





Quality Improvement Plan

In keeping with the amended Performance Agreement, Ornge prepares an annual Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The QIP is a framework for monitoring key aspects of Ornge's service delivery, such as patient experience and care, clinical practice, and operational service delivery.

QIP indicators are chosen each year and reflect organizational priorities, including some identified areas for improvement. The indicators are aligned with Ornge's strategic priorities, and Health Quality Ontario's six quality elements for health care organizations. Ornge's patient and health care partner surveys help to inform the QIP.

QIP indicators change from one year to the next so that the organization's areas of focus remain current. Progress is measured on a quarterly basis.

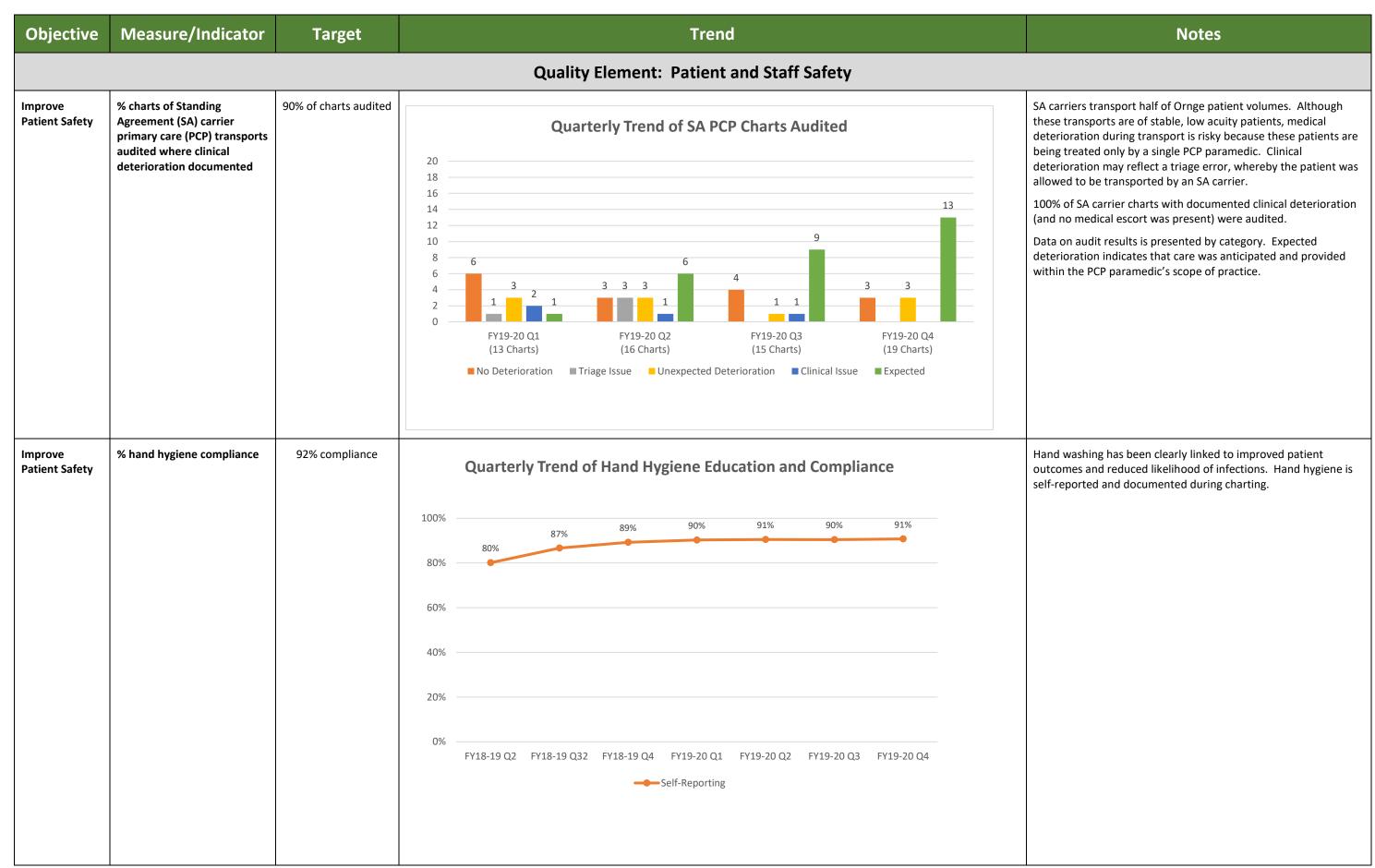
By monitoring QIP results and other key performance indicators, Ornge maintains a steady watch over organizational quality with an overall goal of improving the effectiveness of our service delivery. Attached are Ornge's 2019/2020 Year End Report, and 2020/2021 Targets.



A high-quality health system is defined as "a health system that delivers world-leading safe, effective, patient-centred services, efficiently and in a timely fashion, resulting in optimal health status for all communities." This definition includes six elements of quality and forms the basis of Ontario Health – Quality's framework for quality improvement.











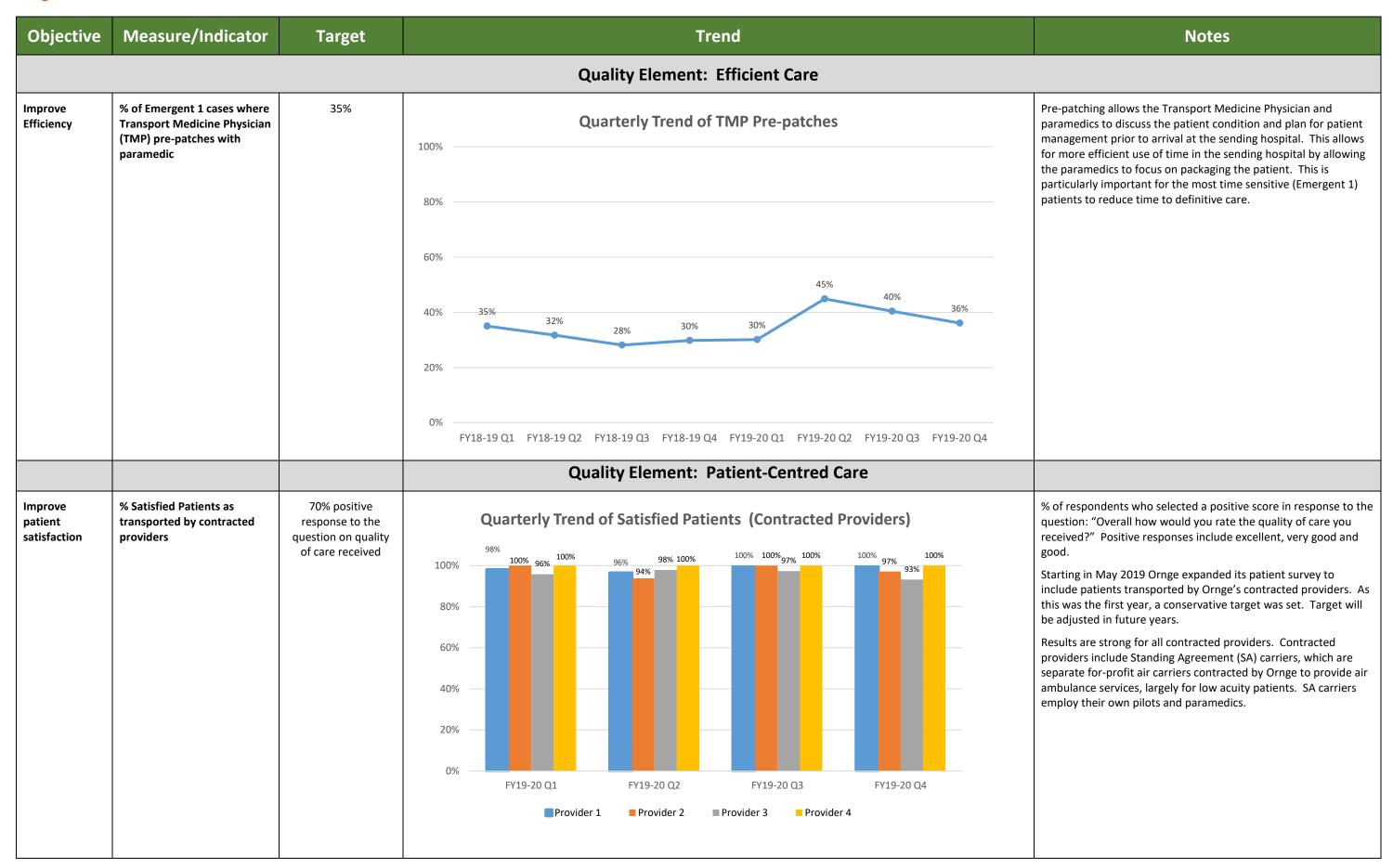














Objective	Measure/Indicator	Target	Trend				Notes	
Improve patient and stakeholder satisfaction	Timely Acknowledgement of External Complaints and Inquiries:		Quarterly Trend of Timely Acknowledgement of External Complaints and Inquiries				All targets are set with reference to date of receipt of the complaint/inquiry. Only a subset of complaints requires investigation. Closure of complaints/inquiries may involve complex issues and multiple departments; the target represents a	
	(i) Acknowledgment	99% in 2 business days	100%	100%	100%	100%	98% 100%	10% improvement from Q1 to Q4).
	(ii) Investigation	70% in 7 business days			85%	79%		
	(iii) Closure	53% in 30 business days	80%					
			60%				53%	
				49%	270/	40%		
			40%		37%			
			20%					
			0%	FY19-20 Q1	FY19-20 Q2	FY19-20 Q3	FY19-20 Q4	
			■ Acknowledged (2 days) ■ Investigated (7 days) ■ Closed (30 days)					





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Objective	Measure/Indicator	Target 2020/2021	Notes			
Quality Element: Effective Care						
Improve Clinical Quality	% non-intubated trauma patients with documentation of adequately controlled pain	70% non-intubated trauma patients with a pain score of <4	A pain score <4 represents mild pain. Analgesia is an important way of managing the patient's pain. Increased pain in trauma patients can be a sign that fractures are inadequately immobilized. Increased pain is also associated with worse patient perception of the quality of care provided.			
			Documentation confirms whether pain was monitored. An electronic flag was recently added to Ornge's patient chart to reinforce the practice of pain scoring and documentation.			
			This indicator will be continued through 2020/2021 as it is a meaningful patient-centred outcome variable which requires ongoing improvement.			
Improve Clinical Quality	% of ventilated adult and pediatric patients with HCO3 documented	90% of all adult and pediatric patients with HCO3 documented	Documentation of HCO3 in ventilated patients has been noted via clinical metrics to be below standard. For 2019/2020 Q2/Q3, HCO3 was documented for 63% of adult and 81% of pediatric ventilated patients.			
			The HCO3 level is important to ensure appropriate ventilation to maintain adequate pH. Previously we have not had the ability to obtain this in all ventilated patients. By implementing iSTATs on all transport assets, we will now have the ability to provide more appropriate ventilation strategies by obtaining HCO3 values.			
Improve Clinical Quality	% Documentation of two temperatures in:	No baseline data available. 2019/2020 Q4 and/or 2020/2021 Q1 data will provide baseline to determine goals	Monitoring temperature is part of vital signs monitoring and important for stroke/trauma/ROSC patients. Hypothermia can be detrimental to patient outcomes. Effective and simple interventions exist to prevent and treat hypothermia. Hypothermia, however, cannot be treated unless it is identified.			
	(iv) Stroke patients	TBD	Over the last two years we have improved temperature documentation to target for stroke/trauma/ROSC patients. However, we are uncertain how we are performing in <i>maintaining</i> temperature with our patients given we are not auditing <i>two</i> temperatures.			
	(v) Trauma patients	TBD				
	(vi) ROSC patients	TBD	For 2020/2021 the QIP indicator will be changed to reflect two temperatures documented: one on initial assessment and			
	Maintenance of appropriate temperature in:		one prior to transfer of care as well as if the appropriate temperature was maintained for the patient condition. This will allow us to measure our impact with maintenance of temperature and reflect more of a patient-centred outcome variab			
	(i) Stroke patients	TBD				
	(ii) Trauma patients	TBD				
	(iii) ROSC patients	TBD				
		Quality Element: Patient a	nd Staff Safety			
Improve Patient Safety	% hand hygiene education and compliance	90% of active duty staff complete education on annual basis	Hand washing has been clearly linked to improved patient outcomes and reduced likelihood of infections. Hand hygiene is self-reported and documented during charting.			
		92% compliance based on documented self-reporting	Hand hygiene measurement is a required organizational practice for Accreditation. With the COVID-19 outbreak, there is a heightened need for appropriate hand hygiene. We will continue this indicator 2020/2021.			



Objective	Measure/Indicator Target 2020/2021		Notes	
Improve Patient Safety	% of time pre-determined areas are cleaned below the relative light units (RLU) threshold on monthly audits	90% compliance with results equal to or below the RLU reading on monthly checks	Infective agents can persist on the surfaces of air ambulances for a prolonged period of time and may put subsequent patients at risk for nosocomial infection. Aircraft must be cleaned between patient encounters but it is important for Ornge to verify the efficacy of its cleaning procedures.	
			RLU measurement is an ROP for accreditation and remains below target measure for FY20. There is a heightened need for appropriate aircraft cleaning due to the COVID-19outbreak	
			This measure will remain for 2020/2021 to ensure focus and improvement on reduced RLU readings.	
Improve Patient Safety	% Usage of a standardized patient care hand-off Checklist	85%	% of total patient transports on Ornge dedicated asset showing documented use of a standardized hand-off checklist.	
	CHECKIST		This indicator is a required organizational practice for Accreditation so it is important to keep monitoring.	
			Evidence suggests that structured handover between health care professionals can improve transitions of care and may be linked to better patient outcomes.	
Improve Staff Safety	Soft tissue/musculoskeletal injury rate	4.0/100 employees	# incidents per 100 paramedic and pilot employees resulting in soft tissue and musculoskeletal injuries from loading/unloading/carrying patient or lifting/pushing/pulling medical equipment. Soft tissue/musculoskeletal injuries are the most frequent on the job injury at Ornge.	
			With implementation of the new power-load stretcher in Ornge's helicopters in 2019, it is important to continue monitoring for expected improvement to the injury rate in 2020/2021.	
		Quality Element: Tim	ely Care	
Improve Timeliness	Length of stay at sending hospital after handover to Ornge:	40 minutes by end of 2020/2021	Feedback from stakeholders is that Ornge spends too much time packaging patients. Improved timeliness for specific lifethreatening conditions is associated with better patient outcomes. The reasons for in-hospital time are multi-factorial and	
	Package time for patients intubated <i>BEFORE</i> Ornge arrival		require ongoing partnership. Ornge and hospital EDs can work together in preparing patients for rapid packaging. This measure will remain for 2020/2021 with a goal of reducing the average time, over a two year period, to 40 minutes.	
Improve Timeliness	Overall Base Response Time: % meeting threshold		Improved timeliness for specific life-threatening conditions is associated with better patient outcomes.	
	(iii) Fixed wing	≥ 80% of the time response < 15 minutes (< 25 minutes if fuel required)	Fixed wing and land ambulance overall base response times continue to be below target. We aim to improve this performance. There are more challenges to dispatching fixed wing aircraft than other vehicle types, particularly in the spring and fall seasons.	
	(iv) Land ambulance	≥ 90% of the time response < 10 minutes	Helicopter response times have been added back to the metric to ensure a comprehensive review of base response times.	
	(v) Helicopter	≥ 90% of the time response < 15 minutes (< 25 minutes if fuel		
		required)		
		Quality Element: Effic	ient Care	
Improve Efficiency	% of Emergent 1 cases where Transport Medicine Physician pre-patches with paramedic	50%	Pre-patching allows the Transport Medicine Physician (TMP) and paramedics to discuss the patient condition and plan for patient management prior to arrival at the sending hospital. This allows for more efficient use of time in the sending hospital by allowing the paramedics to focus on packaging the patient. This is particularly important for the most time sensitive (Emergent 1) patients to reduce time to definitive care. In ultra-time sensitive patients, having a TMP pre-patch may decrease time at the sending facility by enabling paramedics to prepare prior to patient contact.	
			Currently, on average TMPs pre-patch on approximately 36% of Emergent 1 patients. Our target is to increase this to 50% for 2020/2021.	



Objective	Measure/Indicator	Target 2020/2021	Notes			
Improve Efficiency	% of patients for whom Operations Control Centre staff obtain bed confirmation	90% of inter-facility transport requests	Operations Control Centre staff are required to confirm with the accepting hospital that the patient has a bed available and an accepting physician. This ensures that the transport can be completed without delay and confirms the correct receiving destination. This currently occurs for 77% of patients and the target for 2020/2021 is 90%.			
Quality Element: Patient-Centred Care						
Improve patient satisfaction	% Satisfied Patients as transported by contracted providers	90% positive response to the question on quality of care received	% of respondents who selected a positive score in response to the question: "Overall how would you rate the quality of care you received?"			
			Target has been increased from 70% in 2019/2020 to 90% in 2020/2021.			
			Contracted providers include Standing Agreement (SA) carriers, which are separate for-profit air carriers contracted by Ornge to provide air ambulance services, largely for low acuity patients. SA carriers employ their own pilots and paramedics.			
Improve patient and stakeholder satisfaction	Timely Acknowledgement of External Complaints and Inquiries:		Ornge has a robust incident reporting system. However, reporting only translates into improve quality of care when there is trending and timely closure. Closure of complaints/inquiries within 30 days is aspirational as multiple departments and external organizations may be involved. We will continue monitoring this indicator in 2020/2021.			
	 (iv) acknowledged within 2 business days of receipt (v) investigation, where necessary, within 7 business days of receipt (vi) closed within 30 business days of receipt 	99% acknowledged within 2 business days 70% investigated within 7 business days where investigation is necessary By Q4, 53% closed within 30 days				
Improve patient and stakeholder satisfaction	% patients delayed for transport in whom Operations Control Centre (OCC) staff obtain updates every 6 hours	OCC staff obtain update every 6 hours for 50% of emergent/urgent patients delayed for inter-facility transport	Patient transfers are delayed for various reasons (weather, asset availability, bed availability, triage) which cause logistical challenges with receiving facilities. This is further complicated when patient condition changes. OCC requires patient updates to ensure the appropriate asset and triage acuity is assigned to the patient transfer, and it is OCC's policy that updates be obtained every 6 hours.			
			Updates are also important to the stakeholders who are waiting for Ornge to respond, as they want to ensure that their transfer is being reviewed regularly and considered for an available asset.			