From Endurance to Resilience: How One Small Community Based Hospital ICU Overcame the Odds and Produced a Meaningful Impact of Quality Care Metrics During the COVID-19 Surge Crisis

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Background
• When COVID-19 initially surged in the Midwest area (March through June 2020), Intensive Care Units quickly filled with high acuity mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients.
• In Illinois, from March 2020 through June 2022, the number of daily COVID-19 cases ranged from as low as 20 to as high as 4,014.

• In March 2020, the Rush System was first in the state to treat a patient hospitalized with COVID-19.
• Total COVID-19 surge quickly impacted Rush Oak Park Hospital (ROPH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with high acuity mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients.
• ROPH ICU is part of a larger health system.
• 201-bed, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) five-star rated, Leonard David Star, two Med/Surg, based hospital's implementation of an evidence-based practice nurse-driven protocol to manually prone patients during the pandemic.

Methodology
• An IRB approved retrospective data collection research study.

Results
• Twelve patients were prone an average of 1.9 times. Some patients were prone more than once.
• ROPH ICU proned twenty-three total times.

Objectives
• Describe clinical and safety data from a community-based hospital's implementation of an evidence-based practice nurse-driven protocol to manually prone patients during the pandemic.

Conclusion
• During the proning process and ICU stay, there were:
  - Zero endotracheal tube and central line dislodgements.
  - Zero ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAPs) (384 ventilator days).
  - Zero catheter-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSSis) (371 central line days).
  - Zero catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) (458 catheter days).
  - Zero incidents of ventilator-associated pneumonias (VAPs) (384 ventilator days).
  - Sicker respiratory/pulmonary arrests occurred, warranting the activation of the Code Blue team.
  - With increased patient acuity and staff protection measures, less than 1% of staff contracted the virus during this surge.
  - Of the patients-proned, the majority were discharged home or other nursing facilities.

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Let’s give a round of applause to all of these stellar students and their contributions to CRNA practice!!

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