

# Improving Hospital Readmission Rates and Follow-up after Hospitalization: A Team-Based Approach

Presenters: James Pencharz MD, Gordon Canning NP,  
Heather Hadden Pharm, Inge Bonnette RN,  
Claudia Mazariegos RD

# Conflict of interest

Presenters report the absence of any conflict of interest.

This project has not received any financial support from any commercial organization.

# Learning objectives

- To understand how quality improvement tools can be used effectively to facilitate improvement initiatives in primary care
- To understand how members of the multidisciplinary team can be efficiently involved in the post-hospitalization phase to reduce complications at this stage
- To learn about gaps during transitions of care that highlight needs for further system integration

# Who are we?

Our Mission of Excellence:

High Standard Interprofessional Primary Care + Family Medicine Teaching

3 Offices

11,000+ patients

15 IHPs

10 Physicians

18 Admin staff

18 Family Practice Residents

Multiple CDM and Preventative Care Programs



# Who are we?

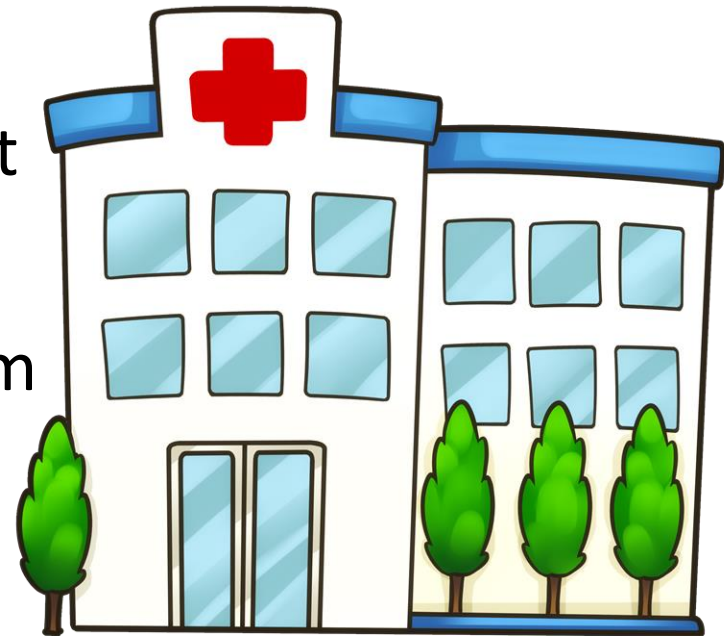
- Inge Bonnette  
Family Practice RN
- Gordon Canning  
Nurse Practitioner
- Latonya Gaisie  
Unit Assistant
- Heather Hadden  
Pharmacist
- Claudia Mazariegos  
Dietitian/QI Lead
- James Pencharz  
Staff Physician
- Merlika Salihu  
Clinical Assistant

# The problem

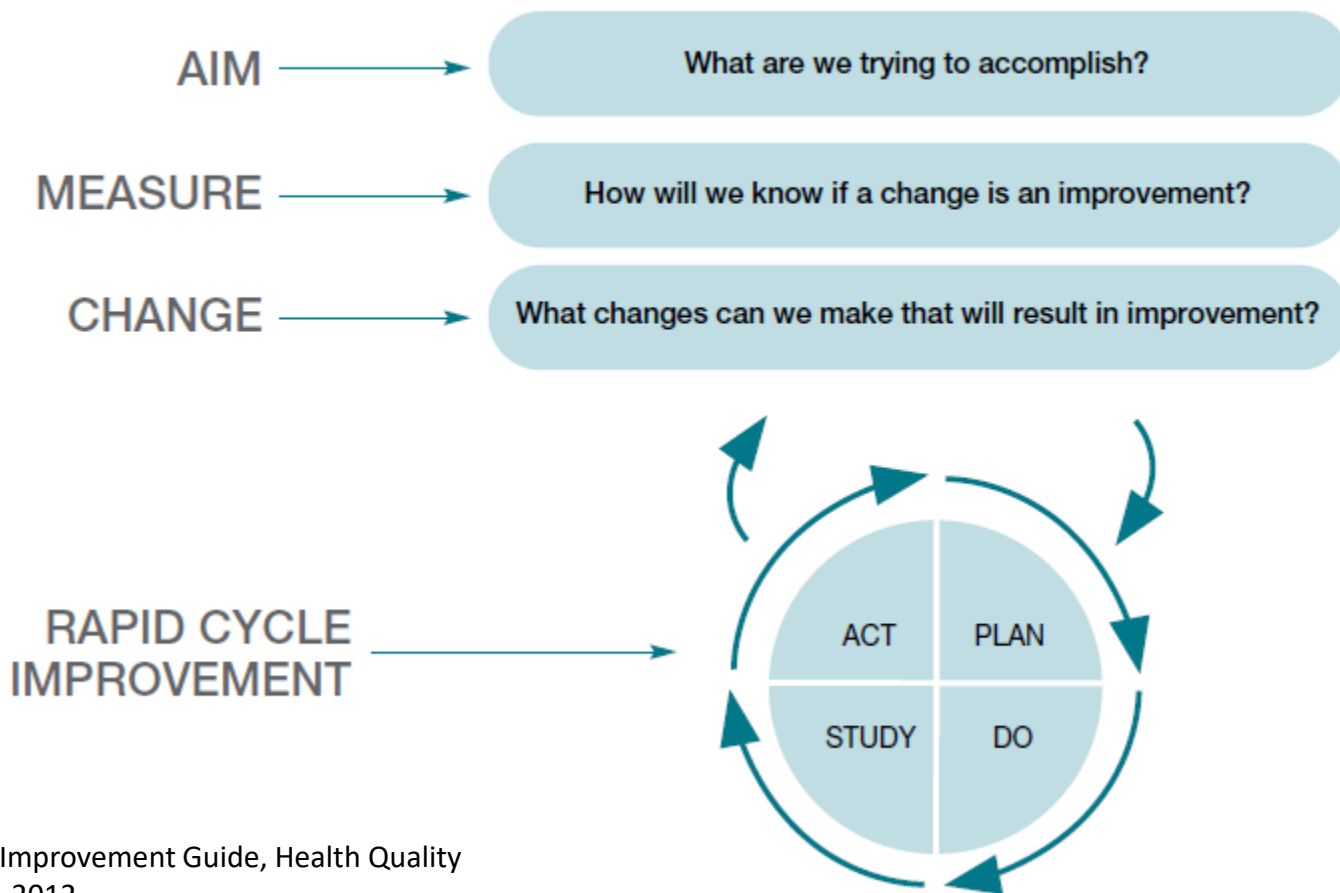
- Unnecessary re-hospitalizations have a direct negative impact on patient morbidity and mortality and places stress on caregivers and families
- The literature indicates that timely follow-up visits post-hospital discharge can reduce hospital readmission rates.
- 34% of CVFHT patients saw their primary care provider within seven (7) days after discharge from the hospital for CMGs compared to the provincial average 37% (Health Data Portal).
- The CVFHT had no defined process for follow-up for discharged patients

# How did we start

- Apply the model of improvement
- Understanding our current state
  - Data
  - Process mapping
- Use of Quality improvement tools to understand gaps
- Vision future transitions from acute care to community
  - Admission Phase
  - Discharge Phase
  - Follow-up Phase



## MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT



Quality Improvement Guide, Health Quality Ontario, 2012



# Aim statement

To improve the system by analyzing the current system and designing a new process at the CVFHT. The CVFHT Readmission Team is going to reduce the 30-day hospital readmission rate by 20% compared to baseline (collected from Aug 2012 to Aug 2014= 37 readmissions/409 admissions). This represents a reduction from 9.0 % to 7.2 % by June 1, 2015.

## Tip

**“You can’t improve what you don’t measure.”**



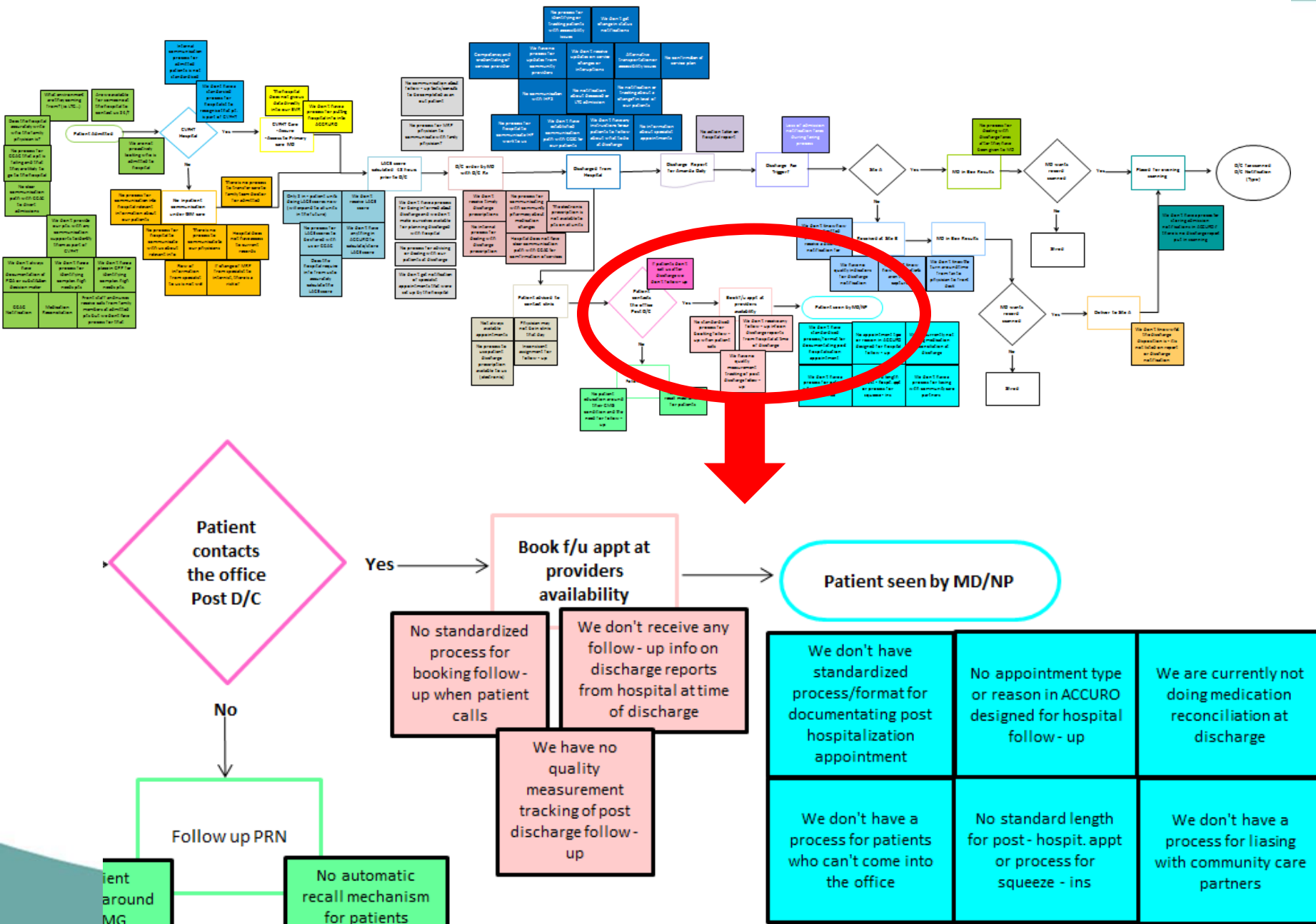
# Identification of the hospitalized patient

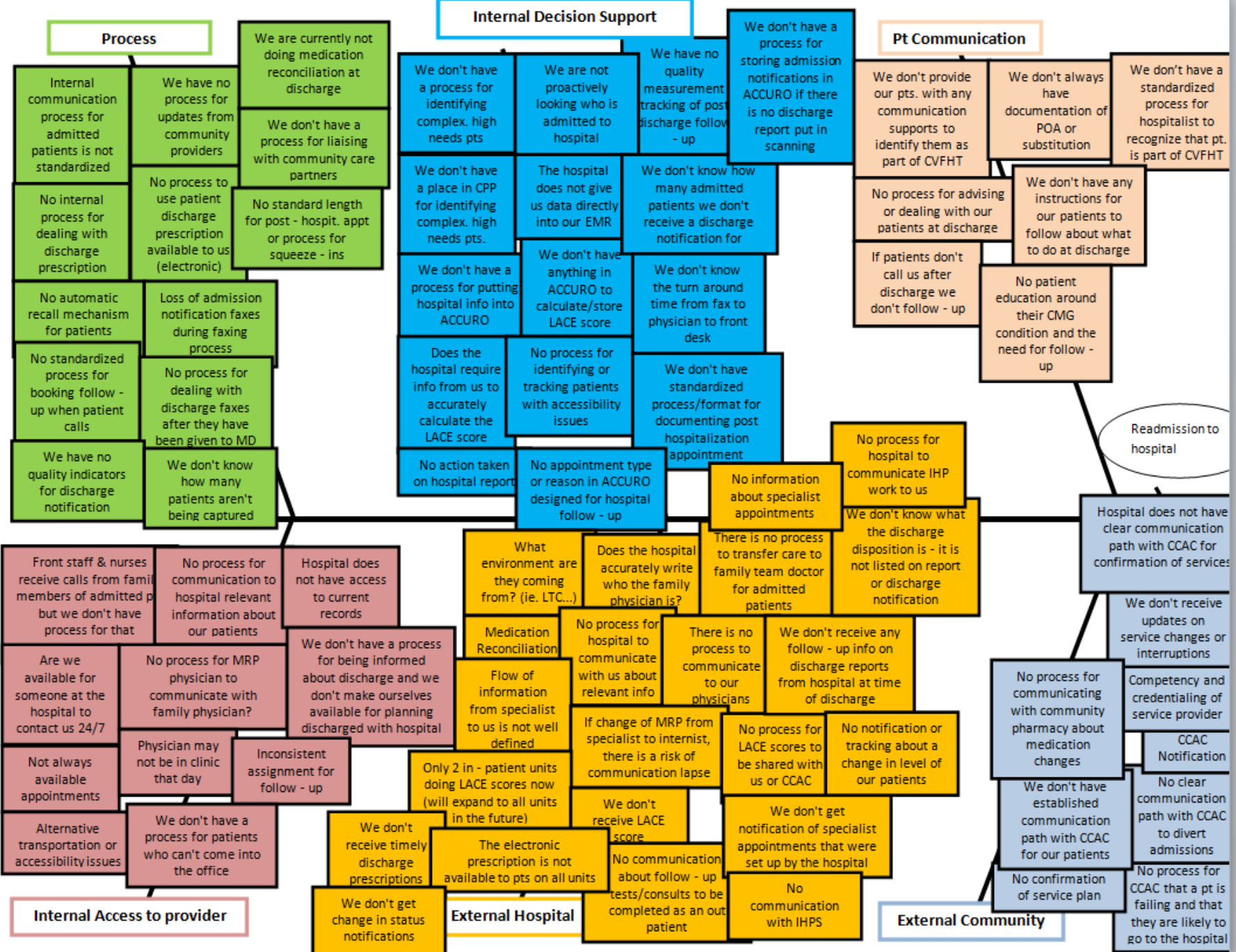
## Tip

Validate your data



# Process map





## CVFHT Hospital Re Admission Driver Diagram

## Primary Drivers Change Concepts

## Secondary Drivers Change Ideas

**PD1 1/5**

Identification of patients at high risk of admission



SD1

- Identification of admitted patients (PDSA 1-4, Ramp 1)
- Re admission risk analysis of admitted patients (PDSA 1-4, Ramp 1; LACE score request to hospital; Ramp 2)
- Communication of timing of transition from hospital/essential information i.e. d/c summary (PDSA 2-3, Ramp 1)
- Assessment of the patient discharge environment (PDSA 1, Ramp 2)
- Documentation / Support for POA-HC or SDM

**PD2 2/5**

Appropriate FHT follow up



SD2

- Process for post hospital discharge booking (Ramp 1)
- Process for post hospital discharge assessment (Ramp 2)/patient instructions/recall (Ramp 1 & 2)
- Specific education for patients on the need for follow up related to their CMG condition
- Follow up for patients isolated d/t mobility
- Communication with family/caregivers

**PD3 4/5**

Appropriate community follow-up

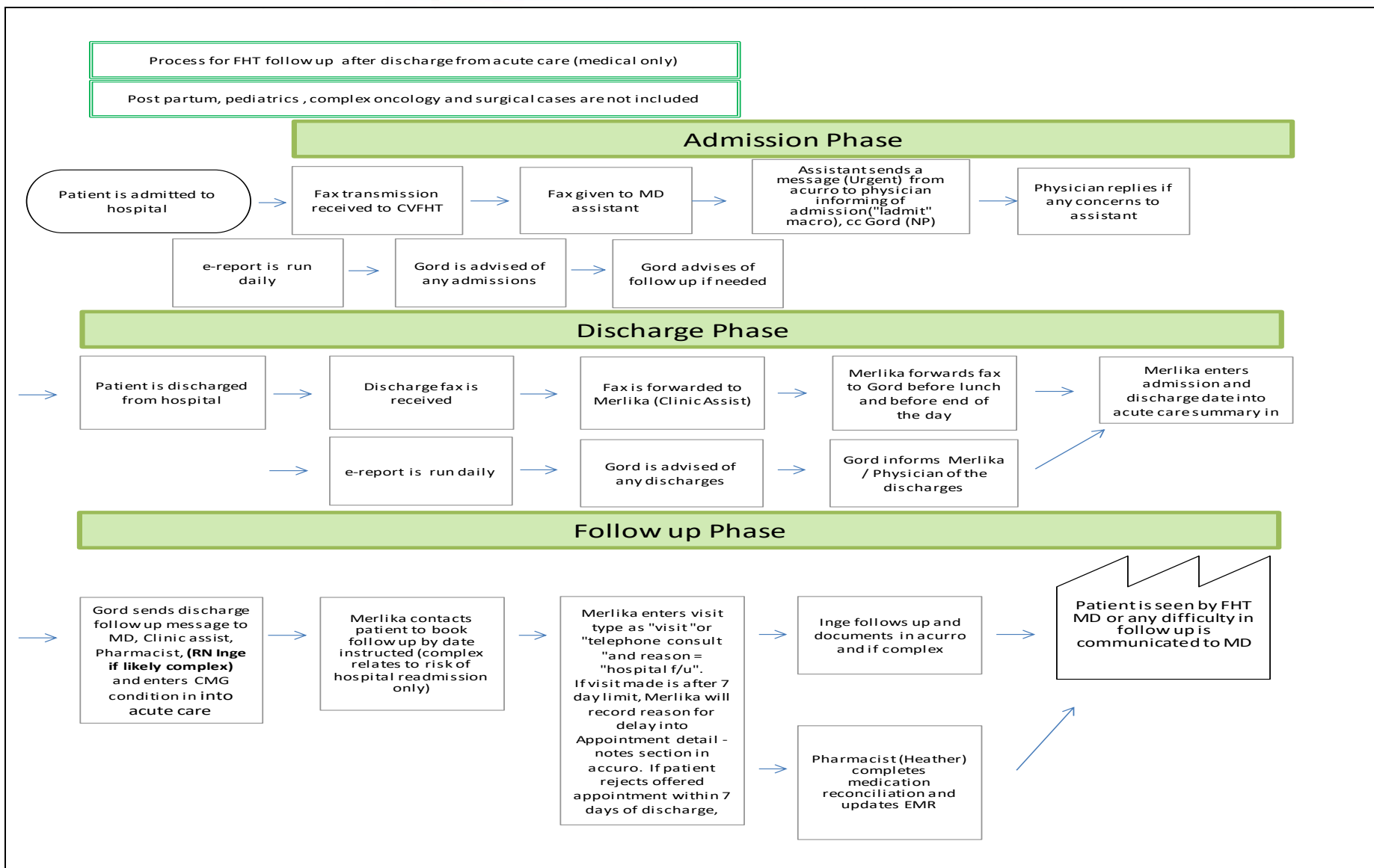


SD3

- Communication process with CCAC/community providers
- Update of service changes, interruptions or recommendations

AIM: To reduce 30-day hospital readmissions

# Current Process Map



# Case Based Approach

- Mrs. A.C.
- 93yr female entered hospital for scheduled angiogram of the R leg. Resulted in acute ischemia.
- Admission x 6 days after R femoral emolectomy and bovine pericardial patch angioplasty.
- “hospital stay was prolonged by a few medical issues”
  - Congestive heart failure with elevated troponins
  - Recurrent hypoglycemia
  - Upper GI bleed , endoscopy and duodenal ulcer required clipping
  - Right groin infection



- **Clinic assist**
  - Daily e-report to track all ER visits and acute care admissions
  - Receive Admission faxes from Trillium Health Partners
  - Review for COPD patients (learned from a previous QIP)
  - Identify new acute care admissions
  - Communicate email to Provider / NP to highlight those transition cases and initiate acute care summary form in EMR
- **Nurse Practitioner**
  - Immediate case management action in ER COPD visits
  - Monitors for new high risk admissions
    - Known complex management
    - Known frequent ER/Admissions to hospital
  - Contact MRP in hospital as required



# Admission Phase Mrs. A.C.

- Front desk support noted admission to hospital on fax but not e-report (built in redundancy)
  - Other team members - Pharmacist
- Pharmacist was aware. Had a relationship from previous chronic disease discussions. Initiated communication with the daughter regarding progression of her acute care stay

# Discharge Phase

- Clinic assist
  - Identify new discharges from e-Report and fax transmissions.
  - Updates NP of new discharges twice daily
  - Update acute care summary form in EMR
- Nurse Practitioner
  - Review discharge for complexity and risk
  - Comorbid disease
  - Frequent admissions/ER/FHT visits
  - Known flagged complex patient
  - Catastrophic / life altering diagnosis

# Discharge Phase

- Pharmacist
  - Observe for discharges each am
  - Initiate medication reconciliation process
  - Receive team communication in EMR regarding discharge
  - Confirm to team completion of medication reconciliation and any concerns in EMR
  - Take action immediately on any safety concerns
- Nursing
  - Receive update of discharge
  - Complex / risk of readmission identified
  - MD as opportunity to identify important issues

## CVFHT patients attending ER

| FAMILY DOCTOR | Family Name | Given Name1 | SERVICE DATE | ER DISCHARGE DATE | ADM ADMIT DATE | ADM DISCHARGE DATE | REASON FOR VISIT   | DISCHARGE DISPOSITION |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| KENK3         | Test A      |             |              |                   |                |                    |                    |                       |
|               |             |             | 08/09/2016   | 08/09/2016        | 08/09/2016     | 17/09/2016         | CELLULITIS         | HWC                   |
| PENJA         | Test B      |             |              |                   |                |                    |                    |                       |
|               |             |             | 13/09/2016   | 13/09/2016        | 13/09/2016     | 17/09/2016         | DELIRIUM / FALL    | INTRN                 |
|               |             |             | 16/09/2016   | 17/09/2016        |                |                    | FALL HI            |                       |
| ZARG          | Test C      |             |              |                   |                |                    |                    |                       |
|               |             |             | 15/09/2016   | 15/09/2016        | 15/09/2016     | 17/09/2016         | ABDOMEN PAIN       | HWC                   |
|               |             |             | 16/09/2016   | 16/09/2016        |                |                    | ULTRASOUND RESULTS |                       |

# Acute Care Summary

## Acute Care Summary

Hospital Admission Date

Hospital Discharge Date

FHT Follow-up Date

Patient declined earlier 7-day appointment

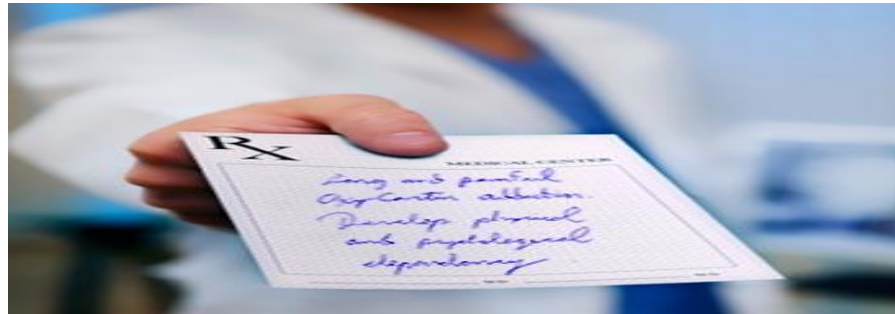
Case Mix Group (CMG)

# Discharge Phase – Mrs. A.C.

- Fax and e-report noted discharge destination Home
- Clinic assist update acute care summary form
  - Admission date
  - Discharge date
  - Follow up date when booked and if patient declined follow up
- Reviewed by NP / Pharmacist
- NP review and initiate team communication including physician, nursing, pharmacist, front desk of complex discharge - urgent within EMR (Accuro)
- Pharmacist initiate medication reconciliation process

# Follow up Phase

- Clinic Assist
  - Book follow up within 7 days, multiple calls can be needed
  - Update team of follow up booking
- Multiple team members involved



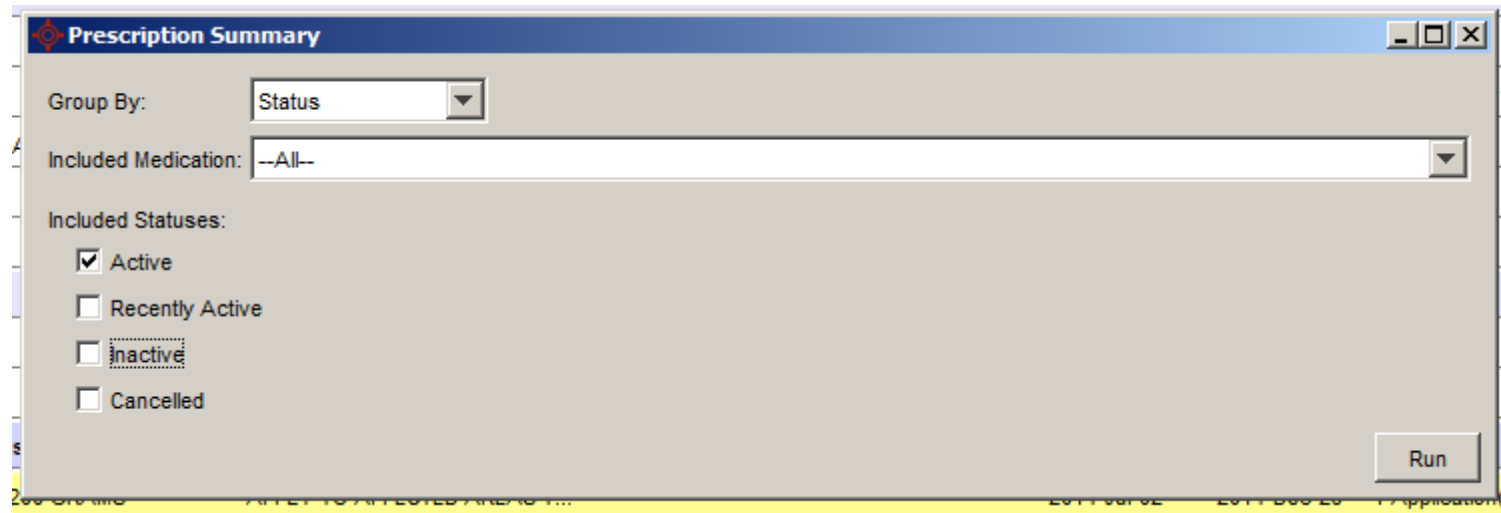
## ENTER THE PHARMACIST





# Discharge Medication Reconciliation

Run the current EMR medication list



The screenshot shows a window titled "Prescription Summary" with the following settings:

- Group By: Status
- Included Medication: --All--
- Included Statuses:
  - Active
  - Recently Active
  - inactive
  - Cancelled

A "Run" button is located in the bottom right corner of the window.

## Rx Summary –prior to admission

JasperViewer

100%

## Prescription Summary

**Grouped By: Status**  
For Patient: Duck, Daffy (Rick)

| Medication  | Dosage                      | Duration                       | Start Date |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Active</b>   |                             |                                |            |
| <b>Continuous/Chronic</b>   |                             |                                |            |
| NORVASC 10 MG TABLET  | 1 Tablet(s) Once daily      | 1 Day(s) starting 2016-Aug-22  | 08/22/2016 |
| Ramipril 10 mg Oral Capsule   | 1 Capsule(s) Once daily     | 3 Mth30 starting 2016-Jun-15   | 06/15/2016 |
| Metoprolol Succinate 50 mg Oral Tablet, Extended Release  | 1 Tablet(s) Two times daily | 3 Mth30 starting 2016-May-10   | 05/10/2016 |
| XIGDUO 5mg/1000mg<br>with food  | 1 Tablet(s) Two times daily | 90 Day(s) starting 2016-Mar-07 | 03/07/2016 |
| Zopiclone 7.5 mg Oral Tablet  | 1 Tablet(s) Every day at    | 1 Day(s) starting 2015-Oct-15  | 10/15/2015 |
| <b>External</b>   |                             |                                |            |
| EPIPEN 0.3 MG AUTO-INJECTOR   |                             |                                |            |
| FORTEO 750 MCG/3 ML PEN   |                             |                                |            |
| <b>Non-Drug</b>   |                             |                                |            |
| SICK NOTE   |                             |                                | 09/01/2016 |
| SICK NOTE<br>patient must be away from work from September 2nd-September 15th for a medical illness |                             |                                |            |

# Access Meditech for Discharge RX

DIS 02/09/16 REG RCR 24/08/16

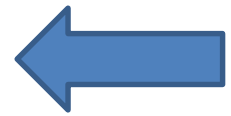
Print Time Mail Sched SElect (54)

↑

- GASTROINTESTINAL DRUGS
- HORMONES AND SYNTHETIC SUBSTIT
- LOCAL ANESTHETICS (PARENTERAL)
- SKIN AND MUCOUS MEMBRANE AGENT
- VITAMINS
- MISCELLANEOUS THERAPEUTIC AGEN
- Assessment Forms
- Patient Care Notes
- Plans of Care
- Medical Record Forms
- Medication Administration Summary
- Medications Orders w/Admins
- Lab Results/Query Responses By Group
- Departmental Reports
- Query Responses By Group
- Vitals, Heights & Weights
- Weights Queries
- CUSTOM REPORTS
- Med Rec

↓

**cGTA Provider Portal**



# Discharge RX

Allergies: clindamycin Nuts-All Nuts/Peanut/Tree Nuts (PEANUT)  
 Adverse Reactions: None

BPMH Adm Med Rec Transfer MedRec Discharge Meds


| Source  | Medication             | Status  | On Hold | Dose    | Dose Inst | Route | Frequency | Patient Instructions | Start Date | Stop Date |
|---|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Drug Class: ADRENALS</b>                           |                        |         |         |         |           |       |           |                      |            |           |
|   | DEXAMETHASONE Tablet   | E I D P |         | 8 mg    |           | PO    | DAILY     |                      |            |           |
| <b>Drug Class: ANTICOAGULANTS</b>                     |                        |         |         |         |           |       |           |                      |            |           |
|   | ENOXAPARIN Syringe     | E I D   |         | 40 mg   |           | SC    | DAILY     |                      |            |           |
|   | ENOXAPARIN Syringe     | E I D P |         | 60 mg   |           | SC    | DAILY     |                      |            |           |
| <b>Drug Class: ANTIEMETICS</b>                        |                        |         |         |         |           |       |           |                      |            |           |
|   | NABILONE Capsule       | E I D   |         | 0.5 mg  |           | PO    | HS        |                      |            | 31/08/16  |
|   | ONDANSETRON Ampoule    | E I D   |         | 8 mg    |           | IV    | 6H PRN    |                      |            |           |
| <b>Drug Class: ANXIOLYTICS, SEDATIVES &amp; HYPNO</b> |                        |         |         |         |           |       |           |                      |            |           |
|   | ZOPICLONE Tablet       | E I D P |         | 5 mg    |           | PO    | QHS PRN   |                      |            |           |
| <b>Drug Class: LIVER AND STOMACH PREPARATION</b>      |                        |         |         |         |           |       |           |                      |            |           |
|   | CYANOCOBALAMIN Ampoule | E I D   |         | 100 mcg |           | IM    | Q9WEEKS   |                      |            |           |
|   | FOLIC ACID Tablet      | E I D   |         | 1 mg    |           | PO    | DAILY     |                      |            |           |
|   | FOLIC ACID Tablet      | E I D   |         | 1 mg    |           | PO    | DAILY     |                      |            |           |
| <b>Drug Class: OPIATE AGONISTS</b>                    |                        |         |         |         |           |       |           |                      |            |           |

If Home & Hospital Meds are same, [I]nclude Home Meds and [E]xclude Hospital Med

# RN for Complex Discharges



# Increased Risk of Readmission

- Nursing process
  - Utilize Meditech or REACH portal for patient information
  - Electronic link with Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Hospital
  - Template in Accuro 
  - Review
    - LOS
    - Attending MD
    - Tests done at hospital
    - Specialist follow up
    - Calculate LACE score





# Increased Risk of Readmission

- Assess mobility level, nutritional intake, cognitive issues, functional level-IADL's
- Assess need for referral to CCAC, if not done from hospital

# Standardized assessment

S: Current Issue: **Initial Post Hospital Discharge Follow-up**

## Most Recent Hospital Admission

Primary Provider in hospital:

Date of Admission:

Date of discharge:

LACE Score:

Primary Dx: [CHF|COPD|Diabetes|Stroke|G.I.|Pneumonia|Cancer|Other-identify]

Investigations impacting stay while in hospital:

Imaging: [CT|MRI|Echo|X-ray|U/S|none]

Labs:

## Issues to follow-up

Labs:

Imaging:

Clinics:

Outpatient investigations booked: [Yes|No]; if yes then booked: [Yes|No]

Specialist / Clinic follow up advised: [Yes|No]; if yes then booked: [Yes|No]

## Post Hospital Risk Screening

**Medication changes while in hospital:** [Yes|No]

List:

**Current Medications :** [>10 medications], [Yes|No]

[High Risk Medications], [anticoagulants|Insulin|Oral Hypoglycemic agents|ASA

& Clopidrogel dual therapy|Digoxin| Opioids]

Referral to Pharmacist: [Yes|No]-refer if yes selected to either screening question]

**Psychological / Mood :** History of depression or anxiety disorder: [Yes|No]

History of delirium during hospital stay? [Yes|No]

Any cognitive/memory concerns?: [Yes|No]

Refer to Social Work:[yes|No| refer if yes selected to either screening question]

## **Cardio/Resp:**

Patient required Oxygen Therapy during hospitalization: [Yes|No]

Discharged with oxygen: [Yes|No]

New or previous inhaler therapy: [Yes|No]

Condition affecting length of stay: [Asthma|COPD|Pneumonia|CHF|Tracheostomy|BiPap]

Refer to community respiratory support: [Yes|No], [Vital Air], [ProResp], [Medigas], refer if yes selected]

## **Functional Enquiry**

### **Lawton IADL scale**

**Requires assistance with the following:** [Use of telephone|Shopping|Food preparation|Housekeeping|Laundry|Transportation|Responsibility for own medications|ability to handle finances|minor home maintenance|yardwork]

ADL

**Requires Assistance the following:** [Bathing|Dressing|Grooming|Oral

Care|Toileting|Transferring|Walking|Climbing Stairs|Eating]

Consider refer to community supports: [Yes|No| refer if yes selected to any screening question]



# Follow up Phase

- Nurse Practitioner
  - Work through issues in real time. Collaborate with all team members
  - Monitor process until follow up is completed.
  - Take action in urgent situations - need for home visit / telephone case management, complex support community nursing as required
  - Follow up in office if own physician is not available
- Physician
  - Provides leadership support in complex issues
  - Provide follow up to own or any patient in clinic access
  - Supports all team members, scheduling conflict, Rx issues, medical issues

# Roadblocks

- Can only access THP- CV site in Meditech
- Not all Meditech discharges have a discharge RX
- Unable to access other Ontario discharges
- Some discharges are out of province and out of country

- Next Steps



- Call Pharmacy (not always on file)
- Call patient

- Collaborate closely with NP, GP, Pharmacist , Unit Assistant
- Gaps in service in current discharge system
- Target: GP/NP follow-up in seven days post hospital discharge, in line with MOHLTC guidelines



# Follow Up Phase Ms. A.C.

- NP identified discharge as complex
  - Multiple comorbid illness, functional decline, delirium
  - Close contact with Pharmacist, Nursing and Physician
- Pharmacist contacted patient / daughter to discuss medications at discharge. Noted multiple concerns.
  - Complex discharge, questions regarding groin wound, dressings, medication changes, declined mobility and altered cognition
- Nursing initiated complex follow up assessment
  - Not able to mobilize to clinic for follow up, fluctuating cognition, d/w MD and initiated CCAC referral

# Follow Up Phase Ms. A.C.

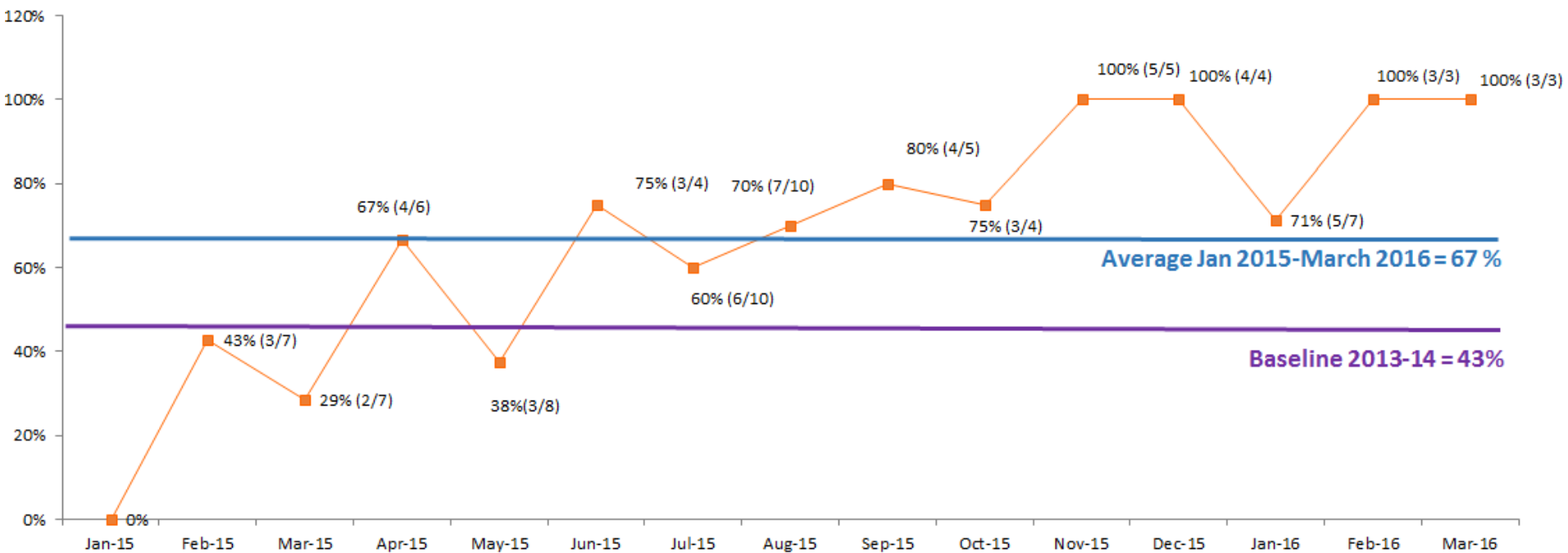
- NP attended home for assessment same day
  - Communicated assessment findings with MD
  - Wound orders, labs orders, I+O cath by community nursing for urinalysis and C&S
  - Daily telephone follow up x 3 days
  - Required IV Ceftriaxone for wound infection and UTI
- MD provided complex case support to team members
- Support to community nursing
- Patient recovered at home. Avoided readmission to hospital. Family and patient were grateful of team based care

# Team Based Improvements

- Timely identification of admission / discharge
- Development of a team process for tracking admissions and discharges via acute care summary imbedded in our EMR
- Accurate identification of those who would benefit from enhanced team focus
- Standardization of the post-hospital assessment of higher risk patients

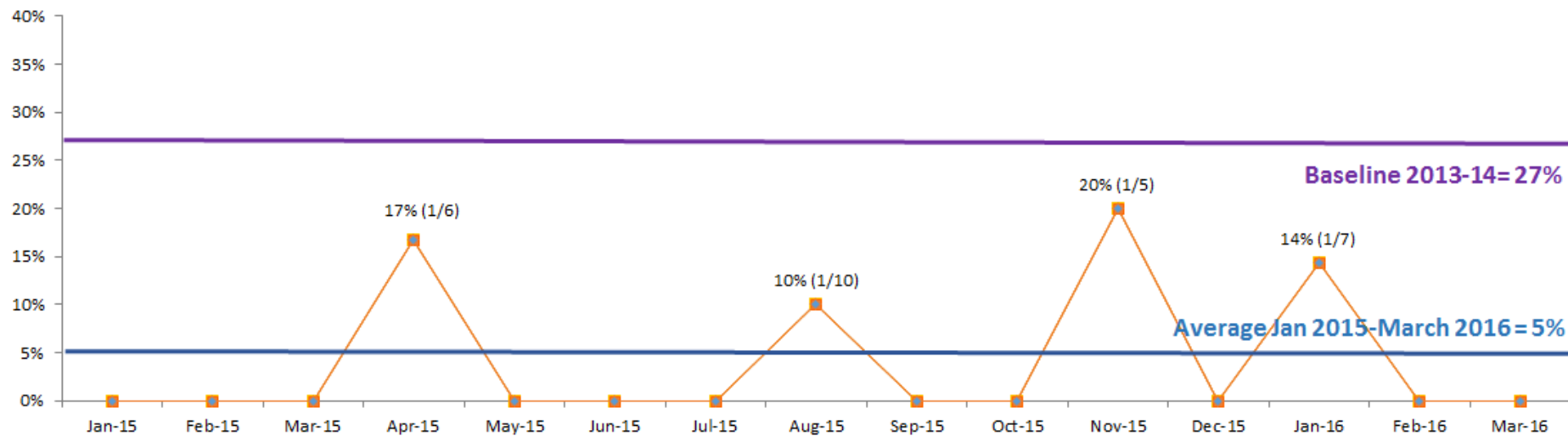
# Team Based Improvements

- Identifying and improving care transitions
- Improved chronic disease case management from hospital from primary care
- Measurement process within the EMR
- Familiar provider for Post-discharge follow up
- Follow up is team's responsibility

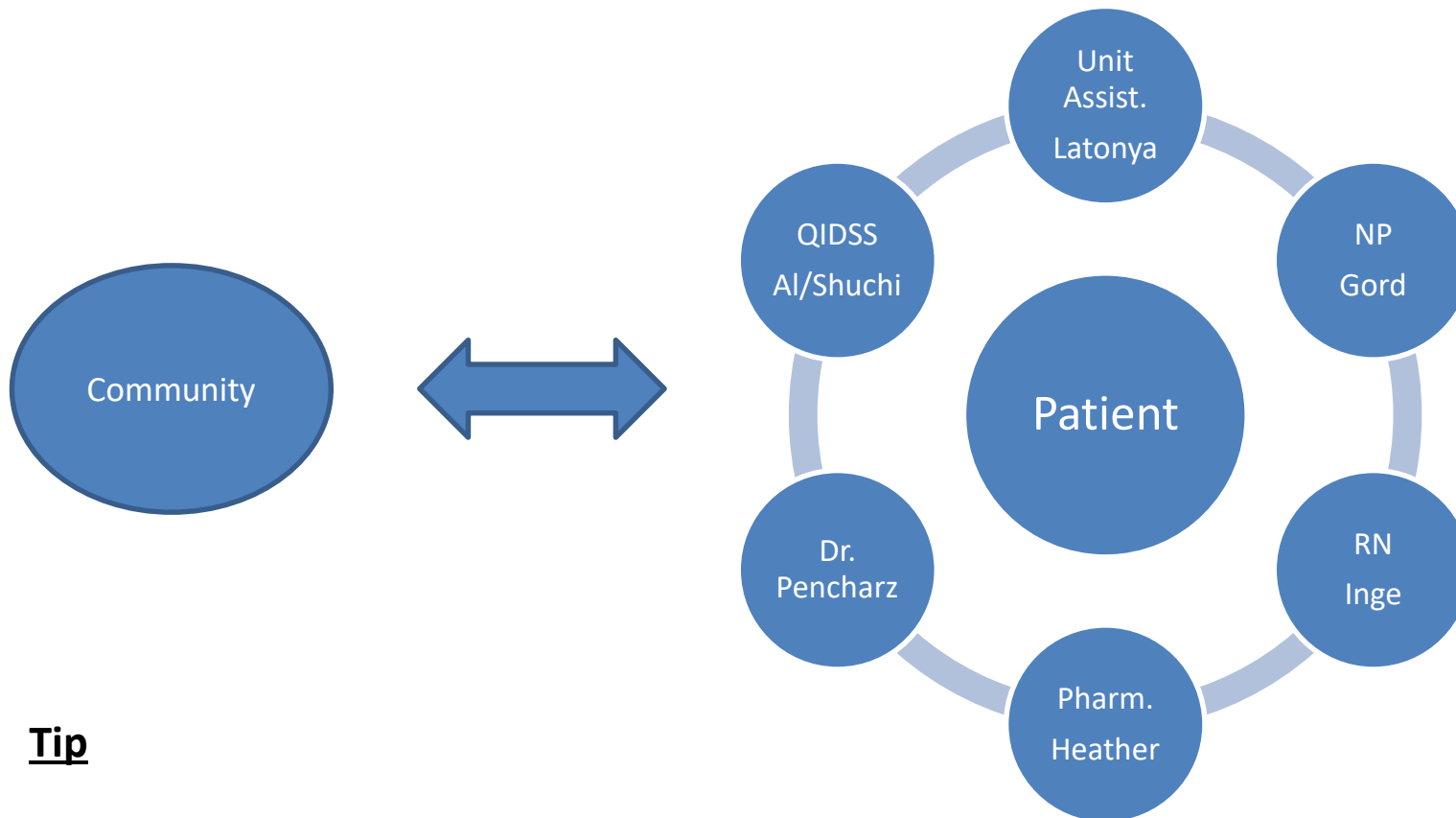
**% patients who had follow up with an MD/NP/RN within 7 days post discharge (CMGs):**



## % Readmissions within 30 days (CMGs)



# Team Approach



## Tip

**“The people that do the work need to be the ones to change the work.”**

# Questions?

