UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals

March 28, 2025

Dear UCSF Health Community,

We are writing to express our strongest support for the development and implementation of the project titled: "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Develop an Interdisciplinary Approach to Reduce Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injury (HAPI)" at Benioff Children's Hospitals (BCH). Reducing HAPI is a top priority for BCH, as it is a key component of our Quality and Safety True North Pillar. Developing an artificial intelligence report centered around a zero-harm goal is an innovative approach with tremendous potential. We are confident that this AI tool will lower HAPI rates and also be scalable to other zero harm initiatives.

The approach to using generative artificial intelligence algorithms in the prevention of HAPI is highly impactful and synergistic with current efforts for the following reasons:

1. Interdisciplinary Approach: An interdisciplinary approach is needed to prevent HAPI. The AI report synthesizes clinical data across nursing, respiratory therapy, nutrition, wound care, and physician/advanced practice provider teams to create a comprehensive and accurate snapshot patient-level HAPI prevention efforts.
2. Identifies and proposes bedside interventions in real time: Reminders to comply with unit protocols (such as periodic skin assessments and turning) will be sent to bedside staff to improve compliance with HAPI prevention bundles. Novel suggestions to optimize other components of HAPI prevention (optimizing nutrition, placing wound care consults, etc.) will also be generated and displayed to provider teams.
3. Outcomes are measured using existing infrastructure: Current HAPI rates are tracked using dashboards and tableau reports. Additionally, HAPI bundle compliance is charted in in the EMR and evaluated through nursing audits using the digital rounding tool. As both process and outcome measures are well monitored, the impact of the AI report can be closely assessed.

Drs. Mahendra and Franzon have expertise and a proven track record of success in developing EMR tools and implementing quality improvement projects in the critical care setting. Dr. Mahendra has expertise in big data analytics including application of machine learning and natural language processing algorithms to EMR data. Dr. Franzon is the Executive Medical Director of Quality Improvement at BCH and has decades of experience improving pediatric outcomes.

We believe this proposed project will drive meaningful improvements in the prevention and management of Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries at BCH.

Thank you,

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