

Talk about it!
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Talk about movin'

Source: LyricFind
Songwriters: Steve Greenberg
Funky Town lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc

Authors

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Background

Extended length of stay (LOS) is just one of the undesirable realities hospitals face in the wake of the recent pandemic and continued lack of clinical staff.

Purpose

Make the LOS problem visible on the Intermediate Care Unit (IMCU) and take actions to reduce LOS.

Hypothesis: If IMCU makes the patient discharge date visible and discusses daily milestones 95% of the time then the LOS will be less than or equal to 120% of the Geometric Mean LOS (GMLOS).

Methods

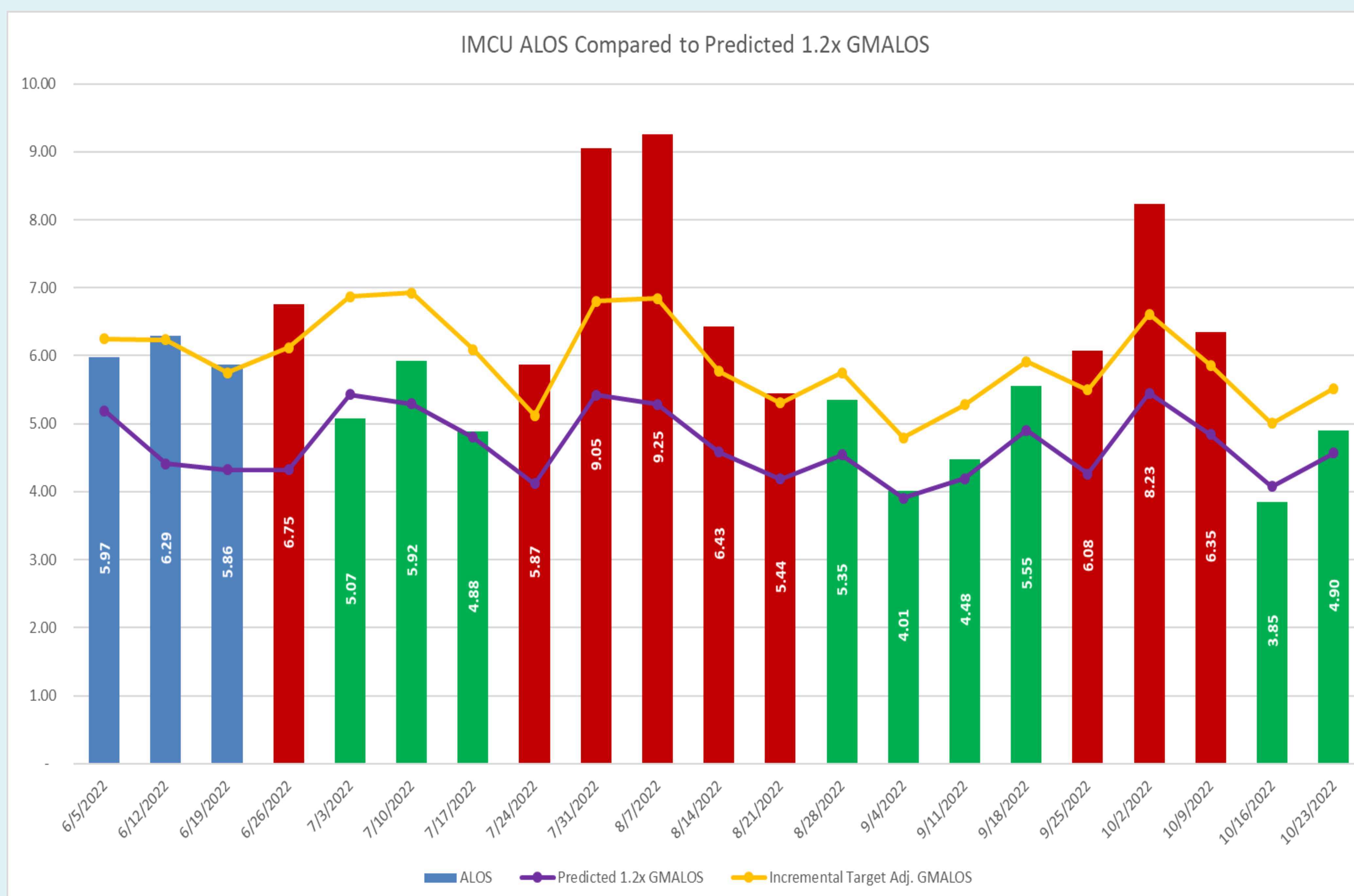
1. Process: Daily collaboration between IMCU staff, Care Management and Hospitalists.
2. Daily discussion of estimated discharge date and readiness for discharge.
3. Development of measurable and specific daily milestones.
4. Items above made visible on yellow (Andon) cards "to see together, know together an act together."
5. Daily audit completed by 1600 hours.
6. Weekly GMLOS tracked for outcome.



This poster was made possible by a grant from the Salem Health Foundation.

Title: Targeted Daily Communication Reduces Hospital Length of Stay

- What is the expected date of discharge?
- What is the goal for today?
- What barriers are in the way?



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Results

- Met goal of 95% of the time the Andon communication card addressed milestones and removal of barriers.
- Eight of 20 weeks, the team met the incremental GMLOS Goal.

Conclusions

Daily discussions between provider and bedside nurses are vital to review the estimated discharge date together, develop milestones, eliminate barriers and move patients onward to discharge, thus lowering overall length of stay.

Implications for Clinical Practice

Learning questions are useful to help nurses drive Provider and RN discussions: Is the estimated discharge date still applicable? What goals need to be met for the patient to be medically ready for discharge?

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to Dr. VanDerheyden, Dr. Yates and Dr. Clarke for being the Dyad provider leaders. Additionally thanks to Amy Brown, IMCU ANM and Krista Hackstedt as our Nurse Champions. Finally, to Ann Alway for abstract and poster coaching.

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