



The Leapfrog Group's January Market Insights Report

Tele-ICU is playing an increasingly important role in how hospitals meet Leapfrog's

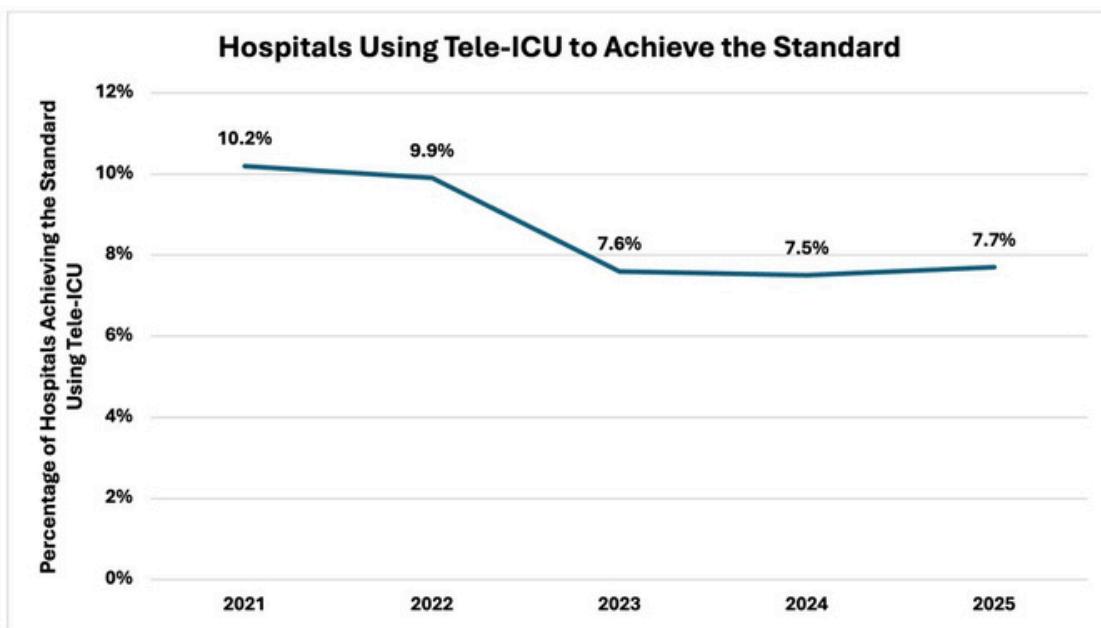
[ICU Physician Staffing Standard](#), both as a direct pathway to achieving the standard and as a critical strategy for hospitals making considerable progress toward it. At the same time, overall performance on ICU Physician Staffing continues to improve, with hospitals use of tele-ICU demonstrating its role as a targeted tool to extend intensivist expertise and support 24/7 coverage.

Tele-ICU as a Consistent Component of ICU Staffing Strategies

Even as more hospitals Achieve the ICU Physician Staffing Standard, paths to meeting the standard are different. Although many hospitals still use conventional on-site intensivist presence without any tele-ICU coverage, tele-ICU use data shows stable performance among hospitals Achieving or making Considerable Achievement toward meeting the standard. This pattern indicates that tele-ICU is not yet the dominant pathway to meeting the standard, but it is becoming a consistent component of ICU staffing strategies, especially for hospitals facing [intensivist shortages or geographic barriers](#) to in-person coverage.

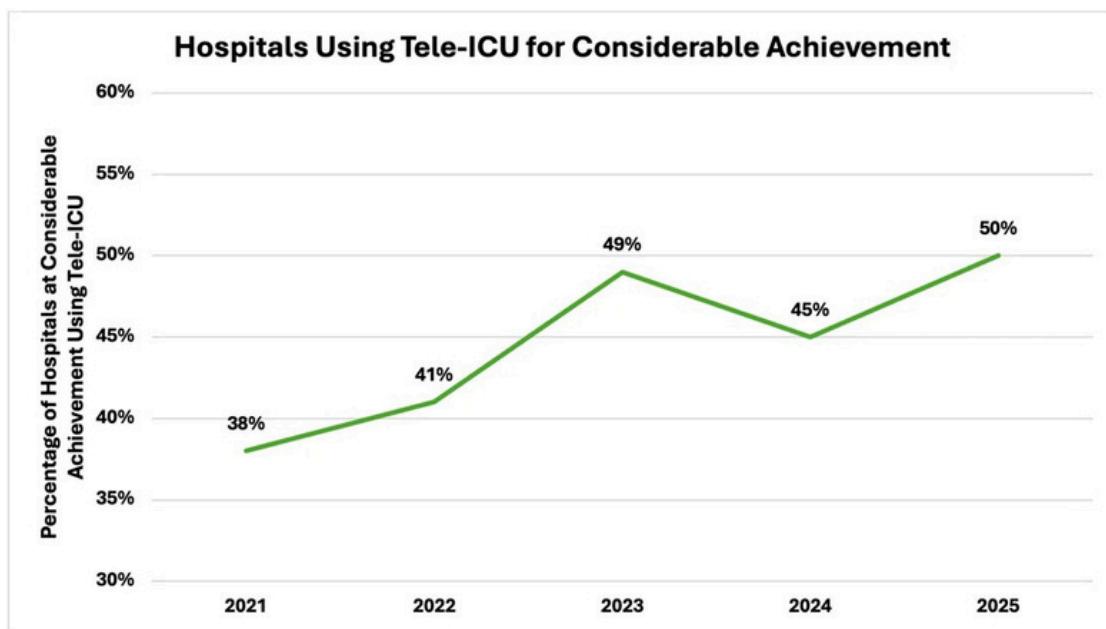
Tele-ICU Use Eases Among Hospitals Achieving the Standard

Although more hospitals are Achieving Leapfrog's ICU Physician Staffing Standard overall, a relatively small share rely on tele-ICU to get there. Between 2021 and 2025, the percentage of hospitals Achieving the Standard using tele-ICU slightly declined from 10% to 8%. This modest downward trend suggests that, even as tele-ICU remains important, many hospitals are able to meet the ICU Physician Staffing Standard through on-site intensivist models alone. At the same time, the fact that roughly one in ten hospitals Achieving the Standard continue to use tele-ICU highlights its role as a consistent, targeted tool rather than a provisional solution.



Tele-ICU's Growing Role in Considerable Achievement

While the share of hospitals achieving the Standard using tele-ICU has slightly decreased, tele-ICU is becoming more central for hospitals in the Considerable Achievement cohort. From 2021 to 2025, the percentage of hospitals at Considerable Achievement that used tele-ICU rose from 38% to 50%, with a noticeable peak at 49% in 2023 and a brief dip to 45% in 2024. In 2025, one in two hospitals scoring Considerable Achievement were leveraging tele-ICU. This pattern reinforces tele-ICU's role as a key enabler for hospitals that are on the cusp of Achieving the Standard for ICU Physician Staffing.



Looking Ahead: Tele-ICU as a Catalyst for High-Reliability ICU Care

Leapfrog's ICU Physician Staffing data from 2021–2025 show that hospitals are steadily strengthening intensivist coverage while selectively using tele-ICU as a strategic enabler. Tele-ICU has become especially important for hospitals that are making considerable progress but still face constraints in achieving fully on-site, 24/7 intensivist staffing.

Recognizing these trends, Leapfrog is also expanding its lens on virtual care by adding a new question to the 2026 Hospital Survey to assess the use of virtual nursing models in medical, surgical, and medical-surgical units. Hospitals and purchasers alike will be watching how tele-ICU and other virtual care models are integrated with bedside teams, how they affect clinical outcomes, and whether they enable more hospitals—especially those currently in Limited or Some Achievement—to reach higher levels of ICU Physician Staffing performance. As Leapfrog continues to report on ICU staffing measures, tele-ICU will remain a critical component of the conversation about safe, high-reliability critical care across diverse hospital settings.

Explore Full Results

To view the complete 2025 Leapfrog Hospital Survey results, visit Leapfrog's ratings website:

[Leapfrog Ratings Website](#)

[Contact Leapfrog](#) for tips on how to get started and more information about the Hospital Survey or ASC Survey and Hospital Safety Grades.

Want to do your own trend analysis of hospital or ambulatory surgery center performance? [Contact Leapfrog](#) for more information about licensing our historical data sets.

New Tools to Navigate Leapfrog Data

We've launched new features to make exploring Leapfrog data even easier.

The [Measure Search](#) function is a comprehensive tool that allows users to search measures across the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, the Hospital Survey, and the ASC Survey. Filter by facility type, patient type, dataset, or search for specific measures directly.

Our [Use Cases](#) illustrate how healthcare organizations, researchers, employers, and payors are applying Leapfrog data in the real world—from benchmarking safety performance to informing purchasing decisions and driving quality improvement. Each example shows how data-driven insights can translate into better care, smarter strategies, and meaningful results.

Visit the Hopper to explore these features and discover more ways to apply Leapfrog data:

[The Hopper](#)

New features on the Hopper!

The HOPPER
Where Leapfrog Data Comes Alive

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Giant Leaps for Patient Safety

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