

Containing Cost While Providing Prudent Care

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Recognition

- ▶ We have our shared experience in the work environment (“I know what you are feeling.”)
- ▶ We have our personal experience outside of the work environment. (“I have no sense of what you are experiencing and feeling”)
- ▶ This is not something we have experienced before. (“We felt in the dark.”)

Present Moment

You don't know if your patient will be next
as death can be seen wherever you gaze
old and young
chronically ill or previously well
it doesn't seem to much matter



you search for those facts which put your patient at risk
hoping to ease your own fears
to reassure yourself that you are safe
but there is no such relief
you don't know if you will be next
you worry for your patients
and you worry for your family
and you worry for your self



Enough

I've had enough

enough fear

enough grief

enough sadness

enough uncertainty

maybe not enough anger

and it goes on

and truth

there is little I can do

other than to continue to spread

what hope I can muster

what love I have in my heart

to as many people as I can

to live with integrity

and gratitude

and

to consistently remind myself that

the glass is half-full

if only I allow it to be so

There's a
difference
between
giving up &
knowing you've
had enough.

11/13/2020

Caveat #1:

What Brought Us to this Dance . . .

**Ain't Going to Get Us to the Next
One**

Caveat #2 –

The Best Definition of Madness is

To keep doing things
the same way
and expect different results . . .

Caveat #3

How Most of Us Approach Change



Outline

- ▼ Definition of “Resource Utilization” and “Cost Containment”
- ▼ Major types of over-utilized resources: Staff/Imaging/Lab/Inpatient admissions
- ▼ “Wasted Bed Capacity”
- ▼ Tools available to assist in this process
- ▼ Physician profiling and change management

Definitions

▼ Resource Utilization:

- ▼ The percentage of time a resource is busy
- ▼ Use compared to availability

▼ Cost Containment:

- ▼ A wide variety of strategies or methods whose primary goal is to control the rising cost of health care. These strategies and methods may include, but are not limited to government regulation, managed care programs, payment policies, global budgets, rate setting, consumer education, and utilization management

Capacity Vs. Demand - IHI

- ▼ Matching capacity and demand by making minor adjustments in the availability of health care providers or the scheduling of elective surgeries is often sufficient to reduce delays. If the demand for care is greater than the capacity of the system, there will be a delay in providing care. If the capacity is greater than demand, then resources are being wasted. When capacity and demand are matched, delays in care are reduced. Whenever a quantitative analysis indicates that the system has the capacity to meet the demand during normal functioning, then specific change concepts can be implemented relatively quickly to help align capacity and demand during predicted or unpredicted periods of high demand.

Cost = \$\$ Spent – Benefit

Systems

People

Process

Outcomes

Nurses

Techs/UC's

Efficient Flow

Physicians/APC's

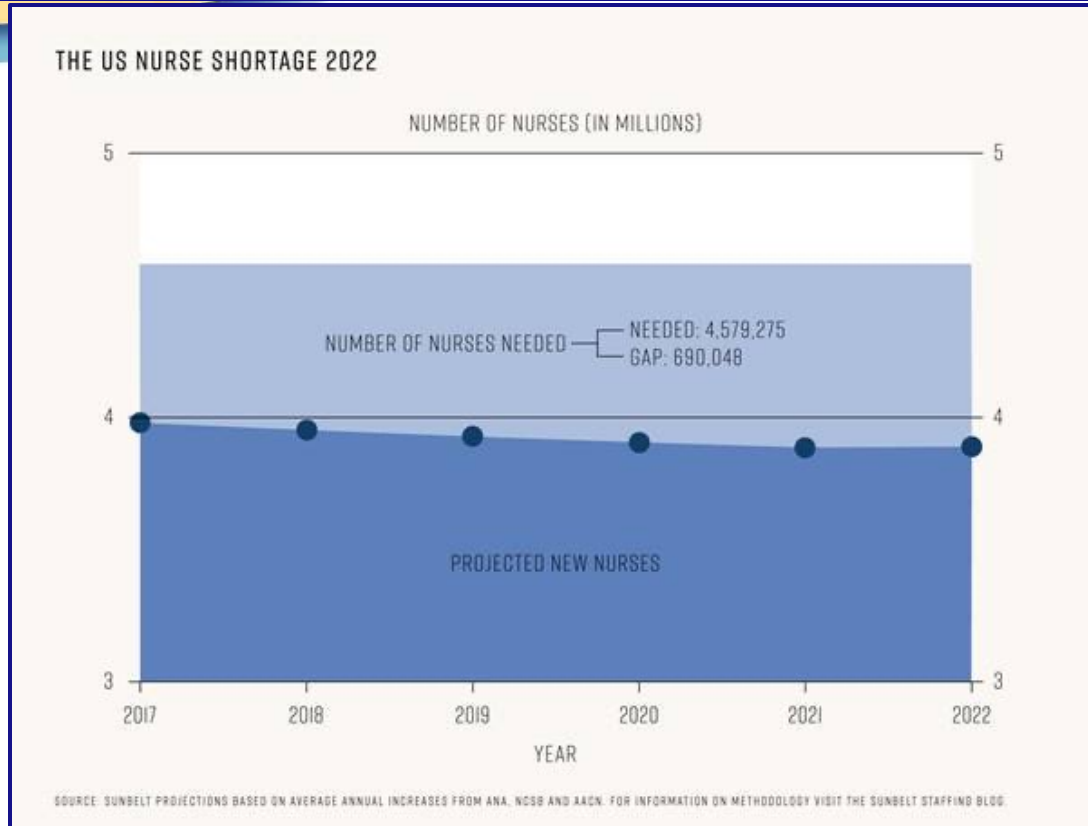
Transitions of Care

Scribes

Effective use

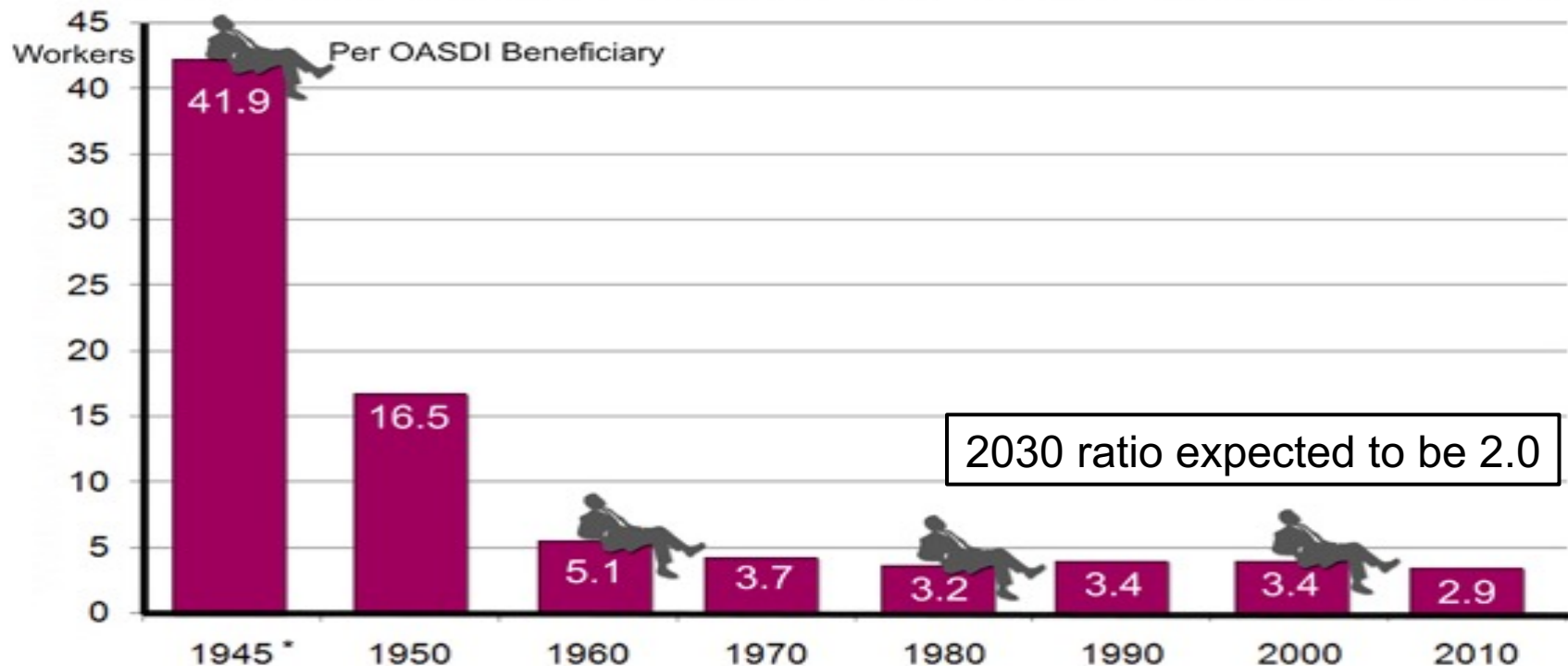
Why Is This Important?

Example #1: Workforce Shortage



Average cost to replace:
Med-Surg \$40-52,000
Critical Care \$70-80,000

How Many Workers Support One Social Security Retiree?

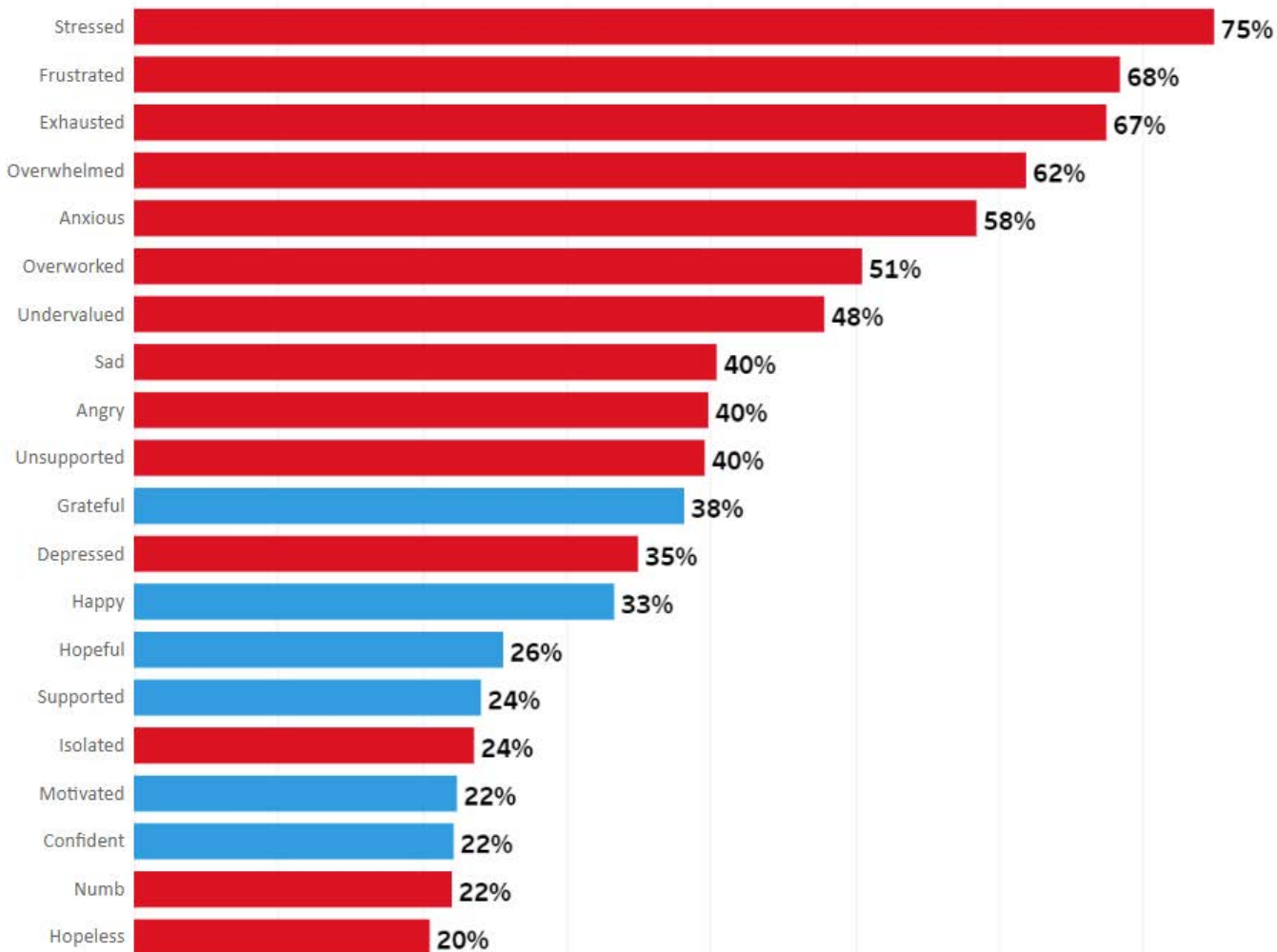


Source: 2012 OASDI Trustee Report, Table IV.B2., www.ssa.gov, accessed May 21, 2012.
Data note: The Trustee Report provides data from 1945 and onward. Prior estimates are unavailable.
Produced by Veronique de Rugy Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Turnover amidst the Pandemic

- ▶ Since 2016, the average hospital turned over about **90%** of its workforce and **83%** of its RN staff.
- ▶ Hospitals in the Southeast had the highest RN turnover rate in 2020 of 24.9%, 7.2 % increase from 2019.

In the past 14 days, have you experienced any of the following feelings?



American Nurse Foundation Survey (9,572 nurses) August 2021

Stressed	75%
Frustrated	68%
Exhausted	67%
Overwhelmed	62%
Undervalued	48%
Hopeless	20%
Grateful	38%
Happy	33%
Confident	22%

Example #2: Revenue Maintenance



"Here you go...
thought you
might like this"

Not . . .

If $X = \text{healthcare } \$$,
and $Y = \# \text{ of people utilizing}$
that healthcare, then . . .
 $Z = \text{healthcare } \$/\text{person}$

If X stays \sim the same, and
 Y increases dramatically,
 Z will decrease dramatically

Every day 10,000 Americans
turn 65 years of age

Problems:

- ▶ We are still viewed as “the most expensive place in the health care system to receive care.”
- ▶ We are the #1 target for ACO’s and organizations committed to value-based payment.
- ▶ And . . . Medicaid in most states is the single largest line item in the budget!
- ▶ AND . . . In terms of admissions and other costs, EP’s control 32%!

An Interesting Study by Myles Riner

- ▶ 20% of least costly non-admitted ED visits account for 4% of the total cost of all non-admitted ED visits.
- ▶ Could save as much \$ if reduce CT scans 1/12.

This is Real . . . LA Quality Network

Primary function of the Louisiana Quality Network (LQN) Reducing Low Value Care Steering Committee is to define priorities and strategies that will enable members of LQN to accomplish Managed Care Incentive Payment Program (MCIP) milestones. Achievement of individual milestones will lead to meeting the overall metric of “Promote Evidence Based Practice and Reduce Low Value Care through Network GME/CME Partnerships” for the next five years.

Responsibilities

- Conduct an analysis of programs designed to impact low value care efforts in other states, within Louisiana, and inside LQN.
- Develop strategies and leverage technology to explore improvement opportunities that will impact low value care.
- Identify, share and promote best practices within LQN that will identify and fill knowledge gaps, generate creative and innovative ideas, lead to improvements in overall patient care, and result in responsible planning and management of Medicaid resources.
- Promote education and engagement in patient safety, quality improvement and care transitions elements for attending physicians, residents, medical students and advanced practice professionals.
- Meet other deliverables related to the MCIP Program as assigned by the Quality Subcommittee

MCIP Target Guidelines

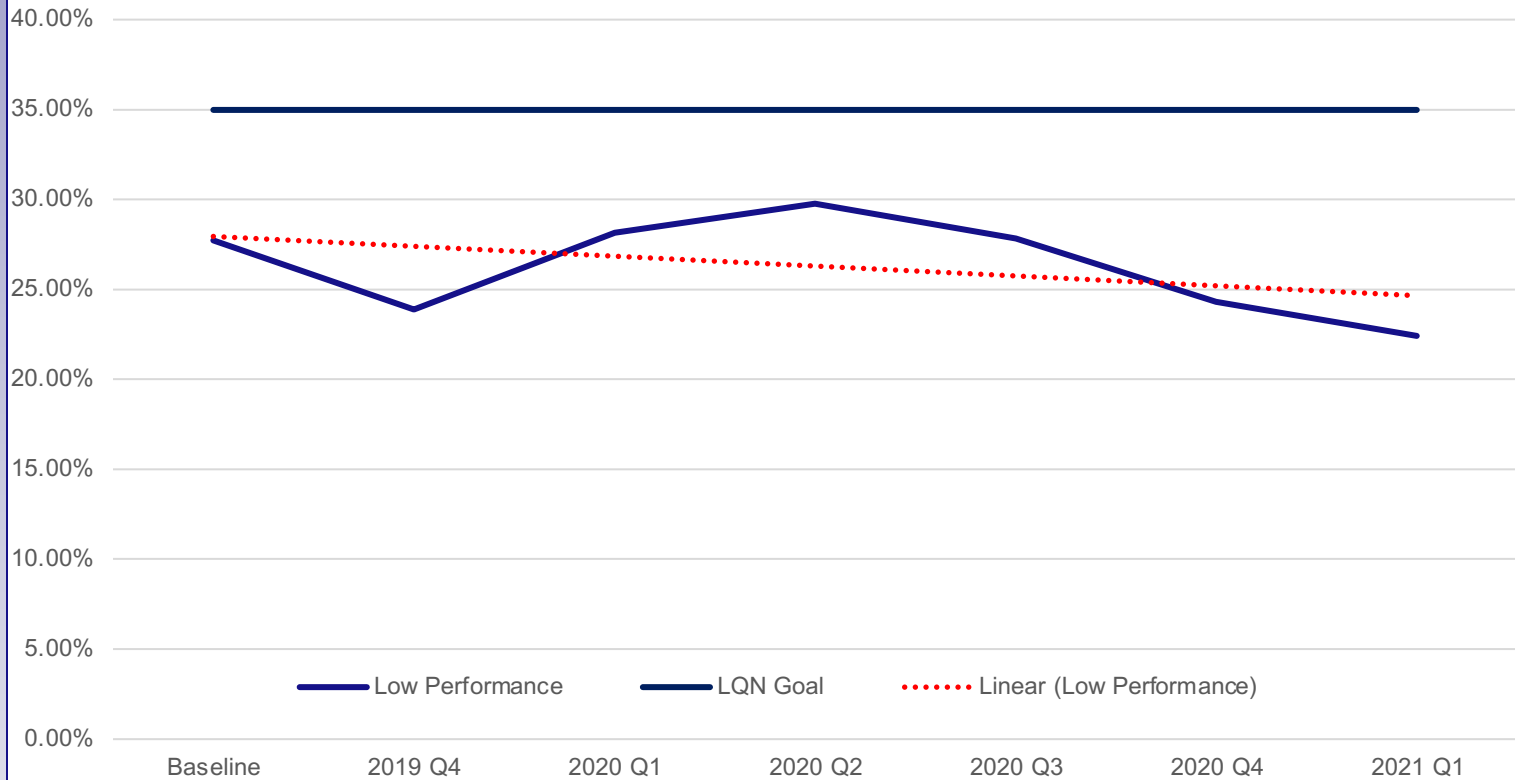
The Louisiana Quality Network Promoting Evidence-based Practice/Reducing Low Value Care Committee has chosen to focus its efforts on:

- ▶ Avoid prescribing antibiotics in the emergency department (ED) for uncomplicated sinusitis (Target Guideline A)
- ▶ Avoid lumbar spine imaging in the ED for adults with non-traumatic back pain unless the patient has severe or progressive neurologic deficits or is suspected of having a serious underlying condition (such as vertebral infection, cauda equine syndrome, or cancer with bone metastasis) (Target Guideline B)

MCIP Educational Actions

- ▼ Educate existing medical staff (MD, NP, PA, Residents) and nursing staff using the letter provided to LQN facilities for the purpose of explaining the MCIP program and socializing baseline performance for Target guidelines A & B.
- ▼ Educate medical staff (MD, NP, PA, Residents) using the EBP Grand Round presentation titled “*Promoting Evidence-Based Practice and Reducing Low Value Care – LQN Target Guidelines*” and “*The Evidence Behind the Target Guidelines in the Treatment of Patients with the Complaint of Low Back Pain and the Diagnosis of Sinusitis.*”
- ▼ Educate medical staff (MD, NP, PA, Residents) and nursing staff of available patient/provider educational material for Targets A & B, including the *Choosing Wisely*® materials.
- ▼ Provide online references, including UpToDate for evidence-based practices intended for uncomplicated sinusitis and low back pain.
- ▼ Follow through on education regarding the ACR Select Appropriate Use Criteria software implemented within the Epic electronic health record.
- ▼ Develop and implement Best Practice Advisories (BPA’s) to remind physicians within their normal work-flow of the target guidelines and encourage consistent utilization of the guidelines.

LCMC Health Emergency Departments Imaging in Patients who present with a Chief Complaint of Low Back Pain



In Terms of \$ Cost, the Real Questions Are

- ▼ Do you need to order that imaging study on that patient?
 - ▼ Do you really need to admit that patient?
 - ▼ Status: Observation or Inpatient?
 - ▼ Level of Care: Med/Surg or Tele or ICU?
- and . . .
- ▼ Are all of your clinicians making those decisions in a consistent way?

In Terms of \$ Cost, the Next Question Is

- ▼ Are you giving your clinicians individual feedback on their:
 - ▼ Resource utilization
 - ▼ Throughput metrics
 - ▼ Admission/Observation %'s
 - ▼ Patient experience
 - ▼ Relationship with staff
 - ▼ Relationship with peers
 - ▼ Relationship with medical staff/resident staff?

PHYSICIAN EVALUATION

Physician Name: _____

Evaluation: 90 Day, 6 Month, _____ Year

Date: _____

	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent	N/A
CLINICAL PERFORMANCE:						
Overall Knowledge:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Knowledge of the Clinical Literature:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Judgment:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Speed:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Q/A Issues:	1	2	3	4	5	6

Physician score:

Patients per service hour: _____

RVU's per service hour: _____

% 72 hour returns admitted: _____

COMMENT(S): _____

Overall: _____

COMMENT(S): _____

Questions

- ▶ Is ordering the appropriate study equivalent to quality?
- ▶ Is not ordering the unneeded study equivalent to quality?
- ▶ Is working fully staffed more likely to produce quality?
- ▶ Is working short less likely to produce quality?

Choosing Wisely 2013

ACEP Announces List of Tests As Part of Choosing Wisely Campaign

October 14, 2013

In Monday's ACEP13 Opening Session, ACEP announced its list of five tests and procedures that may not be cost effective in some situations and should prompt discussion with patients in order to both educate them and gain their agreement regarding avoidance of such tests and procedures, when appropriate. These recommendations are part of ACEP's participation in the "Choosing Wisely[®]" campaign.

The mission of "Choosing Wisely" — a multi-year effort of the ABIM Foundation — is to promote conversations among physicians and patients about using appropriate tests and treatments and avoiding care when harm may outweigh benefits. Since launching in April of 2012, more than 80 national, regional and state medical specialty societies and consumer groups have become "Choosing Wisely" partners. ACEP officially joined the campaign in February.

"Overuse of medical tests is a serious problem, and health care reform is incomplete without medical liability reform," said ACEP President Alex Rosenau, DO, FACEP. "Millions of dollars in defensive medicine are driving up the costs of health care for everyone. We will continue to encourage the ABIM Foundation and its many partners in this campaign to lend their influential voices to the need for medical liability reform."

ACEP's five recommendations were developed through a multi-step process that included research and input from an expert panel of emergency physicians and the ACEP Board of Directors.

The 5 Initial Recommendations

1. Avoid computed tomography (CT) scans of the head in emergency department patients with minor head injury who are at low risk based on validated decision rules.
2. Avoid placing indwelling urinary catheters in the emergency department for either urine output monitoring in stable patients who can void, or for patient or staff convenience.
3. Don't delay engaging available palliative and hospice care services in the emergency department for patients likely to benefit.

The 5 Recommendations

4. Avoid antibiotics and wound cultures in emergency department patients with uncomplicated skin and soft tissue abscesses after successful incision and drainage and with adequate medical follow-up.
5. Avoid instituting intravenous (IV) fluids before doing a trial of oral rehydration therapy in uncomplicated emergency department cases of mild to moderate dehydration in children.

Choosing Wisely 2015: The Second 5

6. Avoid CT of the head in asymptomatic adult patients in the emergency department with syncope, insignificant trauma and a normal neurological evaluation.
7. Avoid CT pulmonary angiography in emergency department patients with a low-pretest probability of pulmonary embolism and either a negative Pulmonary Embolism Rule-Out Criteria (PERC) or a negative D-dimer.

The Second 5

8. Avoid lumbar spine imaging in the emergency department for adults with atraumatic back pain unless the patient has severe or progressive neurologic deficits or is suspected of having a serious underlying condition, such as vertebral infection or cancer with bony metastasis.
9. Avoid prescribing antibiotics in the emergency department for uncomplicated sinusitis.

The Second 5

10. Avoid ordering CT of the abdomen and pelvis in young otherwise healthy emergency department patients with known histories of ureterolithiasis presenting with symptoms consistent with uncomplicated kidney stones

So . . . Questions for You

- ▶ What have you done to implement the Choosing Wisely recommendations?
- ▶ What have you done to make your clinicians' practice more consistent?
- ▶ How have you demonstrated to your leadership (hospital, health system, state legislators) how you are containing cost while providing prudent/quality care?

The Real Question is not . . .

“Quality vs Cost”

but rather

“How to Engender Quality and Generate \$
through

Cost-Effective Throughput and
Effective Use of Resources”

The Real Issue is Not \$ Spent . . . But

What Do You Get

for the \$\$

You Spend?

The Real Issue is Not \$ Spent . . . But

**You have to learn to talk
the language of ROI . . .**

Return on Investment

RETURN ON INVESTMENT (2018 & 2019)

2018 = \$15,524,027

2019 = \$14,731,865

Total increase in revenue =

\$30,255,892



CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL



The Cost-Effective Use of Human Resources . . .

- ▼ Ensure that no one is doing something that could be done by someone who costs less!

(but has the skills and knowledge to get the job done well)

Patient Care Technicians



The Care Pair Concept: Nurses

- Transport
- Do EKG's
- Draw blood
- Take/document vital signs
- Document "patient resting comfortably"
- Change stretcher linen
- Take bedpans
- Enter orders/write order slips

Clinical Information Managers - Scribes



The Care Pair Concept: Physicians

- Transcribe
- Document
- Gather lab results
- Know when x-rays are completed
- Follow up on consultants called
- Change stretcher linen
- Take bedpans
- Enter orders/write order slips

More Techs, APC's, Scribes



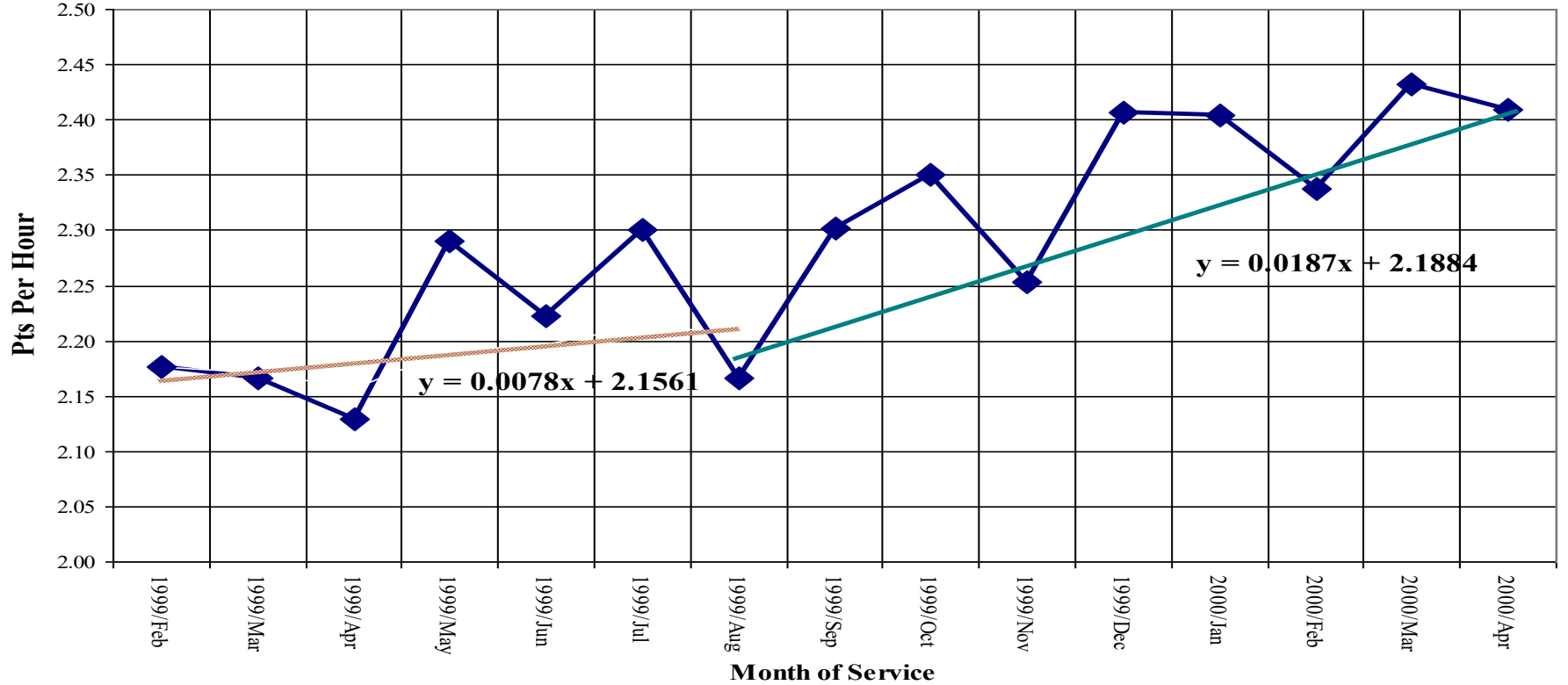
Staffing – Resource Allocation

- ▼ Dedicated Consistent Charge RN
- ▼ Charge/Lead Physician
- ▼ Flexibility:
 - Floats
 - Liberal use of extenders
 - CIM's/Medical scribes
 - On-call
- ▼ Geographic allocation?:
 - Nurse, Physician, both?

Clinical Information Managers = Scribes

- Go to bedside with you
- Document history and physical exam
- Follow up and alert you re: outstanding lab/ x-ray
- Follow up on requested communication
- Discharge instructions

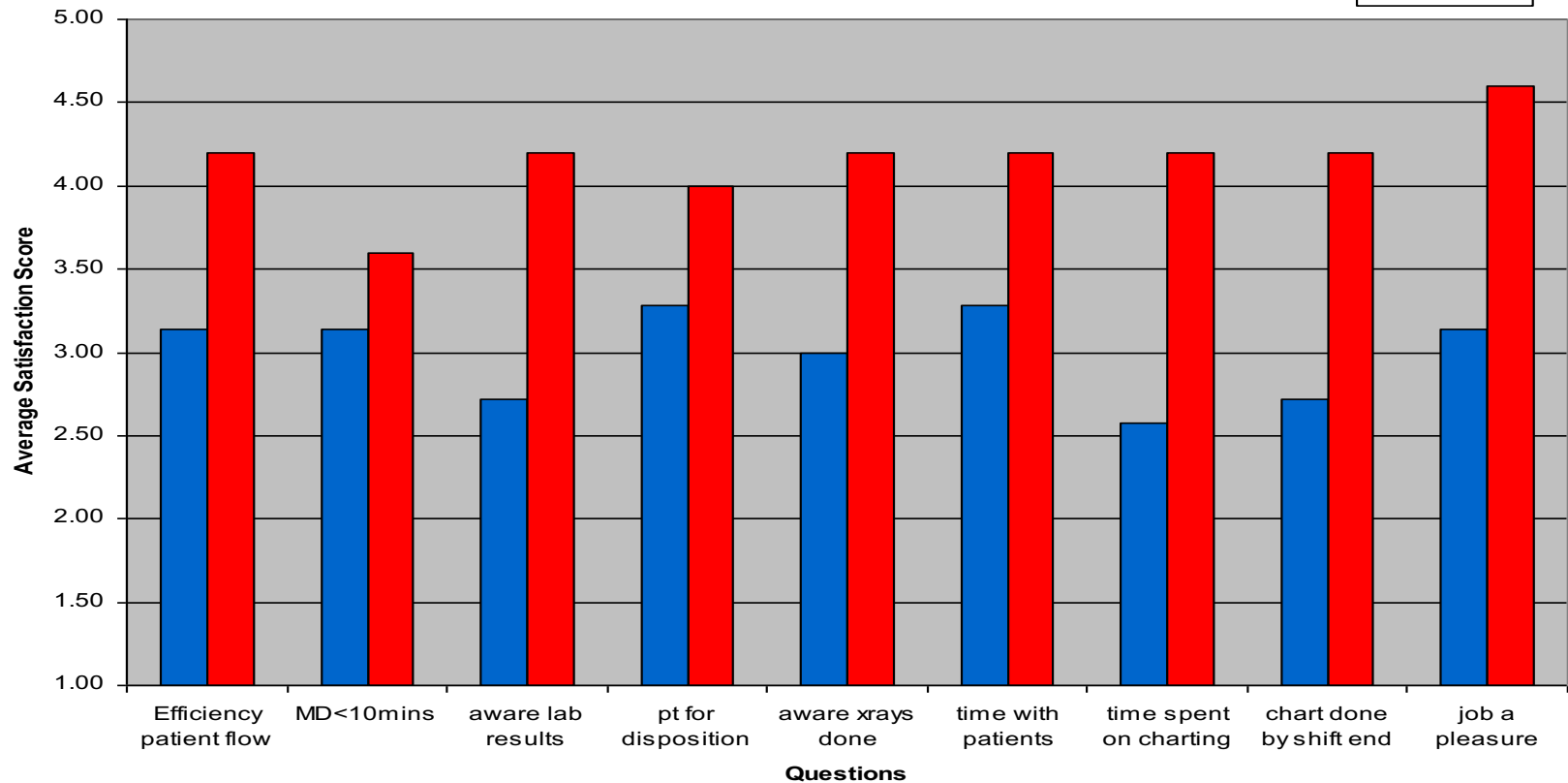
Avg Patients per Physician Service Hour



5 = very good
4 = good
3 = fair
2 = poor
1 = very poor

Quality of Life for Emergency Physicians Pre- and Post-Implementation of Clinical Information Managers May 1999/February 2000

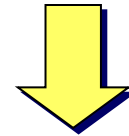
pre-CIM
post-CIM



The Cost-Effective Use of Space - Throughput



- Quick Registration
- Intake, not Triage
- Immediate Bedding
- RME: Treat-&-Street from Front/Initiate Care on Others
- Advanced Nurse Protocols



- ↓ Door to Doc
- ↑ Patient Experience

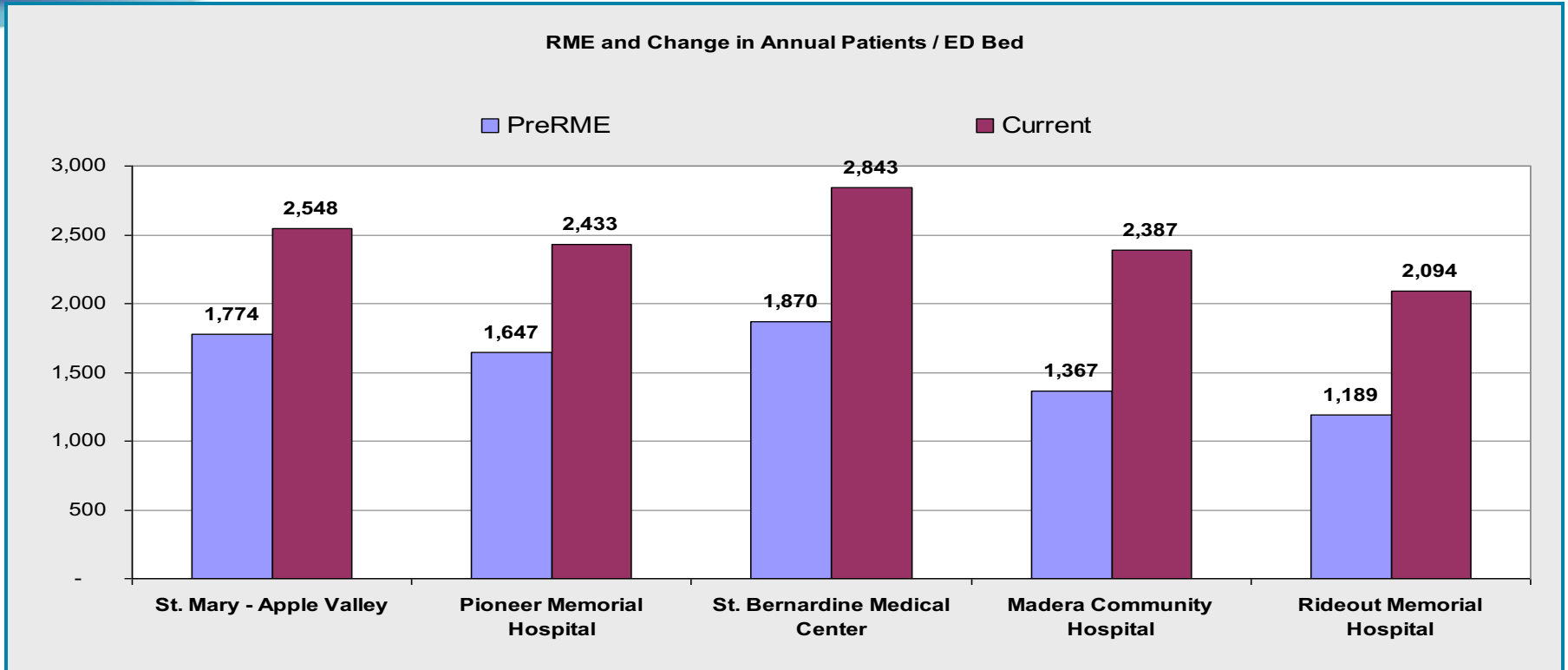
A black stethoscope is positioned over the 'ER' part of the text.

Fast ER

Treatment Area

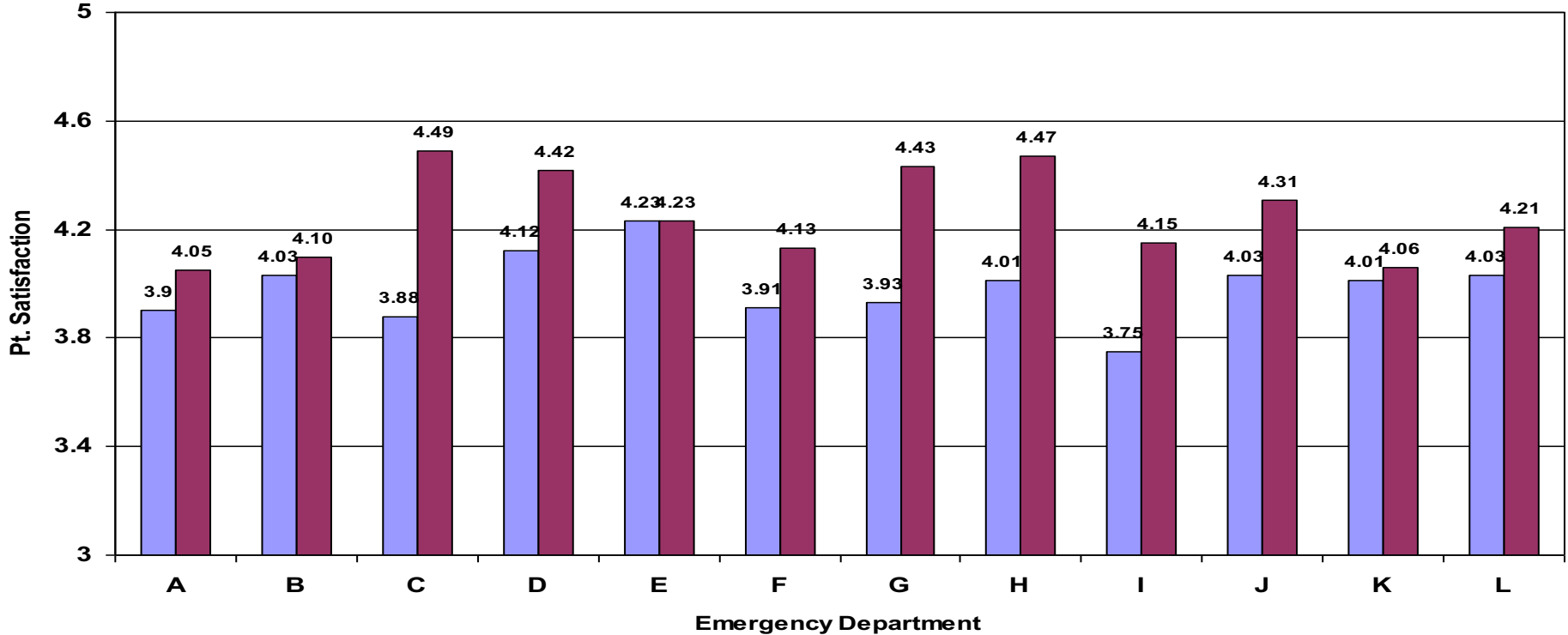
If you prefer to wait in the ER lobby, please let us know.
Si usted prefiere esperar en la sala de espera en Urgencias, favor de avisarnos.

RME and Effective Bed Utilization



Impact of a Rapid Medical Evaluation Program on Patient Satisfaction (5 point scale)

■ Satisfaction Pre-Implementation ■ Satisfaction Post-Implementation





**Re-Look at Your Space & Align It
to Your Process**







Transformation

- ▶ Collaborative team working together to improve outcomes
- ▶ Changed Process – enforced changes with leader rounding
- ▶ Build out of triage into old waiting room
- ▶ Old triage became internal RAP room
- ▶ Old storage area became new stretchers
- ▶ Team out front: APP's, nurses, techs





Registrat

The goal of our team is to provide high quality care!

- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.

© always do nothing wrong in the name of the patient!

- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.

To maximize referrals...

- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.

Keeping you informed...

- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients.



**The goal of our team is to
provide high quality care!**

The ED staff is concerned with:

- Keeping you well informed about your care
- Managing your pain
- Assuring your safety
- Answering your questions



St. Bernardine Medical Center
A member of CHW



**¡El objetivo de nuestro equipo es
brindar atención de alta calidad!**

El personal del Departamento
de Emergencia se encarga de:

- mantenerlo bien informado sobre su atención
- manejar su dolor
- garantizar su seguridad
- responder sus preguntas



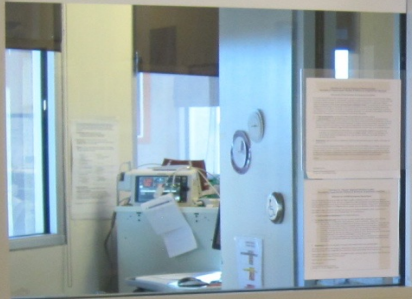
St. Bernardine Medical Center
A member of CHW



Reception

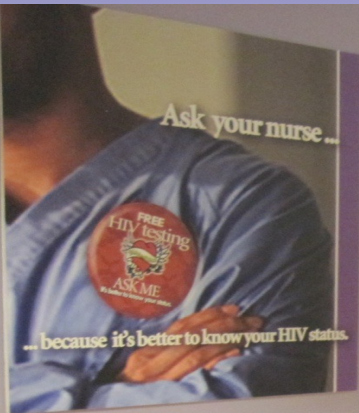


Check-In
Sala de Registración















The Emergency Department

Metric	Then	Now
Door to Doc/PA	68 mins	26 mins
Patients LWBS	4.6%	1.5%
LOS Pts D/C'd	260 minutes	196 minutes
LOS Pts Admitted	720 mins	524 mins * (-)71 mins
Patient Satisfaction	3 rd percentile	31 st percentile (11/12 58 th)
Core Measures	Near 100%	Near 100%

* With Transition Orders

Systems - While Patients Are In

Turnaround Time Guarantees in Brief

Creating Shared Expectations



Walsh Hospital

LABORATORY OF PATHOLOGY *Emergency Testing Turnaround Times*

The laboratory turnaround times for emergency (stat) testing after specimen receipt are the following (95 percent confidence limits):

RRL/Hematology

Acetone (Ketone)	30
Arterial Blood Gases	30
Carboxyhemoglobin	30
CBC without Diff	30
Coagulation (PT, PTT)	30
CSF Cell Count	45
Differential (manual)	45
Pregnancy Test, Urine	30

Microbiology

Gram Stain	45
Group A Strep (Throat)	60
Group B Strep (Genital)	120
Urinalysis	45

Toxicology

Alcohol	120
Toxic Screen, Blood	240-360
Toxic Screen, Urine	240-360

Chemistry

<i>Chemical Assay</i>	
Abdominal Pain	45
Amylase	45
BUN/Creat	45
Chem-7	45
CK	45
CSF Glucose/Protein	45
Electrolytes	45
Enzymes	45
Glucose	45
Liver Profile	45
<i>Immunoassay</i>	
CK-MB	60
Digoxin	60
Dilantin	60
hcG, Serum	60
Heterophil (Monospot)	60
Myoglobin	60
Troponin	60
Chest Pain Profile	60

- Service goals for Lab, Imaging and Consultants
- All rooms multi-purpose
- Chairs instead of stretchers
- Extenders
- Charge RN/Physician
- Board Rounds



Systems - Getting Patients Out

- Early Inpatient Discharge
- No delay nurse report
- Weekend Discharges
- “Zero Tolerance” on Hidden beds
- Transition orders
- Full Capacity Protocol



Measurement – “Inpatient Metrics”

Checklist

- Time physician order to discharge to patient out
- Patient out to call to housekeeping
- Call to housekeeping to bed clean
- Bed clean to assignment of new patient to bed
- Time of bed assignment to new patient in bed



Time Order to Patient Out



Call to Housekeeping to Room Clean

Key:

- Inpt performance indicators
- Goals and timeframes
- Data collection process
- Accountability

The Inpatient Process

Metric	Then	Now
% Pts D/C by 11 am	31%	66%
D/C order to Pt Departure	168 mins	189 mins 167 mins (3200)
Departure to Room Clean	84 mins	75 mins
ED Admit Request to Orders Received	163 mins	129 mins*
Orders Received to Bed Assignment	280 mins	129 mins
Bed Assign to Pt in Bed	88 mins	69 mins

* Almost Immediate with Transition Orders

Monthly Spreadsheet – Inpatient KPI's

Inpatient KPIs

KPI	Explanation of Metric	Metric Chosen for 2020	Baseline		Jan 2020		Feb 2020	
					Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Discharge Orders by 11 am	% of Discharge Orders by 11 am for Inpatient and Observation discharges.	SCIC Physician Governance Decision. Baseline is 2019 Average. 2020 Target Goals chosen based on 2019 average by each facility. Hospital Throughput Metric.	30.6%	Hosp 1	34.4%	34.1%	34.4%	39.3%
			20.2%	Hosp 2	34.4%	22.2%	34.4%	25.7%
			37.7%	Hosp 3	39.6%	41.1%	39.6%	47.4%
			28.9%	Hosp 4	34.4%	27.4%	34.4%	23.3%
			43.8%	Hosp 5	46.0%	46.3%	46.0%	47.1%
Discharged Patients by 2 pm	% of Admitted Patients that are discharged by 2 pm for Inpatient and Observation discharges.	SCIC Physician Governance Decision. Baseline is 2019 Average. 2020 Target Goals chosen based on 2019 average by each facility. Hospital Throughput Metric.	45.4%	Hosp 1	47.7%	43.3%	47.7%	47.8%
			32.9%	Hosp 2	35.0%	28.9%	35.0%	25.7%
			31.4%	Hosp 3	35.0%	31.8%	35.0%	37.9%
			31.1%	Hosp 4	35.0%	27.4%	35.0%	31.7%
			32.9%	Hosp 5	35.0%	31.8%	35.0%	35.3%

ASAP Emergency Department -

KPIs

KPI	Explanation of Metric	Metric Chosen for 2020	Baseline		Jan 2020		Feb 2020	
					Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Bed Request to Bed Assigned (minutes)	Time from Bed Request Order for admission or observation requested to time bed is assigned (in minutes)	ASAP Governance. New metric for 2020 and retired Left Without Being Seen Metric. No baseline for 2020. 60 minutes chosen as standard target goal.	NA	Hosp 1	60	19	60	18
			NA	Hosp 2	60	47	60	27
			NA	Hosp 3	60	36	60	25
			NA	Hosp 4	60	141	60	87
			NA	Hosp 5	60	68	60	130
Bed Assigned to patient in Inpatient Bed (minutes)	Time from bed assignment for inpatient or observation bed to time patient is physically in inpatient bed (in minutes).	ASAP Governance. New metric for 2020 and retired Admission Time from ED to Inpatient. 120 minutes chosen as standard target goal.	NA	Hosp 1	120	39	120	43
			NA	Hosp 2	120	30	120	44
			NA	Hosp 3	120	57	120	53
			NA	Hosp 4	120	69	120	64
			NA	Hosp 5	120	49	120	52
Arrival to discharge time (in minutes)	Average duration between a patient's arrival and the time the patient is discharged from the ED. Objective is to be LESS THAN the target goal	ASAP Governance. Baseline is 2019 Average. All sites chose specific target goals for 2020 based on historic baseline and throughput predictions for 2020.	133	Hosp 1	130	140	130	147
			136	Hosp 2	136	131	136	146
			136	Hosp 3	120	136	120	135
			275	Hosp 4	240	286	240	275
			133	Hosp 5	120	129	120	128
Door to Provider Time	Time from ED checkin to time 1st seen by a Provider (in minutes).	Baseline is 2019 Average. 30 minutes chosen as standard for 2020 at all sites as this is a national standard expectation.	35	Hosp 1	30	34	30	38
			19	Hosp 2	30	15	30	19
			5	Hosp 3	30	5	30	5
			25	Hosp 4	30	25	30	25
			19	Hosp 5	30	17	30	19

Individual Physician Profiles

- ▼ If you do not measure by the individual, no one will ever admit that their practice is not A+ the best . . .
- ▼ The excuses are:
 - ▼ My patients are different.
 - ▼ The data must be wrong.
 - ▼ It's not statistically valid.
 - ▼ . . .

Variation in Clinical Practice is Rampant

IMAGING FOR THE CLINICIAN SPECIAL SECTION
CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY

Robert G. Stern, MD, Section Editor

THE AMERICAN
JOURNAL of
MEDICINE®

Head CT examinations were ordered in 8.9% of emergency department visits

- ▶ Two-fold variation in overall head CT ordering (6.5–13.5%),
- ▶ Three-fold variation in head CT ordering for atraumatic headache (21.2–60.1%).

y

y and Public

(2012)

Summary

- ▶ What reserve we had is gone – efficient practice is essential.
- ▶ Careful resource utilization with appropriate cost containment is crucial to success.
- ▶ Consistency is crucial . . . Measurement is a must, individual as well as group.
- ▶ Use of technology is an imperative.

Questions?

Thank you.

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