

## Intensivists on the Rise

Proven safety gains mean these physicians are becoming preferred ICU providers

ould changing the staffing model in the intensive care unit reduce patients' risk of dying?

According to the Leapfrog Group for Patient Safety, ICUs staffed with intensivists (also known as critical care physicians) can reduce mortality by 40 percent. This practice also is endorsed by the National Quality Forum.

Intensivists are physicians who complete a residency in internal or pulmonary medicine, surgery or anesthesia, and a fellowship in critical care medicine. Among hospitals reporting that intensivists provide care, those with 300 or more beds are the most prevalent. But since 2007, hospitals with 100 to 199 beds showed the most growth in using intensivists. For all bed sizes, overall growth was 34.4 percent.

Intensivists have a variety of employment models; those providing care in general ICUs are most likely to be a hospital or independent provider group employee.

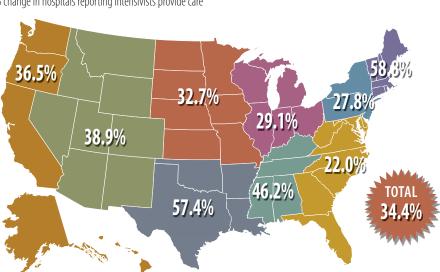
For more information on AHA data, contact the AHA Resource Center at rc@aha.org or 312-422-2050. T



ests in insurance organizations is growing. Are ACOs the next step?

## Growth by Region, 2007–2009

% change in hospitals reporting intensivists provide care



Growth by Bedsize, 2007–2009

6-24 25-49

50-99

100-199

200-299

300-399

400-499

TOTAL

500 or more

**3edsize** 

% change in hospitals reporting intensivists provide care

14.0%

26.3%

27.1%

28.8%

34.4%

44.4%

42.1%

53.1%

## **Employment Models, 2009**

Among hospitals reporting that intensivists provide care

Employment model	Independent provider group	Employed by the hospital	Employed by a physician group	Employed by a university or school program	Other
Medical surgical intensive care	35.7%	34.5%	24.8%	8.33%	3.2%
Cardiac intensive care	26.9%	31.6%	21.9%	16.2%	6.4%
Neonatal intensive care	29.1%	30.4%	20.2%	16.9%	5.2%
Pediatric intensive care	15.7%	37.9%	17.1%	20.7%	10.4%
Other intensive care	18.3%	33.6%	21.3%	15.3%	13.8%

Source: AHA Annual Survey, 2009

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