

Prevalence of Hospitalists in U.S. Community Hospitals

Data from the American Hospital Association, 2012-2013*

The name “hospitalist” was officially coined in 1996 by Wachter and Goldman.¹ The emergence of hospitalists was theorized to be an appropriate response to efficiency incentives and pressures resulting from growth in managed care in the early 1990s. Since then, the profession has exploded in popularity; from approximately 11,000 hospitalists in 2003 to over 40,000 in 2013.²

The purpose of this document is to examine recent trends in the use of hospitalists in community hospitals in the United States. According to data from the American Hospital Association’s (AHA) Annual Survey, the total number of privileged hospitalists in U.S. Community Hospitals increased from 36,397 to 46,211 between 2012 and 2013. The continued recent growth of the specialty is indicative of a shifting focus towards health care efficiency. As anesthesiologists seek to cement their role within this new environment, they will need to work with hospitalists in myriad settings. The Society of Hospital Medicine stated in 2005 that perioperative care is “a fundamental facet of [the hospitalist’s] identity” as a “perioperative expert”.³ Recent peer-reviewed articles have begun to explore the expansion of the hospitalist model into surgical specialties such as neurosurgery, urology, otolaryngology, gynecology and cancer surgery. Anesthesiologists should be aware of these roles and how they overlap with initiatives such as the Perioperative Surgical Home.

Tables 1 and 2 are based on AHA data and show the percentage of U.S. Community Hospitals using Hospitalists by state (Table 1 is sorted by percent difference 2012-2013, Table 2 is sorted alphabetical by state). 34 out of 50 states showed an increase in the percentage of hospitals using hospitalists, with West Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin, California, Florida and New Jersey all showing an increase of greater than 10 percent. None of the 11 states that showed a decrease between 2012 and 2013 had a decrease of over 10 percent. Across the United States, the percentage of Community Hospitals that use hospitalists increased by almost 5 percent between 2012 and 2013.

The use of hospitalists in patient care is increasing substantially. According to these data, 18 states had privileged hospitalists in over 50 percent of their community hospitals in 2013. The role of anesthesiologists in care for the surgical patient will continue to evolve in the near future, and understanding the role of hospitalists while cultivating relationships with them should strengthen the anesthesiologist’s position as a leader in perioperative care.

*Based on hospital fiscal years 2012 and 2013. 185 hospitals that reported in 2012 did not report in 2013, 117 new hospitals reported in 2013 (50 U.S. states and District of Columbia).

References

1. Wachter RM, Goldman L: The emerging role of “hospitalists” in the American health care system. *NEJM* 1996; 335(7):514-7
2. Scheurer D: Thousands of Hospitalists set their sights on HM13. *The Hospitalist* 2013. Accessed from <http://www.the-hospitalist.org/article/danielle-scheurer-thousands-of-hospitalists-set-their-sights-on-hm13/> on January 15, 2015
3. Society of Hospital Medicine: Perioperative Care: A special supplement to *The Hospitalist*. Society of Hospital Medicine 2005. Philadelphia, PA.

Table 1
Percentage of Community Hospitals with Hospitalists by State, FY 2012-2013
 Sorted by Percentage Difference 2012-2013

State	2012	2013	Difference	State	2012	2013	Difference
WV	41.0	60.7	19.7	NM	34.8	37.5	2.7
IN	31.0	45.9	14.9	HI	34.6	37.0	2.4
WI	48.0	61.5	13.5	WY	33.3	34.5	1.2
CA	31.5	43.3	11.8	CO	41.8	42.9	1.1
FL	28.8	40.0	11.2	UT	29.6	30.4	0.8
NJ	39.8	50.5	10.7	TN	32.2	32.9	0.7
OK	30.9	40.4	9.5	PA	45.6	46.0	0.4
OR	66.7	76.2	9.5	NE	15.5	15.8	0.3
AR	46.1	54.6	8.5	CT	59.1	59.1	0.0
IA	23.4	31.5	8.1	DE	45.5	45.5	0.0
MN	28.1	35.9	7.8	MD	66.2	66.2	0.0
IL	47.4	54.6	7.2	ND	12.8	12.8	0.0
MO	53.0	60.1	7.1	OH	49.3	49.3	0.0
RI	53.3	60.0	6.7	SD	12.1	12.1	0.0
MT	27.9	34.4	6.5	VT	73.3	73.3	0.0
MI	47.0	53.3	6.3	MS	25.7	25.4	-0.3
KS	18.2	22.9	4.7	AZ	37.0	36.3	-0.7
LA	17.3	22.0	4.7	NV	29.8	29.1	-0.7
Total U.S.	39.1	43.8	4.7	KY	41.1	38.2	-2.9
TX	43.9	48.0	4.1	WA	36.6	33.0	-3.6
GA	34.6	38.5	3.9	AK	20.0	16.0	-4.0
MA	42.2	45.6	3.4	ME	70.7	66.7	-4.0
NC	65.0	68.4	3.4	AL	29.5	24.6	-4.9
VA	51.3	54.6	3.3	SC	70.2	65.1	-5.1
NY	54.5	57.6	3.1	NH	74.2	67.7	-6.5
ID	25.0	28.0	3.0	DC	50.0	42.9	-7.1

Source: Data from the American Hospital Association's Annual Survey, 2012 and 2013.

Table 2.
Percentage of Community Hospitals with Hospitalists by State, FY 2012-2013
 Sorted Alphabetically

State	2012	2013	Difference	State	2012	2013	Difference
AK	20.0	16.0	-4.0	MT	27.9	34.4	6.5
AL	29.5	24.6	-4.9	NC	65.0	68.4	3.4
AR	46.1	54.6	8.5	ND	12.8	12.8	0.0
AZ	37.0	36.3	-0.7	NE	15.5	15.8	0.3
CA	31.5	43.3	11.8	NH	74.2	67.7	-6.5
CO	41.8	42.9	1.1	NJ	39.8	50.5	10.7
CT	59.1	59.1	0.0	NM	34.8	37.5	2.7
DC	50.0	42.9	-7.1	NV	29.8	29.1	-0.7
DE	45.5	45.5	0.0	NY	54.5	57.6	3.1
FL	28.8	40.0	11.2	OH	49.3	49.3	0.0
GA	34.6	38.5	3.9	OK	30.9	40.4	9.5
HI	34.6	37.0	2.4	OR	66.7	76.2	9.5
IA	23.4	31.5	8.1	PA	45.6	46.0	0.4
ID	25.0	28.0	3.0	RI	53.3	60.0	6.7
IL	47.4	54.6	7.2	SC	70.2	65.1	-5.1
IN	31.0	45.9	14.9	SD	12.1	12.1	0.0
KS	18.2	22.9	4.7	TN	32.2	32.9	0.7
KY	41.1	38.2	-2.9	TX	43.9	48.0	4.1
LA	17.3	22.0	4.7	UT	29.6	30.4	0.8
MA	42.2	45.6	3.4	VA	51.3	54.6	3.3
MD	66.2	66.2	0.0	VT	73.3	73.3	0.0
ME	70.7	66.7	-4.0	WA	36.6	33.0	-3.6
MI	47.0	53.3	6.3	WI	48.0	61.5	13.5
MN	28.1	35.9	7.8	WV	41.0	60.7	19.7
MO	53.0	60.1	7.1	WY	33.3	34.5	1.2
MS	25.7	25.4	-0.3	Total U.S.	39.1	43.8	4.7

Source: Data from the American Hospital Association's Annual Survey, 2012 and 2013.

Table 3.
Total Privileged Hospitalists, Total Community Hospitals with Hospitalists, and Average
Number of Hospitalists per Hospital by State, 2013
Sorted Alphabetically

State	Privileged Hospitalists [‡]	Hospitals with Hospitalists	Average Number of Hospitalists [§]	State	Total Privileged Hospitalists [‡]	Hospitals with Hospitalists	Average Number of Hospitalists [§]
AK	18	4	4.5	MT	178	21	8.5
AL	361	29	12.5	NC	2,331	91	25.6
AR	364	54	6.7	ND	77	6	12.8
AZ	1,222	37	33.0	NE	173	15	11.5
CA	3,860	179	22.6	NH	244	21	11.6
CO	928	42	22.6	NJ	864	49	18.8
CT	659	26	25.4	NM	425	18	25.0
DC	216	6	43.2	NV	614	16	40.9
DE	142	5	28.4	NY	2,567	122	21.2
FL	2,254	100	22.8	OH	1,771	110	16.4
GA	1,088	65	6.5	OK	688	61	11.3
HI	163	10	16.3	OR	825	48	17.2
IA	404	39	10.4	PA	1,939	110	17.8
ID	136	14	9.7	RI	180	9	20.0
IL	1,981	114	9.6	SC	803	56	15.8
IN	834	79	10.6	SD	114	7	16.3
KS	390	35	11.1	TN	782	47	18.2
KY	657	47	5.5	TX	4,351	287	15.3
LA	496	48	2.3	UT	299	17	19.9
MA	1,324	47	28.8	VA	1,608	66	24.7
MD	921	43	21.4	VT	130	11	8.7
ME	290	26	11.6	WA	913	34	27.7
MI	1,674	88	19.0	WI	935	91	10.5
MN	1,263	51	9.0	WV	258	37	7.0
MO	1,198	89	14.1	WY	59	10	5.9
MS	240	29	8.9	Total	46,211	2,666	14.7

Source: Data from the 2013 American Hospital Association Annual Survey.

[‡] Total privileged hospitalists determined using data field “Hospitalist (TP)”. If the hospital did not report “Hospitalist (TP)”, then data field “Hospitalists Full Time Equivalent (FTE)” was used.

[§] Hospitals reporting use of hospitalists but not reporting Total Privileged Hospitalists were omitted from calculation of the average. Thus, the formula used to calculate average number of hospitalists was: (Total Privileged Hospitalists[‡])/(Total Community Hospitals with Hospitalists that reported a total number of privileged hospitalists).