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HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

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Request for Comment on Nurse Staffing Quality Measures

December 10, 2014

The Health Policy Commission (HPC) is requesting written comment from interested parties on the implementation of Chapter 155 of the Acts of 2014, relative to quality measures applicable to hospital intensive care units (ICU). The HPC is charged with promulgating regulations governing the implementation of the law including identification of three to five patient safety quality indicators to be measured and reported by hospitals to the public.

The HPC has received written comment suggesting that the following patient safety quality measures be considered for inclusion in the regulations:

1. Registered nurse hours per patient day
2. Hospital Acquired Infections -- Central line-associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI)
3. Hospital Acquired Infections -- Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)
4. Patient falls (without injury)
5. Patient falls (with injury)
6. Pressure ulcer prevalence (hospital acquired)
7. Restraint prevalence (vest and limb)
8. Adult inpatients who reported how often their pain was controlled
9. Post-operative wound dehiscence
10. Death among surgical inpatients with serious treatable complications: deaths per 1,000 discharges
11. Poor Glycemic Control

See written comment on our website: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/oversight-agencies/health-policy-commission/nurse-staffing/>

The HPC is interested in written comments addressing the following questions:

1. Are there additional safety quality measures that the HPC should consider?
2. For each suggested measure:
 - a. Is the measure evidence-based and nationally validated? If so, by what organization(s)?
 - b. Is the measure related to nursing care in the ICU setting?
 - c. Is the measure applicable in all ICU settings, regardless of specialty, hospital type, or geographic location?
 - d. Is the measure currently reported by Massachusetts hospitals? If so, to what entity(s), and is the reported quality data publicly available? Should the measure be reported to another entity, and should all required measures be reported to the same entity?
 - e. What should be the timing, frequency and mechanism for public reporting?
3. What approach should the HPC consider for evaluating or updating the selected quality measures?

Please submit any written comment no later than **Tuesday, December 23, 2014** to hpc-testimony@state.ma.us.