?
(Schedule a callback and make a notation on the sample sheet) _____

IF "NO, I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL", SAY:

Thank you for your time.

Thinking about operations at your hospital --

1. Are any surgical procedures performed in your hospital?

Yes.....**CONTINUE**
No ..... **THANK & TERMINATE**

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2. Who performs anesthesia care at your hospital – physician anesthesiologists only ***OR*** physician anesthesiologists and CRNAs?

Physician anesthesiologists only 26%
Physician anesthesiologists and CRNAs 74%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... **THANK & TERMINATE**

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3. Does your hospital employ its anesthesiologists directly?

Yes.....14%
No.....86%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 0%

IF PUNCH 2 IN Q2, ASK:

4. And, who employs the CRNAs – the hospitals or the anesthesiologists?

The hospitals.....37%
The anesthesiologists.....54%
BOTH / COMBINATION **(DNR)** 4%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 6%

IF PUNCH 1 IN Q3, ASK:

5. On an annual basis, does your hospital make money, lose money, or break even on the anesthesia services it provides?

Makes money 12%
Loses money.....37%
Breaks even 27%
UNSURE **(DNR)**.....24%

IF PUNCH 2 IN Q2, ASK:

6. Over the course of the past three years, has the number of certified registered nurse anesthetists that have privileges at your hospital increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

Increased.....36%
Decreased 10%
Stayed about the same 43%
UNSURE **(DNR)**.....11%

***** ASK OF EVERYONE *****

7. Over the course of the past three years, has the number of anesthesiologists that have privileges at your hospital increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

Increased.....43%
Decreased 16%
Stayed about the same 40%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 2%

Thinking specifically about your anesthesiologists for a moment…

8. In your opinion, does your hospital currently have an adequate number of anesthesiologists on staff?

Yes.....53%
No.....44%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 3%

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9. And, is the anesthesia group at your hospital currently recruiting?

Yes **(TO Q10)** 59%
No **(TO Q11)**.....33%
UNSURE **(DNR) (TO Q11)** 8%

IF PUNCH 1 IN Q9 ASK:

10. How long has the anesthesia group been recruiting for this position?

Zero to three months.....14%
Four to six months.....20%
Seven to twelve months.....14%
More than 12 months.....43%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 9%

***** ASK OF EVERYONE *****

11. How many providers have left your anesthesia group during the past 12 months?
(RECORD EXACT NUMBER OF DEPARTURES)

Zero 32%
One 23%
Two.....18%
Three.....10%
Four or more.....18%

IF RESPONSE IS 1 OR HIGHER IN Q11, ASK:

And, still thinking about those providers who have left your anesthesia group during the past 12 months, approximately how many of these providers retired versus how many relocated to another practice? **(RECORD EXACT NUMBERS BELOW)**

If **UNSURE**, interviewer should stress that we are looking for approximate numbers – not exact figures.

12.1 RECORD NUMBER OF RETIREMENTS:

Zero 76%
One 17%
Two or more 8%

12.2 RECORD NUMBER OF RELOCATIONS:

Zero 37%
One 29%
Two or more 34%

***** ASK OF EVERYONE *****

13. Do you anticipate the departure of any anesthesia providers within the next six months?

Yes.....29%
No 58%
UNSURE **(DNR)**.....13%

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14. Now, I would like to know if Medicare payment rates are of significant concern to your anesthesia group. Using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means "this issue is of no concern whatsoever " and 10 means "this issue is a major concern", please rate the extent to which Medicare payment rates concern your anesthesia group.

Zero / *this issue is of no concern whatsoever* . 1%
One 0%
Two..... 1%
Three..... 1%
Four 0%
Five..... 3%
Six..... 3%
Seven 10%
Eight 19%
Nine 15%
Ten / *this issue is a major concern* 33%
UNSURE **(DNR)**.....14%

And thinking about the number of hours your anesthesia providers work each week…

15. Using the same scale from zero to ten, please rate your anesthesia providers' concern with the number of hours worked per week, including time spent on call.

Zero / *this issue is of no concern whatsoever* . 1%
One 0%
Two..... 5%
Three..... 4%
Four 4%
Five..... 9%
Six.....10%
Seven 13%
Eight 17%
Nine 13%
Ten / *this issue is a major concern* 16%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 9%

We're almost done. There are less than 10 questions to go…

16. During the course of the past five years, would you say the wait time for surgery care has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same at your hospital based on the availability of anesthesia care?

Increased.....27%
Decreased 13%
Stayed about the same 58%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 2%

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17. Have you had to limit the number of operating rooms in service or the operating hours of any ORs due to a lack of availability of anesthesia providers?

Yes **(TO Q18)** 47%
No **(TO Q19)**.....52%
UNSURE **(DNR) (TO Q19)** 1%

IF "YES" IN Q17, ASK:

18. And, how often have you had to do this – frequently, occasionally, or rarely?

Frequently.....23%
Occasionally 50%
Rarely 26%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 2%

***** ASK OF EVERYONE *****

19. During the course of the past five years, has your anesthesia department curtailed or eliminated services previously provided outside of the operating room, such as pain management or critical care?

Yes.....22%
No 76%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 2%

Now, thinking specifically about Medicare payments to anesthesia providers at your hospital…

20. In your estimation, do you feel that Medicare payment rates for anesthesia care are having an impact on Medicare patients' access to surgical care at your hospital?

Yes.....28%
No.....59%
UNSURE **(DNR)**.....13%

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21. Have you had to supplement your anesthesia staff with *locum tenens* providers or temporary personnel?

Yes.....51%
No.....49%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 1%

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22. Are you subsidizing the clinical practice revenues of your anesthesia providers?

Yes.....34%
No.....59%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..... 7%

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23. Figures obtained from the Health Care Financing Administration indicate that the Medicare utilization rate for your hospital is (INSERT ## FROM SAMPLE SHEET) percent, whereby the Medicare utilization rate refers to the percentage of Medicare patient days versus non-Medicare patient days for your hospital. Do you feel this figure accurately reflects the Medicare utilization rate at your hospital, or do you feel it is too high, or do you feel it is too low?

The figure is accurate **(TO D1)**.....59%
The figure is too high **(TO Q24)**.....11%
The figure is too low **(TO Q24)**.....18%
UNSURE **(DNR) (TO D1)** 12%

IF RESPONSE IS "TOO HIGH" OR "TOO LOW" IN Q23, ASK:

24. What would you estimate the Medicare utilization rate to be for your hospital? **(RECORD ESTIMATED UTILIZATION RATE ~ ask for approximate rate if respondent is unsure)**

Response provided 85%
UNSURE.....15%

***** READ TO ALL PARTICIPANTS *****

Thank you very much for participating in this survey today. Your opinions on this matter are very important. We appreciate your time, and wish you a good day.

RECORD GENDER BY OBSERVATION

Male	77%
Female	23%

RECORD STATE CODE FROM SAMPLE SHEET

Alabama	9 responses	~ 2.8%
Alaska	0 responses	~ 0.0%
Arkansas	12 responses	~ 3.7%
Arizona	5 responses	~ 1.6%
California	29 responses	~ 9.0%
Colorado	7 responses	~ 2.3%
Connecticut	4 responses	~ 1.1%
Delaware	1 response	~ 0.3%
Florida	3 responses	~ 1.1%
Georgia	5 responses	~ 1.4%
Hawaii	0 responses	~ 0.0%
Iowa	5 responses	~ 1.4%
Illinois	20 responses	~ 6.1%
Indiana	9 responses	~ 2.6%
Kentucky	7 responses	~ 2.2%
Louisiana	10 responses	~ 3.0%
Massachusetts	4 responses	~ 1.4%
Maryland	5 responses	~ 1.5%
Maine	2 responses	~ 0.5%
Michigan	4 responses	~ 1.4%
Minnesota	4 responses	~ 1.1%
Missouri	7 responses	~ 2.2%
Mississippi	6 responses	~ 1.8%
Montana	3 responses	~ 0.7%
North Carolina	14 responses	~ 4.3%
North Dakota	3 responses	~ 0.8%
Nebraska	6 responses	~ 1.9%
New Hampshire	1 response	~ 0.3%
New Jersey	3 responses	~ 0.9%
New Mexico	1 response	~ 0.3%
Nevada	1 response	~ 0.3%
New York	21 responses	~ 6.3%
Ohio	14 responses	~ 4.2%
Oklahoma	7 responses	~ 2.2%
Oregon	3 responses	~ 0.8%
Pennsylvania	14 responses	~ 4.2%
Rhode Island	3 responses	~ 0.8%
South Carolina	5 responses	~ 1.4%
South Dakota	3 responses	~ 0.8%
Tennessee	8 responses	~ 2.3%
Texas	15 responses	~ 4.7%
Utah	6 responses	~ 1.7%
Virginia	6 responses	~ 1.8%
Vermont	1 response	~ 0.3%
Washington	15 responses	~ 4.5%
Wisconsin	10 responses	~ 3.0%
West Virginia	9 responses	~ 2.6%
Wyoming	1 response	~ 0.3%

RECORD NUMBER OF BEDS

100 to 149 beds	29%
150 to 249 beds	38%
250 beds or more	33%

RECORD NAME, TITLE & HOSPITAL NAME FROM SAMPLE SHEET