

# INTEGRATED NETWORKS OF EMERGENCY CARE

---

(In a time of accelerated change in Health systems)

David A Petrie MD, FRCP

Professor Department of Emergency Medicine, Dalhousie University  
Senior Medical Director Emergency Program of Care / NSHA

# Potential Conflict of Interest

- 1996 Co-founder of PraxES inc.
- Potential Bias towards urban, physician-centric, and academic emergency medicine perspectives



# Easteros: Thought Experiment

How do you optimize  
**access** to high **quality**  
Emergency Medicine in  
an evolving Health  
Care Eco-system?





## 911 call in Farsborrough

- Paramedics arrive on scene and patch in
- 32 year old male with penetrating trauma to the torso, vitals stable
- Should we go to the Farsborrough "ER", the SanStephanie ED, or the bigger hospital in Sante Jean?

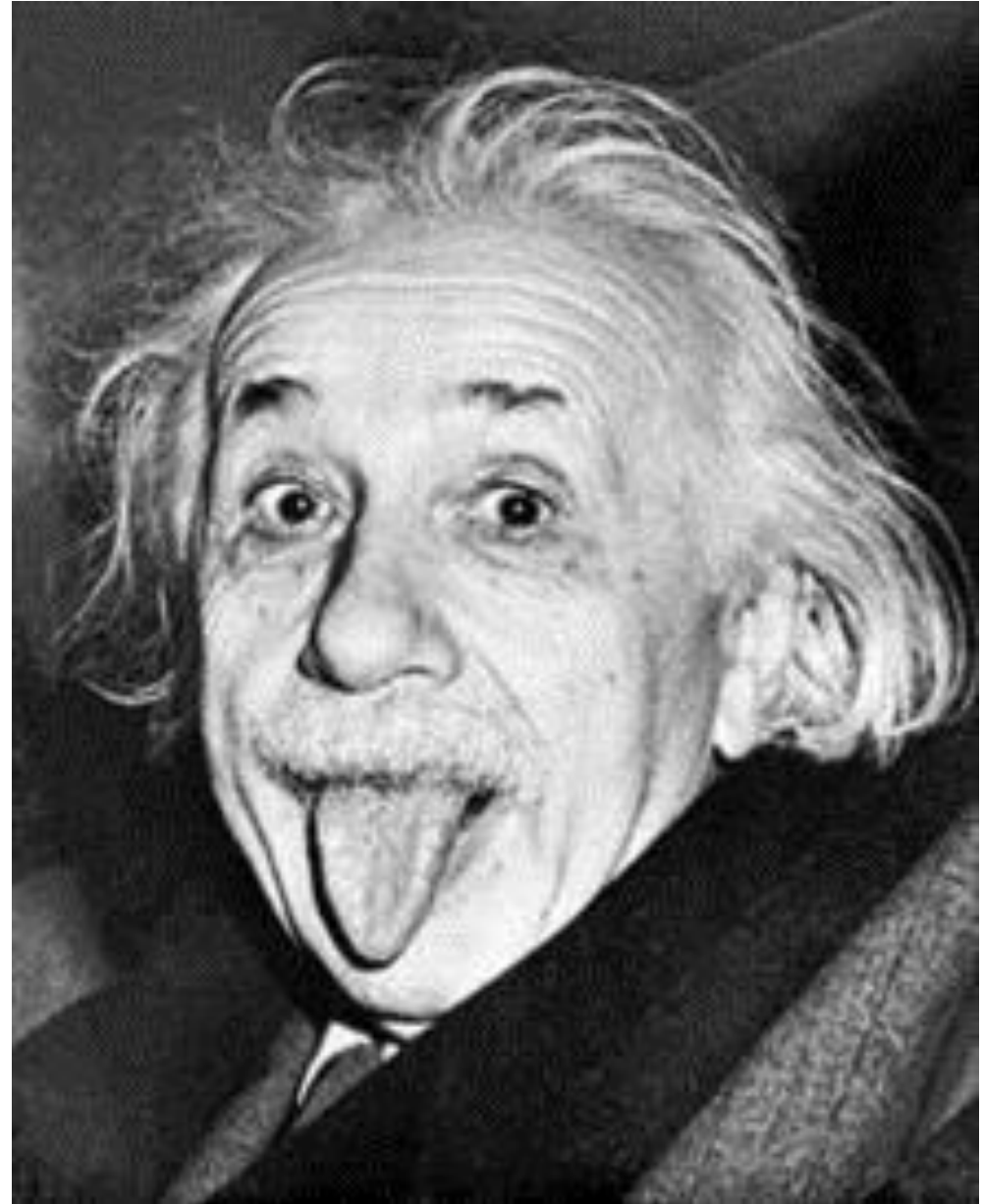




1. What is Emergency Medicine?
2. How does this impact Health **System** Design?
3. Nova Scotia provincial Emergency Program of Care
  - Goals and approach
4. EPoC 4 priority directions:
  - System Design and Integration
  - Quality, Standards, and Patient safety
  - Hospital / System Flow (efficiency and capacity)
  - Governance and accountability

# What is Emergency Medicine?

“How you formulate  
a problem is far  
more essential than  
its solutions” Einstein



# Historical Context

## Ancient:

### Modern:

- The era of public inquiries and coroners inquests
- Specialization

### Integrated Networks of Emergency Care:





# Historical Context

Ancient:

**Modern:**

- The era of public inquiries and coroners inquests
- Specialization

Integrated  
Networks of  
Emergency Care:

PERSPECTIVE



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## The ER, 50 Years On

Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., and Ricardo Martinez, M.D.

Five decades ago, the *Journal* published an article by the leaders of Hartford Hospital in



*Articles from  
the NEJM Archive are  
available at NEJM.org*

Hartford, Connecticut, about emergency-room use. Their study was prompted “by rising apprehensions about the adequacy of physical facilities and supervision of clinical work performed in the emergency unit.”<sup>1</sup> Over the 11 pre-

Brian J. Zink, MD

---

# Anyone, Anything, Anytime

---

*A History of Emergency Medicine*

MOSBY  
ELSEVIER



Watch the Performance July 27  
8:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. PT

Only on  
Apple MUSIC



# What is EM? (and what its not)

## Definition

Unique content  
Knowledge and  
Discipline

ERPs, BURPS,  
and other forms  
of eructation





# What is EM?

(and what its not)

Emergency medicine is the medical specialty dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of **unforeseen illness or injury**. It encompasses a **unique body of knowledge** as set forth in the "Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine."<sup>1</sup> The practice of emergency medicine includes the initial evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and disposition of any **patient requiring expeditious medical, surgical, or psychiatric care**.

An Emergency Physician is defined as being college/board certified (American College of Emergency Physicians)

## CAEP Definition of Emergency Medicine

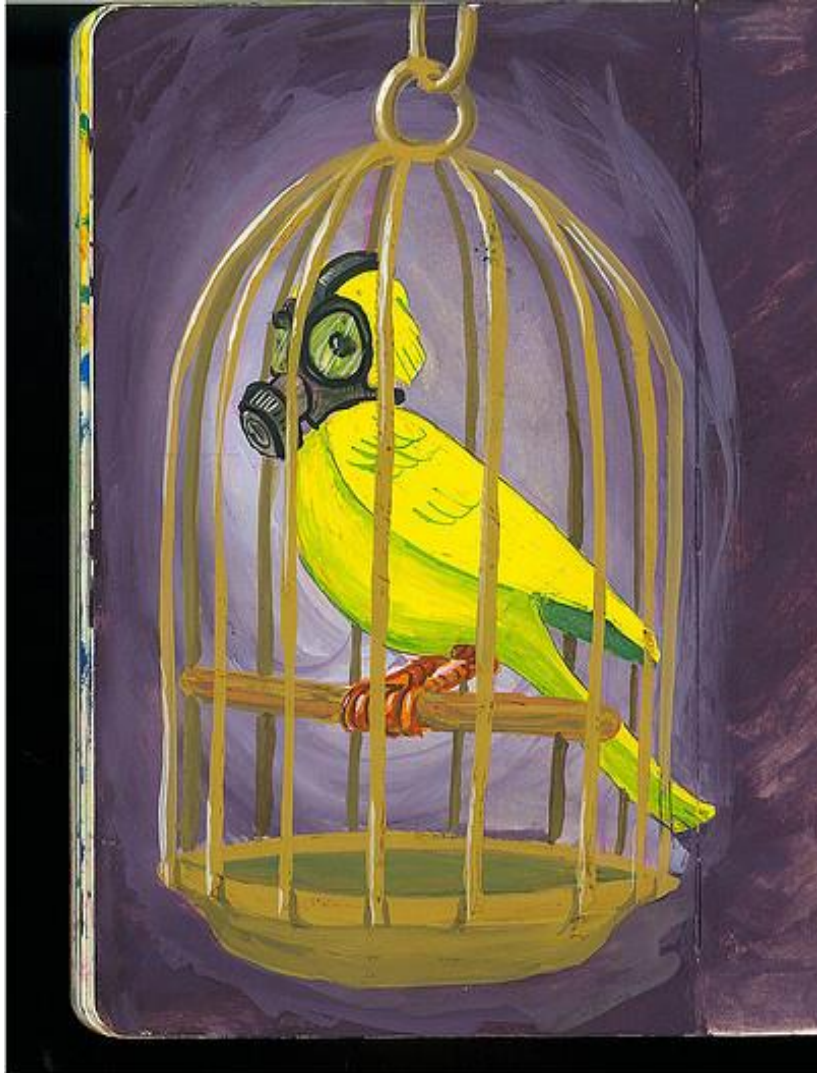
Emergency medicine is a field of medical practice comprised of a unique set of competencies required for the timely evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and disposition of all patients with injury, illness and/or behavioural disorders requiring expeditious care, 24/7/365. These conditions are often undifferentiated and include, but are not limited to those that are life threatening, acute and urgent. This care is typically delivered within a hospital setting, however the purview of emergency medicine extends beyond the emergency department.\*

\* Other knowledge, skills, attitudes and activities relevant to emergency medicine include, but are not limited to awareness of and participation in:

- The coordination of patient care across multiple healthcare venues and providers
- Health care promotion and injury prevention
- Leadership and administration: leading interdisciplinary patient care teams, medical management, policies & procedures, emergency equipment & design, physician staffing, budgets, medical management
- Medical systems
  - Within the emergency department: including patient triage, throughput and discharge
  - External to the emergency department: including but not limited to pre-hospital transport & care and disaster planning & management
- Teaching relevant emergency medicine skills, knowledge and attitudes to other physician and non-physician health care providers
- Generation of emergency medicine knowledge through research and knowledge translation
- Patient safety and quality improvement related to emergency medicine



# EM Metaphors:







The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis.

This electronic document was made available from [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org) as a public service of the RAND Corporation.

**BRIEF**

# THE EVOLVING ROLES OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS



# The Future of Emergency Medicine:

Management consultant Peter Drucker once observed, “**The best way to predict the future is to create it.**” As physicians, we have power to determine what will be written about us 50 years from now. What future do we want for our patients? The choice is up to us.



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., and Ricardo Martinez, M.D.

Five years from now, I think emergency medicine will be known for three things.

1. **the traditional:** if you're really sick or hurt, it's the only place to go.
2. we will be noted to be the **best acute care diagnosticians in the world.**
3. I think we will be **experts on transitions of care**, particularly in those transitions not only into the hospital to decrease length of stay but also transitions into the community.

I think it's a great future.

- ACEP forum on the future of EM 2015

DOI: 10.1377/hlthaff.2013.0884  
HEALTH AFFAIRS 32,  
NO. 12 (2013): 2082–2090  
©2013 Project HOPE—  
The People-to-People Health  
Foundation, Inc.

By Ricardo Martinez and Brendan Carr

# Creating Integrated Networks Of Emergency Care: From Vision To Value

**Ricardo Martinez** (Ricardo.Martinez@northhighland.com) is vice president of North Highland Worldwide Consulting, an assistant professor of emergency medicine, Emory School of Medicine, and a physician at Grady Memorial Hospital, all in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Brendan Carr** is an assistant professor of emergency medicine and epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia.

**ABSTRACT** Emergency care is an essential component of the care delivery system in the United States, but it received little attention during the debates about health care reform. As a result, US emergency care remains outdated and fragmented. We provide an overview of efforts to regionalize emergency care in the United States, and we both identify challenges to change and recommend next steps in five domains: people, quality and processes, technology, finances, and jurisdictional politics. We offer a commonsense approach to increasing the value of emergency care delivery by developing regionalized integrated networks of emergency care that take advantage of emerging changes in the health system and are designed to meet time-sensitive patient needs.



## Triple Aim EM

Access

Quality

Cost

Challenges	Urban	Rural
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Overcrowding”</li> <li>• Boarding → 75:20:5</li> <li>• ED efficiencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “ED closures”</li> <li>• Primary care access</li> <li>• Recruit/retain</li> </ul>
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical integration</li> <li>• Wait times</li> <li>• CQI/research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horizontal integration</li> <li>• Standards</li> <li>• MoC</li> </ul>

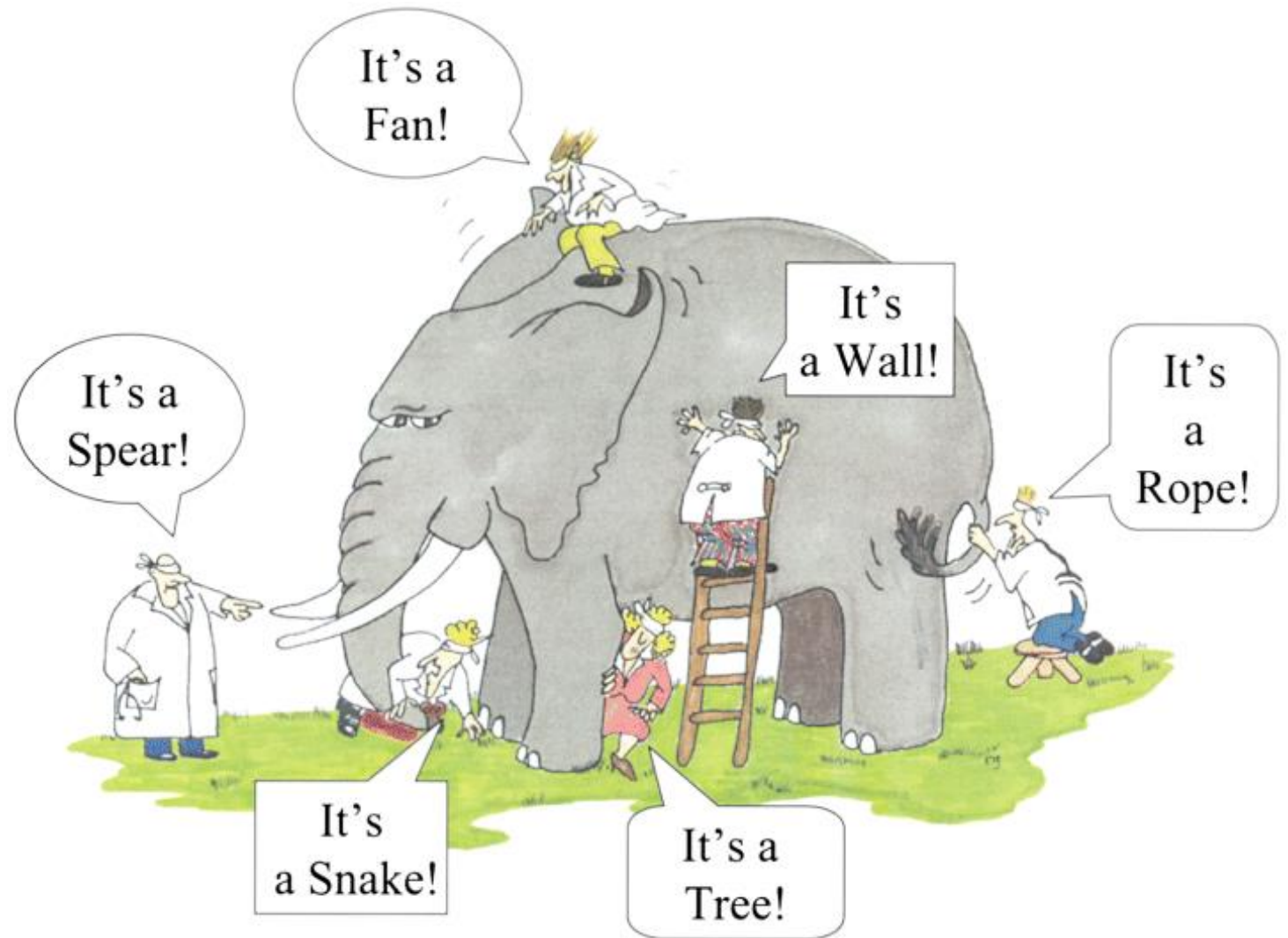
## Persistent EM Myths impacting policy

1. Real life in the ED is about “real” emergencies
2. Waiting in the ED is just inconvenient
3. Overcrowding is caused by low acuity patients
4. EM is expensive



# EM Myths # 1

1. **Real life in the ED is about “real” emergencies**
2. Waiting in the ED is just inconvenient
3. Overcrowding is caused by low acuity patients
4. EM is expensive





# What is Emergency Medicine?

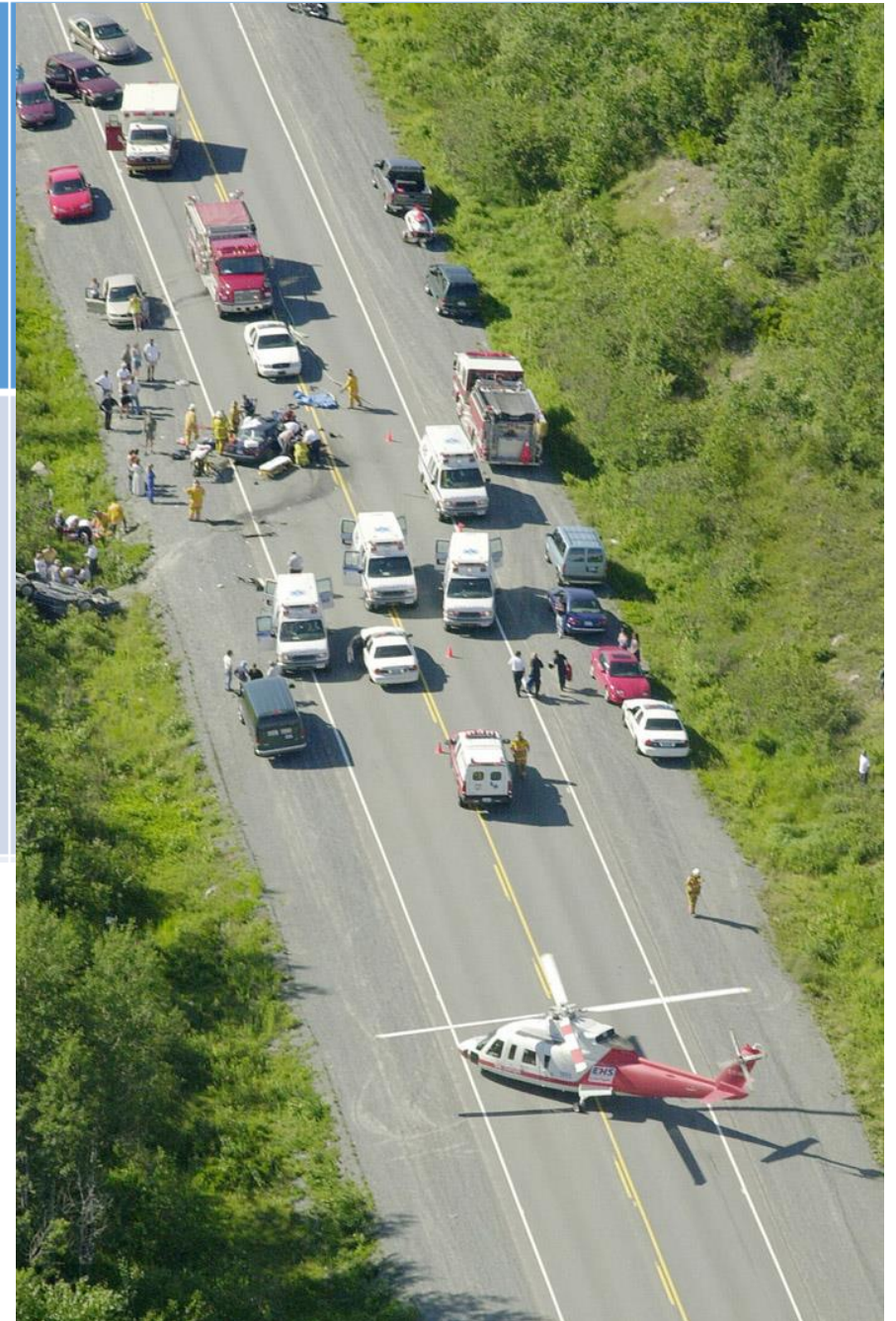
## Unforeseen Unscheduled

(ACEP definition of an Emergency)

### CTAS 1, 2, 3

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** very high to possibly high
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** major trauma, chest pain, suicidal thoughts, acute exacerbations of chronic disease, etc...

## Cohort A



# What is Emergency Medicine?

## Unforeseen Unscheduled

(ACEP definition of an Emergency)

### CTAS 1, 2, 3

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** very high to possibly high
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** major trauma, chest pain, suicidal thoughts, acute exacerbations of chronic disease, etc...

### Cohort A

### CTAS 4, 5

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** moderate
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** minor trauma (lacerations, extremity injuries), sore throat/fever, eye redness +/- discomfort, etc...

### Cohort B



# Comparison of Presenting Complaint vs Discharge Diagnosis for Identifying “Nonemergency” Emergency Department Visits

---

Maria C. Raven, MD, MPH, MSc

---

Robert A. Lowe, MD, MPH

---

Judith Maselli, MSPH

---

Renee Y. Hsia, MD, MSc

---

**Importance** Reduction in emergency department (ED) use is frequently viewed as a potential source for cost savings. One consideration has been to deny payment if the patient’s diagnosis upon ED discharge appears to reflect a “nonemergency” condition. This approach does not incorporate other clinical factors such as chief complaint that may inform necessity for ED care.

**Conclusions and Relevance** Among ED visits with the same presenting complaint as those ultimately given a primary care–treatable diagnosis based on ED discharge diagnosis, a substantial proportion required immediate emergency care or hospital admission. The limited concordance between presenting complaints and ED discharge diagnoses suggests that these discharge diagnoses are unable to accurately identify nonemergency ED visits.

*JAMA.* 2013;309(11):1145-1153

[www.jama.com](http://www.jama.com)



# “Inappropriate visits to the ED”???

Retrospectroscope...

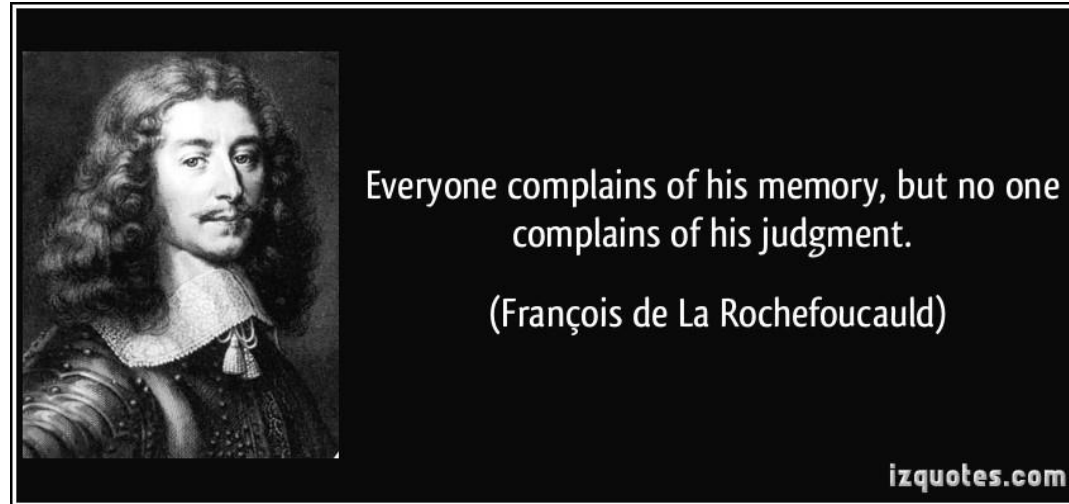


\*

Prospective / uncertainty / undifferentiated  
/high stakes?/ time dependent / emergency

# Signal and the Noise...

- **Data**
- **Information**
- **Knowledge**
- **Wisdom**



**Big Data ≠ Big Wisdom**  
Everybody complains that they need more data but no one complains about their ability to make sense of the data in context...

# What is Emergency Medicine?

## Unforeseen Unscheduled

(ACEP definition of an Emergency)

## Predictable Schedulable

(or ought to be schedulable)

### CTAS 1, 2, 3

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** very high to possibly high
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** major trauma, chest pain, suicidal thoughts, acute exacerbations of chronic disease, etc...

### Cohort A

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** complex pt CTAS 3, but low time urgency to chief complaint
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** > 1 week to > 1 month
- **Examples:** slow decline in frail elderly, incomplete out-pt work-up of “possible cancer”, feeding tube blockage, etc...

### Cohort C

### CTAS 4, 5

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** moderate
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** minor trauma (lacerations, extremity injuries), sore throat/fever, eye redness +/- discomfort, etc...

### Cohort B



# Should cohort C be in the ED? What are the alternatives?:

*"When you have a serious chronic illness, like I do, you have to see specialists in isolation. They never seem to have the full picture and as a result I feel responsible for keeping my own record to carry to each of these appointments. They don't trust the documents I carry but currently I am working with a family doctor, a rheumatologist, a respirologist, a gastroenterologist and a cardiologist. Yet, when I get into trouble, I end [up] in the emergency room and they always want to know why I did not go and see my own doctor...you can't win as a patient. I wish they would all get in the same room at the same time, with me present, and talk about what is going on and what the best plan of care should be."*

**UNLEASHING INNOVATION:  
Excellent Healthcare  
for Canada**

Report of the Advisory Panel on  
Healthcare Innovation

*Public Submission*

## VIEWPOINT

Gurpreet Dhaliwal,  
MD  
Department of  
Medicine, University of  
California, San  
Francisco; and Medical  
Service, San Francisco

# The Evolution of the Master Diagnostician

**Patients seek answers to** 3 basic questions. What (if anything) is wrong with me? Is there any treatment that might make me better? Will I recover? A physician's ability to answer these questions requires skills as a diagnostician, therapist, and prognosticator. Excellent performance across all 3 domains separates great physicians

## The Diagnostician of the Future

This mid-career physician works in the emergency department of an urban hospital. Like the master diagnostician of the past, he has extensive experience and attuned pattern recognition. Like the skilled diagnostician of today, he is adept at quickly searching for information and understanding probabilistic data. However, unlike his predecessors,

## Emergency Patient Cohorts:

(Column 2, not row 2, is the “problem” which requires improved system design in order to improve ED efficiency)

## Unforeseen Unscheduled

(ACEP definition of an Emergency)

## Predictable Schedulable

(or ought to be schedulable)

### CTAS 1, 2, 3

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** very high to possibly high
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** major trauma, chest pain, suicidal thoughts, acute exacerbations of chronic disease, etc...

### Cohort A

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** complex pt CTAS 3, but low time urgency to chief complaint
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** > 1 week to > 1 month
- **Examples:** slow decline in frail elderly, incomplete out-pt work-up of “possible cancer”, feeding tube blockage, etc...

### Cohort C

### CTAS 4, 5

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** moderate
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** < 1hr, < 1 day, or < 1 week
- **Examples:** minor trauma (lacerations, extremity injuries), sore throat/fever, eye redness +/- discomfort, etc...

### Cohort B

- **Time Dependency of Diagnosis and Treatment:** low
- **When Did Symptoms Start?:** > 1 week to > 1 month
- **Examples:** prescription request, “2<sup>nd</sup> opinion” abd pain x 1 year, “safe sanctuary” for vulnerable pt population, etc...

### Cohort D



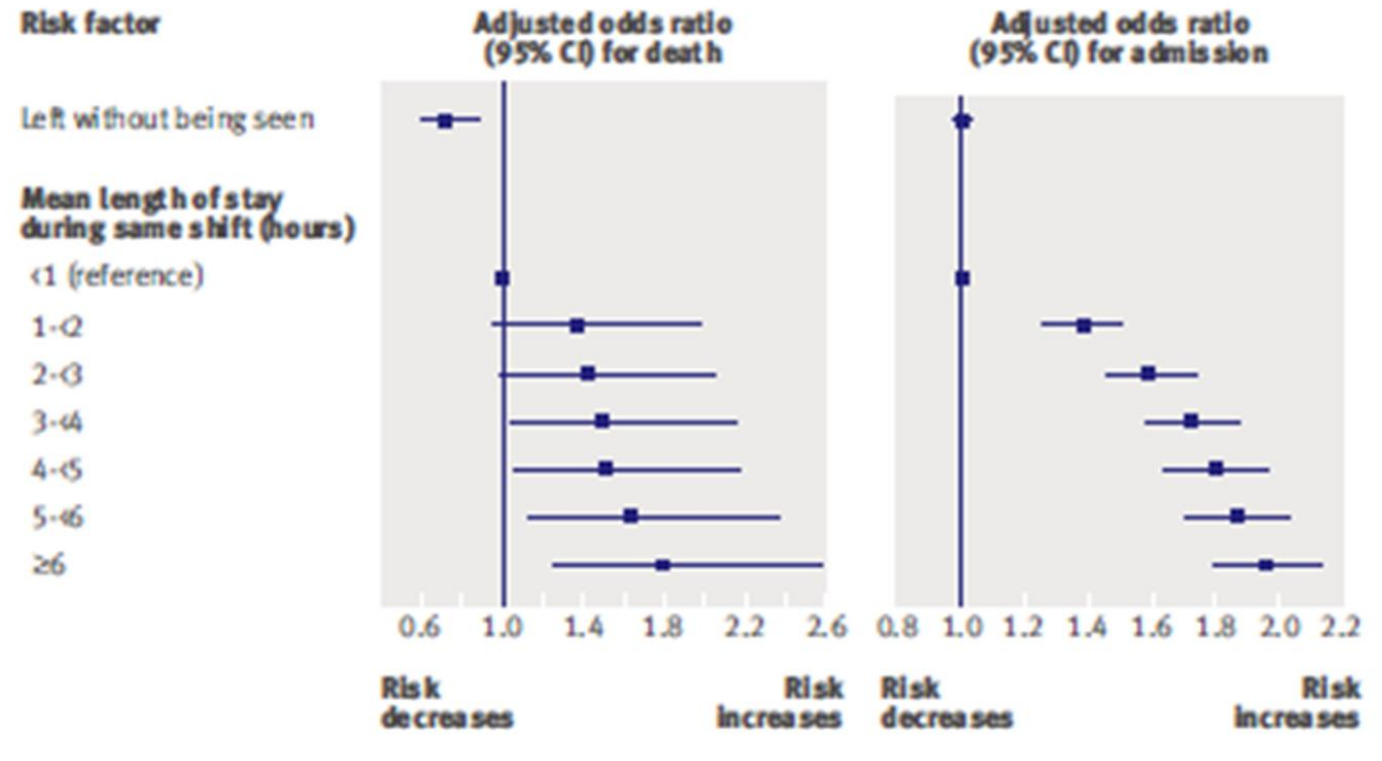
# What is Emergency Medicine?

1. Resuscitation and stabilization of the acutely ill and injured (**cohort A**)
2. Diagnosis and clinical decision making in the unexpected and undifferentiated health care event (**cohort B+** anyone, anything, any time)
3. Designing integrated systems and coordinating transitions of care - pre-ED/inter-facility/post-ED.

# Wait times and mortality...

## EM Myths # 2

1. Real life in the ED is about “real” emergencies
2. **Waiting in the ED is just inconvenient**
3. Overcrowding is caused by low acuity patients
4. EM is expensive



...in a dose response relationship that suggests causality

## EM Myths # 3

1. Real life in the ED is about “real” emergencies
2. Waiting in the ED is just inconvenient
3. **Overcrowding is caused by low acuity patients**
4. EM is expensive

CHSRF  
CANADIAN HEALTH SERVICES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



FCRSS  
FONDATION CANADIENNE DE LA  
RECHERCHE SUR LES SERVICES DE SANTÉ

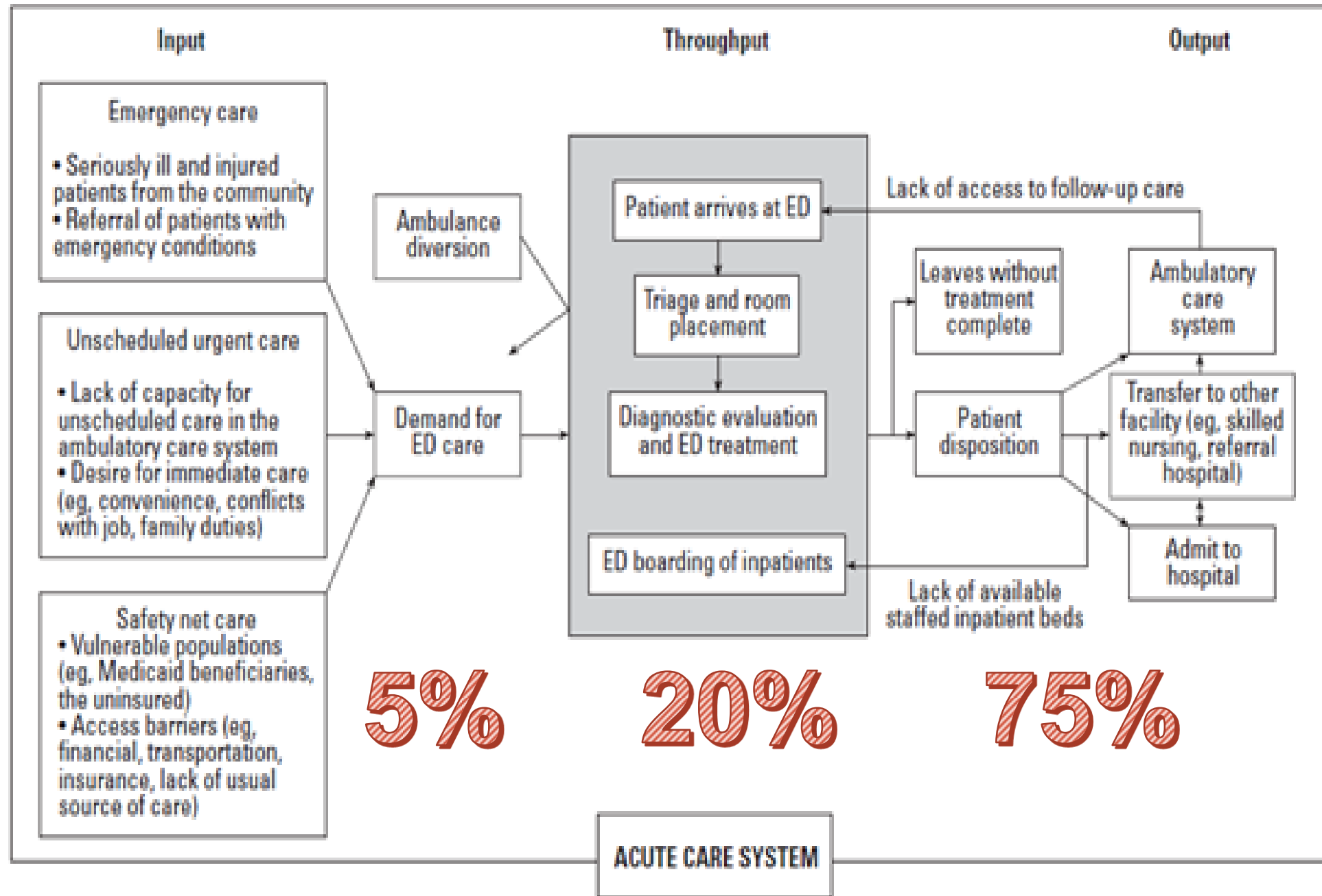
Myth  
Busters

Myth busted October 2009

A SERIES OF ESSAYS GIVING THE RESEARCH EVIDENCE BEHIND CANADIAN HEALTHCARE DEBATES

**MYTH** Emergency room overcrowding is caused by non-urgent cases

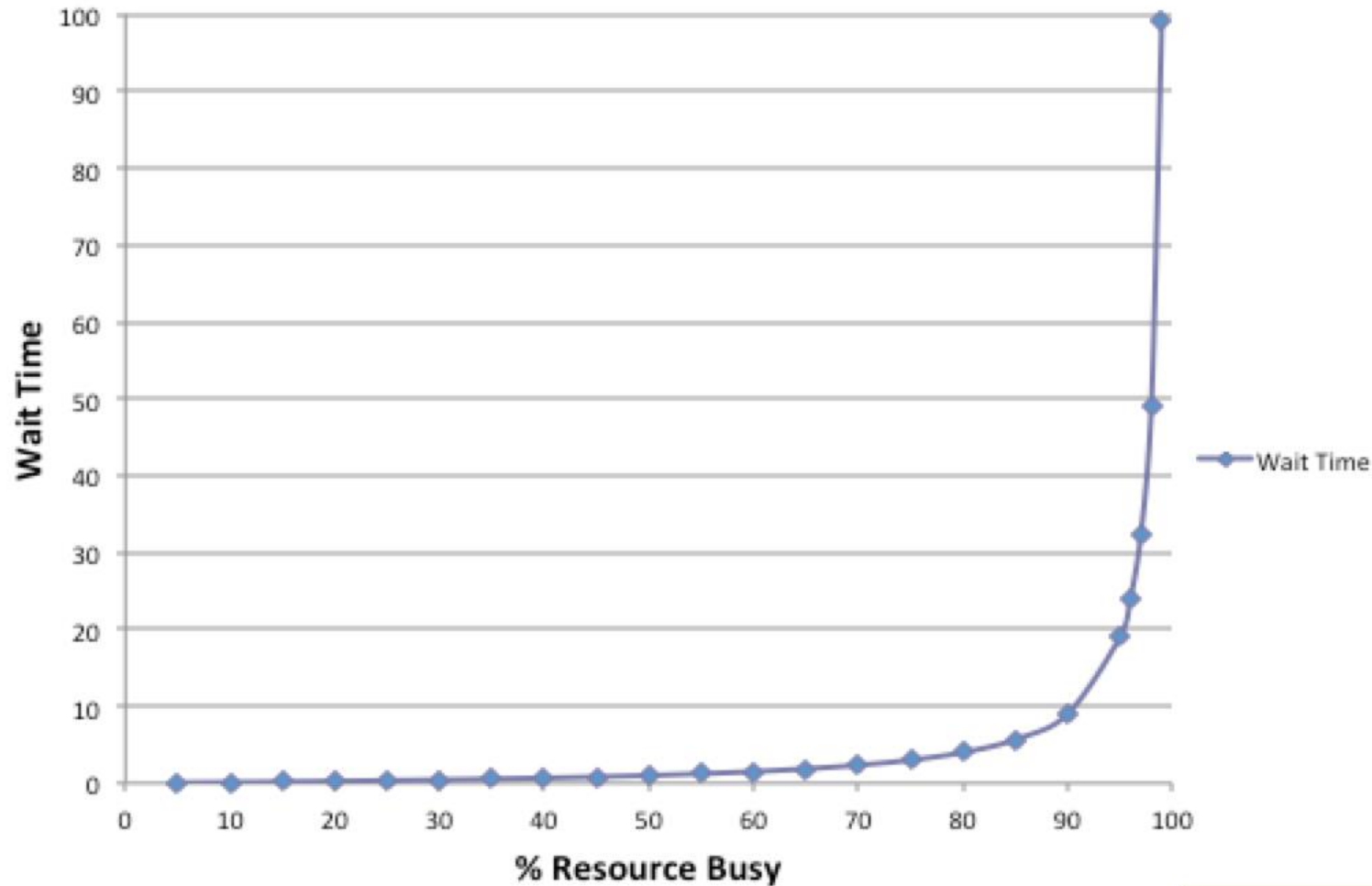
The graphic features the words "Myth" and "Busters" in large, stylized fonts. "Myth" is in red and "Busters" is in dark blue. Below the main title, there is a dark blue horizontal bar containing the word "MYTH" in gold and the text "Emergency room overcrowding is caused by non-urgent cases" in white. The background of the graphic has wavy lines in red, blue, and gold.

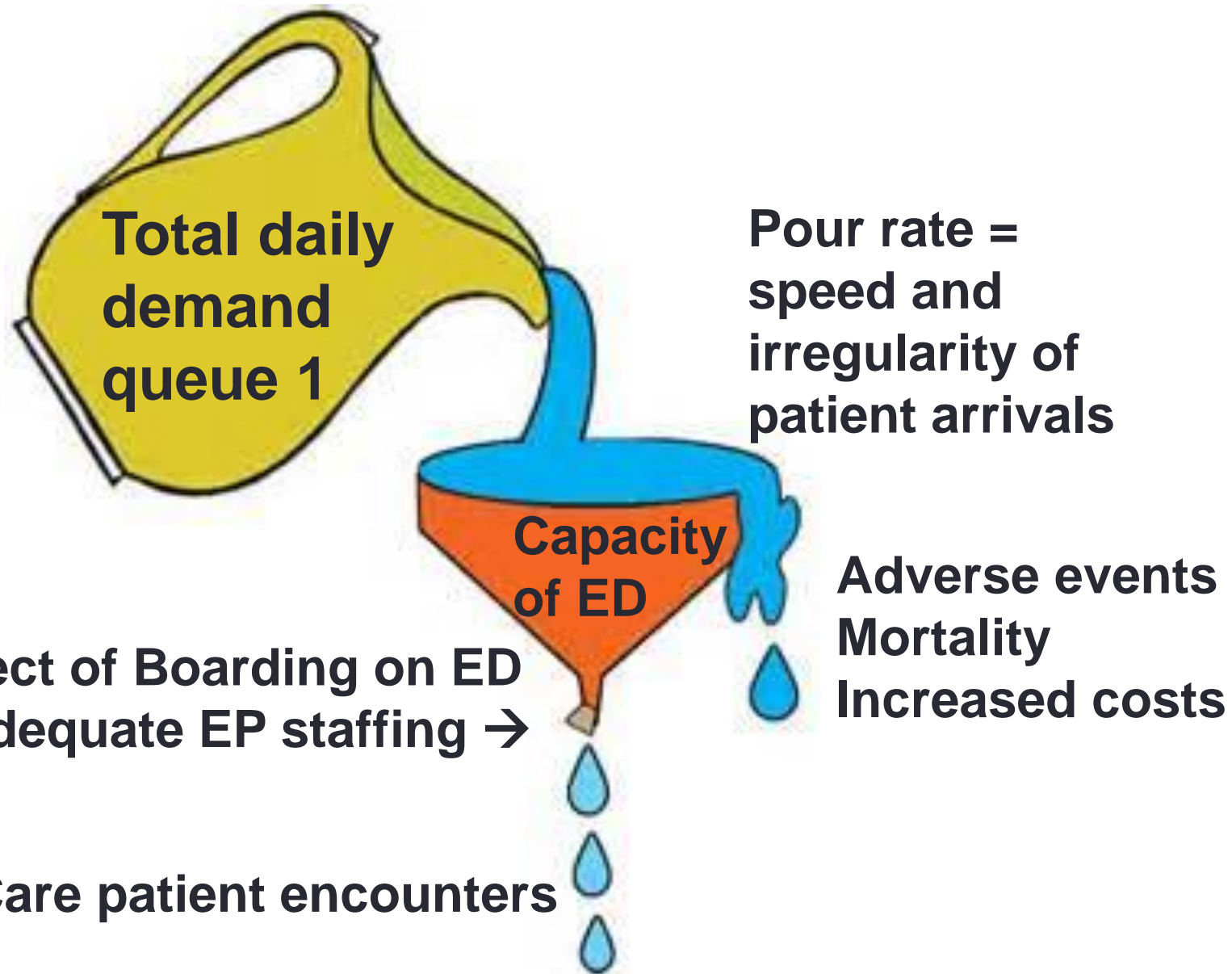




# Queuing theory:

$$\text{Wait Time} = (\% \text{ Busy}) / (\% \text{ Idle})$$





# Sophie's Choice (Who gets the next ED bed...)

## Ambulance Hallway

1. 72 yo male with Chest Pain, cardiac risks (32 min)
2. 84 yo female fall, shortened rotated hip (1h 44 min)
3. 20 yo female post ictal sz pt (2h 04 min)
4. 87 yo male confused, lives alone (1h 51 min)
5. 35 yo male intoxicated (3h 36 min)



# QUEUE # 1

## Awaiting transfer from another ED:

1. 66 yo female, COPD, rr 30, deteriorating (2h, 12m)
2. 32 yo female, medically cleared from overdose, still suicidal thoughts (6h, 44 min)

## Waiting Room:

1. 22 yo female, first pregnancy, 12 wks, heavy PV bleeding (3h, 13 min)
2. 17 yo male, sore red swollen scrotum (45 min)
3. 55 yo male, Chief of Surgery's husband, 2 day hx epigastric pain radiating to back (just triaged)

## EM Myths # 4

1. Real life in the ED is about “real” emergencies
2. Waiting in the ED is just inconvenient
3. Overcrowding is caused by low acuity patients
4. **EM is expensive**

### THE COSTS OF VISITS TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

ROBERT M. WILLIAMS, M.D., DR.P.H.

#### COMMENTARY

---

## ED Care: Available, Competent, Affordable

---

- Majority of costs are **Fixed costs** (in relation to burden of acute illness/injury [cohort A] in the relative size of the catchment area)
- A large proportion of costs are **Transferred costs** (from programs or services unable to manage their own queues in a timely manor).
- A very small proportion is the **Marginal costs** (of low acuity pts)
- **Fixed + Transferred + Marginal costs / all pts = Average cost per pt**



# Easteros: Thought Experiment

How do you optimize  
**access** to high **quality**  
Emergency Medicine in  
an evolving Health  
Care Eco-system?



# Easteros:

Assumptions: you are  
the new Philosopher  
King Decision-maker

- No politics
- No historical precedent
- Good EMS system



# SYSTEMS THINKING

---

for Health Systems  
Strengthening



Alliance for  
Health Policy and  
Systems Research



World Health  
Organization

# Emergency Program of Care (EPoC) Health Services Planning

---

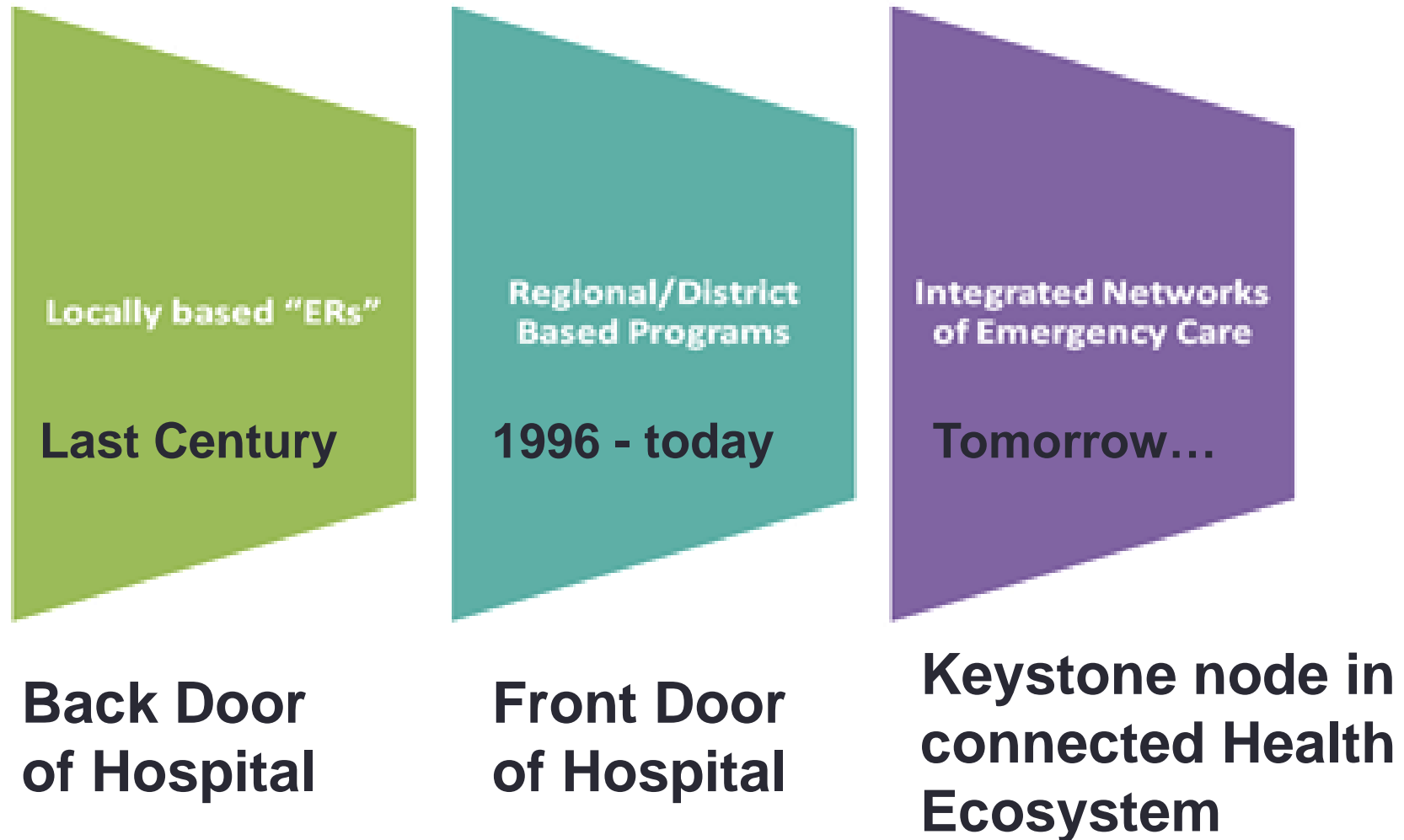
## Overview / Update

David Petrie

Tanya Penney



# Evolution of Emergency Care in Nova Scotia

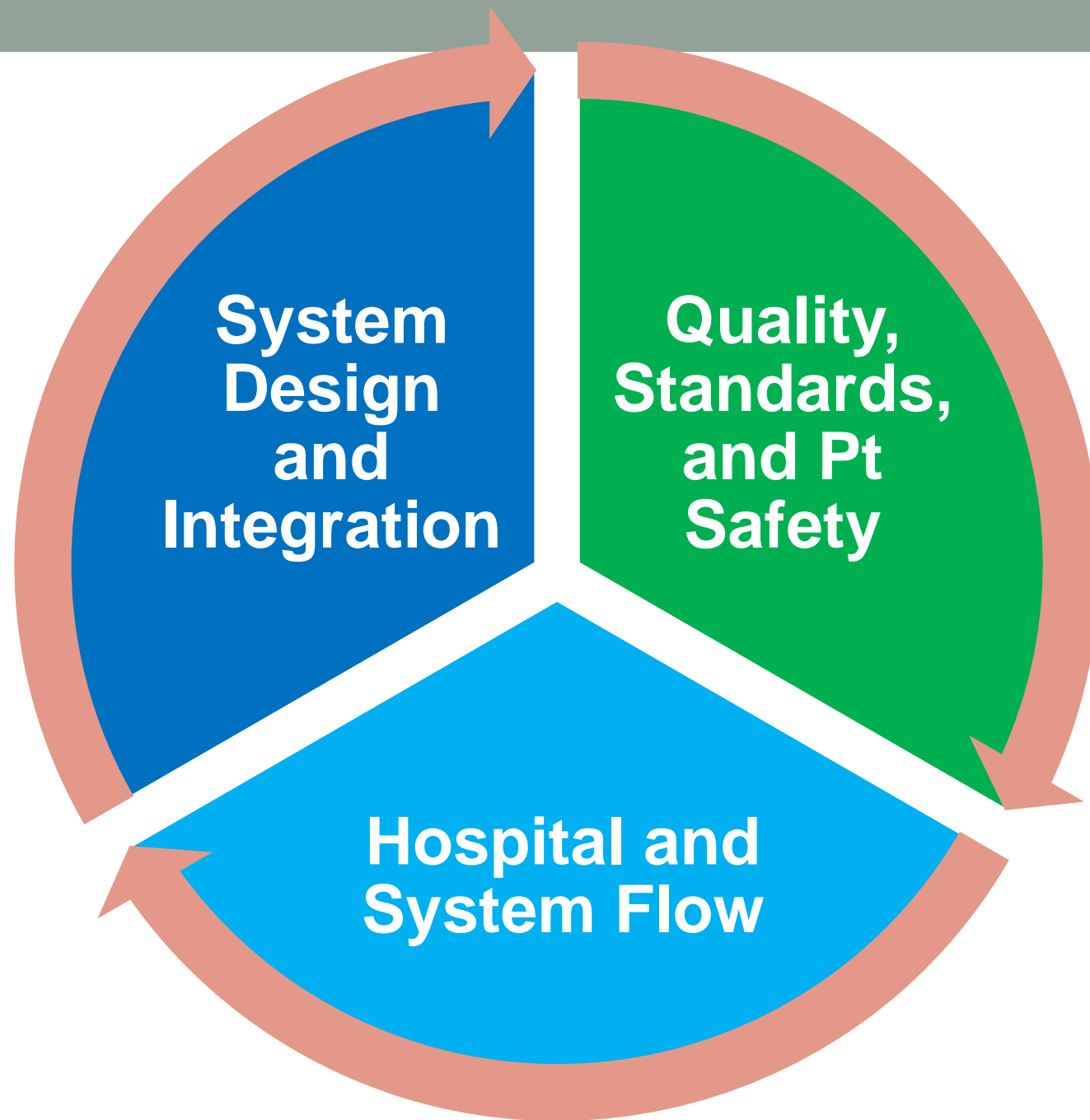




Locally based "ERs"

Regional/District  
Based Programs

Integrated Networks  
of Emergency Care



**System  
Design  
and  
Integration**

**Quality,  
Standards,  
and Pt  
Safety**

**Hospital and  
System Flow**

# 1. System Design and Integration

- 1. Categorization
- 2. Horizontal Integration
- 3. Vertical Integration
- 4. Health Human Resources

# 2. Quality, Standards, and Pt safety

- 1. Q&S committee
- 2. Quarterly reporting
- 3. Standards (accountability and support)
- 4. Maintenance of Competence

# 3. Hospital and System Flow

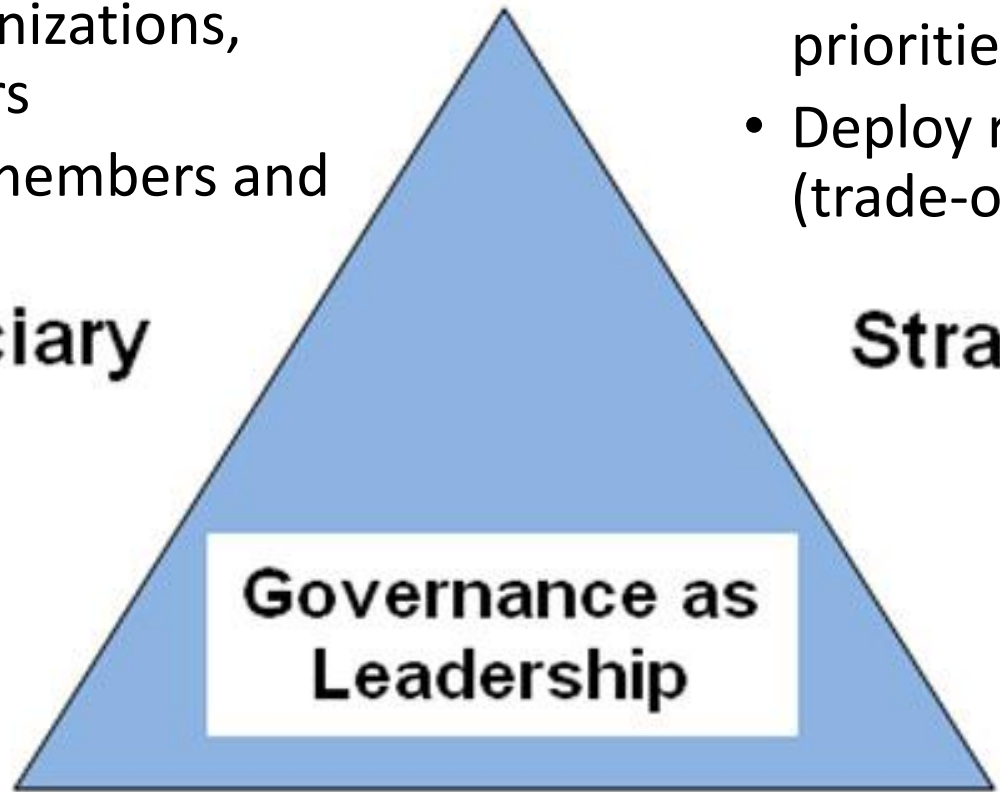
- 1. CAEP wait times
- 2. EDIS
- 3. Same/next day 1\* care
- 4. Non-ED alternatives for complex social pts



- Stewardship of tangible assets (financial and legal obligations)
- Accountability to senior organizations, payers, partners, stakeholders
- Accountability to individual members and constituent interests

**Fiduciary**

**Strategic**



- Set the Unit/Dept's course and priorities (Mission, Vision, Values)
- Deploy resources accordingly (trade-offs, incentives, sanctions)

**Generative**

- Frame problems and make sense of ambiguous situations
- Evolve, adapt, respond to uncertainty and changing environments

# 1. System Design and Integration

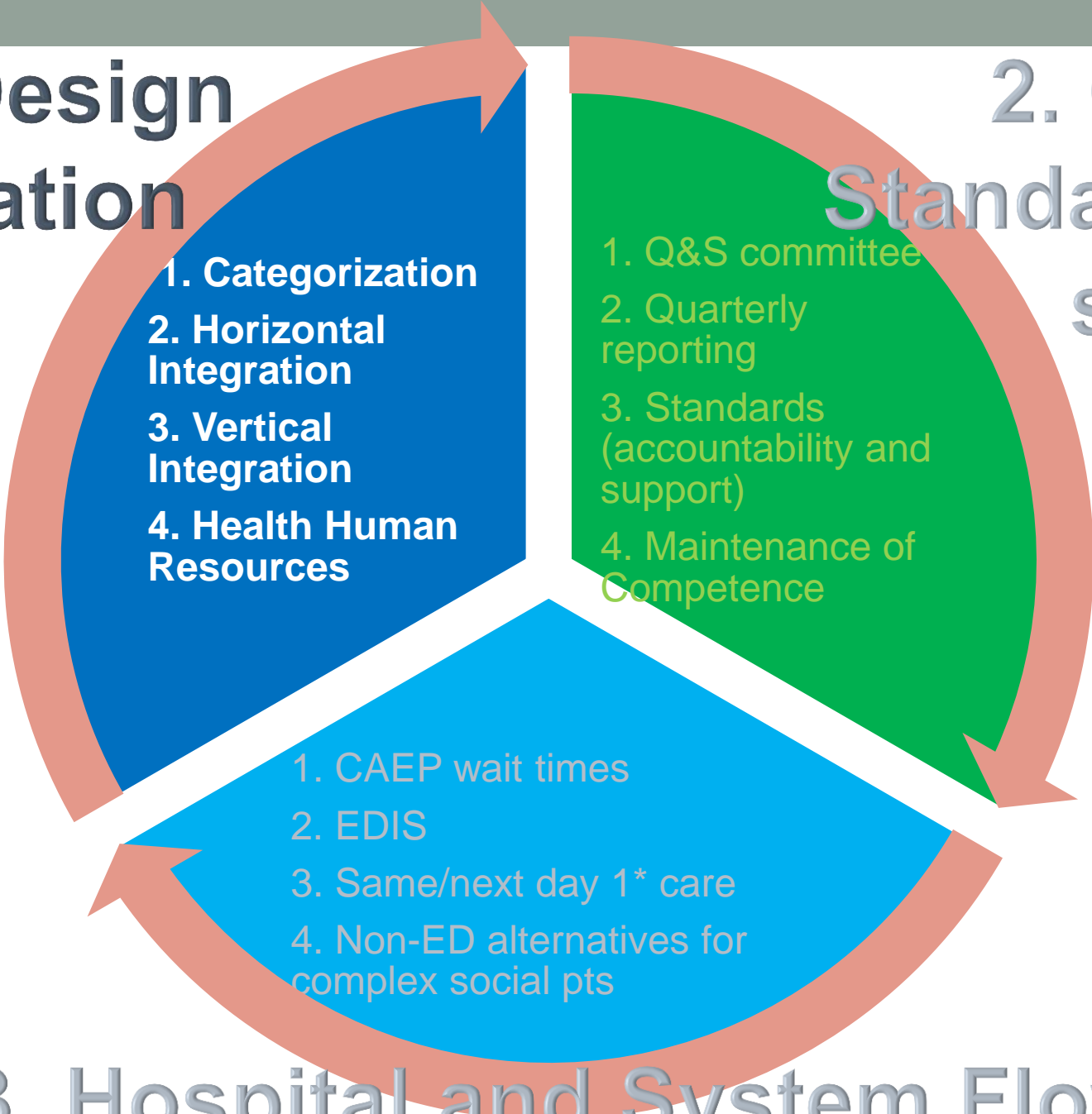
- 1. Categorization
- 2. Horizontal Integration
- 3. Vertical Integration
- 4. Health Human Resources

# 2. Quality, Standards, and Pt safety

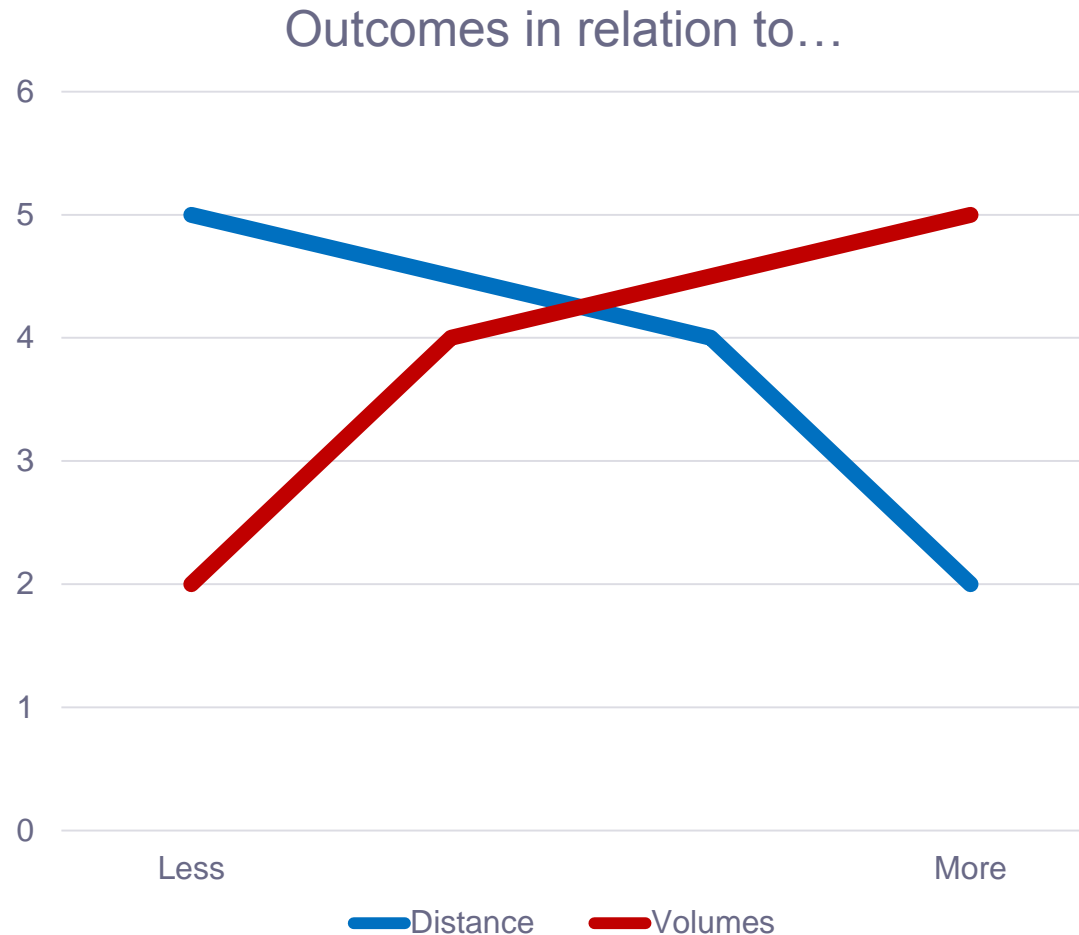
- 1. Q&S committee
- 2. Quarterly reporting
- 3. Standards (accountability and support)
- 4. Maintenance of Competence

# 3. Hospital and System Flow

- 1. CAEP wait times
- 2. EDIS
- 3. Same/next day 1\* care
- 4. Non-ED alternatives for complex social pts



# 1.1: Categorization



## RESEARCH

### Association of delay of urgent or emergency surgery with mortality and use of health care resources: a propensity score-matched observational cohort study

Daniel I. Mclsaac MD MPH, Karim Abdulla MD, Homer Yang MD, Sudhir Sundaresan MD, Paula Doering RN, Sandeep Green Vaswani MBA, Kednapa Thavorn MPharm PhD, Alan J. Forster MD MSc

Open Access

Research

### BMJ Open Hospital volume and mortality for 25 types of inpatient treatment in German hospitals: observational study using complete national data from 2009 to 2014

Ulrike Nimptsch, Thomas Mansky

**To cite:** Nimptsch U, Mansky T. Hospital volume and mortality for 25 types of inpatient treatment in German hospitals: observational study using complete national data from 2009 to 2014. *BMJ Open* 2017; 21:e20160140. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2016-014001

#### ABSTRACT

**Objectives** To explore the existence and strength of a relationship between hospital volume and mortality, to estimate minimum volume thresholds and to assess the potential benefit of centralisation of services.

**Design** Observational population-based study using complete German hospital discharge data (Diagnosis-

#### Strengths and limitations of this study

- ▶ The strength of this study is the use of current and complete national hospital discharge data, covering virtually every patient who underwent one out of the studied types of treatment during the study period.

Canada

May 20, 2017 7:00 pm

# Emergency room closures front and centre on Easteros campaign trail

By Alexa MacLean

Video Journalist Global News

“There isn’t any question or interpretation about it; emergency room closures have increased every year since the Liberals/NDP/PCs came to power,” NDP/Liberal/PC Leader Joe Politician said.





Canada

May 20, 2017 7:00 pm

# Emergency room closures front and centre on Easteros campaign trail

By Alexa MacLean

Video Journalist Global News

## Rural areas deserve real emergency care, doctors say — and that could mean closing ERs

Frequently closed small-town hospitals could be reorganized by province

By Tessa Vanderhart, [CBC News](#) Posted: Apr 24, 2017

"So you could even flip that over and say, is it ethical to say I'm going to put an emergency department in your community but not be able to staff it, not be able to provide the things you need, but still try and call it an emergency department?" medical ethicist Dr Pauls said.



# Categorization, Designation, and Regionalization of Emergency Care: Definitions, a Conceptual Framework, and Future Challenges

Keith E. Kocher, MD, MPH, MPhil, David P. Sklar, MD, Abhishek Mehrotra, MD, Vivek S. Tayal, MD, Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD, and R. Myles Riner, MD

---

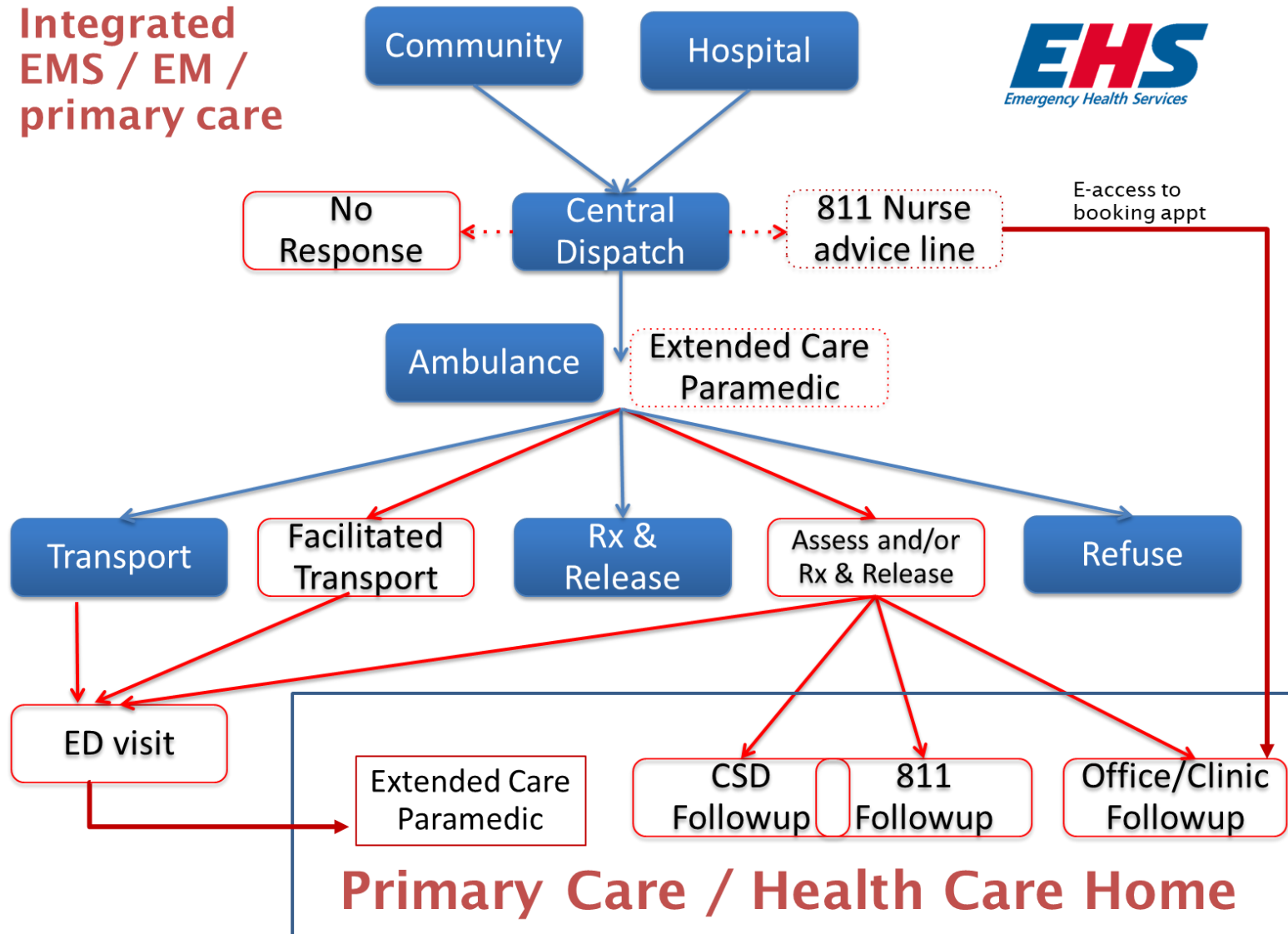
## Abstract

This article reflects the proceedings of a breakout session, “Beyond ED Categorization—Matching Networks to Patient Needs,” at the 2010 *Academic Emergency Medicine* consensus conference, “Beyond Regionalization: Integrated Networks of Emergency Care.” It is based on concepts and areas of priority identified and developed by the authors and participants at the conference. The paper first describes definitions fundamental to understanding the categorization, designation, and regionalization of emergency care and then considers a conceptual framework for this process. It also provides a justification for a categorization system being integrated into a regionalized emergency care system. Finally, it discusses potential challenges and barriers to the adoption of a categorization and designation system for emergency care and the opportunities for researchers to study the many issues associated with the implementation of such a system.

ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE 2010; 17:1306–1311 © 2010 by the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine

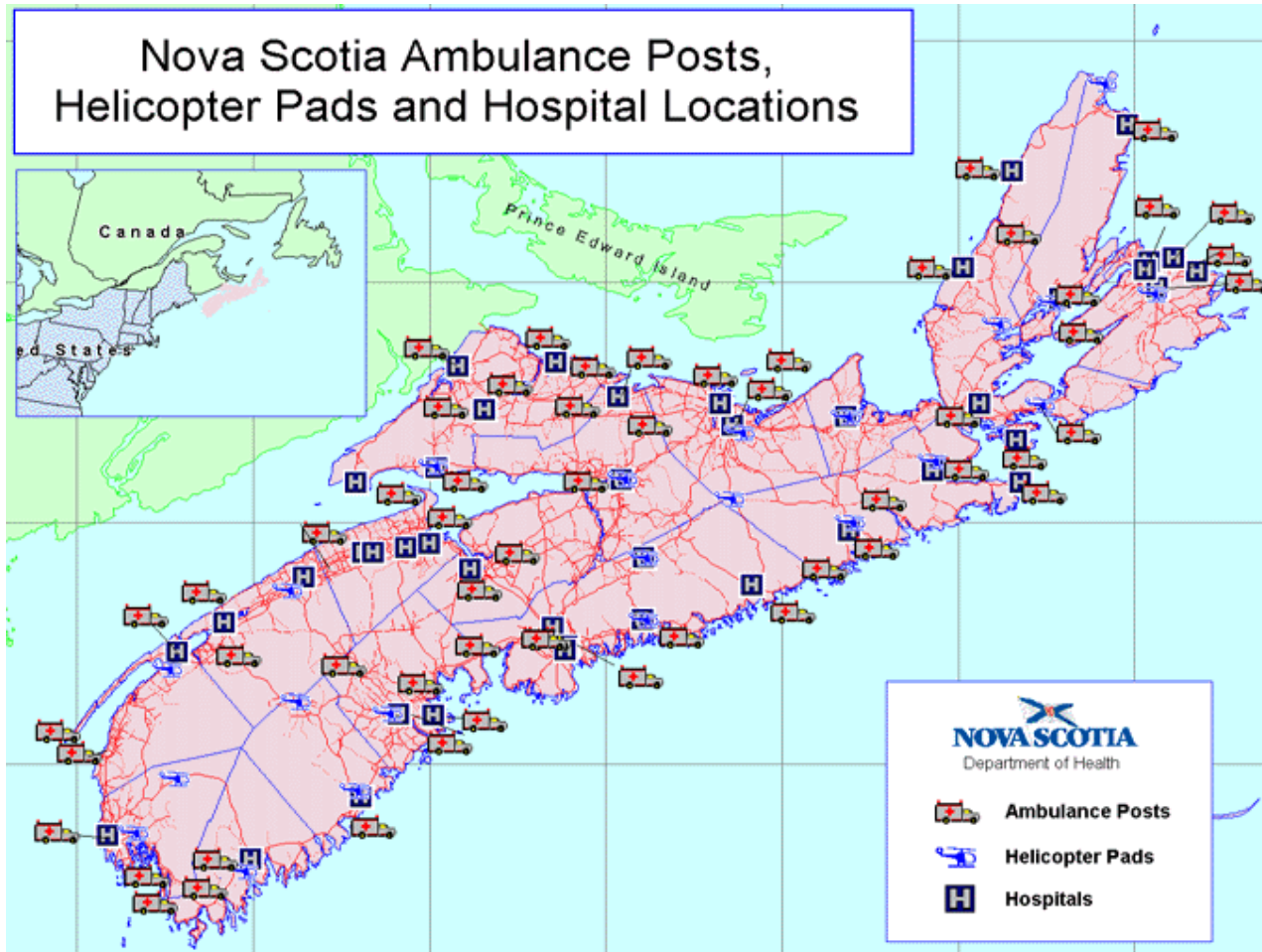
# 1.2: Horizontal Integration

Integrated  
EMS / EM /  
primary care





# 1.3: Vertical Integration





# 1.4: Human Resources



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

### Network Design and Integration: Siting, Sizing, Synergizing and optimizing health human resources

Goal #1	Goal #2	Goal #3	Goal #4
Categorization (siting and sizing of EDs should be formalized with operational implications and system accountabilities in relation to all other system access points	Better Horizontal integration of “the patient care journey” for the person with an unexpected illness or injury that does not require hospitalization	Better Vertical Integration of “the patient care journey” for the person with an unexpected illness or injury that does require secondary, tertiary, or quaternary care/hospitalization	Optimize human resource utilization and integration of all health care professionals as part of the Emergency Medicine (EM) patient care team
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>1.1.1 Review the literature so that ED definitions can be based on a developing consensus and national guidelines</p> <p>1.1.2 Develop and integrate “virtual” &amp; electronic access points</p> <p>1.1.3 Recommendations must involve hazard analysis methodology in determining proposed levels of care and mitigation strategies</p> <p>1.1.4 Collaborate with key Programs of are to establish mutually supportive care delivery models</p>	<p>1.2.1 Improved the transitions/interfaces with primary care, the ED, and home/continuing care to improve patient outcomes</p> <p>1.2.2 In rural communities, the unique nature and potential system design solutions for Level 4 access points requires ongoing community “shaping” and primary care collaboration</p> <p>1.2.3 Integrate with the strategic plans of EHSNS</p> <p>1.2.4 Partner with the Maritime SPOR support unit to evaluate effectiveness</p>	<p>1.3.1 Improved planning of patient transitions/interfaces with other Programs of Care, and other specialist/sub-specialists.</p> <p>1.3.2 Improved telemedicine links (i.e. Hub and spoke design with level 3/4s to closest level 2, and specialist/sub-specialty connections to the Level 1)</p> <p>1.3.3 Integrate with the strategic plans of EHSNS.</p> <p>1.3.4 Partner with the Maritime SPOR support unity to evaluate effectiveness</p>	<p>1.4.1 RNs in EDs are prepared for the clinical responsibilities within the ED, and they are utilized to their full scope of practice.</p> <p>1.4.2 Paramedics, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants are utilized/.integrated where appropriate</p> <p>1.4.3 Physician Resource Plan should recognize board certification in EM (credentialing aligned with national recommendations and definitions)</p> <p>1.4.4 Strengthen inter-professional teams focusing on team work and culture</p> <p>1.4.5 Creative hub and spoke partnering/supporting for staffing and scheduling</p>

# 1. System Design and Integration



- 1. Categorization
- 2. Horizontal Integration
- 3. Vertical Integration
- 4. Health Human Resources

# 2. Quality, Standards, and Pt safety

- 1. Q&S committee
- 2. Quarterly reporting
- 3. Standards (accountability and support)
- 4. Maintenance of Competence

# 3. Hospital and System Flow

- 1. CAEP wait times
- 2. EDIS
- 3. Same/next day 1\* care
- 4. Non-ED alternatives for complex social pts



# 2.1: Quality, Standards + Patient Safety committee

## QUALITY

By Jeremiah D. Schuur, Renee Y. Hsia, Helen Burstin, Michael J. Schull, and Jesse M. Pines

# Quality Measurement In The Emergency Department: Past And Future

DOI: 10.1377/hlthaff.2013.0730  
HEALTH AFFAIRS 32,  
NO. 12 (2013): 2129-2138  
©2013 Project HOPE—  
The People-to-People Health  
Foundation, Inc.





# 2.2: Quarterly Reporting, Public Reporting

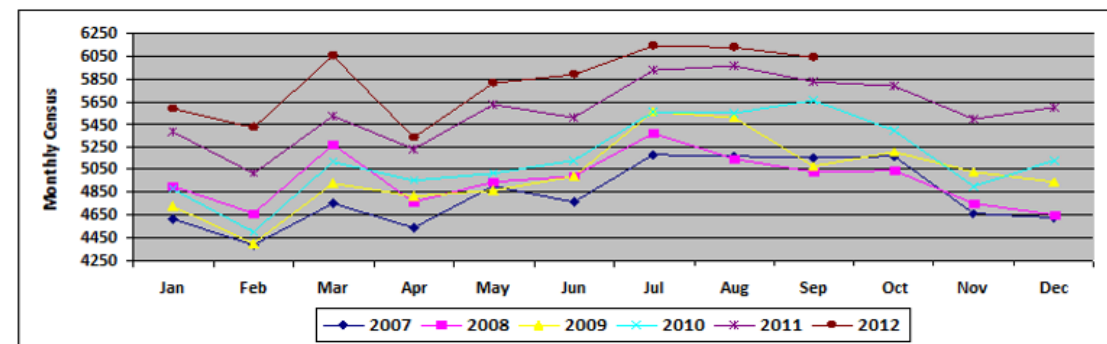
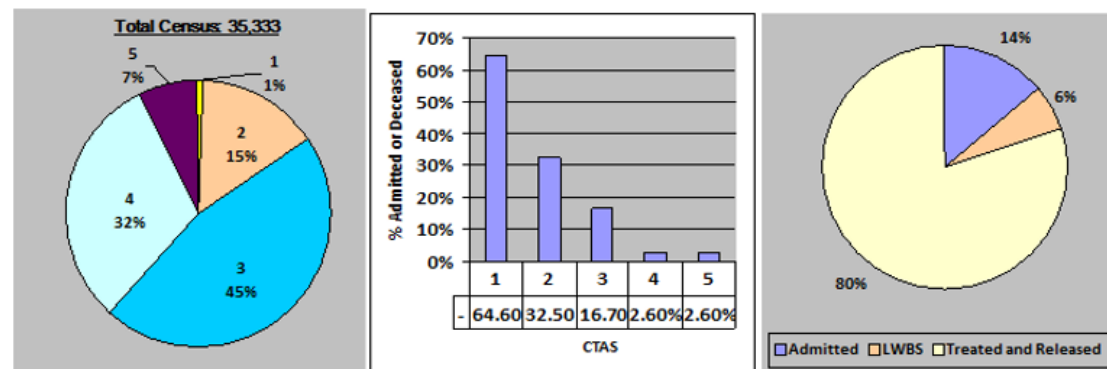
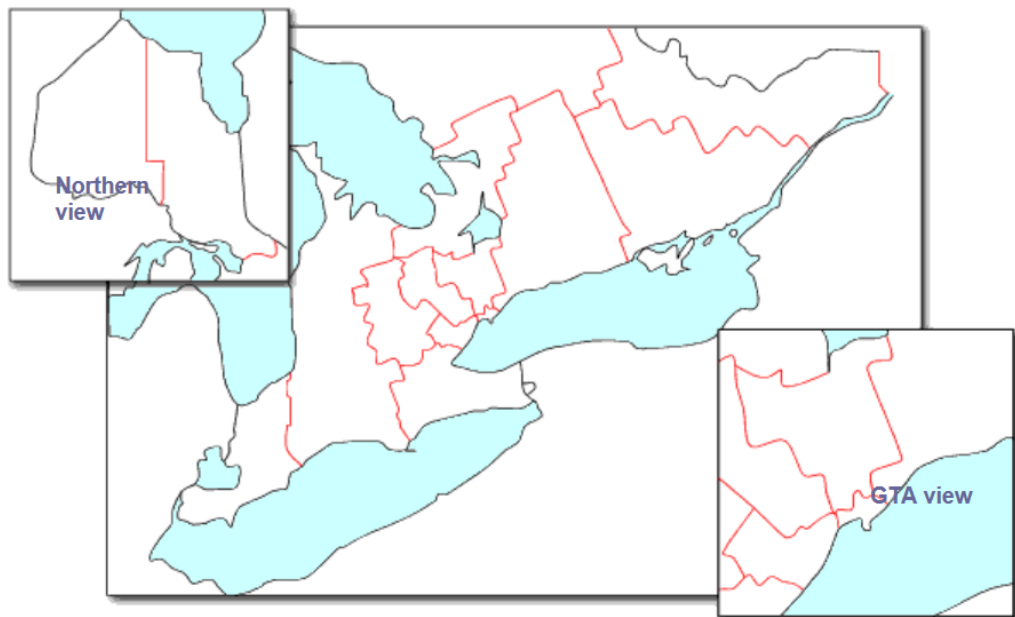
## Ontario Wait Times

<http://www.ontariowaittimes.com/er/>

Select a search type to show your results:

LHIN MAP
  CITY/TOWN OR POSTAL CODE
  HOSPITAL SITE NAME

To see the wait time in your area, click a location on the map below:

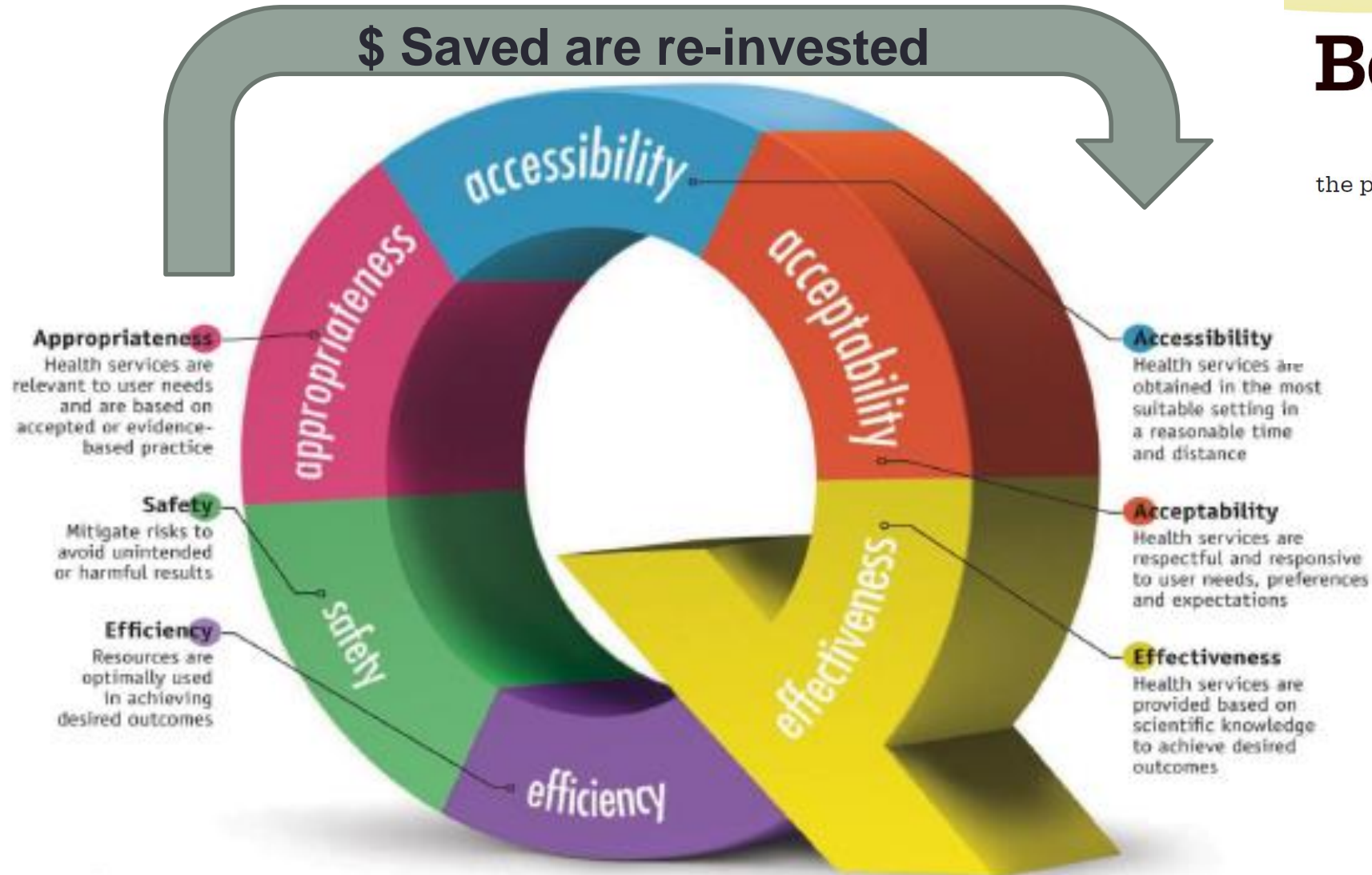


# 2.3: Provincial ED standards



## Better Care Sooner

the plan to improve emergency care



## 2.4: Decision support + Maintenance of Competence



CLINICAL  
RESOURCES

RESEARCH  
& INNOVATION

CPD  
COURSES

REAL-TIME  
SUPPORT

MEMBER  
AREA

ABOUT  
US

LOG IN



Search all Clinical Resources...



All

Clinical Summaries

ECGs

Patient Information Sheets

Procedural Videos

*If you have feedback let us know!*

Give Feedback

**BROWSE BY CATEGORY**

*We're growing, more resources to come!*

Suggest a Resource

[https://www.bcemergencynetwork.ca/clinical\\_resource/](https://www.bcemergencynetwork.ca/clinical_resource/)

CARDINAL PRESENTATIONS /  
PRESENTING PROBLEMS

CARDIOVASCULAR

CRITICAL CARE /  
RESUSCITATION


EARS, EYES, NOSE, AND  
THROAT

# Trekk.ca


OUR WORK RESOURCES NEWS & EVENTS PARTNERS ABOUT US CONTACT US

## Translating Emergency Knowledge for Kids


TREKK is a growing network of




RESEARCHERS



CLINICIANS



TREKK PARTNERS



PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

who share the same goal - to improve emergency care for children across Canada.

BROWSE PEDIATRIC RESOURCES

Select a condition All resource types

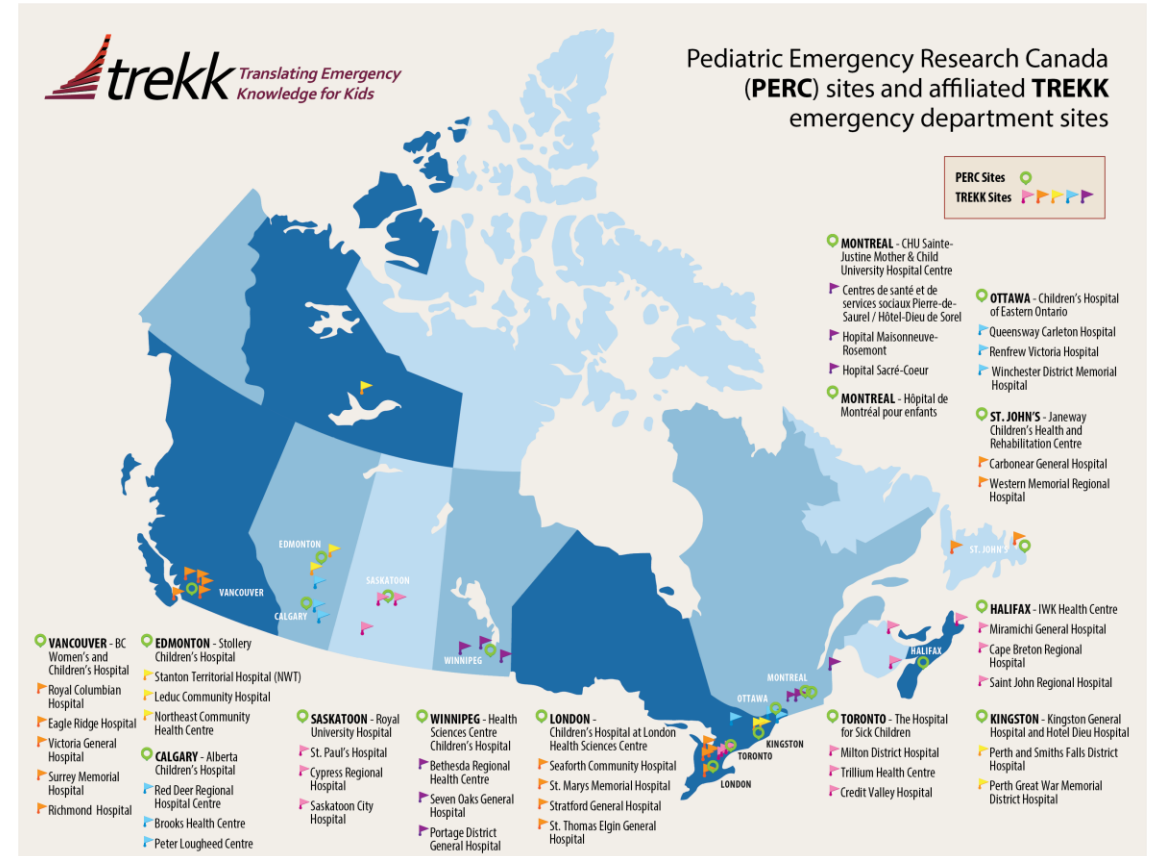
### Most Viewed Resources

**ASTHMA** [MORE](#)

Bottom Line Recommendations: Asthma

**BRONCHIOLITIS** [MORE](#)

Bottom Line: Bottom Line Recommendations: Bronchiolitis





## STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2

### Exceptional Emergency Care through Standardization, Monitoring, and Continuous Quality Improvement

Goal #1	Goal #2	Goal #3	Goal #4
Provincial Emergency Quality and Standards Committee– Integrated with zonal operational structures to establish high quality standardized practices throughout the emergency care system	Quarterly reporting of key process indicators and outcomes (when available) for all sites and zones	Support the existing provincial ED standards and continue to evolve/modify/improved the standards	Establish a provincial strategy that supports maintenance of competence, and ongoing professional raining for front-line providers
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>2.1.1 Establish TOR (stand up committee) that includes responsibility for the development of ED standards, indicators, and standardized clinical best practice guidelines, policies and procedures</p> <p>2.1.2 Align operational work plan to the business planning cycle</p> <p>2.1.3 Create an up to date electronic dashboard of clinical practice guidelines (i.e. TREKK), polices, and procedures</p> <p>2.1.4 Procure necessary financial, technological implementation and on-going operations of an online repository/dashboard</p>	<p>2.2.1 Create a standard quarterly report templates based on national/international benchmarks</p> <p>2.2.2 Support development of data definitions, minimum data sets, and timely access to necessary databases for periodic reporting</p> <p>2.2.3 Feedback re site and zone performance on KPIs informs system change and improvements</p> <p>2.2.4 Publically report performance</p>	<p>2.3.1 Review current standards (appendix 2) and determine which ones are true standards requiring monitoring and accountability, which ones require modification, and which ones are aspirational (with no specific accountably)</p> <p>2.3.2 Establish and enforce an accountability framework (including incentives and sanctions) for the EM standards</p> <p>2.3.3 Publically report performance</p>	<p>2.4.1 Define key areas of Emergency competencies in alignment with national colleges and standards.</p> <p>2.4.2 Describe standards for competence and establish a mix of training models</p> <p>2.4.3 Explore opportunities for expanded scopes of practice with requisite training and regulation/oversight</p> <p>2.4.4 Build upon growing simulation training expertise, and make available provincially</p>

# 1. System Design and Integration

- 1. Categorization
- 2. Horizontal Integration
- 3. Vertical Integration
- 4. Health Human Resources

# 2. Quality, Standards, and Pt safety

- 1. Q&S committee
- 2. Quarterly reporting
- 3. Standards (accountability and support)
- 4. Maintenance of Competence

# 3. Hospital and System Flow

- 1. CAEP wait times
- 2. EDIS
- 3. Same/next day 1\* care
- 4. Non-ED alternatives for complex social pts

## 3.1: Patient wait times



By Elaine Rabin, Keith Kocher, Mark McClelland, Jesse Pines, Ula Hwang, Niels Rathlev, Brent Asplin, N. Seth Trueger, and Ellen Weber

# Solutions To Emergency Department 'Boarding' And Crowding Are Underused And May Need To Be Legislated

**ABSTRACT** The practice of keeping admitted patients on stretchers in hospital emergency department hallways for hours or days, called "boarding," causes emergency department crowding and can be harmful to patients. Boarding increases patients' morbidity, lengths of hospital stay, and mortality. Strategies that optimize bed management reduce boarding by improving the efficiency of hospital patient flow, but these strategies are grossly underused. Convincing hospital leaders of the value of such solutions, and educating patients to advocate for such changes, may promote improvements. If these strategies do not work, legislation may be required to effect meaningful change.

DOI: 10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0786  
HEALTH AFFAIRS 31,  
NO. 8 (2012): 1757-1766  
©2012 Project HOPE—  
The People-to-People Health  
Foundation, Inc.

**Elaine Rabin** (elaine.rabin@mssm.edu) is an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, in New York City.

**Keith Kocher** is an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and a member of the Center for Healthcare Outcomes and Policy at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor.

**Mark McClelland** is an assistant research professor in the Department of Health Policy and project manager for the Urgent Matters

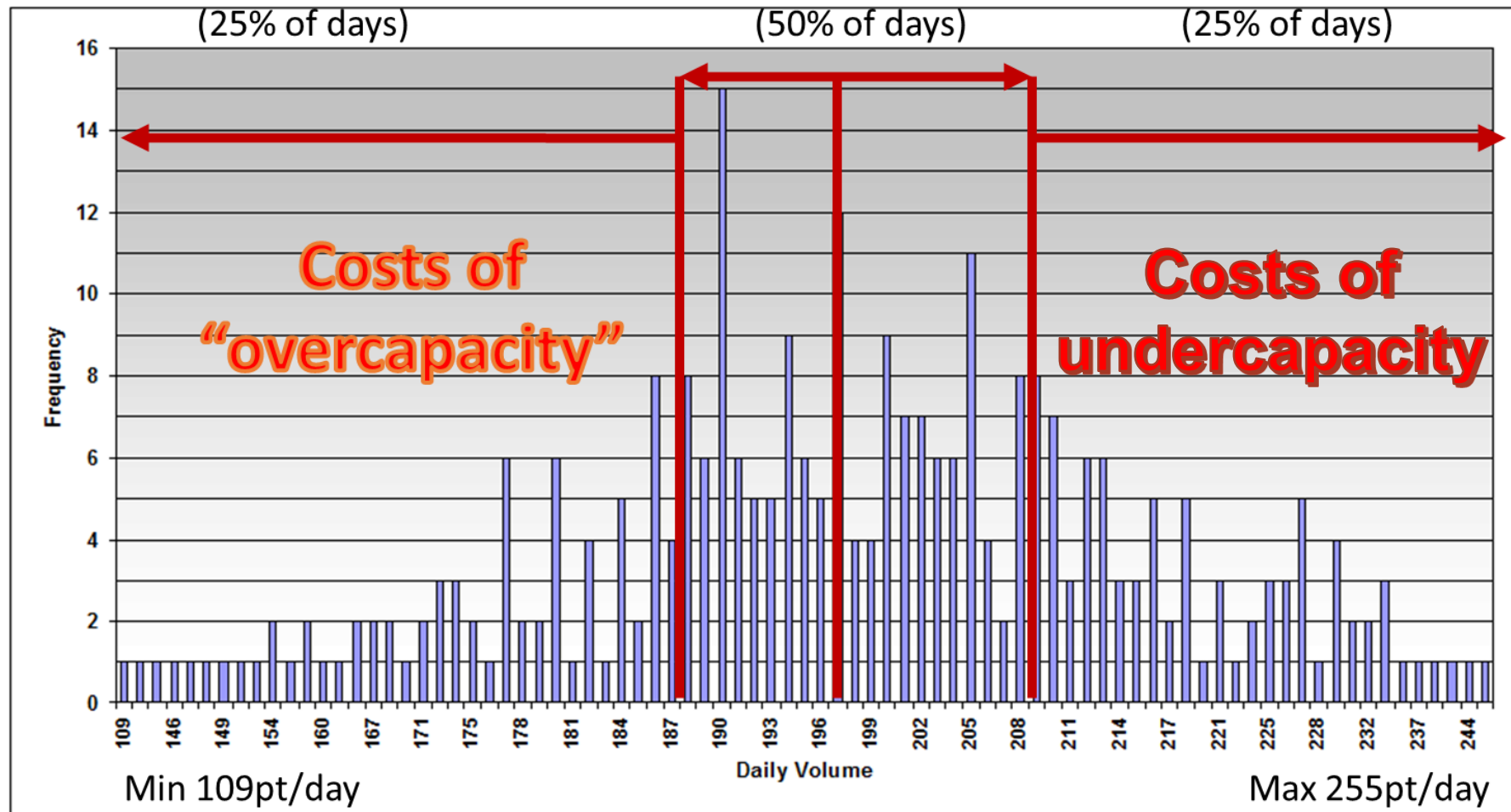


# 3.2: ED Information Systems

## QEII EDIS System

Daily Volume Frequency

Reporting Period: Sunday Dec 01, 2013 to: Tuesday Sep 30, 2014

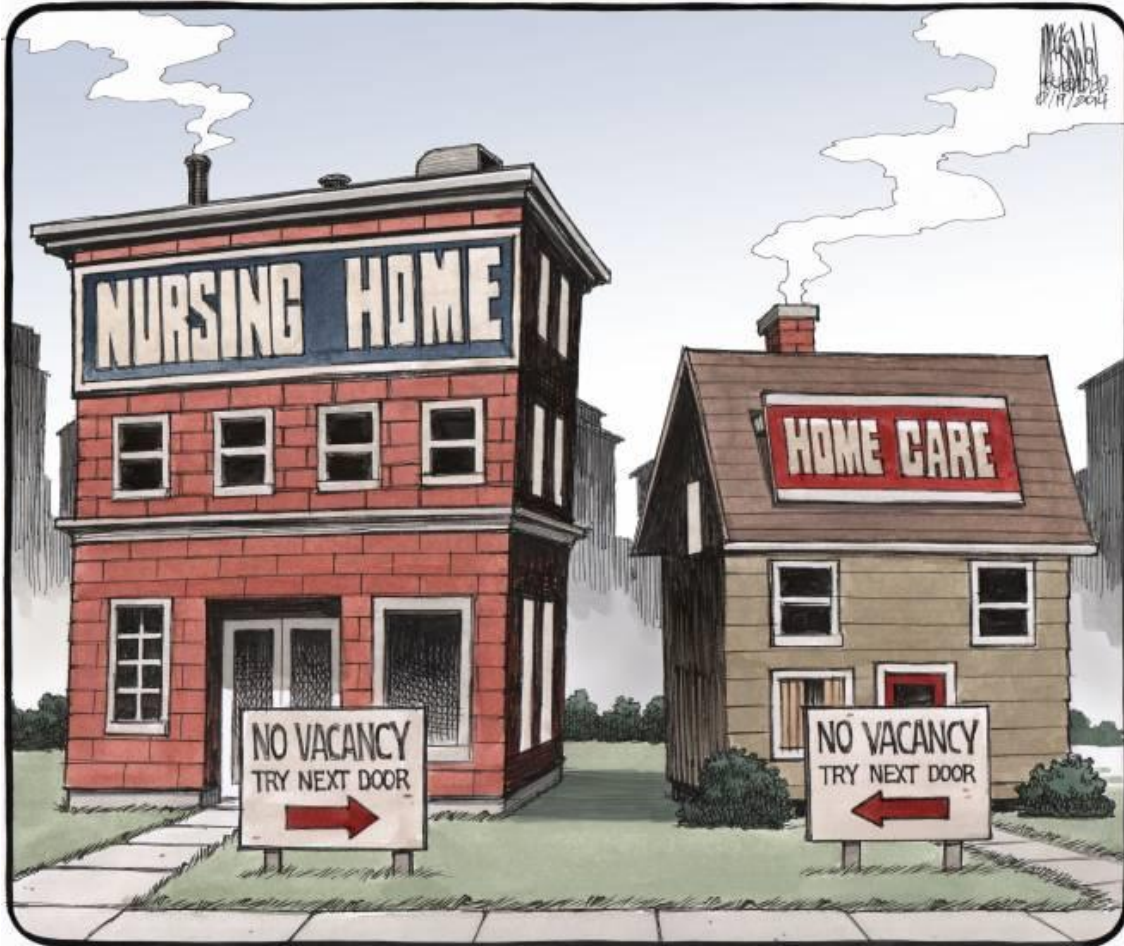


### 3.3: better same day / urgent access to primary care and specialists (including lab and DI)





## 3.4: non-ED alternatives for chronic complex, behavioral, and adult protection pts



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3

### Hospital and System Patient Flow and Efficiency

Goal #1	Goal #2	Goal #3	Goal #4
<p><b>Patient wait times</b> are in the top third of performers of the nationally accepted CAEP benchmarks</p>	<p>An <b>emergency department information system</b> (EDIS) is available in all level 1 and 2 EDs to monitor patient flow and inform planning</p>	<p>Work with primary care and specialists to <b>improve same day/urgent access alternatives</b> for appropriate patients</p>	<p>Improve <b>non-ED alternatives for the complex co-morbidity patient</b>, the frail elderly, and long term care residents who do not have an acute worsening of their medical condition</p>
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>3.1.1 Reduce boarding in the ED through hospital flow efficiencies (see appendix 3)</p> <p>3.1.2 A System and Hospital patient flow committee is empowered, with accountability, to make significant system wide changes</p> <p>3.1.3 Implement a provincial wide overcapacity policy and processes in all (level 1 &amp;2) EDs</p> <p>3.1.4 ED LOS standard is emphasized and enforced with incentive/sanctions by senior leaders (culture change)</p>	<p>3.2.1 Support the staged development and implementation of an information system</p> <p>3.2.2 Align capability of the EDIS with functionality to improve patient care/flow and meet quality program and ED standards requirements</p> <p>3.2.3 Give front-line providers a voice in the design and implantation of the EDIS and future e-pcr</p> <p>3.2.4 Feedback ED efficiency metrics to influence change/improvement</p>	<p>3.3.1 Explore “ advanced access scheduling” for primary care and specialist clinics</p> <p>3.3.2 Explore electronic triage and specialist consult access for specialist to primary care</p> <p>3.3.3 Explore increased evening and weekend primary care and specialist clinics</p> <p>3.3.4 Explore increased evening and weekend access to diagnostic imaging and lab</p> <p>3.3.5 Explore better access to surgical complication follow up, indwelling medical device follow-up, non-urgent transfusion services, or non-urgent medical procedures, etc.</p>	<p>3.4.1 Collaborate with the Continuing Care program to support expansion of the Care program to support expansion of the Care by Design/Expanded scope paramedics</p> <p>3.4.2 Explore the cost-benefit of discharge liaison coordinators in the ED setting with specific attention to high user group</p> <p>3.4.3 Provide non-ED alternative for adult protection cases awaiting full assessment and placement</p> <p>3.4.4 Expand access through telemedicine technologies in long term care residences</p>



# 1. System Design and Integration

- 1. Categorization
- 2. Horizontal Integration
- 3. Vertical Integration
- 4. Health Human Resources

# 2. Quality, Standards, and Pt safety

- 1. Q&S committee
- 2. Quarterly reporting
- 3. Standards (accountability and support)
- 4. Maintenance of Competence

# 3. Hospital and System Flow

- 1. CAEP wait times
- 2. EDIS
- 3. Same/next day 1\* care
- 4. Non-ED alternatives for complex social pts

**Fiduciary**

**Strategic**

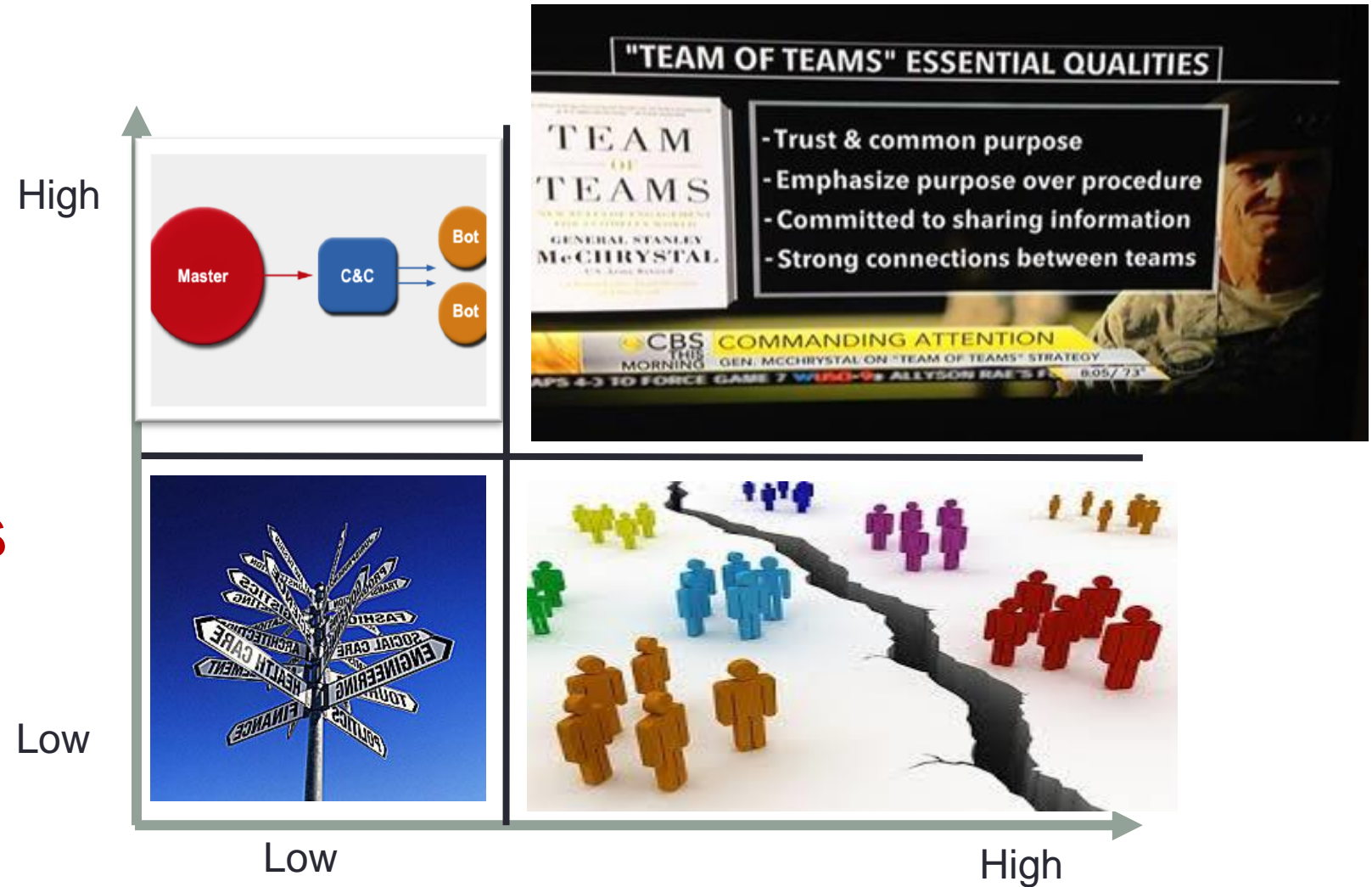
**Governance as  
Leadership**

**Generative  
(Adaptive)**



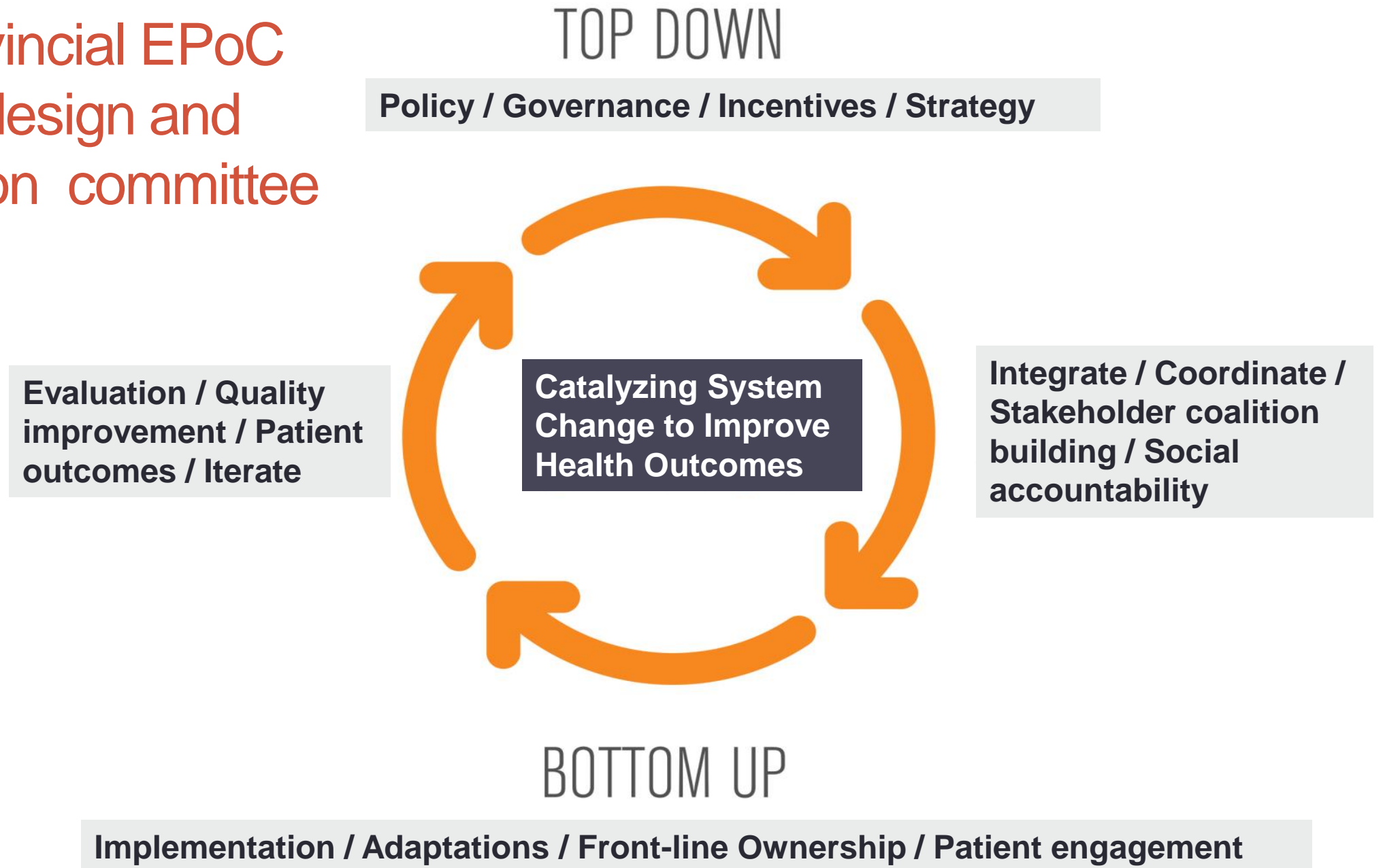
# 4.1: Think holistically, act locally, iterate together

**Common  
purpose  
Guiding  
principles**



**Subsidiarity of operational decision making**

## 4.2: Provincial EPoC system design and integration committee

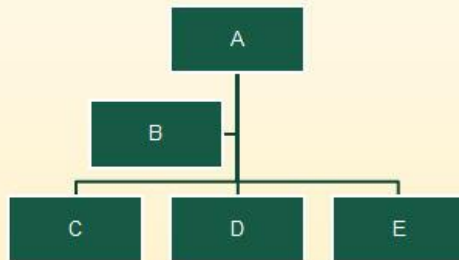




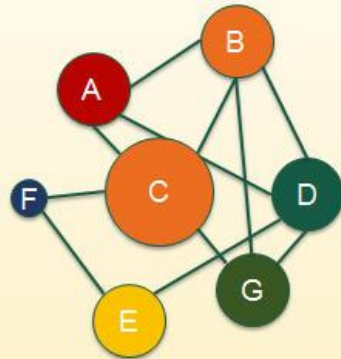
# 4.3: leadership roles and responsibilities are clear (and flexible)

- Team of teams

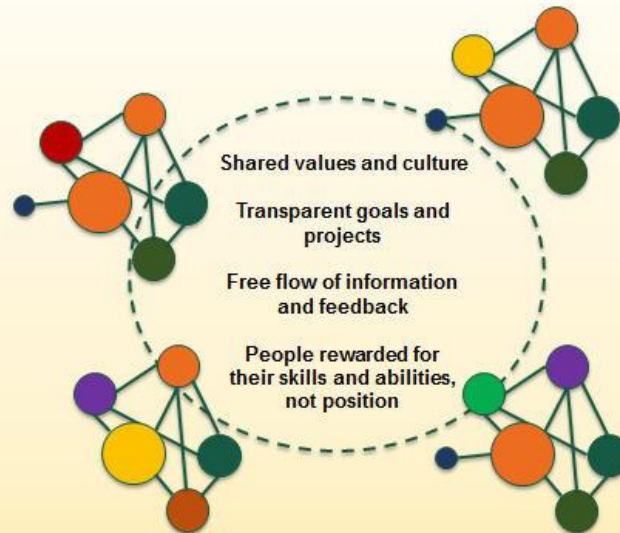
The New Organization: Different by Design  
A network of teams



How things were



How things "are"



How things work



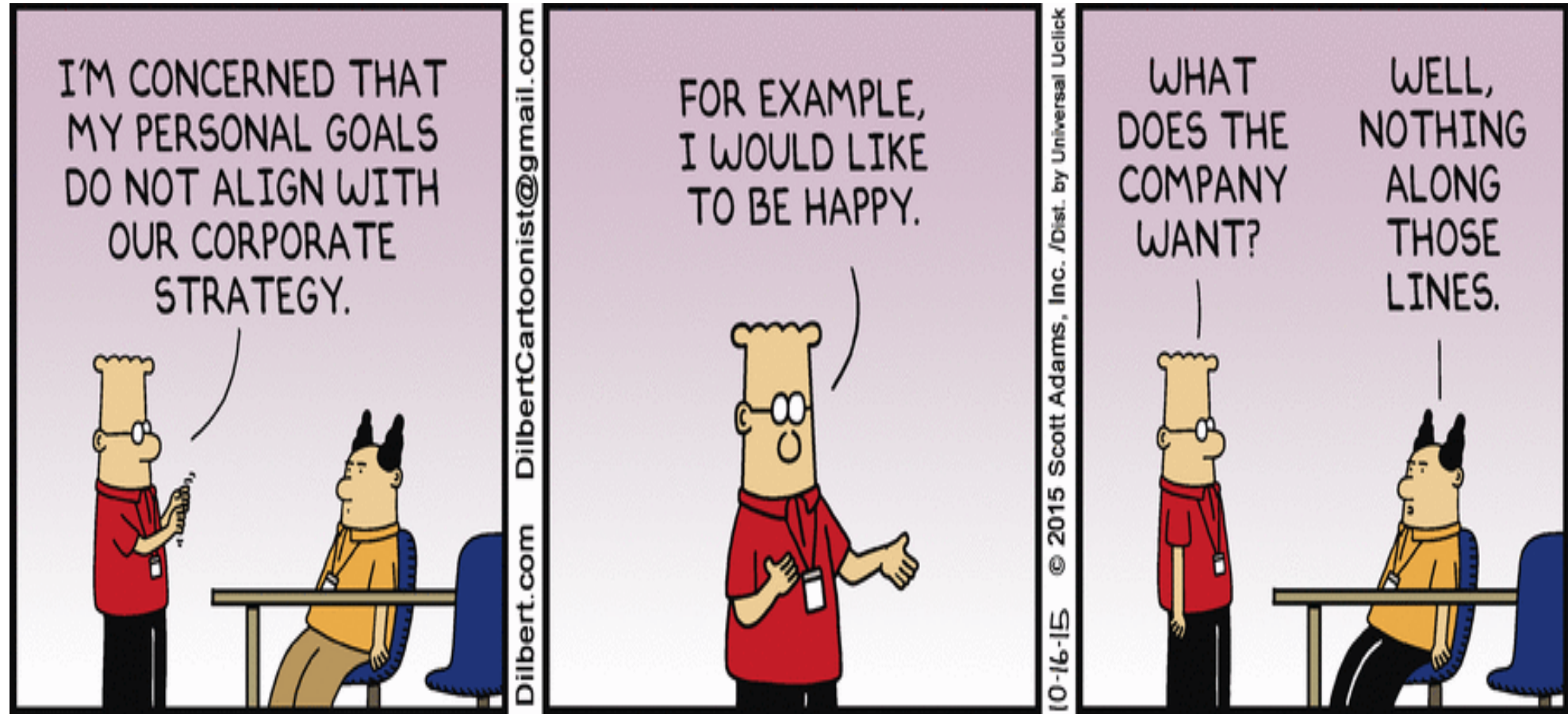


## 4.4: Provider autonomy and accountability are balanced





# Trust and Engagement are two sides of the same coin



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION #4

Establish a provincial Emergency Program of Care with appropriate Leadership, Management and Infrastructure

Goal #1	Goal #2	Goal #3	Goal #4
EM care must be <b>planned as a single Integrated Network, but will respect and enable local management</b>	Have a <b>Provincial Steering and Strategy Committee</b> overseeing the implementation, evaluation, and iterative improvements of the EPoC strategic plan	Have a detailed <b>leadership and accountability structure</b> to support the Emergency Program of Care	Physicians are <b>accountable</b> through performance based service agreements and NSHA/ISK/DHW is <b>accountable</b> to maintain standards and support the necessary infrastructure
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>4.1.1 Align ED site/zone level planning/operations with zones, and cross cutting services (EHS, Emergency Preparedness, Trauma, etc) by standing up zone based operational committees</p> <p>4.1.2 Create a mechanism for providers and stakeholders to contribute their voice in planning and improvements of the system</p>	<p>4.2.1 Establish terms of reference (and stand up committee)</p> <p>4.2.2 Align with other committees and overall governance structure in NSHA</p> <p>4.2.3 Clearly articulate the budget and level of authority give to the EPoC leadership and steering committee, and the process through which ongoing decision-making and financial pressures are balanced</p>	<p>4.3.1 Clear roles and responsibilities shall be defined for Senior Co Leaders, Zone Co-Leaders and Site Chiefs</p> <p>4.3.2 Site, zone, provincial job descriptions, relationships, and accountabilities are described</p> <p>4.3.3 Establish a communication strategy between the leadership structure and all stakeholders</p>	<p>4.4.1 Support the development of appropriate letters of agreement and contractual rights and responsibilities of physicians to their zone chiefs</p> <p>4.4.2 Create mechanisms for NSHA/IWK/DHW to understand and respond to ongoing operational pressures to improve patient outcomes</p>



Locally based "ERs"

Regional/District  
Based Programs

Easterosians

Integrated Networks  
of Emergency Care



IT'S GOOD  
TO SEE THE  
SAFETY NET  
STILL  
FUNCTIONING.

STALKER  
THE COLLECTOR MARCH 2009

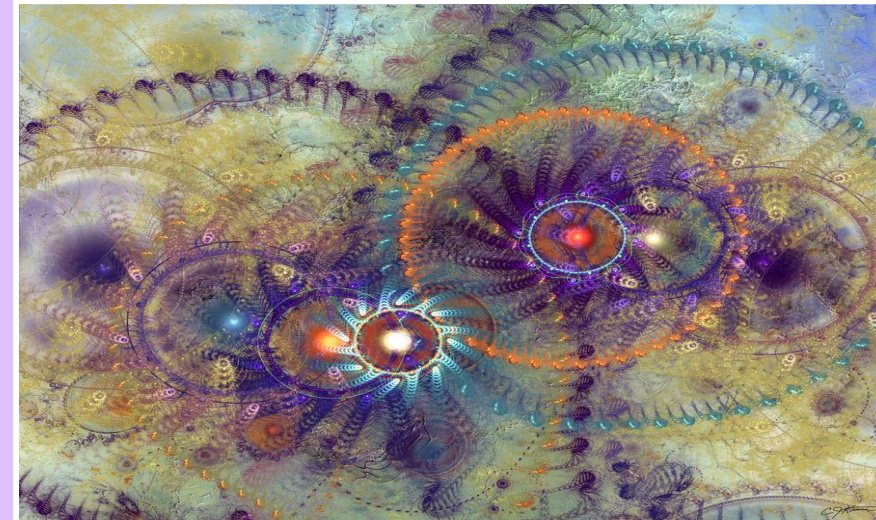
# Keystone Species

- A group of species whose impacts on a community are larger than they appear
- Not just top predators
- Species are intricately connected in biological communities, so it is difficult to determine the essential key



Catalyst of change  
in evolving Health  
Care Eco-systems

---

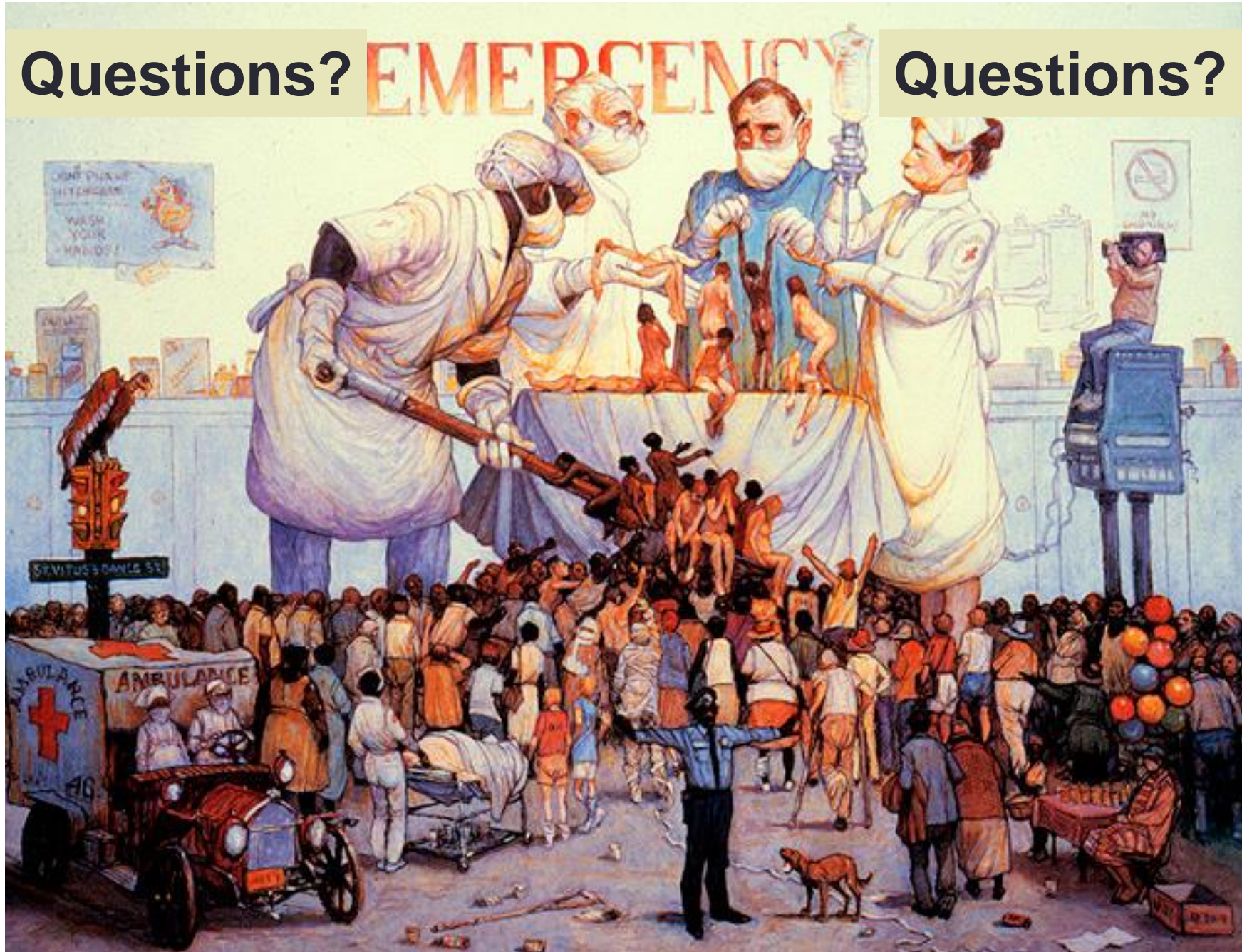




Questions?

EMERGENCY

Questions?





# Sizing and Siting Approach

## Categorization, Designation, and Regionalization of Emergency Care: Definitions, a Conceptual Framework, and Future Challenges

Keith E. Kocher, MD, MPH, MPhil, David P. Sklar, MD, Abhishek Mehrotra, MD, Vivek S. Tayal, MD, Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD, and R. Myles Riner, MD

---

### Abstract

This article reflects the proceedings of a breakout session, “Beyond ED Categorization—Matching Networks to Patient Needs,” at the 2010 *Academic Emergency Medicine* consensus conference, “Beyond Regionalization: Integrated Networks of Emergency Care.” It is based on concepts and areas of priority identified and developed by the authors and participants at the conference. The paper first describes definitions fundamental to understanding the categorization, designation, and regionalization of emergency care and then considers a conceptual framework for this process. It also provides a justification for a categorization system being integrated into a regionalized emergency care system. Finally, it discusses potential challenges and barriers to the adoption of a categorization and designation system for emergency care and the opportunities for researchers to study the many issues associated with the implementation of such a system.

ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE 2010; 17:1306-1311 © 2010 by the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine

# Sizing and Siting Approach

Table 1  
Proposed Categorization Scheme: Minimum Requirements for Each Category\*

Category	Limited	Basic	Advanced	Comprehensive	Pediatric Critical Care
ED staffing	Physician available from home/physician extender	Physician available from within hospital	Any attending physician	BC/BE EP or any attending + pediatrics	BC/BE pediatric EP
CT scanner <sup>†</sup>	Sometimes	Available	Available within 1 hour	Available within 1 hour	Available within 1 hour
General surgery <sup>†</sup>	N/A	Available	Available within 1 hour	Available within 1 hour	Available within 1 hour
Cardiac catheterization laboratory (PCI capable)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Available within 1 hour	N/A
Available <sup>†</sup>					
ICU			✓	✓	✓
Vascular surgeon				✓	✓
Interventional radiologist				✓	✓
Available					
Within 1 Hour					
OR			✓	✓	✓
Orthopedic surgery			✓	✓	✓
Radiologist			✓	✓	✓
Intensivist				✓	✓
Neurosurgery				✓	✓
Neurology				✓	✓
Pediatric surgeon					✓
Pediatric radiologist					✓
Pediatric anesthesiologist					✓

BC/BE = board-certified/board-eligible; OR = operating room; PCI = percutaneous coronary intervention; N/A = not applicable.  
 \*Survey responses included: never available, sometimes available, always available (not necessarily within 1 hour), and always available (within 1 hour).  
 †"Available" indicates always available (not necessarily within 1 hour).

# Categorization Definitions

	ED services and personnel	ED equipment, DI and lab	Hosp services and personnel	Hosp equipment, DI and lab	Other
<b>Level 1</b> <b>Comprehensive Full Service ED</b>	BC EPs all, 24/7 EM RNs, <u>paramed</u> Spec RN, SW, <u>etc</u>	Full resus CT 24/7 XR/US 24/7 Comp lab*	Neurosurg/transplant Cardiac/Thor <u>surg</u> Level 1 ICU All subspecialties	Card <u>cath</u> IR Tertiary/ <u>quat</u> level care	Very rare transfer out
<b>Level 2</b> <b>Advanced Full Service ED</b>	BC EPs ratio, 24/7 EM RNs, <u>paramed</u> Access to spec RNs, SW, <u>etc</u>	Full resus CT 24/7 XR/US 24/7 Lab 24/7	<b>Gen <u>surg</u>/anesthesia</b> <b>Level 2/3 ICU on site</b> Gen med, <u>obs/gyne</u> , <u>peds</u> , psychiatry networked 1 hr	General OR 1hr available 24/7	Transfer major trauma, rescue PCI, <u>occ sub-spec</u> , limited other
<b>Level 3</b> <b>Full Service ED</b>	MD 24/7 RNs	<u>Xray</u> , basic lab, night? <u>Telemed**</u>	Limited specialist No subspecialist No ICU	General in- <u>pt</u>	Transfer many/most admits
<b>Level 4</b> <b>Urgent Primary Care / "ER" / CEC</b>	GP day/RN/PCP RN/ACP PA/RN Various models	Limited <u>lab</u> /XR (POC tests?) <u>Telemed**</u>	Local GP from home at <u>HS?</u> Limited admit	Limited	CEC vs CHC? Governance and operational DM and accountability?

Community shaped, Primary Care governed

# Hazard Analysis

Severity Likelihood			Higher Lower		
↑					
More Less					
↓					

The diagram is a 5x5 grid representing a hazard analysis matrix. The top-left cell is a triangle containing the words 'Severity' and 'Likelihood'. The top row has a horizontal arrow pointing right labeled 'Higher' and 'Lower'. The left column has a vertical arrow pointing up. The bottom row has a vertical arrow pointing down. The grid is color-coded: the top-right 2x2 cells are red and labeled 'Unacceptable'; the middle 2x2 cells are yellow and labeled 'Acceptable with Mitigation'; the bottom-left 3x2 cells are green and labeled 'Acceptable'. The remaining cells are white.



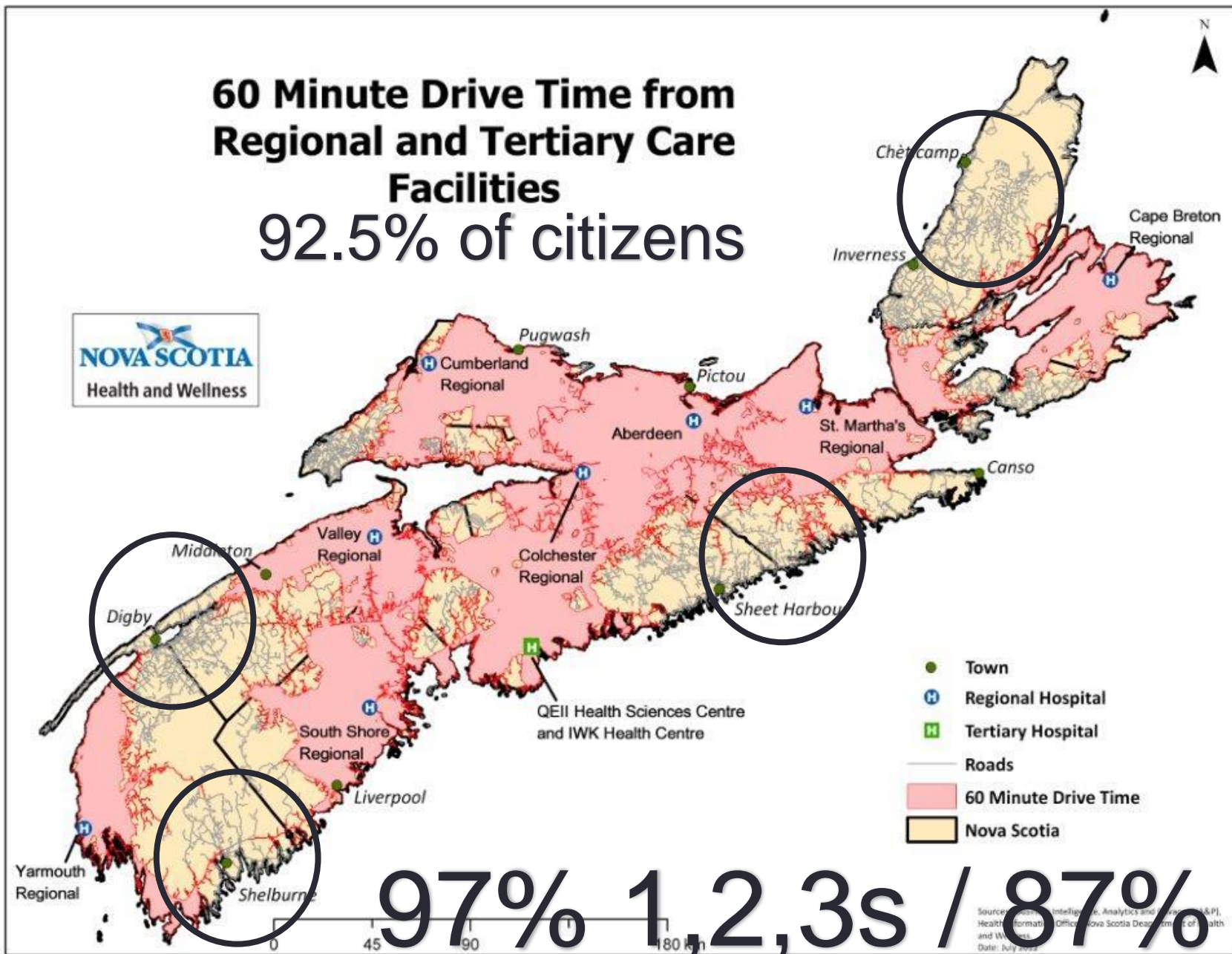
# Hazard Analysis of NS ED access:

RISK = What is the likelihood of the event? What is the severity of the event?	CTAS 4,5	CTAS 3	CTAS 1,2
>30%		Level 3	Level 3
>10%		Level 4	Level 3
>5%	Level 5*		

	Site	CTAS 1-2	CTAS 3	CTAS 4-5	CTAS 1-2	CTAS 3	CTAS 4-5
Northern	Colchester East Hants HC	58.90%	99.70%	98.90%	75.30%	100.00%	97.50%
	Aberdeen	66.30%	98.90%	95.30%	68.70%	98.50%	94.20%
	Cumberland Regional	24.10%	91.50%	95.10%	30.20%	88.10%	96.70%
	All Saints Springhill	1.90%	14.20%	11.00%	2.50%	17.10%	8.00%
	North Cumberland Memorial	1.60%	9.30%	7.10%	0.00%	9.80%	14.50%
	Lillian Fraser Memorial	0.80%	12.60%	10.70%	1.00%	14.20%	12.40%
	South Cumberland	0.30%	8.50%	10.40%	0.70%	5.80%	10.20%
Eastern	Cape Breton Regional	99.50%	100.00%	99.50%	98.90%	100.00%	99.60%
	St. Martha's Regional	45.20%	93.70%	87.70%	52.70%	94.90%	82.50%
	Glace Bay Health Care	36.40%	67.10%	78.40%	52.70%	85.80%	93.10%
	Northside General	3.30%	19.90%	12.60%			
	Strait - Richmond Hospital	21.40%	52.30%	52.10%	1.10%	53.10%	50.70%
	New Waterford Consolidated	1.50%	2.70%	2.50%		0.40%	3.50%
	Inverness Consolidated Memorial	9.80%	30.70%	37.50%	8.70%	36.70%	42.20%
	Victoria County Memorial	4.90%	16.40%	37.30%	2.90%	22.20%	38.20%
	Sacred Heart	0.80%	23.80%	39.70%	0.40%	27.00%	25.50%
	Guysborough Memorial	4.10%	19.10%	23.80%	5.80%	9.10%	18.20%
	Buchanan Memorial	1.90%	11.00%	8.80%	1.50%	13.50%	8.40%
	Eastern Memorial	1.60%	6.80%	7.40%	1.40%	14.50%	9.50%
St. Mary's Memorial	2.10%	4.70%	6.60%	1.10%	5.50%	6.90%	
Western	Valley Regional	77.00%	98.60%	97.50%	77.80%	99.60%	98.90%
	Warrmouth Regional	33.40%	97.80%	96.70%	46.50%	99.20%	97.10%
	South Shore Regional	68.50%	96.40%	93.20%	67.60%	94.90%	94.50%
	Soldiers' Memorial	61.50%	85.20%	81.40%	61.50%	86.20%	84.40%
	Queens General	69.00%	84.70%	66.30%	10.60%	67.60%	68.70%
	Roseway	5.20%	56.70%	51.20%	8.70%	54.50%	47.60%
	Fishermen's Memorial		0.70%	1.60%			2.20%
	Digby General	14.00%	67.10%	59.20%	16.00%	62.50%	74.50%
	Annapolis Community	9.30%	14.50%	7.40%	10.90%	12.00%	8.40%
Central	HALIFAX INFIRMARY	100.00%	100.00%	99.70%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	DARTMOUTH GENERAL HOSPITAL	98.90%	99.70%	96.20%	99.30%	100.00%	97.10%
	COBEQUID COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE	15.60%	40.50%	49.90%	16.40%	42.20%	48.40%
	HANTS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	52.10%	86.00%	74.80%	46.90%	83.30%	77.50%
	ESMH	0.80%	14.20%	13.20%	1.50%	10.50%	12.40%
	MVMH		0.50%				
	TOMH	5.20%	7.10%	6.30%	5.50%	9.50%	13.80%

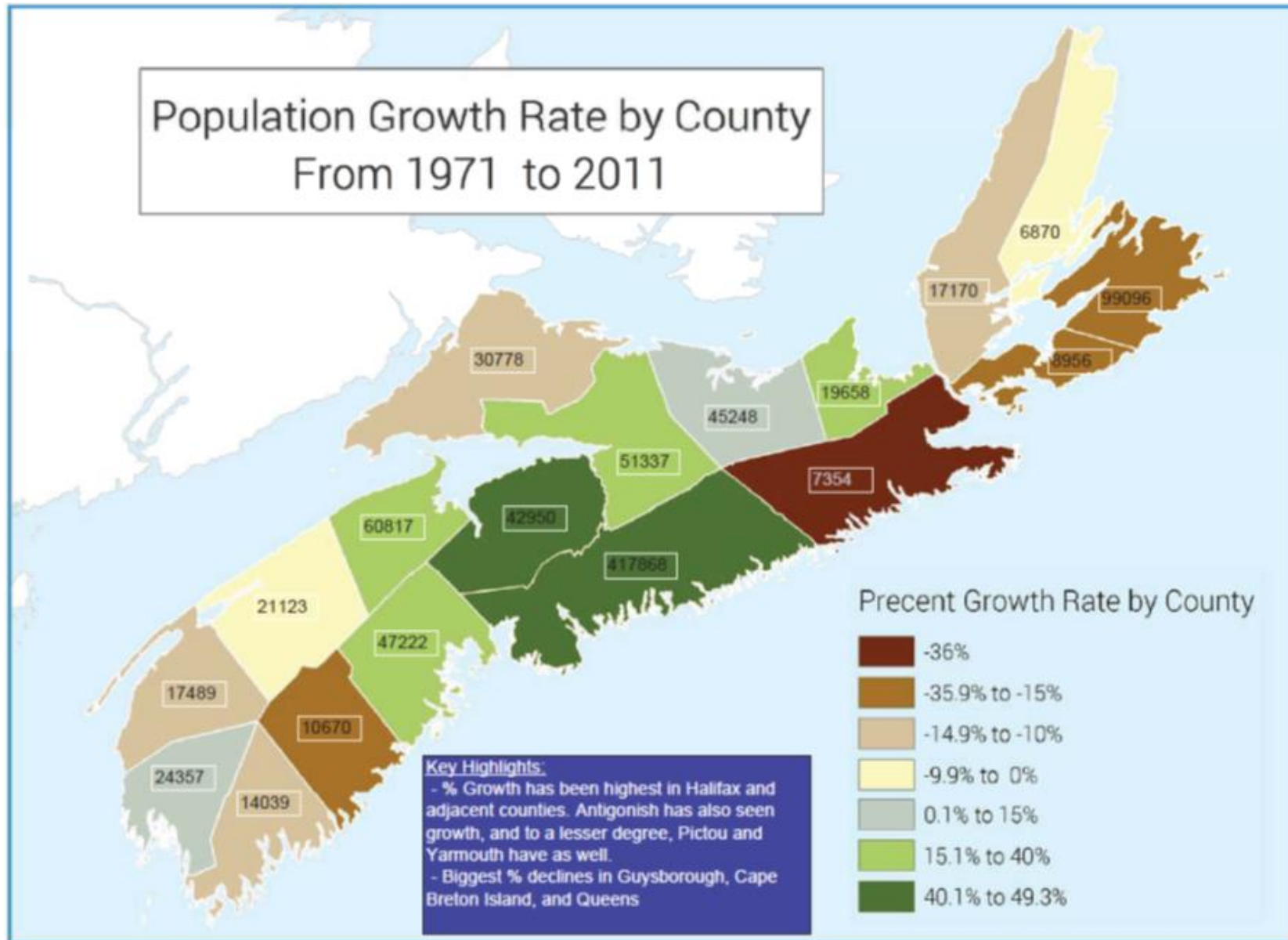
Day time, Night time changes  
 Distance over rides  
 PRP/MA support plan  
 EMS system status plan

# 60 Minute Drive Time from Regional and Tertiary Care Facilities 92.5% of citizens



97% 1, 2, 3s / 87% 30 min

## Population Growth Rate by County From 1971 to 2011



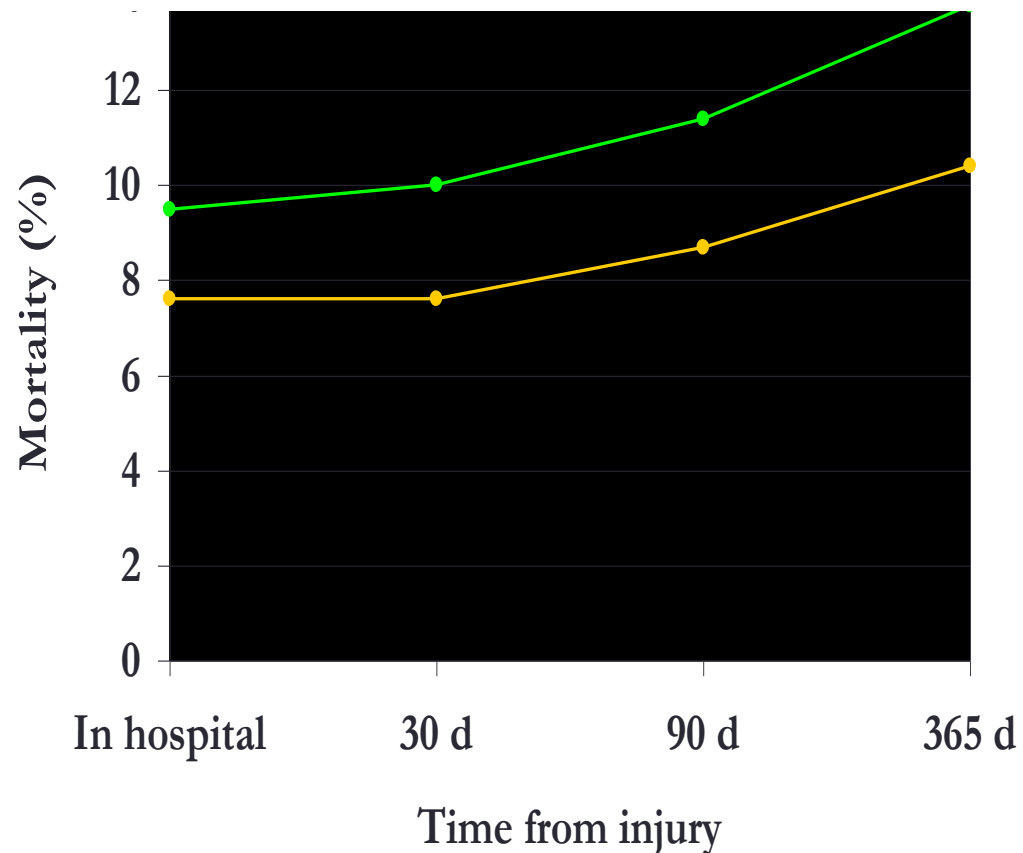
Source: Investment & Decision Support, Department of Health and wellness  
Population – Statistics Canada, 2011 Census  
April 2016



EJ MacKenzie et al, 2006

SPECIAL ARTICLE

## A National Evaluation of the Effect of Trauma-Center Care on Mortality



25% lower relative risk of death at one year in trauma centers

N=15,000 patients

## VIEWPOINT AND COMMENTARY

# ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction: Recommendations on Triage of Patients to Heart Attack Centers

Is it Time for a National Policy for the Treatment of ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction?

Timothy D. Henry, MD,\* James M. Atkins, MD,† Michael S. Cunningham, MD,‡ Gary S. Francis, MD,§ William J. Groh, MD, MPH,|| Robert A. Hong, MD,¶ Karl B. Kern, MD,# David M. Larson, MD,\*\* Erik Magnus Ohman, MD,†† Joseph P. Ornato, MD,‡‡ Mary Ann Peberdy, MD,‡‡ Michael J. Rosenberg, MD,§§ W. Douglas Weaver, MD||||

CARDIOLOGY/CONCEPTS

---

## Regionalization of Care for ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction: Is It Too Soon?

**Brent C. Pottenger, BS**  
**Deborah B. Diercks, MD**  
**Deepak L. Bhatt, MD**

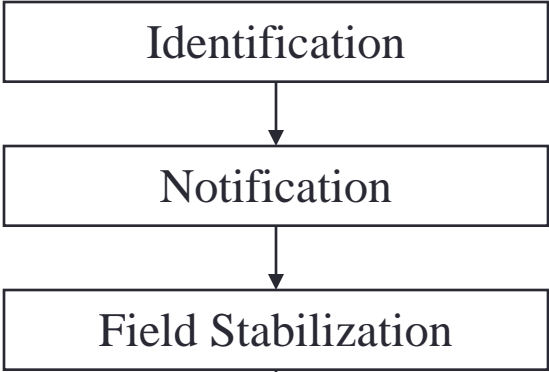
From the School of Policy, Planning, and Development, University of Southern California (Pottenger); the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of California, Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA (Diercks); and the VA Boston Healthcare System and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA (Bhatt).

Pro

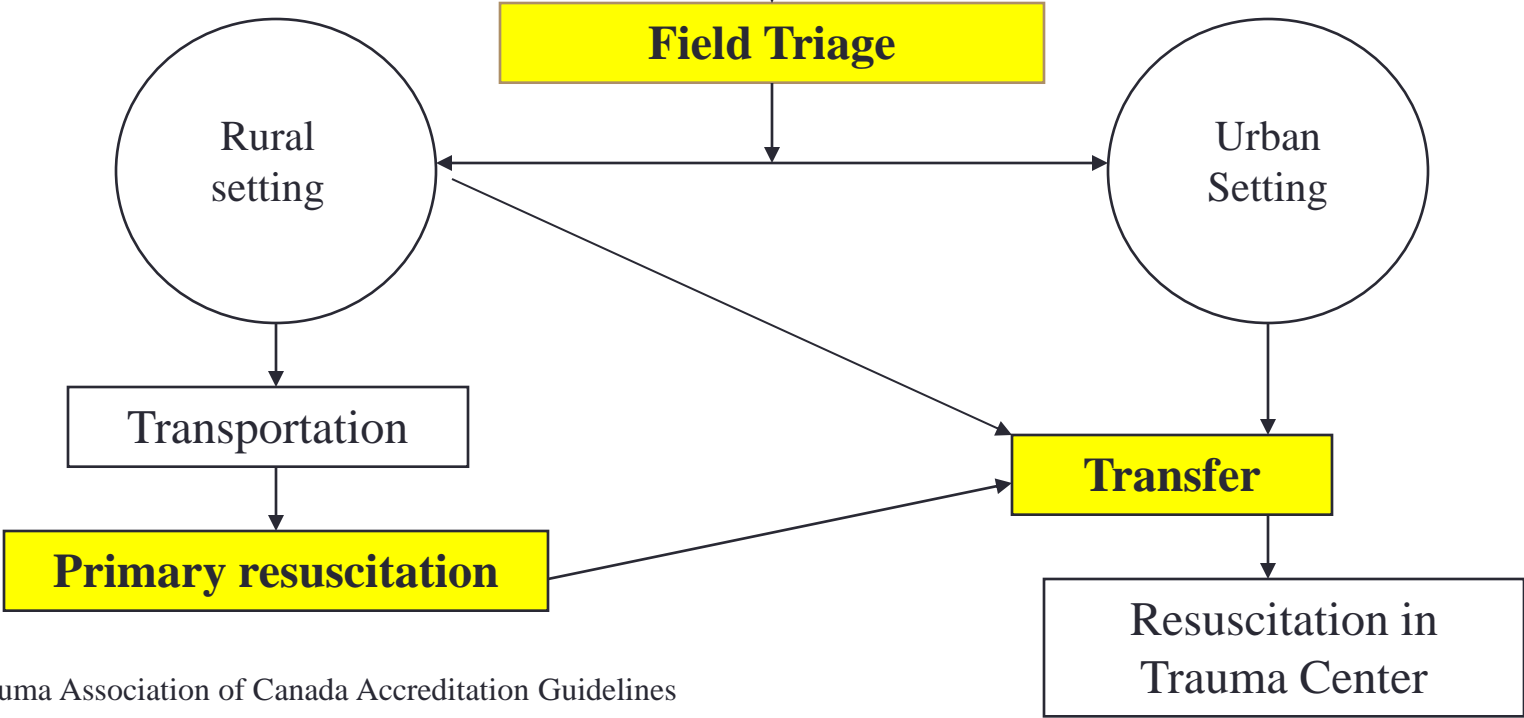


# Trauma system Integration

# EMS/Trauma System Integration



**“If an injured patient dies at a non-trauma hospital, the trauma system has failed”  
Howard Champion MD**



• Trauma Association of Canada Accreditation Guidelines



Measure vital signs and level of consciousness

**Step One**

Glasgow Coma Scale	<14
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	<90 mmHg
Respiratory rate	<10 or >29 breaths per minute (<20 in infant aged <1 year*)

Yes

No

Take to a trauma center.† Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients. These patients should be transported preferentially to the highest level of care within the trauma system.

Assess anatomy of injury.

**Step Two§**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee</li><li>• Flail chest</li><li>• Two or more proximal long-bone fractures</li><li>• Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle</li><li>• Pelvic fractures</li><li>• Open or depressed skull fracture</li><li>• Paralysis</li></ul>
--	--

Yes

No

Take to a trauma center. Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients. These patients should be transported preferentially to the highest level of care within the trauma system.

Assess mechanism of injury and evidence of high-energy impact.

### Step Three<sup>§</sup>

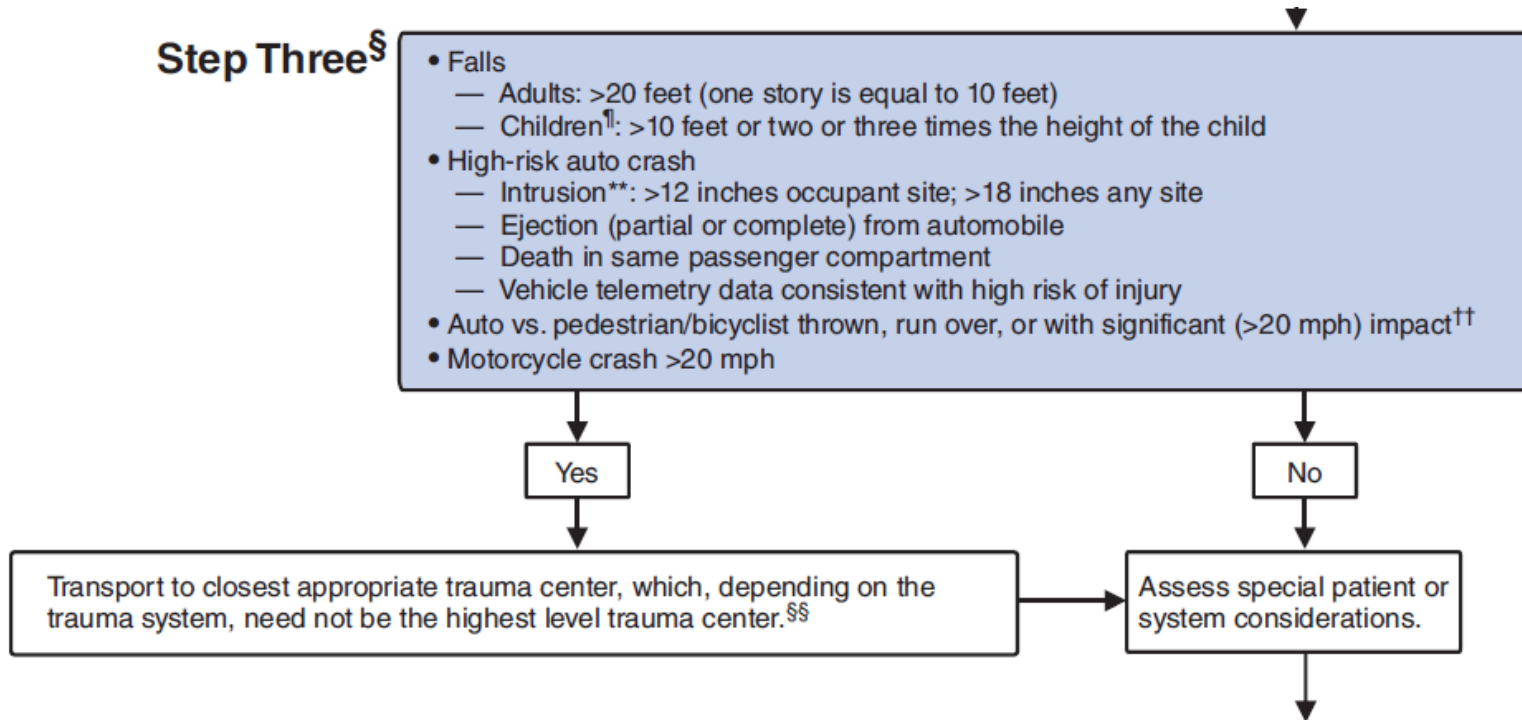
- Falls
  - Adults: >20 feet (one story is equal to 10 feet)
  - Children<sup>¶</sup>: >10 feet or two or three times the height of the child
- High-risk auto crash
  - Intrusion<sup>\*\*</sup>: >12 inches occupant site; >18 inches any site
  - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
  - Death in same passenger compartment
  - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury
- Auto vs. pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant (>20 mph) impact<sup>††</sup>
- Motorcycle crash >20 mph

Yes

No

Transport to closest appropriate trauma center, which, depending on the trauma system, need not be the highest level trauma center.<sup>§§</sup>

Assess special patient or system considerations.



## Step Four

- Age
  - Older adults<sup>¶¶</sup>: Risk of injury/death increases after age 55 years
  - Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers
- Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
- Burns
  - Without other trauma mechanism: triage to burn facility<sup>\*\*\*</sup>
  - With trauma mechanism: triage to trauma center<sup>\*\*\*</sup>
- Time sensitive extremity injury<sup>†††</sup>
- End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
- Pregnancy >20 weeks
- EMS<sup>§§§</sup> provider judgment

Yes

Contact medical control and consider transport to a trauma center or a specific resource hospital.

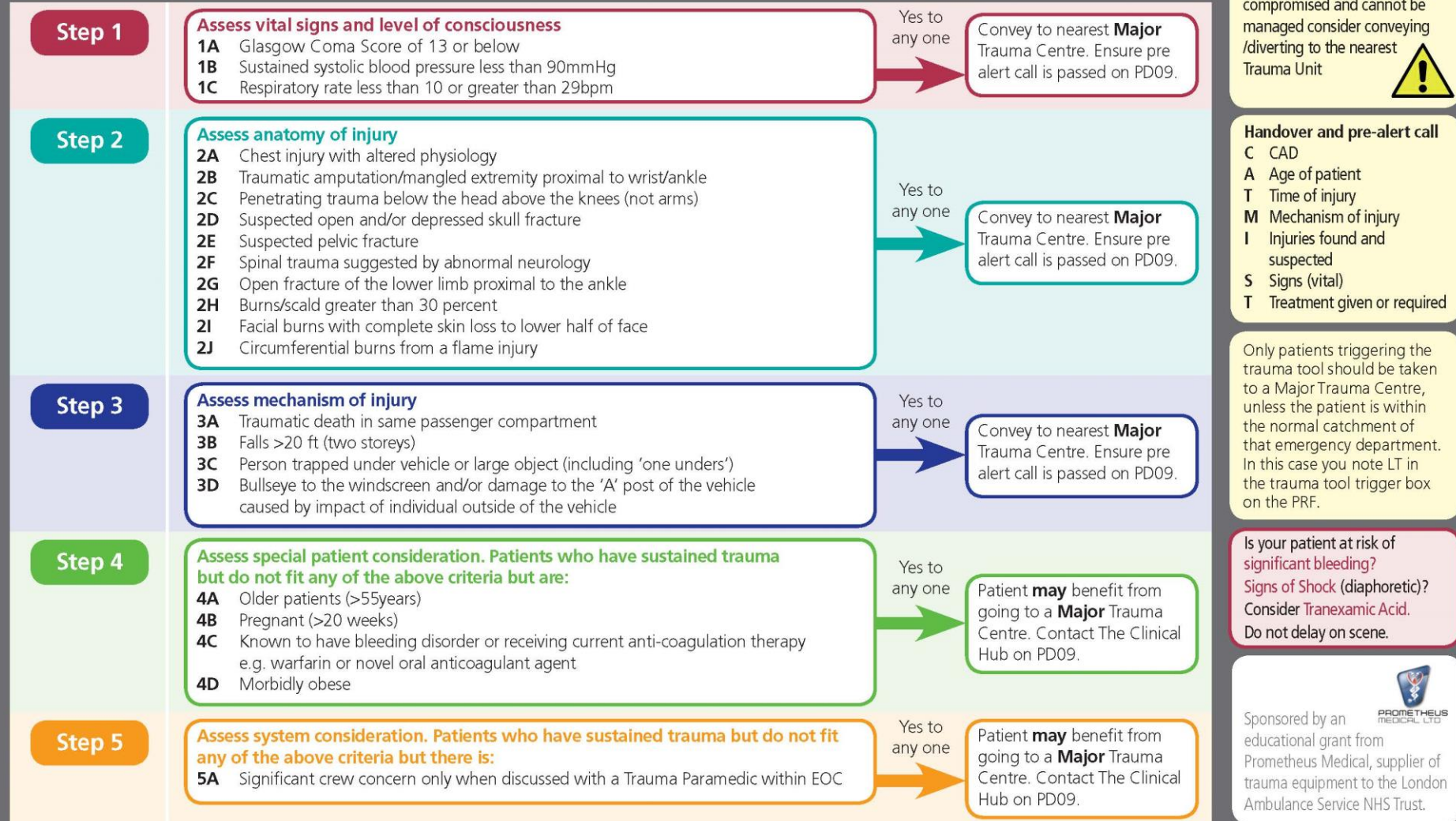
No

Transport according to protocol.<sup>¶¶¶¶</sup>

**When in doubt, transport to a trauma center**



## London Major Trauma Decision Tool (ADULTS & CHILDREN 12–18 YEARS OLD)





**CORRESPONDENCE**

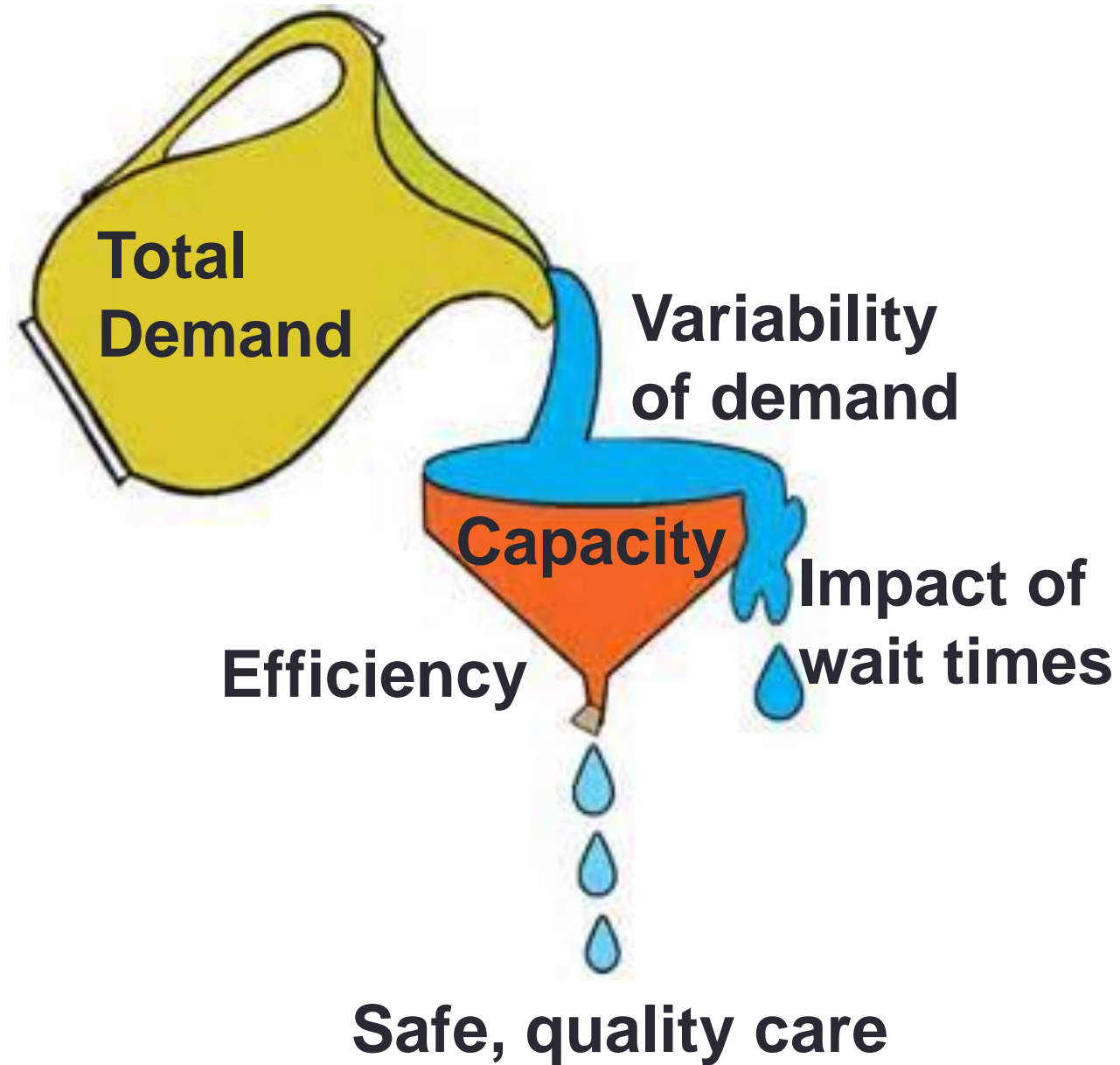
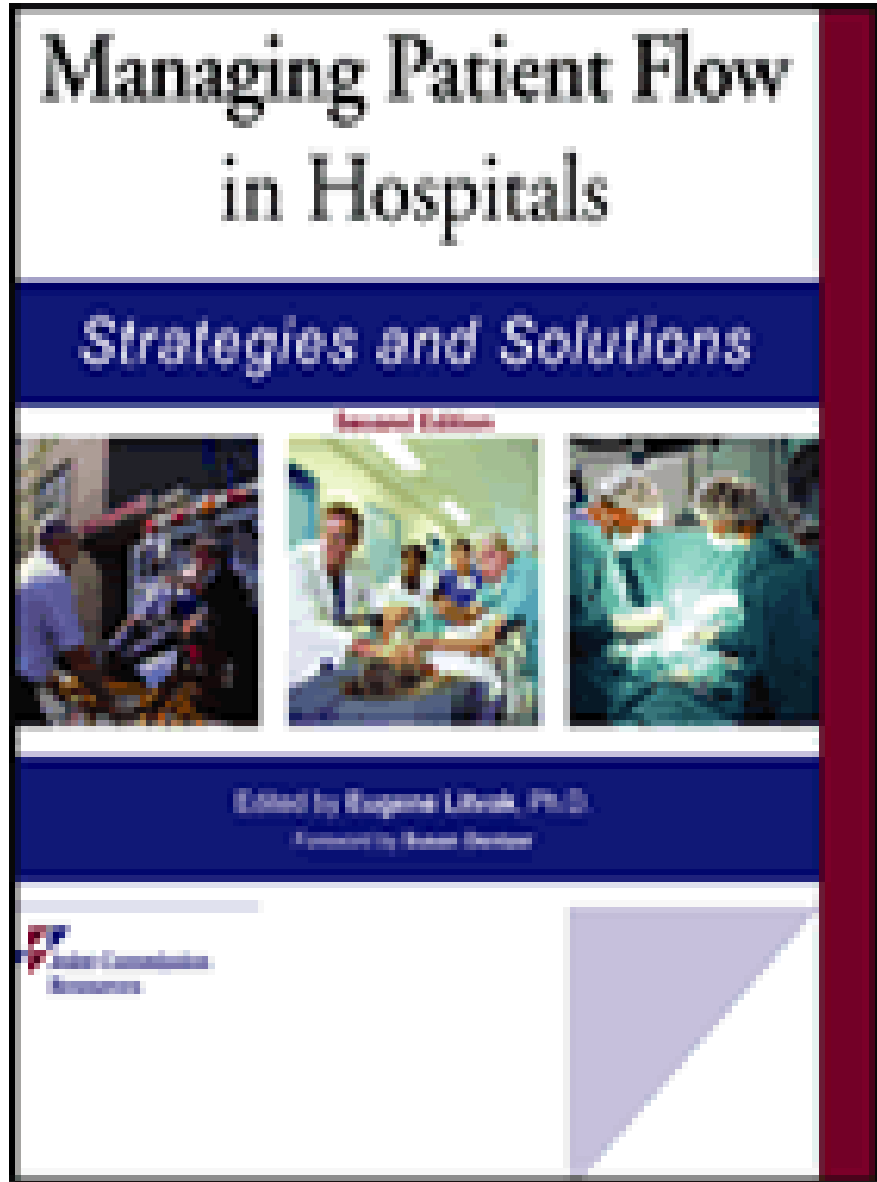
**Open Access**

# A Spoonful of Math Helps the Medicine Go Down: An Illustration of How Healthcare can Benefit from Mathematical Modeling and Analysis

E Michael Foster\*<sup>1</sup>, Michael R Hosking<sup>2</sup> and Serhan Ziya<sup>2</sup>

## **Abstract**

**Objectives:** A recent joint report from the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Engineering, highlights the benefits of--indeed, the need for--mathematical analysis of healthcare delivery. Tools for such analysis have been developed over decades by researchers in Operations Research (OR). An OR perspective typically frames a complex problem in terms of its essential mathematical structure. This article illustrates the use and value of the tools of operations research in healthcare. It reviews one OR tool, queueing theory, and provides an illustration involving a hypothetical drug treatment facility.



## Sorry—we're full! Access block and accountability failure in the health care system

Grant Innes, MD



### Table 2. Program accountability for patient care

1. Timely assessment and disposition of patients referred for care
2. Budget, space, and nursing care to look after patients requiring their services
3. Contingency plans to address demand variability
4. Queue management strategies for patients awaiting admission to program care

## Sorry—we're full! Access block and accountability failure in the health care system

Grant Innes, MD

### The Accountability Crisis:

In the face of demand capacity mismatch a program / queue can:

1. Improve efficiency and appropriateness, and lobby for more resources (difficult) or...
2. Block inflow and leave pts in the queue (default response)
3. Solution for one program is a problem for another program
4. Shifts care to downstream programs less capable of providing it
5. Displaces consequences of access failure to remote parts of system
6. Leaders capable of assessing/addressing root causes are protected from having to do so
7. And leaders in impacted areas are incapable of doing (because they have no authority)

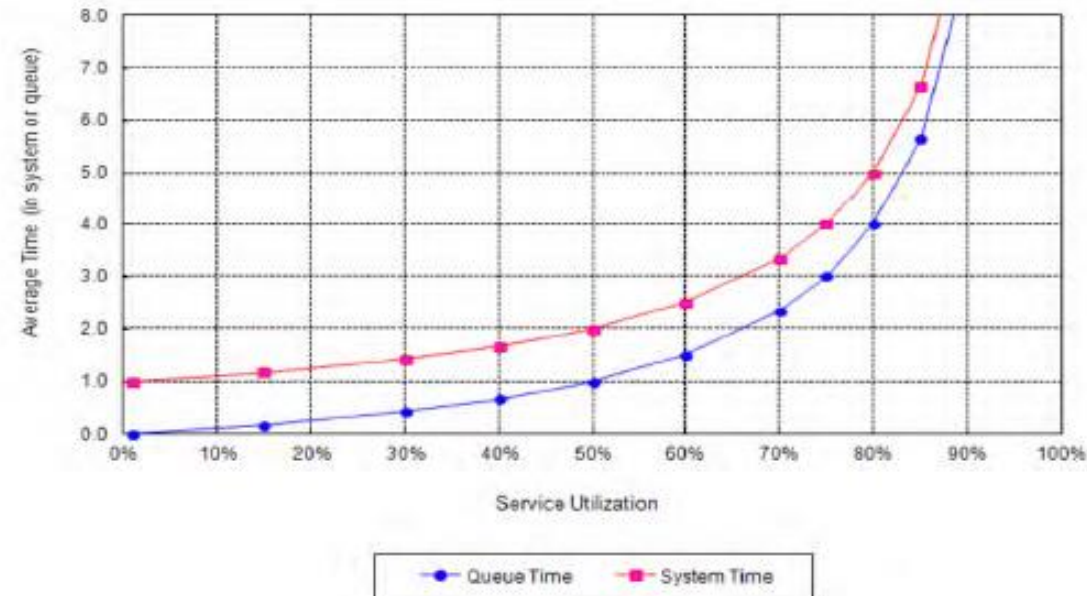




# Practical Implications of Queuing Theory

1. Focus on real problem queue, bottlenecks
2. **Small improvements can have big impacts**
3. Safe redundancy surge capacity
4. High cost of planning for the average day

Figure 3. Relationship between waiting time and utilization of a resource or service



<http://emergencymedicinescases.com/emergency-physician-speed-how-fast-is-fast-enough/>

<http://emergencymedicinescases.com/emergency-physician-speed-and-productivity-solutions/>

**Preparing for the average day is like pitching your tent at the mid-tide line (and wondering why you are all wet...)**







The new era of thinking and practice  
in change and transformation:

A CALL TO ACTION FOR LEADERS OF HEALTH AND CARE

Helen Bevan and Steve Fairman

Health Care systems are far less like a clock (mechanistic, clear cause and effect, predictable command and control – and therefore, effectively planned/“run” by centralized administrators) **and more like a Complex Adaptive System**

<http://www.nhs.uk/qualityimprovement/white-papers/2013/03/20130301-call-to-action-for-leaders-of-health-and-care>

## Globally networked risks and how to respond

Dirk Helbing<sup>1,2</sup>

Today's strongly connected, global networks have produced highly interdependent systems that we do not understand and cannot control well. These systems are vulnerable to failure at all scales, posing serious threats to society, even when external shocks are absent. As the complexity and interaction strengths in our networked world increase, man-made systems can become unstable, creating uncontrollable situations even when decision-makers are well-skilled, have all data and technology at their disposal, and do their best. To make these systems manageable, a fundamental redesign is needed. A 'Global Systems Science' might create the required knowledge and paradigm shift in thinking.

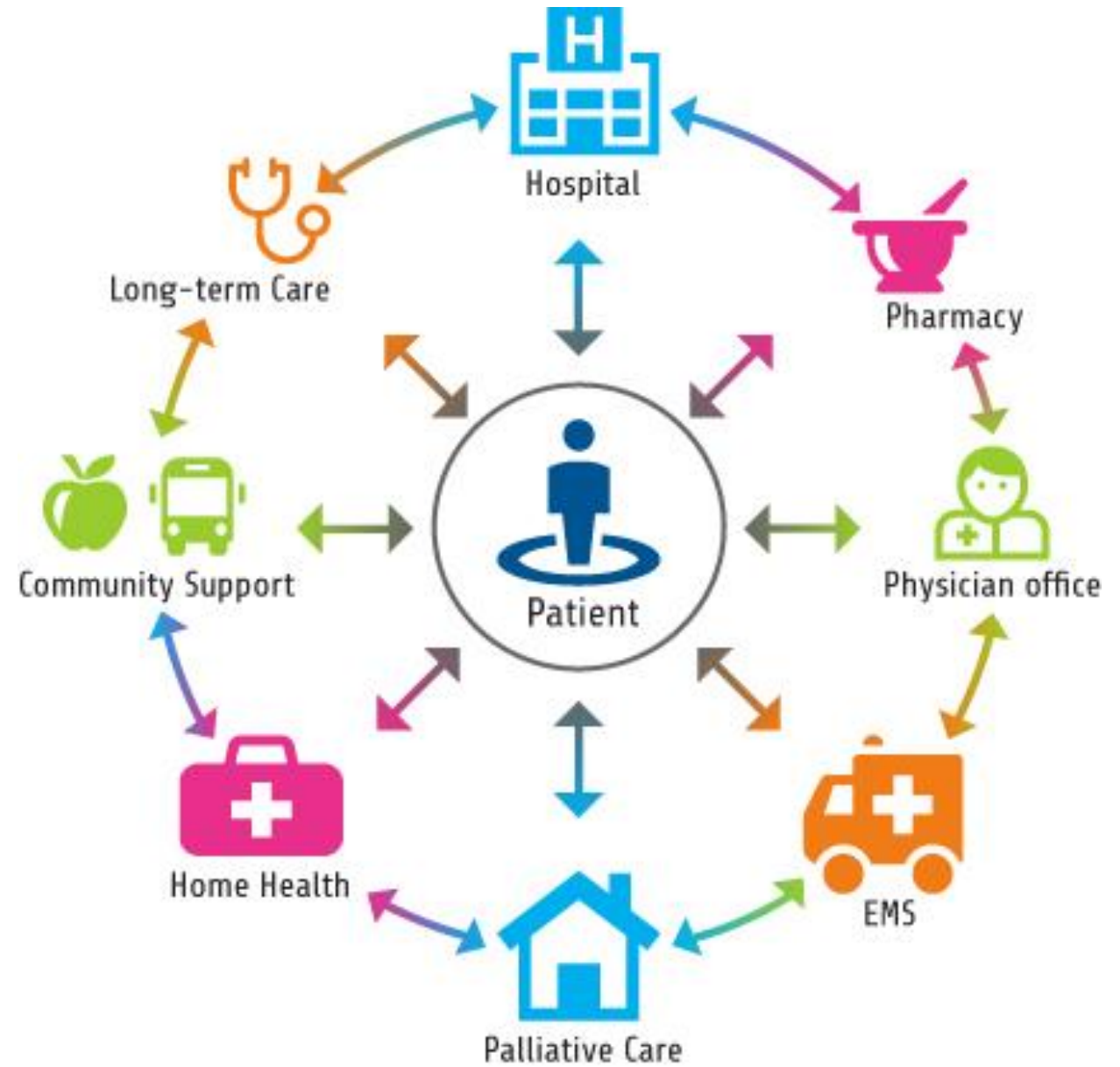
**“Man-made systems become unstable, creating uncontrollable situations even when decision-makers are well-skilled, have all the data and technology at their disposal, and do their best”.**



# 20<sup>th</sup> vs 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Care

	<b>Traditional System</b>	<b>Complex Adaptive System</b>
<b>Roles</b>	<b>Management (top down)</b>	<b>Situational leadership (context dependent)</b>
<b>Methods</b>	<b>Command and Control</b>	<b>Evaluate and Iterate</b>
<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Focus</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Agility</b>
<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Contractual Linear</b>	<b>Personal Commitments Non-linear</b>
<b>Network</b>	<b>Hierarchy</b>	<b>Heterarchy</b>
<b>Design</b>	<b>Organizational design Rigid planning</b>	<b>Self organization Trial and error and improve</b>

# System as machine vs ecoSystem





# Health Care as a Complex Adaptive System

Interdependent Agents

Non-linear threshold effects

Dynamic Co-evolution

Self organization and Emergence

No single point of control

Hind sight does not give foresight



# 20<sup>th</sup> vs 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Care

	<b>Traditional System</b>	<b>Complex Adaptive System</b>
<b>Roles</b>	<b>Management (top down)</b>	<b>Situational leadership (context dependent)</b>
<b>Methods</b>	<b>Command and Control</b>	<b>Evaluate and Iterate</b>
<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Focus</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Agility</b>
<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Contractual Linear</b>	<b>Personal Commitments Non-linear</b>
<b>Network</b>	<b>Hierarchy</b>	<b>Heterarchy</b>
<b>Design</b>	<b>Organizational design Rigid planning</b>	<b>Self organization Trial and error and improve</b>



# Health Care as a Complex Adaptive System

- Composed of **independent agents** following their own physical, psychological, and/or social rules (not following rules of system)
- They are **non-linear and dynamic** and do not reach fixed equilibrium points. Negative and positive feedback loops abound. This may appear random and chaotic to the mechanistic, cause-effect, world view.
- Agent's needs, and rules, may be in conflict (eg. access, quality, costs) depending on context, leading to co-evolution and **interdependent adaptations**. (collective interests vs individual interests)
- Agent's are intelligent and learn and change behaviors over time, leading to **threshold effects** and tipping point system changes.
- **Self organizing and emergent patterns** of behaviours. Emergence = valuable innovations, De-mergence = crashes and crisis (when it starts to fall apart man it really falls apart)
- **No single point of control**, system behaviours are unpredictable, uncontrollable, and no-one is "in charge". Agility is essential.

## Key facts for Canada from OECD Health Statistics 2014

	Canada		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries*
	2012	2000	2012	2000	
<b>Health care resources</b>					
Number of doctors (per 1000 population) <sup>1</sup>	2.5	2.1	3.2	2.7	27 out of 34
Number of nurses (per 1000 population)	9.4	8.5 (2003)	8.8	7.5	16 out of 34
Hospital beds (per 1000 population)	2.7 (2011)	..	4.8	5.6	30 out of 34

Reducing the total # of hospital beds is a laudable goal provided that:

1. Bed hour utilization (**efficiency**) has been optimized
2. Hospital occupancy (**capacity**) rates are between 85-90%
3. **IF** beds are closed with occupancy rates >100%, or without optimizing efficiencies, then a public debate should occur about why we are **rationing emergency care**.