

Berkshire Medical Center is Ranked First in Massachusetts by HealthGrades for Overall Critical Care



BMC is ranked among the top 5% of hospitals in the nation and first in Massachusetts for overall pulmonary services.

HealthGrades 2009 ratings for BMC Critical Care:

- Five-star rated for the treatment of sepsis
- Five-star rated for the treatment of respiratory failure for two years in a row

National organizations that study the delivery of patient care in Intensive Care Units conclude that outcomes are significantly better when managed by intensivists – physicians with certification in their primary specialties, plus subspecialty certification in critical care medicine. “And we have five of them, which is just amazing,” said Michelle Franklin, RN, MSN, Clinical Manager of Critical Care Services at Berkshire Medical Center.

Among them is intensivist Jack K. Ringler, MD, who said the foundation for extraordinary care was established by Ricardo Cordon, MD, the hospital’s first intensivist and Director of Pulmonary Medicine, who retired in 2006.

“Beginning with Dr. Cordon, we all witnessed the evolution of how world-class medical care should take place in a community hospital,” Dr. Ringler said. “Because of the medical and administrative leadership at Berkshire Health Systems, the management of the sickest patients in this hospital has been exemplary.”

Now led by intensivist Daniel M. Doyle, MD, the ICU is distinguished by a close-knit team that has worked together for years, forging deep bonds and creating an atmosphere of trust that helps provide excellent patient care. Other hospital teams, including the Sepsis Team, help organize care to provide the best outcomes for patients.

“I don’t know if there is work that is too much harder than this,” Franklin said, referring to the non-stop pace of the ICU, and the skills needed to care for a combination of critically-ill surgical, medical and neurological patients. “They have to balance the deep empathy they feel for each patient with the need to somehow walk out of the unit at the end of the shift and resume their lives at home.”

