

Kindred Hospitals: A Critical Level of Care

By Dr Dean French

Kindred Hospitals, a national network of long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs), provide specialized treatment and rehabilitation for medically complex patients.

LTACHs are equipped to treat many of the same conditions that are treated in traditional ICUs at short-term acute care hospitals (STACHs), but are designed to do so for a longer period of time. A look at the top diagnosis-related groups treated at STACH and LTACH ICUs reveals overlap between six of the top 10 conditions treated at each setting.¹

STACH ICU	LTACH ICU
Pulmonary Edema & Resp Failure	Pulmonary Edema & Resp Failure
Resp Infections & Inflammations w MCC	Resp Infections & Inflammations w MCC
Resp Sys Diagnosis w Ventilator Support <=96 Hours	Resp Sys Diagnosis w Ventilator Support <=96 Hours
Resp Sys Diagnosis w Ventilator Support >96 Hours	Resp Sys Diagnosis w Ventilator Support >96 Hours
Septicemia or Severe Sepsis w MV >96 Hours	Septicemia or Severe Sepsis w MV >96 Hours
Septicemia or Severe Sepsis w/o MV >96 Hours w MCC	Septicemia or Severe Sepsis w/o MV >96 Hours w MCC

THE BENEFIT OF TIMELY TRANSFER

It is not only possible for LTACHs to treat patients requiring ICU-level care, but it is also beneficial. In fact, readmission rates for medically complex patients at LTACHs are about half those at STACHs, showing our efficacy in providing lasting recovery for these patients.²

LTACHs also specialize in treating patients with serious respiratory conditions, especially those on mechanical ventilation. In fact, one study found that a one-day delay in discharging to an LTACH after intubation is associated with an 11.6% reduction in the odds of weaning.³

Because LTACHs provide ICU-level treatment for complex conditions, it is beneficial for stable patients with multiple serious diagnoses to be transferred to our hospitals even while they are still in critical condition.

ELEMENTS OF KINDRED HOSPITALS' ICUS

At Kindred, our physician-led interdisciplinary care teams with critical care expertise are fundamental to the level of care we provide.



Dr. Dean French is Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of ScionHealth, parent company of Kindred Hospitals.

Physicians:

- All treatment plans are led by physicians who visit patients daily
- Attending physicians have expertise in treating critically complex patients
- Physicians with specialties such as pulmonology, infectious disease, and general surgery participate in treatment plans as needed

Nurses:

- All nurses in our ICUs are certified in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support
- Nurse-to-patient ratios in our ICUs resemble those in STACH ICUs

Respiratory Therapy:

- Respiratory therapists are available 24/7
- RTs specialize in treating pulmonary patients with multiple concurrent diagnoses

Additional members of the interdisciplinary care teams may include

- Physical and occupational therapists
- Speech-language pathologists
- Wound care nurses
- Dietitians
- Pharmacists

With our highly-skilled care teams, we are able to provide hospital services such as:

- Management of and liberation from mechanical ventilation
- Placement, management, and removal of IV lines, catheters, and nasogastric tubes
- Radiology, telemetry, and dialysis

With our expert care teams and high-quality treatment and rehabilitation, Kindred Hospitals can help improve outcomes and reduce readmissions for medically complex patients.

To learn more about our level of care, visit [kindredmanagedcare.com](https://www.kindredmanagedcare.com)

REFERENCES

1. MedPAR, 2022 Traditional Medicare FFS and Medicare Advantage ICU and CCU Discharges, DRGs within the top 10 rearranged to show comparison.
2. The Advisory Board. The Post Acute Care Pathways Explorer. State Average Outcomes by HCC Score Tier. HCC tiers include Medicare FFS patients with a total HCC score in the following ranges: 'Low' between 0 and 2, 'Mid' greater than 2 and less than or equal to 4, 'High' greater than 4 and less than or equal to 6, and 'Very High' greater than 6. Accessed June 2023.
3. <https://bmcpulmed.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12890-021-01454-1>