

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript *J Am Geriatr Soc.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2020 March 01.

Published in final edited form as:

JAm Geriatr Soc. 2019 March ; 67(3): 520–526. doi:10.1111/jgs.15691.

Early Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) Among Older Adult Sepsis Survivors Receiving Home Care

Barbara Riegel, PhD, RN¹, Liming Huang, PhD¹, Mark E. Mikkelsen, MD, MSCE², Ann Kutney-Lee, PhD, RN^{1,3}, Alexandra L. Hanlon, PhD¹, Christopher M. Murtaugh, PhD⁴, and Kathryn H. Bowles, PhD, RN^{1,4}

¹.School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

² Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

³.Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Veterans Affairs Medical Center

^{4.}Visiting Nurse Service of New York

Abstract

Background/Objectives: New or worsened disabilities in functional, cognitive, or mental health following an intensive care unit (ICU) stay are referred to as post-intensive care syndrome (PICS). PICS has not been described in older adults receiving home care. Our aim was to examine the relationship between length of ICU stay and PICS among older adults receiving home care. We expected that patients in the ICU for 3 days would demonstrate significantly more disability in all three domains on follow-up than those not in the ICU. A secondary aim was to identify patient characteristics increasing the odds of disability.

Design: Retrospective cohort study

Setting: Hospitalization for sepsis in the US

Participants: 21,520 Medicare patients receiving home care and reassessed a median of 1 day (interquartile range 1-2 days) after hospital discharge.

Measurements: PICS was defined as a decline or worsening in one or more of 16 indicators tested before and after hospitalization using OASIS (Home Health Outcome and Assessment Information Set) and Medicare claims data.

Author Contributions:

- Riegel: study concept and design, analysis, interpretation, preparation of manuscript
- Huang: data analysis, preparation of manuscript
- Mikkelsen: study design, analysis, interpretation, preparation of manuscript
- Kutney-Lee: study concept and design, analysis, interpretation, preparation of manuscript
- Hanlon: analysis
- Murtaugh: acquisition of data, analysis, interpretation, preparation of manuscript
- Bowles: acquisition of data, analysis, interpretation, preparation of manuscript

Conflict of Interest: The authors have no conflicts to report.

Results: The sample was predominately female and white. All had sepsis and most (81.8%) had severe sepsis. In adjusted models, an ICU stay of 3 days, compared to no ICU stay, increased the odds of physical disability. Overall, the declines were modest and found in specific activities of daily living (16% for feeding and lower body dressing to 26% for oral medicine management). No changes were identified in cognition or mental health. Significant determinants of new or worsened physical disabilities were sepsis severity, older age, depression, frailty, and dementia.

Conclusion: Older adults receiving home care who develop sepsis and are in an ICU for 3 days are likely to develop new or worsened physical disabilities. Whether these disabilities remain after the early post-discharge phase requires further study.

Keywords

Critical care; activities of daily living; cognitive dysfunction; mental health; sepsis; home care services

INTRODUCTION

Approximately one in five individuals are cared for in an intensive care unit (ICU) at some point during hospitalization.(1) While the care received in an ICU is often life-saving, many survivors are left with new or worsened disabilities in functional, cognitive, and mental health status that persist over time.(2,3) This cluster of symptoms has been labeled 'post-intensive care syndrome' or PICS.(4,5) Although some PICS symptoms may not develop for several months, most acute effects are seen in the immediate period after discharge, the focus of the current study.(6–8)

Older adults comprise nearly 50% of the 4.5 million Americans admitted to the ICU each year.(9,10) Those with comorbidities,(11,12) functional disabilities,(13) and pre-existing cognitive impairment(14) may be particularly susceptible to developing PICS. However, PICS has not been studied in this population.

In 2014, home care services were delivered to approximately 3.4 million Medicare patients. (15) Medicare requires home care recipients to be certified as needing intermittent skilled nursing care, physical therapy, speech-language pathology services, or occupational therapy. All recipients must be homebound, implying the presence of functional disability.(16) Hospitalization during a home care episode is common; nearly one in four patients are admitted while receiving home care.(15) Sepsis is a common reason for hospitalization. Cognitive and physical impairment are common after sepsis,(17–19) yet it remains unclear whether impairment is more common among those cared for in an ICU because existing studies are limited by the lack of comparative data. That is, critical illness is rarely anticipated, so few studies to date have been able to compare outcomes after an ICU admission with status prior to hospitalization.

Sepsis is frequently cared for both inside and outside of the ICU during a hospitalization, which allowed us to examine the relationship between length of ICU stay and indicators of PICS in home care patients. In a retrospective cohort study, we assessed the contribution of ICU length of stay on individual indicators of physical, cognitive, and mental health status

changes after controlling for patient-related clinical and sociodemographic factors in a cohort of older adults receiving home care before and after a hospital stay for sepsis. We expected that home care patients hospitalized for sepsis with an ICU stay of 3 days would have significantly more disability in physical, cognitive, and mental health domains than those not admitted to the ICU. Some ICU stays are observational only and ICU use varies across hospitals.(20) So a period of 3 days was chosen to assure that we were assessing the effect of critical illness.(8,21) If confirmed, future studies examining the effect of targeted interventions delivered in the home care setting would be warranted.

METHODS

After approval by the Institutional Review Board of the University of Pennsylvania, a secondary analysis of national Medicare data was conducted including Home Health Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) data. OASIS is a detailed, mandated assessment that is routinely collected on all Medicare patients receiving home care services from a Medicare-certified agency. OASIS data were linked to Standard Analytic Files of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to identify home care patients who experienced a sepsis hospitalization during the course of a home care episode between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. The Inpatient Standard Analytic File provides information about the hospitalization, such as ICD-9 diagnosis and procedure codes (to identify primary diagnosis and comorbid conditions) and ICU utilization (e.g. days in the ICU).

All home care agencies certified by Medicare are required to collect OASIS data at the start of care, at 60-days follow-up, and at discharge. If an inpatient stay occurs during a home care episode, these data are collected again when the patient resumes home care after hospital discharge. OASIS data were combined to create patient-level episodes of home care (i.e. all OASIS assessments from admission to discharge). The episode dataset included data structured to provide information on the 6 months before hospitalization, the home care visits, the hospitalization event, and the home care visits following hospital discharge. To examine whether a dose-response relationship exists in relation to an ICU admission during hospitalization, hospital stay was categorized as: acute care hospitalization without ICU admission (0 ICU days), 1-2 ICU days, or 3 ICU days.

Study Population

The population was drawn from a national census of Medicare beneficiaries receiving home care between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 (N = 3,464,601) (Figure 1). Those included had survived a sepsis hospitalization that occurred up to 60 days after home care admission and had an OASIS assessment completed when home care resumed after hospital discharge. Anyone with another sepsis hospital stay during the prior 6 months was excluded to obtain a sample representing new sepsis hospital admissions (N=21,520).

Measurement

The OASIS survey is a standardized assessment of physical, cognitive, and mental health status developed for use in clinical practice. Items measuring physical status are similar to items that have been in wide use since their development roughly 50 years ago.(22,23) The

psychometric properties of these items treated as a scale has been extensively evaluated.(24) Others have concluded that OASIS is a valid measure of cognition but not sufficiently sensitive for depression,(25) an issue addressed with the addition of the PHQ-2 (M1730). The PHQ-2 is a valid measure of the frequency of depressed mood over the past 2 weeks scored on a 3-point Likert scale of 0 (never) to 3 (nearly every day).(26,27) A 2012 systematic review of articles examining validity and reliability of the OASIS measures indicate low to moderate evidence, with variability due to nonrepresentative samples; inconsistencies in research methods, items tested, and statistical procedures; and changes to OASIS over time.(25,28–30)

Physical status was assessed with 12 OASIS items (M1800-1890 and M2020); 9 measured activities of daily living (ADL): ambulation (M1860), bathing (M1830), dressing lower body (M1820), dressing upper body (M1810), transferring (M1850), toilet hygiene (M1845), toilet transferring (M1840), feeding (M1870), grooming (M1800) and three measured instrumental ADL (IADL): preparing light meals (M1880), phone use (M1890), and oral medication management (M2020).(31) These items are categorical with raw scores that range from 0 to 6, depending on the item; 0 indicates no need for assistance and the highest numeric value indicates entire dependence. These items have been used by others to examine functional disability following critical illness.(17–19)

Cognitive status was assessed with 2 OASIS items measuring cognitive function (M1700) and confusion (M1710). Cognition was measured on a scale of 0 (alert/oriented, able to focus and shift attention, comprehends and recalls task directions independently) to 4 (totally dependent due to disturbance, such as constant disorientation).(30) Confusion was measured on a scale of 0 (never) to 4 (constantly). Higher scores indicate worse cognitive status.

The mental health component of PICS has been understudied and limited primarily to depression, so changes in both anxiety (M1720) and depression (M1730) were explored. The frequency of anxiety symptoms was assessed over the last 14 days, with responses ranging from 0 (none of the time) to 3 (all of the time). Higher scores indicate worse mental health.

To determine if a new disability developed or an existing disability became more severe after ICU exposure, patients were classified as having worsened, remained the same, or improved on each individual OASIS item measured at the resumption of home care. Each variable was coded on a -2 to +2 scale to measure the change in status from before to after hospitalization: -2 indicates decline, -1 indicates that a disability exists and it is so severe that no further decline can be detected, 0 indicates no change, +1 indicates that the patient is doing so well that improvement cannot be detected, and +2 indicates a significant improvement. Any negative change on at least one outcome (i.e., a value of -2 indicating either no disability at start of care but mild-moderate disability at resumption of care, or mild-moderate disability that changed to moderate-severe disability) was considered clinically significant and an indicator of PICS. Based on this coding, we included only those in whom a decline could potentially be detected. So, anyone coded -1 (no further decline can be detected) was excluded from the final analysis.

Failure to control for pre-existing issues can lead to spurious inferences of a clinically and statistically meaningful association with critical illness.(32) Patient-related clinical and sociodemographic factors were tested as potential covariates. Clinical factors were dementia, (33) sensory impairment,(13) depression,(34) hospitalization for a reason other than sepsis in the prior 6 months,(35) acute weight loss as an indicator of frailty,(36) and sepsis severity. (17) Sepsis severity was classified as sepsis (ICD-9 Code 995.91), severe sepsis (ICD-9 Code 995.92), or septic shock (ICD-9 Codes 785.52 or the Angus implicit coding strategy used to identify septic shock).(37) Sociodemographic factors included age at start of the episode, gender, race, living situation (e.g. living alone),(38) residence in an urban area, and median household income in the county of residence.

Analysis

We first examined the distribution of key variables for the full sample and by length of ICU stay using chi-square for categorical measures and analysis of variance (ANOVA) for continuous measures. Frequencies and percentages of patients who experienced a decline in each physical, cognitive, and/or mental health OASIS measure following hospitalization were calculated and then compared based on the number of days in the ICU using chi-square tests. To examine the associations between ICU length of stay, and other clinical and sociodemographic factors on the development of decline on each functional measure, we used logistic generalized estimating equation (GEE) models that accounted for patient clustering in individual hospitals. Analyses were adjusted for multiple comparisons using the Bonferroni method. Since there are 16 models, alpha was prespecified at 0.05 for the set of tests and adjusted alpha of 0.0031 was used for individual tests.

RESULTS

The cohort was predominately older, female, white, and living with someone else (Table 1). Most had severe sepsis but fewer than half had an ICU stay. The median duration between hospital discharge and the follow-up OASIS assessment was 1 day with an interquartile range of 1 to 2 days. Supplementary Table S1 shows people who were excluded from the final analysis because they already were in the worst disability category prior to hospitalization and, therefore, could not be assessed as declining further following the hospital stay. The indicators where the greatest number of people were in the worst category before hospitalization were meal preparation and oral medication management.

Dose-response relationship between length of ICU stay and PICS

Figure 2 presents the percentages of patients who experienced declines in the individual PICS indicators after hospital discharge. In unadjusted analyses, patients who stayed in the ICU 3 days were significantly more likely to experience declines in every measure of physical status but no significant decline in cognitive or mental health status was found by ICU length of stay.

Table 2 presents the GEE estimates of the effects of ICU length of stay on each indicator. When analyses were adjusted for clinical and sociodemographic covariates, compared to patients without an ICU stay, the increase in the odds of a decline in the physical domain

ranged from 16% (for feeding and lower body dressing) to 26% (for oral medicine management) for those with 3 days in the ICU. None of the physical outcomes differed significantly for patients who were in the ICU only 1-2 days compared to those without an ICU stay. No effect of ICU length of stay was found in cognition or mental health measures.

Patient Factors Predicting New or Worsening Disability in Home Care Patients

Older patients were more likely to experience a decline in every indicator (8% - 31% increase in odds with for every 10 additional years of age) except anxiety. Depression was 9% less likely to worsen with every additional 10 years of age (See Supplementary Table S2).

Compared to sepsis, septic shock increased the odds of experiencing a decline in ambulation, transferring, toilet hygiene, toilet transferring, and grooming, with the highest increase in odds for decline in ambulation (odds ratio [OR], 1.66, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.38-2.00, p <0.0001). After follow-up, patients with severe sepsis or septic shock were not significantly different in the cognitive and mental health domains from patients with sepsis only.

Patients with acute weight loss during hospitalization were 25 to 55% more likely to experience a decline in every indicator, all domains. Both a history of depression and evidence of frailty significantly increased the odds of experiencing worsened depression by 30% on follow-up. A history of dementia increased the odds of decline in most physical and cognitive indicators (ranging from16% for bathing to 85% for phone use). Compared to living with someone, living alone decreased the odds of decline in every physical indicator, with the largest decrease in odds for preparing light meals (OR 0.65, 95% CI 0.59-0.72, p<0.01). Living alone also was associated with lower odds for confusion frequency (OR 0.87, 95% CI 0.79-0.96, p<0.05).

DISCUSSION

This study provides insights into a vulnerable patient population that is commonly hospitalized – home care recipients. In these individuals, those with sepsis who stayed in the ICU 3 days were significantly more likely to experience declines in physical functioning but not in cognitive or mental health, partially supporting our expectation of a dose response relationship between days in the ICU and early PICS. Although modest, the increase in the odds of physical disability was both statistically significant and clinically meaningful. We know from the literature that most people experience a decline in function immediately after hospitalization,(39) but these data demonstrate specific areas where home care recipients can be expected to require assistance. Further, it was notable that, even in this early period, no changes in cognition and mental health indicators were identified.

Although physical indicators of PICS were most likely to develop following an ICU stay of 3 days, a striking proportion of patients declined regardless of whether they were hospitalized in an ICU. These findings support the observation by Krumholz(40) who noted that recently hospitalized patients experience a period of generalized risk for adverse events. He named this "post-hospital syndrome", which he described as an acquired, transient

period of vulnerability.(40) He noted that hospitalized patients experience a variety of stressors during hospitalization including sleep deprivation, circadian rhythm disruption, poor nourishment, pain and discomfort, mentally challenging situations, medications that can alter cognition and physical function, and physical deconditioning. These insults may be more pronounced in the ICU environment, but our results suggest that hospitalization alone has an important influence on the early recovery trajectory of home care patients. Our results suggest that physical and occupational therapy in the home care setting, while potentially targeted to severe sepsis cases, could benefit the broader sepsis population discharged to the home care setting with new or worsened physical disability.

Neither cognitive nor mental health declines were associated with length of stay in the ICU, although mental health status changes may occur later in the trajectory following an ICU event. Davydow et al(19) found that the proportion of patients with depression remained unchanged after hospitalization for severe sepsis compared to before hospitalization. Other investigators have found that depression is common in ICU survivors and both physical(41) and cognitive(42) disabilities commonly drive depression. Here we add that, not only did the proportion not change in our sample, but the severity also did not change immediately after hospital discharge. Importantly however, those with a history of depression and frailty were at higher odds of reporting symptoms of depression while in home care.

To further guide targeted interventions in the home care setting, patient-related variables were tested to identify a phenotype of individuals at risk for new or worsening disabilities. Besides length of ICU stay, significant independent contributors included sepsis severity, older age, frailty, and dementia, as others have found.(13) Some of these were unsurprising such as older age and severity of sepsis.(33,43) However, acute weight loss is not widely discussed as a risk factor for PICS, although catabolism is discussed as an indicator of PICS. (44) Only one prior study found a decline in weight among older sepsis survivors.(32) Notably, living alone was not a predictor of decline. Perhaps patients living alone prior to hospitalization tend to have higher physical and cognitive functioning at baseline that allowed them to be able to live alone.

Limitations include a short study interval; the post-assessment was conducted soon after hospital discharge. Others have found that some patients with cognitive dysfunction at 3 months had improved when retested at 12 months.(2) Thus, we are unable to determine if the disabilities identified early are true indicators of PICS. That is, while we were able to assess change after an ICU hospitalization, conclusions on functional trajectory beyond the resumption of care OASIS assessment are premature. Future work is needed to determine whether changes in post-hospitalization functioning are persistent (or emerge) at the next OASIS follow-up assessment at 60 days or at discharge from home care. Another major limitation was the cognitive domains, nor between cognitive impairment and delirium. Given the short follow-up time after hospital discharge, participants with in-hospital delirium may still have been delirious at home, which would have affected the cognitive function and confusion measurements. Also, depression and anxiety were measured with just one question each and the skill of nurses in administering and scoring these items could

vary. Finally, these findings do not reflect sepsis survivors discharged without home care services.

Further research is needed to examine whether the early functional disabilities we identified evolve or remain after the early follow-up period. Separate studies are warranted to examine other vulnerable groups, such as those requiring skilled care facility placement. These findings in sepsis also should be compared to other disease states.

In conclusion, our findings alert us to an increased risk of physical disability in home care recipients after a sepsis hospitalization that includes 3 ICU days as well as patient factors associated with new or worsening disability. Clinicians are advised to inform families of older adult sepsis patients discharged with home care that these patients are at significant risk for physical disability after discharge. Intensive home care interventions, including physical and occupational therapy, may mitigate physical disability after sepsis, and require further study.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgement:

Sponsor's Role: Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01NR016014. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health. The authors gratefully acknowledge additional funding from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Frank Morgan Jones Fund and Faculty Grant Award. The sponsors had no role in the design, methods, data collection, analysis or preparation of the paper.

References

- 1. Society of Critical Care Medicine. Critical Care Statistics. 2016.
- 2. Pandharipande PP, Girard TD, Ely EW. Long-term cognitive impairment after critical illness. N Engl J Med 2014;370:185–6.
- 3. Prescott HC, Iwashyna TJ. Somatic symptoms in survivors of critical illness. Lancet Respir Med 2014;2:341–3. [PubMed: 24815798]
- Elliott D, Davidson JE, Harvey MA et al. Exploring the scope of post-intensive care syndrome therapy and care: engagement of non-critical care providers and survivors in a second stakeholders meeting. Crit Care Med 2014;42:2518–26. [PubMed: 25083984]
- Needham DM, Davidson J, Cohen H et al. Improving long-term outcomes after discharge from intensive care unit: report from a stakeholders' conference. Crit Care Med 2012;40:502–9. [PubMed: 21946660]
- Kamdar BB, King LM, Collop NA et al. The effect of a quality improvement intervention on perceived sleep quality and cognition in a medical ICU. Crit Care Med 2013;41:800–9. [PubMed: 23314584]
- 7. Woon FL, Dunn CB, Hopkins RO. Predicting cognitive sequelae in survivors of critical illness with cognitive screening tests. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2012;186:333–40. [PubMed: 22700858]
- Maley JH, Brewster I, Mayoral I et al. Resilience in Survivors of Critical Illness in the Context of the Survivors' Experience and Recovery. Ann Am Thorac Soc 2016;13:1351–60. [PubMed: 27159794]

- Angus DC, Shorr AF, White A et al. Critical care delivery in the United States: distribution of services and compliance with Leapfrog recommendations. Crit Care Med 2006;34:1016–24. [PubMed: 16505703]
- Barrett M, Smith M, Elixhauser A, Honigman L, Pines J. Utilization of intensive care services, 2011. 2014.
- Brummel NE, Balas MC, Morandi A, Ferrante LE, Gill TM, Ely EW. Understanding and reducing disability in older adults following critical illness. Crit Care Med 2015;43:1265–75. [PubMed: 25756418]
- 12. Durante A, Gianino MM, Sperlinga R, Vellone E. The effect of therapeutic education on self-care in patients with heart failure and implantable cardioverter defibrillator: Study protocol for a randomised controlled trial. European Journal of Heart Failure 2016;18:401.
- Ferrante LE, Pisani MA, Murphy TE, Gahbauer EA, Leo-Summers LS, Gill TM. Factors Associated with Functional Recovery among Older Intensive Care Unit Survivors. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2016;194:299–307. [PubMed: 26840348]
- 14. Murtaugh C, Peng T, Totten A, Costello B, Moore S, Aykan H. Complexity in geriatric home healthcare. J Healthc Qual 2009;31:34–43.
- 15. Medicare Payment Advisory Commission [MedPAC]. Home Health Services. 3 2016; Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy, Chapter 8 2016.
- 16. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS]. Medicare and Home Health Care. 2010.
- Iwashyna TJ, Cooke CR, Wunsch H, Kahn JM. Population burden of long-term survivorship after severe sepsis in older Americans. J Am Geriatr Soc 2012;60:1070–7. [PubMed: 22642542]
- Iwashyna TJ, Ely EW, Smith DM, Langa KM. Long-term cognitive impairment and functional disability among survivors of severe sepsis. JAMA 2010;304:1787–94. [PubMed: 20978258]
- Davydow DS, Hough CL, Langa KM, Iwashyna TJ. Symptoms of depression in survivors of severe sepsis: a prospective cohort study of older Americans. Am J Geriatr Psychiatry 2013;21:887–97. [PubMed: 23567391]
- Gershengorn HB, Iwashyna TJ, Cooke CR, Scales DC, Kahn JM, Wunsch H. Variation in use of intensive care for adults with diabetic ketoacidosis*. Crit Care Med 2012;40:2009–15. [PubMed: 22564962]
- Detsky ME, Harhay MO, Bayard DF et al. Six-Month Morbidity and Mortality among Intensive Care Unit Patients Receiving Life-Sustaining Therapy. A Prospective Cohort Study. Ann Am Thorac Soc 2017;14:1562–1570. [PubMed: 28622004]
- Katz S, Ford AB, Moskowitz RW, Jackson BA, Jaffe MW. Studies of Illness in the Aged. The Index of Adl: A Standardized Measure of Biological and Psychosocial Function. JAMA 1963;185:914–9. [PubMed: 14044222]
- 23. Lawton MP, Brody EM. Assessment of older people: self-maintaining and instrumental activities of daily living. Gerontologist 1969;9:179–86. [PubMed: 5349366]
- Spector WD, Fleishman JA. Combining activities of daily living with instrumental activities of daily living to measure functional disability. J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci 1998;53:S46–57. [PubMed: 9469179]
- 25. Tullai-McGuinness S, Madigan EA, Fortinsky RH. Validity testing the Outcomes and Assessment Information Set (OASIS). Home Health Care Serv Q 2009;28:45–57. [PubMed: 19266370]
- Kroenke K, Spitzer RL, Williams JB, Lowe B. The Patient Health Questionnaire Somatic, Anxiety, and Depressive Symptom Scales: a systematic review. Gen Hosp Psychiatry 2010;32:345–59. [PubMed: 20633738]
- 27. Kroenke K, Spitzer RL, Williams JB. The Patient Health Questionnaire-2: validity of a two-item depression screener. Med Care 2003;41:1284–92. [PubMed: 14583691]
- 28. O'Connor M, Davitt JK. The Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS): a review of validity and reliability. Home Health Care Serv Q 2012;31:267–301. [PubMed: 23216513]
- 29. Kinatukara S, Rosati RJ, Huang L. Assessment of OASIS reliability and validity using several methodological approaches. Home Health Care Serv Q 2005;24:23–38. [PubMed: 16203688]
- Raue PJ, Brown EL, Murphy CF, Bruce ML. Assessing behavioral health using OASIS: part 2: cognitive impairment, problematic behaviors, and anxiety. Home Healthc Nurse 2002;20:230–5; quiz 236. [PubMed: 11984191]

- 31. Scharpf TP, Colabianchi N, Madigan EA et al. Functional status decline as a measure of adverse events in home health care: an observational study. BMC Health Serv Res 2006;6:162. [PubMed: 17181868]
- 32. Iwashyna TJ, Netzer G, Langa KM, Cigolle C. Spurious inferences about long-term outcomes: the case of severe sepsis and geriatric conditions. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2012;185:835–41. [PubMed: 22323301]
- Ehlenbach WJ, Hough CL, Crane PK et al. Association between acute care and critical illness hospitalization and cognitive function in older adults. JAMA 2010;303:763–70. [PubMed: 20179286]
- Hodgson CL, Udy AA, Bailey M et al. The impact of disability in survivors of critical illness. Intensive Care Med 2017;43:992–1001. [PubMed: 28534110]
- Elixhauser A, Steiner C, Harris DR, Coffey RM. Comorbidity measures for use with administrative data. Med Care 1998;36:8–27. [PubMed: 9431328]
- Marra A, Pandharipande PP, Girard TD et al. Co-Occurrence of Post-Intensive Care Syndrome Problems Among 406 Survivors of Critical Illness. Crit Care Med 2018;46:1393–1401. [PubMed: 29787415]
- 37. Liu V, Escobar GJ, Greene JD et al. Hospital deaths in patients with sepsis from 2 independent cohorts. JAMA 2014;312:90–2. [PubMed: 24838355]
- Iloabuchi TC, Mi D, Tu W, Counsell SR. Risk factors for early hospital readmission in low-income elderly adults. J Am Geriatr Soc 2014;62:489–94. [PubMed: 24576082]
- Boyd CM, Ricks M, Fried LP et al. Functional decline and recovery of activities of daily living in hospitalized, disabled older women: the Women's Health and Aging Study I. J Am Geriatr Soc 2009;57:1757–66. [PubMed: 19694869]
- 40. Krumholz HM. Post-hospital syndrome--an acquired, transient condition of generalized risk. N Engl J Med 2013;368:100–2. [PubMed: 23301730]
- Jackson JC, Pandharipande PP, Girard TD et al. Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and functional disability in survivors of critical illness in the BRAIN-ICU study: a longitudinal cohort study. Lancet Respir Med 2014;2:369–79. [PubMed: 24815803]
- Duggan MC, Wang L, Wilson JE, Dittus RS, Ely EW, Jackson JC. The relationship between executive dysfunction, depression, and mental health-related quality of life in survivors of critical illness: Results from the BRAIN-ICU investigation. J Crit Care 2017;37:72–79. [PubMed: 27652496]
- 43. Barnato AE, Albert SM, Angus DC, Lave JR, Degenholtz HB. Disability among elderly survivors of mechanical ventilation. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2011;183:1037–42. [PubMed: 21057004]
- 44. Loftus TJ, Mira JC, Ozrazgat-Baslanti T et al. Sepsis and Critical Illness Research Center investigators: protocols and standard operating procedures for a prospective cohort study of sepsis in critically ill surgical patients. BMJ Open 2017;7:e015136.

Impact Statement:

- 1. We certify that this work is novel. PICS has not been studied in the home care population. Further, use of the OASIS data from a home health population gives us the unique ability to compare and test whether outcomes are worse after an ICU stay of varying lengths.
- 2. The potential impact of this research on clinical care includes identification of an at-risk population (home care recipients in an ICU for sepsis for 3 or more days). Families should be informed that these patients are at significant risk for physical disability after discharge. Home care providers should be alert for changes in physical status. More intensive interventions should target nutrition, physical function, and oral medication management as we saw the largest proportion of decline in these specific activities.

3,464,601 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries living in 1 of the 50 states or D.C. who had home health care use at some point in a 1-year interval (07/01/2013 through 06/30/2014)

805,229 Hospital discharges with a Sepsis Implicit or Explicit diagnosis and Medicare Parts A and B with no HMO for at least 6 months after discharge or until death

266,940 Sepsis hospital discharges with at least 1 home health visit in the first week after hospital discharge

95,301 Sepsis hospital discharges where patients are resuming a new home health episode (i.e., an OASIS Resumption of Care assessment is completed)

34,889 Sepsis hospital discharges preceded by an OASIS Start of Care assessment that is within 60 days of the Resumption of Care assessment date

21,520 Sepsis hospital discharges selected for analysis that did not have a sepsis hospital admission 6 months prior to their index hospital stay for sepsis

Figure 1.

The study population was drawn from a national census of Medicare beneficiaries receiving home care at some point between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 (N = 3,464,601). We first identified anyone with a sepsis diagnosis. Then we identified those with a home health visit in the first week after hospital discharge and an OASIS start of care assessment within the prior 60 days. After excluding anyone with a sepsis diagnosis in the prior 6 months, the final sample for analysis was 21,520.



Distribution of Patients Who Declined After Hospitalization or an ICU Stay

Figure 2.

Distribution of Patients who Declined After Hospitalization or an ICU Stay. Note the significant increase in the frequency of physical decline among those in the ICU for 3 or more days. Note also that cognitive and mental health indicators did not decline differentially among the three comparison groups.

Author Manuscript

Table 1

Clinical and Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Sample (N= 21,520)

Variable	Full Sample (N = 21520)	0 Days in ICU (N =12224)	1-2 Days in ICU (N =2818)	3 or more Days in ICU (N =6478)	P value
Clinical Characteristics					
Hospitalized in the prior 6 months for something other than sepsis	1078 (5.0%)	609 (4.98%)	138 (4.9%)	331 (5.1%)	0.89
Recent weight loss	2275 (10.6%)	1164 (9.5%)	275 (9.8%)	836 (12.9%)	<.0001
Elixhauser number of comorbid conditions measured at hospital admission					<.0001
Mean (SD)	4.34 (1.9)	4.16 (1.9)	4.30 (1.9)	4.72 (1.9)	
Median (IQR)	4 (3-6)	4 (3-5)	4 (3-6)	5 (3-6)	
Severity of sepsis					<.0001
Sepsis	3095 (14.4%)	2011 (16.4%)	358 (12.7%)	726 (11.2%)	
Severe sepsis	17601 (81.8%)	10137 (82.9%)	2232 (79.4%)	5232 (80.9%)	
Septic shock	808 (3.8%)	74 (0.6%)	222 (7.9%)	512 (7.9%)	
ICU stay (yes/no)	9296 (43.2%)		2818 (100%)	6478 (100%)	<.0001
Length of hospital stay (days)					<.0001
Mean (SD)	7.1 (4.5)	6.3 (3.7)	6.0 (3.97)	9.06 (5.4)	
Median (IQR)	6 (4-8)	5 (4-8)	5 (3-7)	8.00 (6-11)	
Frailty	8539 (39.7%)	4764 (38.97%)	1156 (41.0%)	2619 (40.4%)	0.04
History of depression	9119 (42.4%)	5246 (42.9%)	1220 (43.3%)	2653 (40.9%)	0.02
Vision problems					0.27
Normal	15352 (71.3%)	8745 (71.5%)	2042 (72.5%)	4565 (70.5%)	
Partially impaired	5735 (26.6%)	3229 (26.4%)	719 (25.5%)	1787 (27.6%)	
Severely impaired	433 (2.0%)	250 (2.0%)	57 (2.0%)	126 (1.9%)	
Hearing problems					0.008
Adequate	12533 (58.5%)	7018 (57.7%)	1673 (59.6%)	3842 (59.6%)	
Mildly to moderately impaired	8579 (40.0%)	4968 (40.8%)	1108 (39.5%)	2503 (38.8%)	
Severely impaired	308 (1.4%)	184 (1.5%)	26 (0.9%)	98 (1.5%)	
Dementia (i.e. Alzheimer's disease and related disorders or senility)	8344 (38.8%)	4988 (40.8%)	1035 (36.73%)	2321 (35.8%)	<.0001

Sociodemographic Characteristics

Variable	Full Sample (N = 21520)	0 Days in ICU (N =12224)	1-2 Days in ICU (N =2818)	3 or more Days in ICU (N =6478)	P value
					< 0001
Age, years	7(1(12))		74.0 (12.5)	75.2 (11.00)	<.0001
Mean (SD)	/6.1 (12.3)	/6./(12.3)	74.9 (12.5)	/5.2 (11.96)	
Median (IQR)	78.0 (69-85)	78.5 (70-86)	76.0 (68-84)	76.0 (68-84)	
Female	12288 (57.1%)	7108 (58.1%)	1575 (55.9%)	3605 (55.6%)	0.002
Race					<.0001
Asian	347 (1.6%)	129 (1.1%)	58 (2.1%)	160 (2.5%)	
Black	2661 (12.4%)	1502 (12.3%)	321 (11.4%)	838 (12.9%)	
Hispanic	1253 (5.8%)	626 (5.1%)	154 (5.5%)	473 (7.3%)	
Other	162 (0.75%)	81 (0.7%)	31 (1.1%)	50 (0.8%)	
White	17097 (79.4%)	9886 (80.9%)	2254 (79.99%)	4957 (76.5%)	
Living situation					<.0001
Alone	3789 (17.6%)	2321 (18.99%)	518 (18.4%)	950 (14.7%)	
With someone	15499 (72.0%)	8482 (69.4%)	2034 (72.2%)	4983 (76.9%)	
In congregate (e.g. long term care)	2232 (10.4%)	1421 (11.6%)	266 (9.4%)	545 (8.4%)	
Urban residence	17567 (81.7%)	9850 (80.6%)	2284 (81.1%)	5433 (83.9%)	<.0001
County median household income					0.28
Mean (SD)	53180.2 (14463.31)	53042.8 (14621.8)	53358.1 (14556.5	53361.98 (14117.18)	
Median (IQR)	50304.0 (43099-58995)	50082.0 (43063-59218)	50799.0 (42981-59620)	50867.0 (43281-58221)	

Notes:

1. Categorical data presented as counts and percentages; continuous data presented as mean and standard deviation.

². P values are for Chi-square tests for categorical measures and for analysis of variance (ANOVA) for continuous measures.

Author Manuscript

_

Table 2.

Generalized Estimating Equations Estimates of the Effects of ICU Length of Stay on each PICS Indicator

	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)		
	1-2 days	3 or more days	
Ambulation	1.02 (0.92,1.14)	1.19*** (1.10,1.28)	
Bathing	0.90 (0.81,1.01)	1.18*** (1.09,1.27)	
Dress lower body	0.91 (0.80,1.02)	1.16*** (1.06,1.26)	
Dress upper body	0.91 (0.82,1.02)	1.19*** (1.10,1.29)	
Transferring	0.90 (0.80,1.01)	1.18*** (1.08,1.28)	
Toilet Hygiene	0.92 (0.82,1.02)	1.12 (1.03,1.21)	
Toilet Transferring	0.89 (0.79,1.01)	1.18** (1.09,1.29)	
Feeding	0.94 (0.83, 1.06)	1.16** (1.06, 1.26)	
Grooming	0.89 (0.79, 0.99)	1.11 (1.02, 1.20)	
Preparing light meals	0.91 (0.80, 1.03)	1.12 (1.03, 1.23)	
Phone use	0.94 (0.83, 1.06)	1.14 (1.04, 1.24)	
Oral medication management	1.04 (0.94, 1.16)	1.27*** (1.17, 1.37)	
Cognitive function	1.02 (0.91, 1.14)	1.02 (0.93, 1.11)	
Confusion frequency	1.03 (0.93, 1.15)	1.05 (0.97, 1.14)	
Anxiety	1.09 (0.97, 1.21)	1.08 (1.00, 1.18)	
Depression score	1.04 (0.92, 1.18)	1.05 (0.95, 1.16)	

Note: Odds ratios calculated with 0 days in the ICU as the reference group

PICS - post intensive care syndrome