



# Mayo Clinic Mortality Reviews: Next Generation Patient Safety

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Chair, Morbidity & Mortality Council  
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# Disclosure

- I am fundamentally biased about the potential this work has to save lives, improve systems of care delivery, build effective teams, create a culture of safety and just plain make a difference.
- I am the founder of the international SLS Collaborative & HB Healthcare Safety, SBC and nonprofit



# Agenda

1. Mayo Clinic experience with Mortality Review
2. Tenants of a Safety Learning System
3. Application of Six Sigma analysis and principles
4. Safety Learning System Collaborative Invitation





St Marys Campus, Mayo Clinic Hospital

# Annual Patient Encounters



Total clinic patients:  
1,260,000

Hospital admissions:  
131,000

Hospital days:  
608,000

Hospital deaths:  
1000-1200

Employees:  
> 65,000





# WHAT DOCTORS HATE ABOUT HOSPITALS

An insider's view of what can go wrong—and how you can improve your odds of getting the right treatment

#BXDDJLX \*\*\*\*\*CAP-RT 10THMO  
#2212 7898 180\*TD 829MH12 A 00  
JEANNE HUDDLESTON #7  
2565 ASPEN PL SW PD  
ROCHESTER .MN 55902-0995



# Forbes

MARCH 10, 2008 | WWW.FORBES.COM

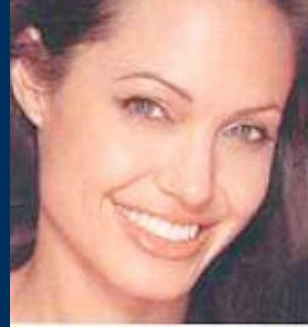
## Stop That Patient!

BIG, RISKY  
HOSPITALS  
DON'T WANT  
YOU GOING TO  
SMALL RIVALS—  
WHERE YOU  
COULD HAVE  
SAFER, BETTER  
SURGERY.



## 21<sup>st</sup> century health care

- Inefficient processes
- Poor system integration
- High levels of variation
  - Care delivery
  - Outcomes
- Suboptimal value



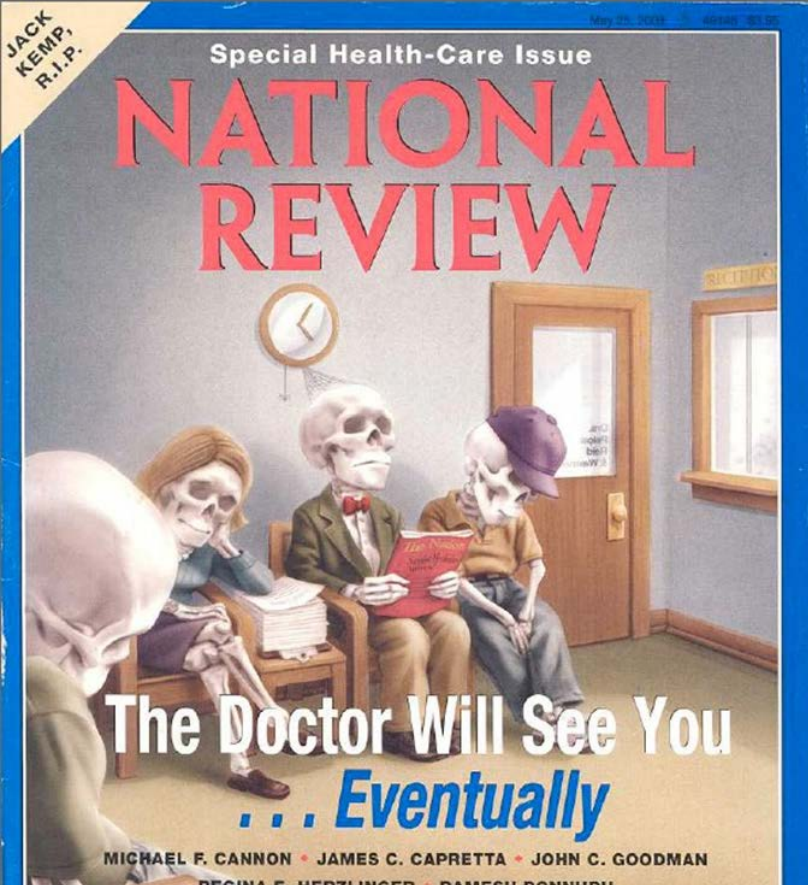
**Angelina Jolie**  
Saving the  
world one child  
at a time

**OR NUTS?**  
Test Yourself

**NEW HIDDEN  
FEES!**

# Reader's Digest

rd.com



# FATAL

## HOSPITAL MISTAKES

You Can Avoid

June 2007  
\$2.99



25 Products  
That Will Change  
Your Life



# Early experience with GTT

Nosocomial  
infection

Medication-related

Procedure-related

Pressure ulcers

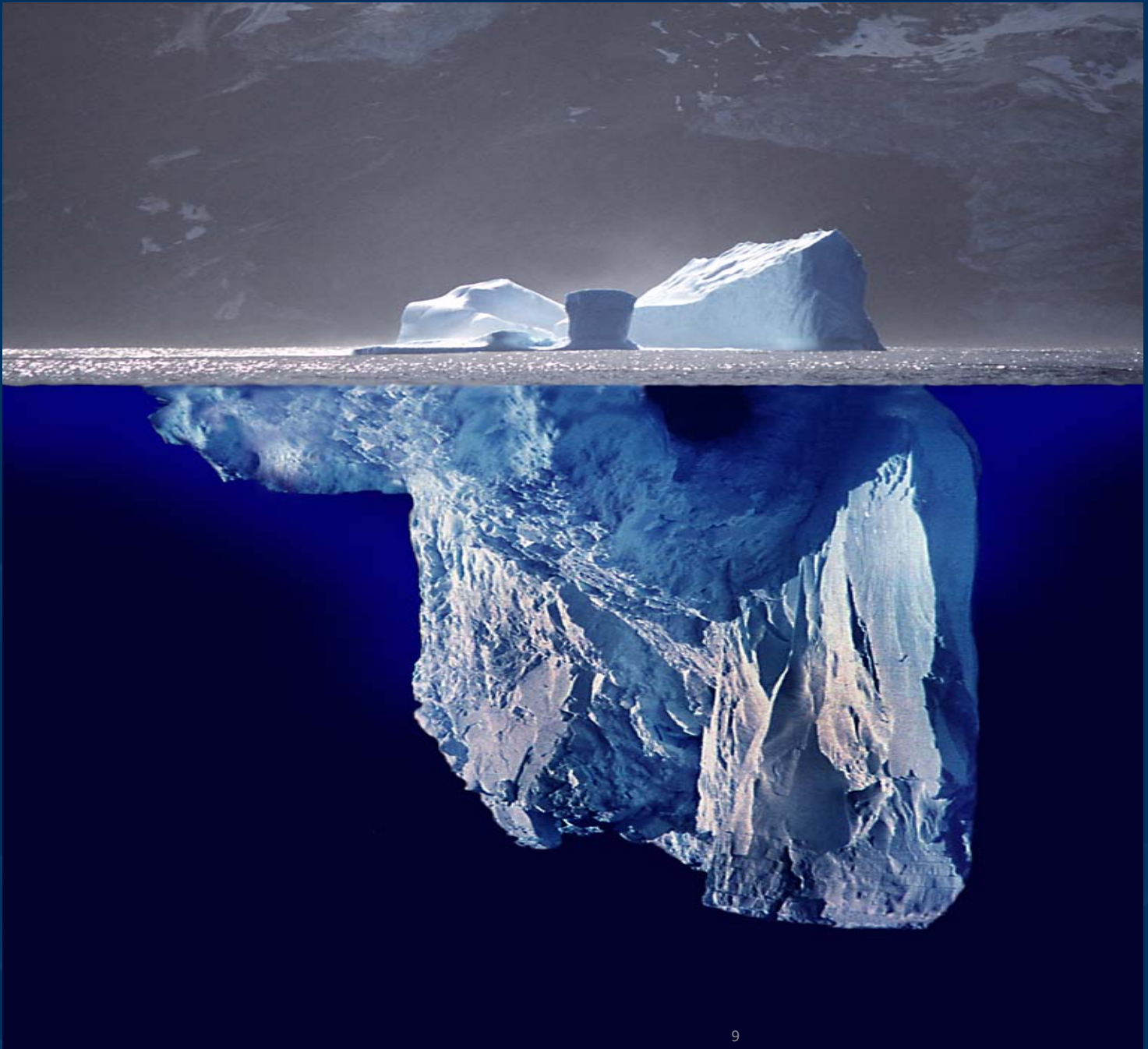
Device failure

Patient falls

Found things, but...

- Not much new
- Not much that pointed to strategic needs
- Nothing that resulted in new actions



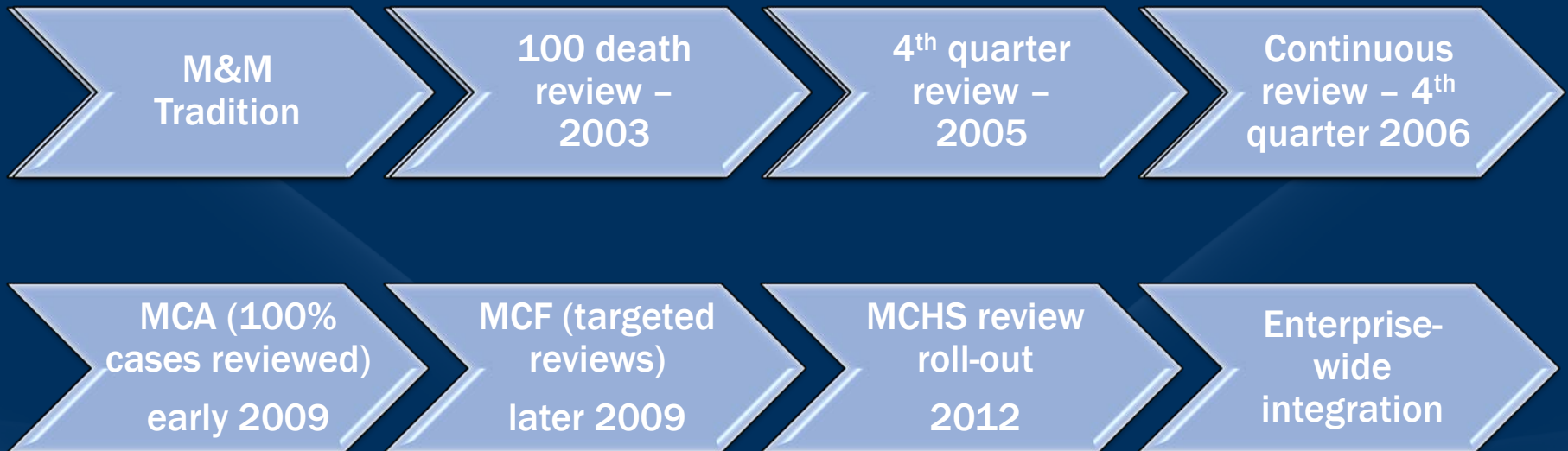


# Original Charge from Hospital Leadership

1. To create a meaningful mechanism to review deaths at MCR hospitals:
  - Thoroughly understandable
  - Measurable
  - Improvable
2. To identify and quantify unanticipated deaths
3. To identify rate of adverse events in patients who die in MCR hospitals
4. To classify and quantify system level changes which will improve mortality rate.



# Iterative Learning: 13 year journey



## SPECIAL ARTICLE

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# Learning From Every Death

*Jeanne M. Huddleston, MD,\*† Daniel A. Diedrich, MD,§ Gail C. Kinsey, RN,||  
Mark J.ENZler, MD,‡ and Dennis M. Manning, MD\**

The concepts of peer review and the venerable morbidity and mortality conference are familiar improvement approaches to health care providers. These 2 entities are typically provider or patient centric and are not typically extended within hospitals and health systems as a tool for organizational learning for care process or system failures. Out of a desire to deepen our understanding and accelerate learning about quality and safety opportunities in our hospitals, Mayo Clinic embarked on journey to analyze the stories of all patient deaths. This paper illuminates the lessons learned through the development and evolution of the Mayo Clinic Mortality Review System (Rochester, MN).

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*Guiding principle of Mayo Clinic Mortality Review System:*

*“No one should ever suffer or die as the result of process of care or system failure.”*

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## BACKGROUND

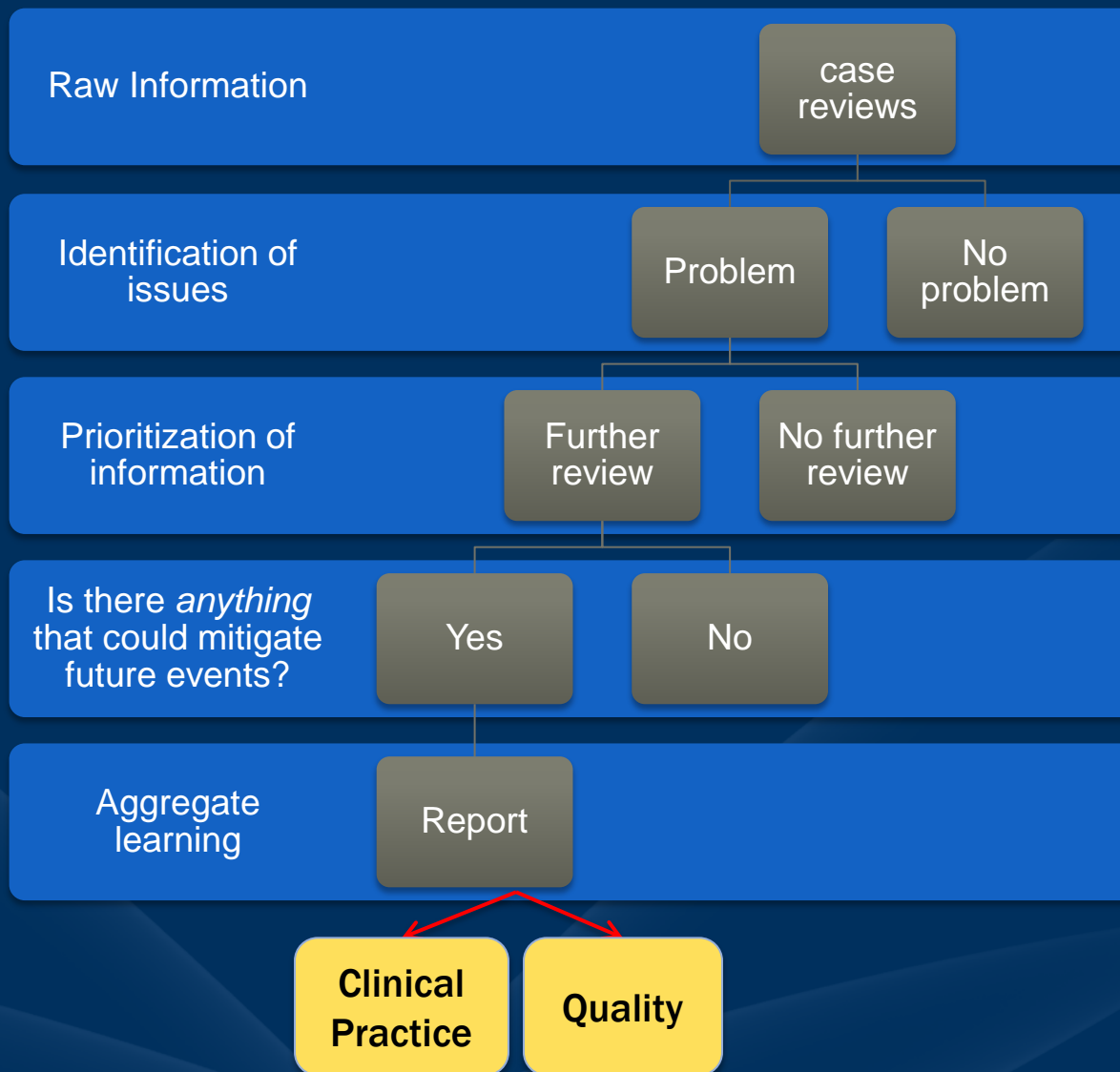


# Guiding Principles: *Not Negotiable*

1. System review (not peer review)
2. Deference to expertise: Every case is reviewed by a practicing nurse and physician
3. All findings are recorded in the central registry
4. Multidisciplinary, multispecialty sessions used to build consensus re: findings
5. Implementation is local

# Reviewer Work

## Committee Work

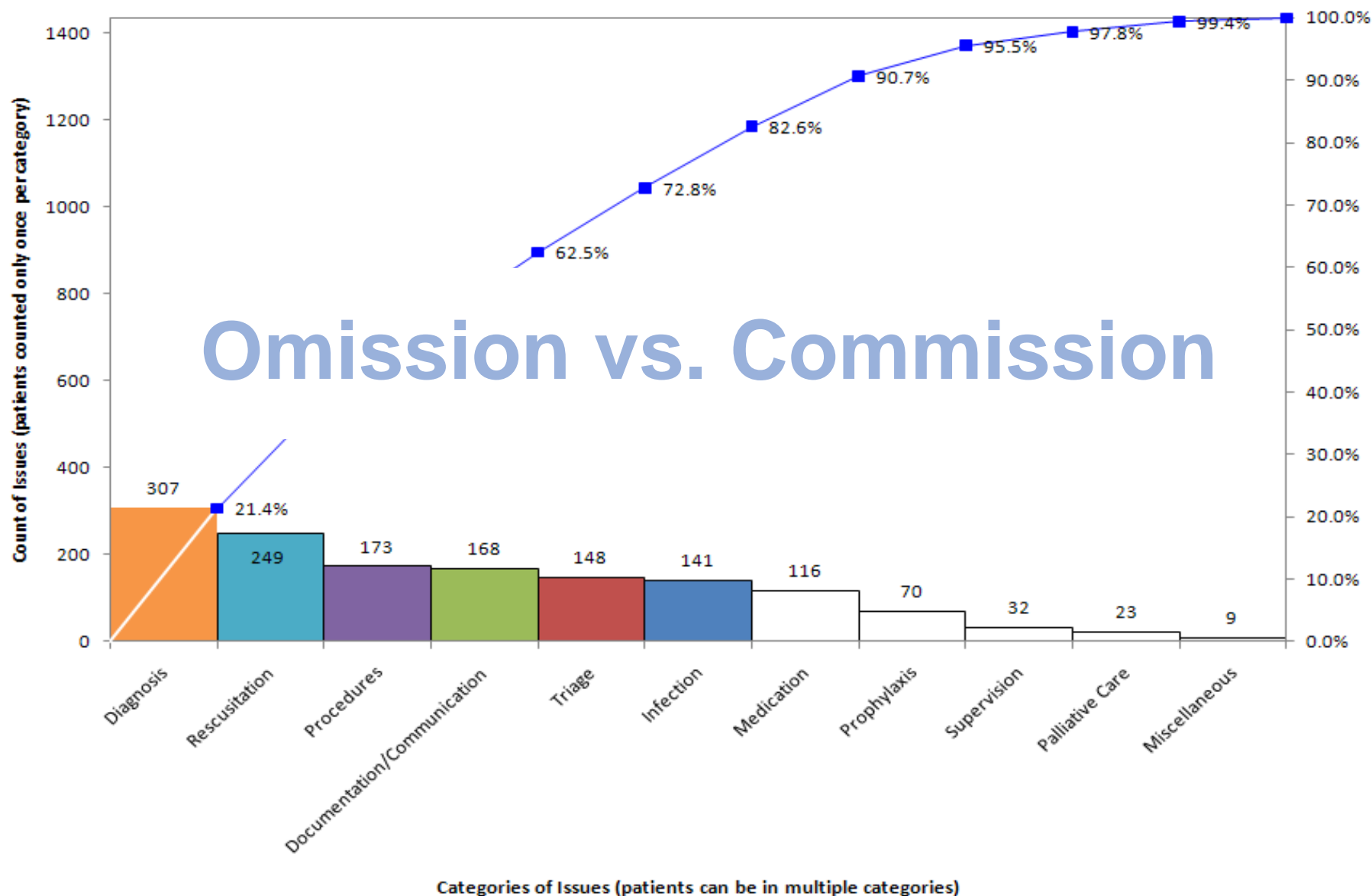




# Principles of Identifying Opportunities

- **NOT** about preventability
  - Opportunity for improvement (OFI)
  - No opportunity for improvement
- **NOT** about causality
- **NOT** about attribution
- Did the care meet the standard of care at this institution?
- Would you have wanted your loved one to receive the same care?

Pareto Chart of Categories of Issues Experienced by Patients Hospitalized in Mayo Clinic Hospitals



Omission vs. Commission

# Why does the structure work?

- Moves away from insular peer review
- Promotes culture change
- It's NOT about adverse events
  - Identifying process of care and system failures
  - Identifying opportunities for improvement
  - Inspiring action through stories
- Right size quality improvement initiatives



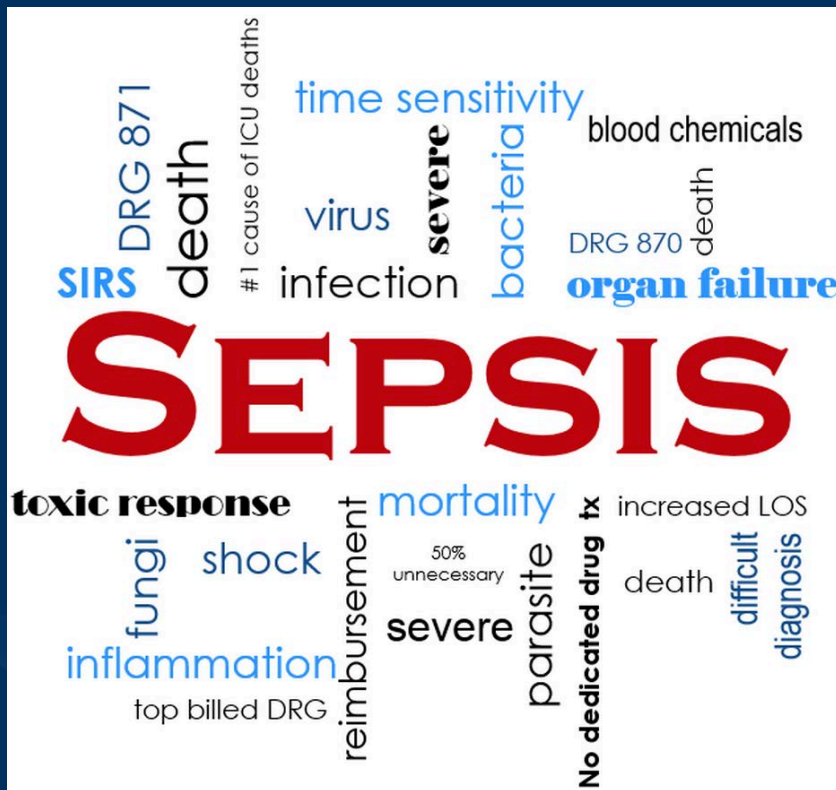
# SLS Multidisciplinary Team Principles

## § Operates under Chatham House Rule

*When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the **Chatham House Rule**, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.*

- Discuss patient's experience and system failures, not just peer's care
- Professionalism is critical.
- Committed to closing the loop on Actionable Information.

Example: delayed diagnosis of sepsis & delayed recognition of a postoperative complication



59 year old female underwent TAH

POD #3 – AKI, urinary retention with new abdominal distension and pain

POD #4 – AKI worse, significant abdominal pain – narcotics stopped. Episode of PAF (130's)

POD #5 – hypotensive (70/45) with diaphoresis and nausea

RRT called but no blood pressure on their arrival

Code called with > 1hr of resuscitation efforts

On autopsy, abdomen filled with pus and a knick in the small bowel.

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On autopsy, abdomen filled with  
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- Communication Issues
- Documentation Issues
- Delayed or missed diagnosis
- Treatment Issues
- Delayed rescue of deteriorating patient
- Procedural complication
- Palliation issues
- Triage or transition of care issues



# Can patients have a “good” death?

82 year old male with severe COPD and pancreatic cancer was hospitalized for bowel obstruction.

Postoperative delirium

Postoperative respiratory failure

Pain meds held

Per nursing notes

- patient routinely called out in pain
- family members consistently asked that he be kept comfortable.

Average pain score was 8/10 in the 24 hours preceding death.

Patient was made comfort care only and died within hours.



Joshua Bright: *A Good Death*

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# Example of missed opportunity for monitoring after treatment

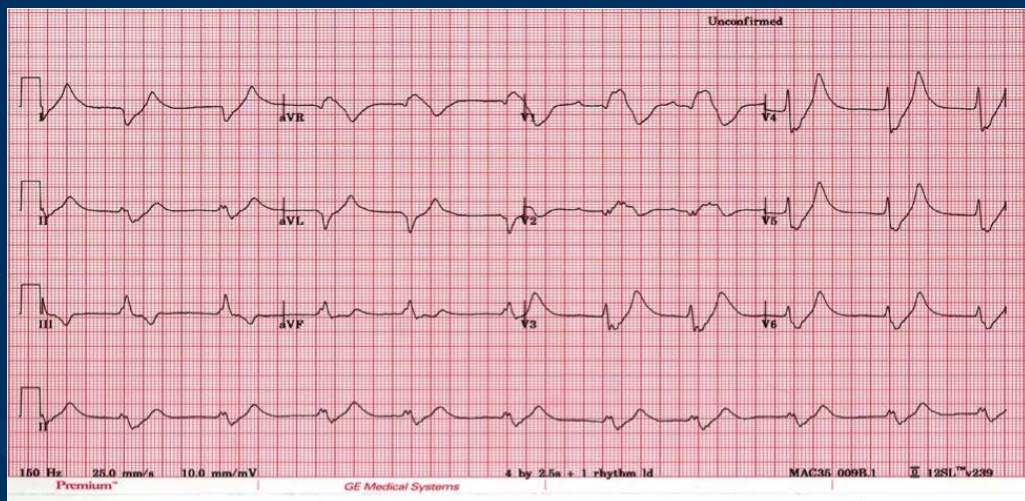
56 year old female with uncontrolled diabetes and poor compliance presents to ED via ambulance with weakness.

$K > 8$

Treated with single doses of insulin, calcium, bicarb, glucose, Kayexelate

No repeat labs

4 hours later coded in CT scanner





# Example of missed opportunity for monitoring after treatment

All beds in ED full

Patient boarded in hallway

Waiting room with more than 20 patients

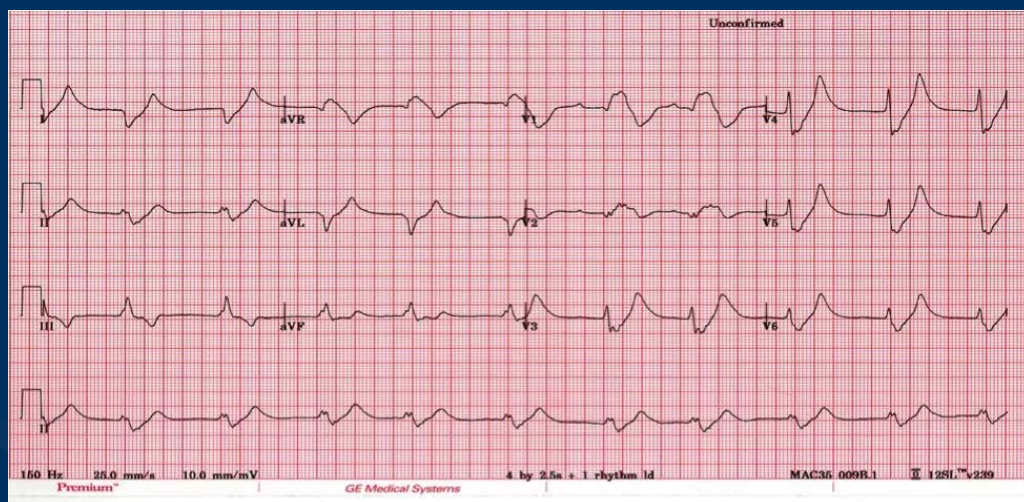
Middle of the night

CT scanner suddenly available

IR unavailable to put in emergent dialysis catheter

Patient coding in the next room

ICU beds full



SYSTEM  
FAILURE







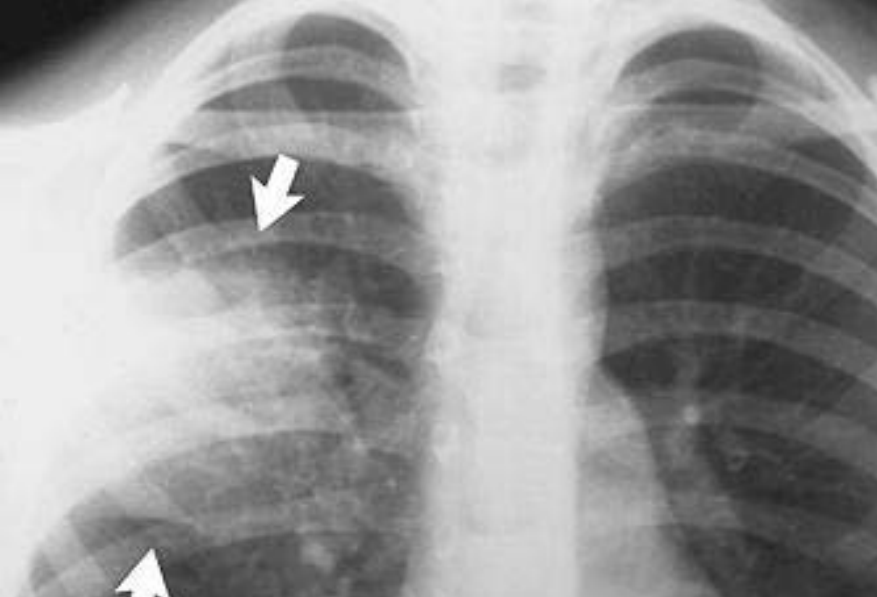


RR 62.1  
FTR  
death









## Common Causes of **QT Prolongation**

**Drugs** — Type 1A (quinidine, procainamide, disopyramide) and Type III (sotalol, dofetilide, amiodarone) antiarrhythmic agents;  
— Tricyclic antidepressants/phenothiazines

**“Lytes”** — Hypokalemia (or hypomagnesemia)  
— Hypocalcemia

**CNS** — CNS catastrophes (ie, stroke, seizure, coma, intracerebral or brainstem bleeding)

**Note** — Several *other* conditions (ie, bundle branch block, infarction, and ischemia) may *also* cause QT prolongation. However, the presence of these **other conditions** will usually be *obvious* from inspection of the ECG.

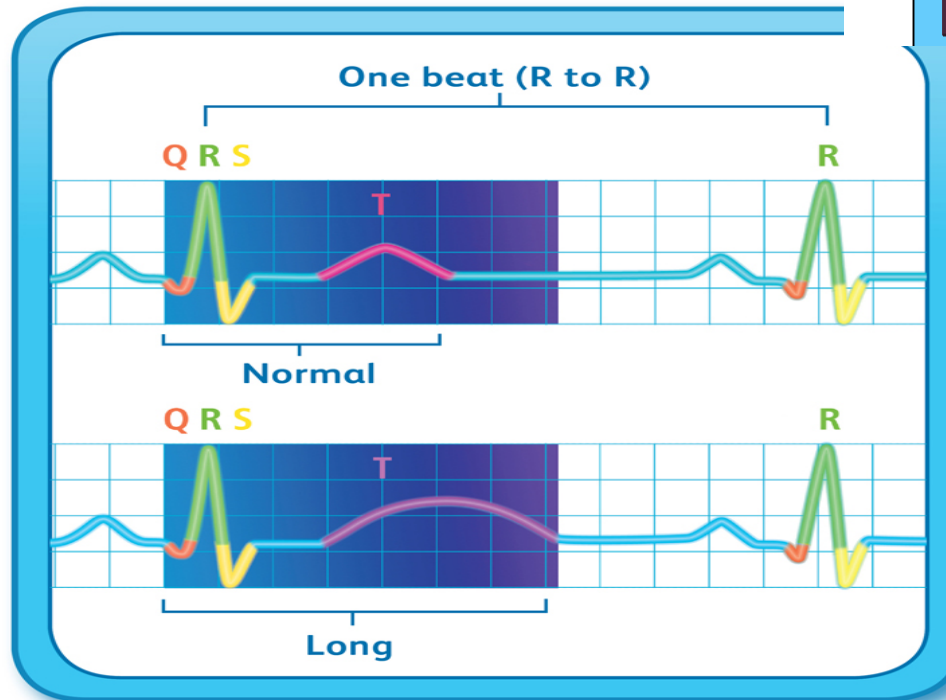


Illustration showing prolonged QT interval on an electrocardiogram (ECG)



“No one should ever suffer or die as a result of failures in our systems or processes of healthcare delivery.”

MC Mortality Review Subcommittee, May 2007



# Reviewer Work

## Committee Work

Raw Information

case reviews

Identification of issues

Problem

No problem

Prioritization of information

Further review

No further review

Is there *anything* that could mitigate future events?

Yes

No

Aggregate learning

Report

Clinical Practice

Quality

# Sharing Knowledge to Inspire Change

## 1. Case Reports (stories)

- Distributed to clinical leaders of each department whose providers cared for the patient
- Allowed grass roots response

## 2. Quarterly Reports (data)

- Distributed to all members of hospital practice and quality committees
- Distributed to all clinical department chairs
- Distributed to all nursing units (nurse manager)

## 3. Quarterly Presentation (data + stories)

# Organizational Structure

MCR Quality  
Dept

CPQOS

Mortality  
Structure

MORT

M&M Council

Activity that  
leads to  
"actionable  
information"

Review oversight  
and Monthly case  
discussion  
committee

Analysis,  
Interpretation, and  
Reports

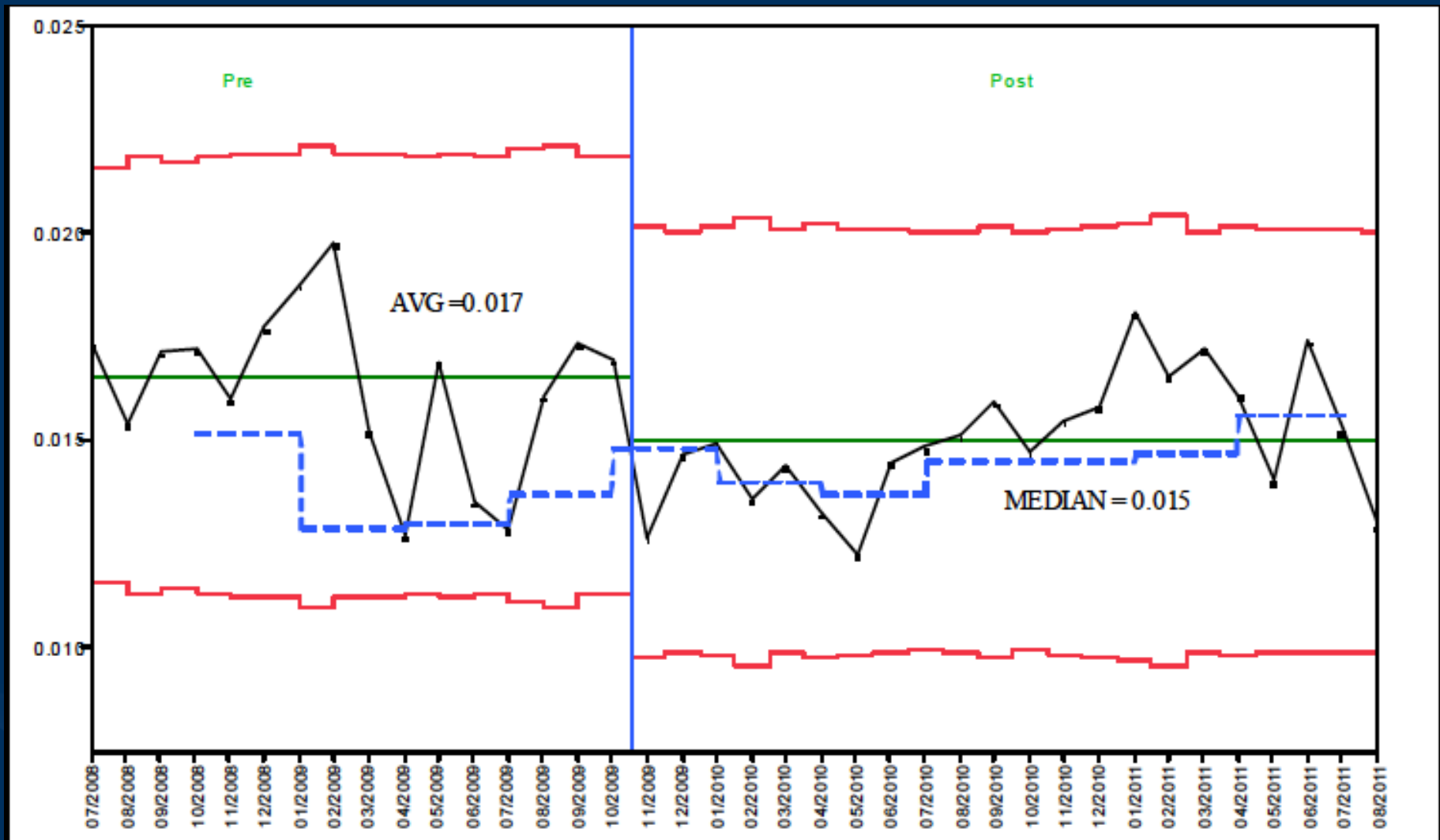
Patient Stories

Data integration  
into other safety  
activities

# Morbidity and Mortality Council

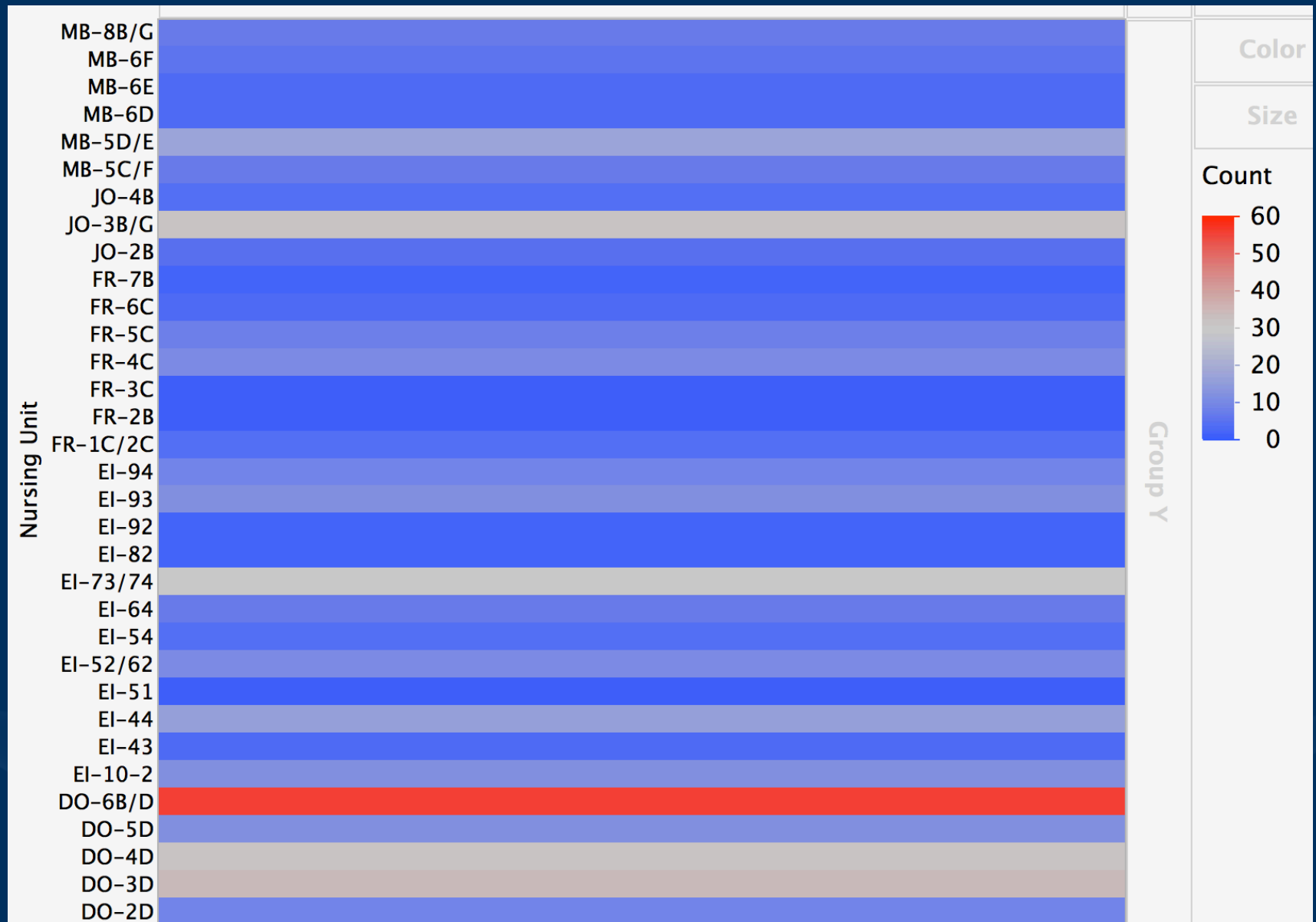


# SPC p-chart of MCR mortality rate

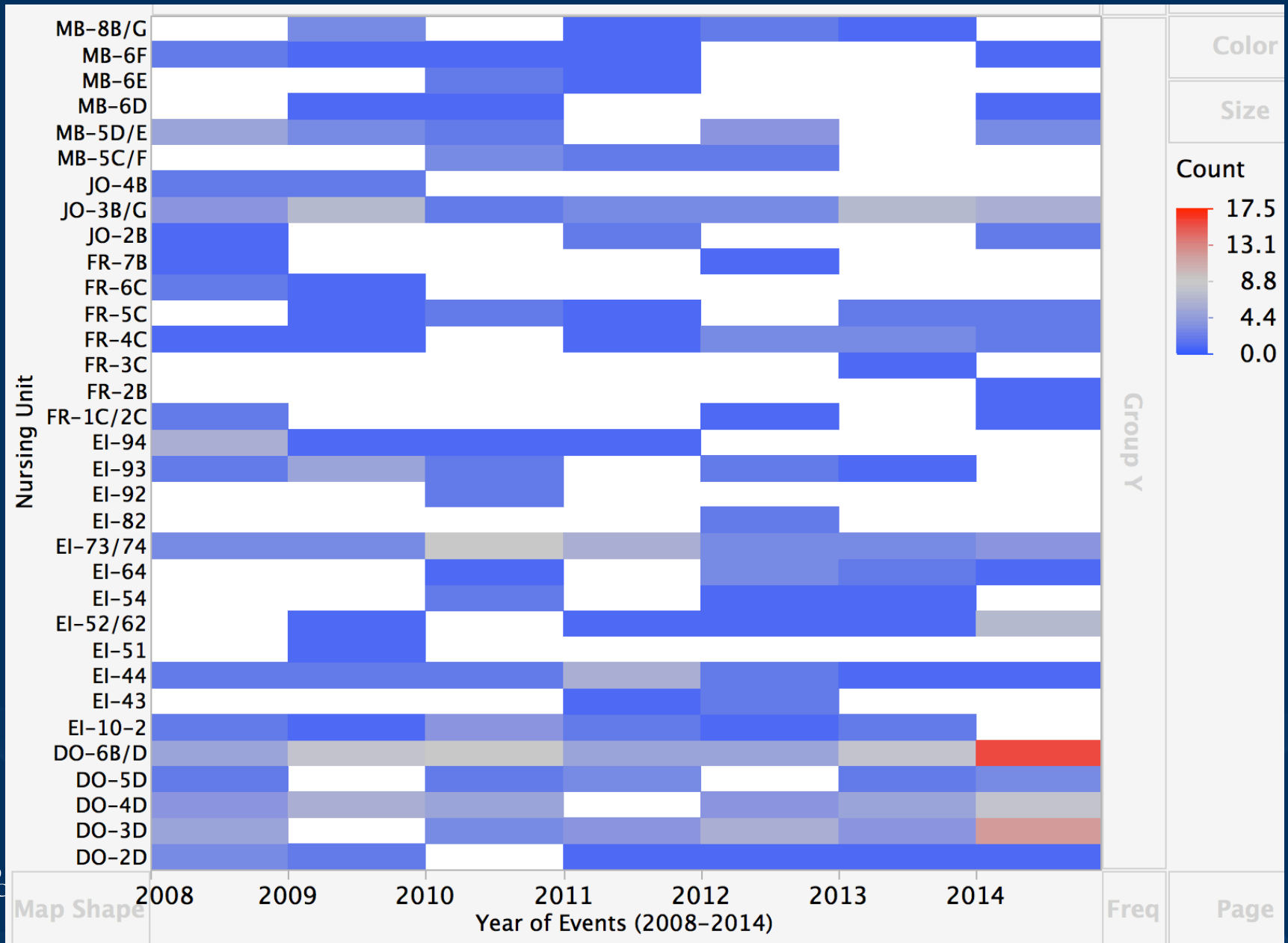


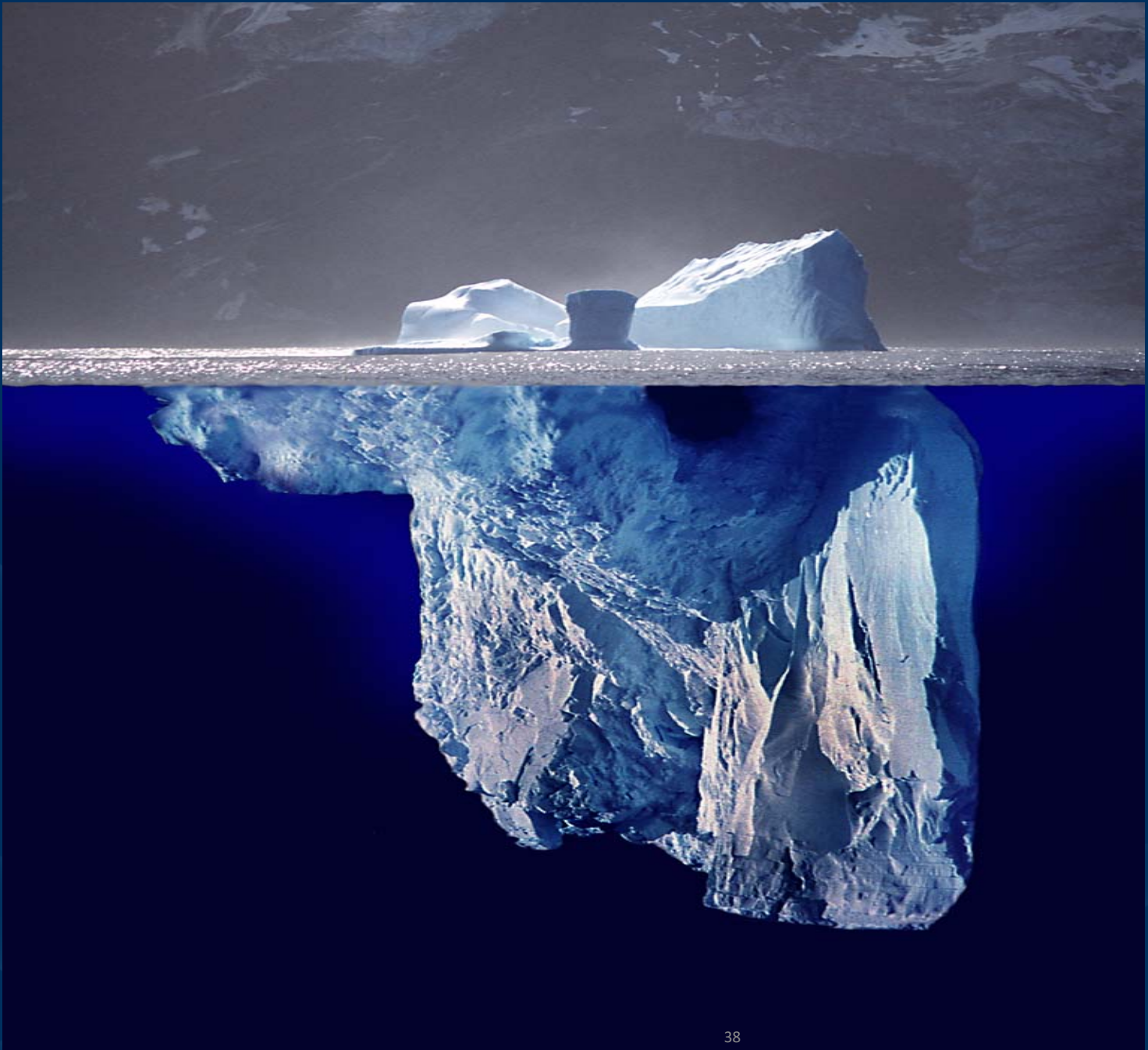
This information is confidential and protected from disclosure by Minnesota Statute 145.61 et seq.

# FTRR events by nursing unit



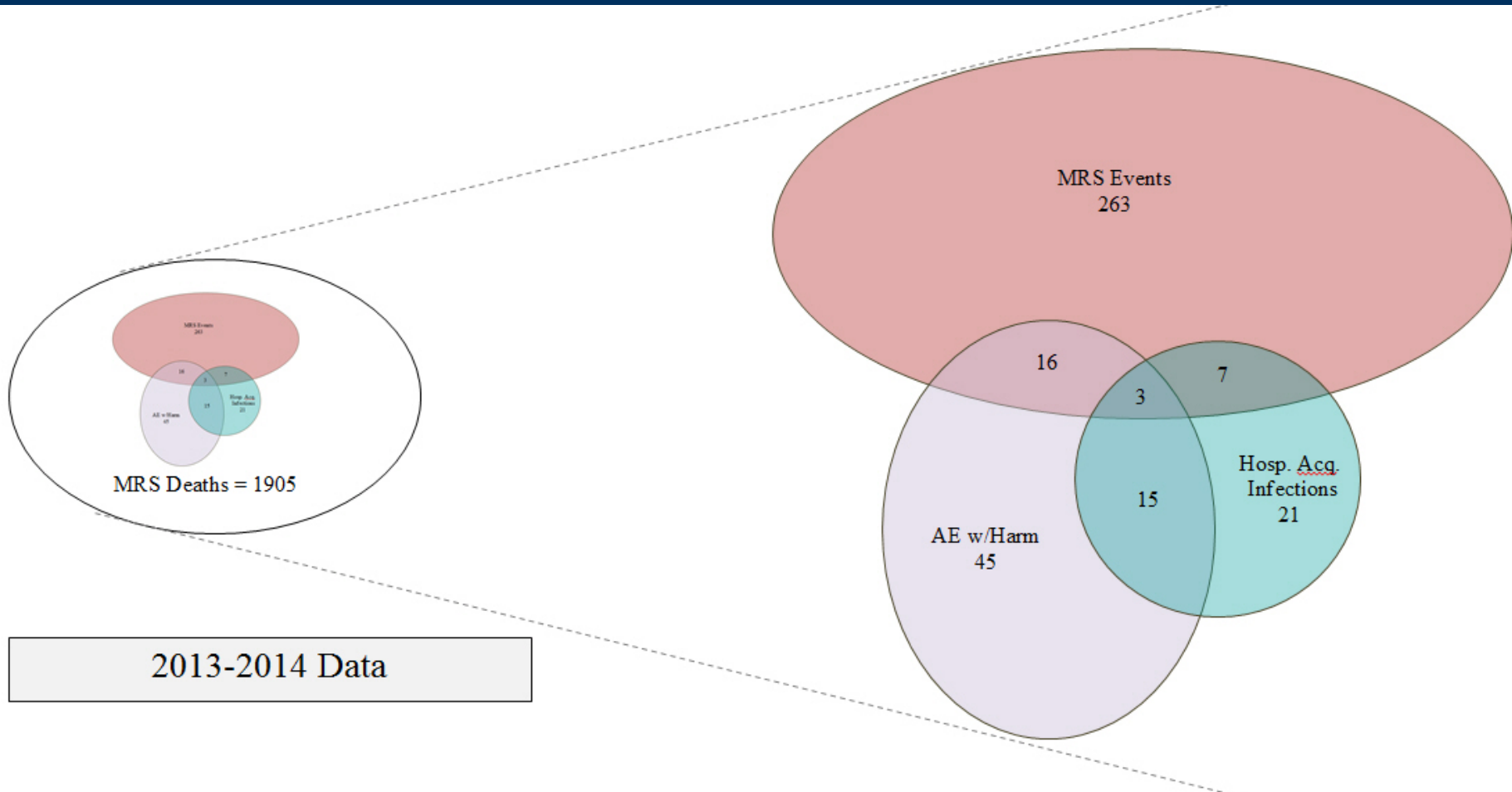
# FTRR events for non-ICU nursing units by year







# “It takes too much time and resource.”



Why are we spending  
so much time and effort  
on this?

What is it that we are  
really trying to  
accomplish?

change

is

difficult.

not

changing

is

fatal.





~~Data~~

~~Stories~~

**Data + Stories =  
Actionable Information**

# Why does the structure work?

- Moves away from insular peer review
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  - Identifying opportunities for improvement
  - Inspiring action through stories
- Right size quality improvement initiatives

***It's a delicate balance...***

**What can you learn from  
failures to save lives?**



# ***“What about the living?”***

Paula Santrach, MD

Chief Quality Officer, Mayo Clinic

# Safety Learning System

- Next generation organizational learning
- Identification of opportunities for improvement
- Application of lessons learned from Mortality Review to other “challenging” cohorts
- Addition of human factors taxonomy

# Learning from the Living: Other Challenging Cohorts

- Readmissions
- High cost cases
- Respiratory failure
- “Hot spots”
- Sepsis
- PSI-4

# Tenets of a Safety Learning System

1. Multidisciplinary reviews
  - Nurses have equal voice
  - Multiple perspectives on patient journey
  - Identification of “contributing factors” (HF nomenclature)
2. Practicing providers & Deference to expertise
  - Omissions provide bigger opportunities
  - Increases physician involvement
3. Multispecialty, multidisciplinary case discussions
4. Actionable Information and Influence
  - Case-based teaching with patient stories
  - Six Sigma structure and analytics
  - Leading “up” and influencing change



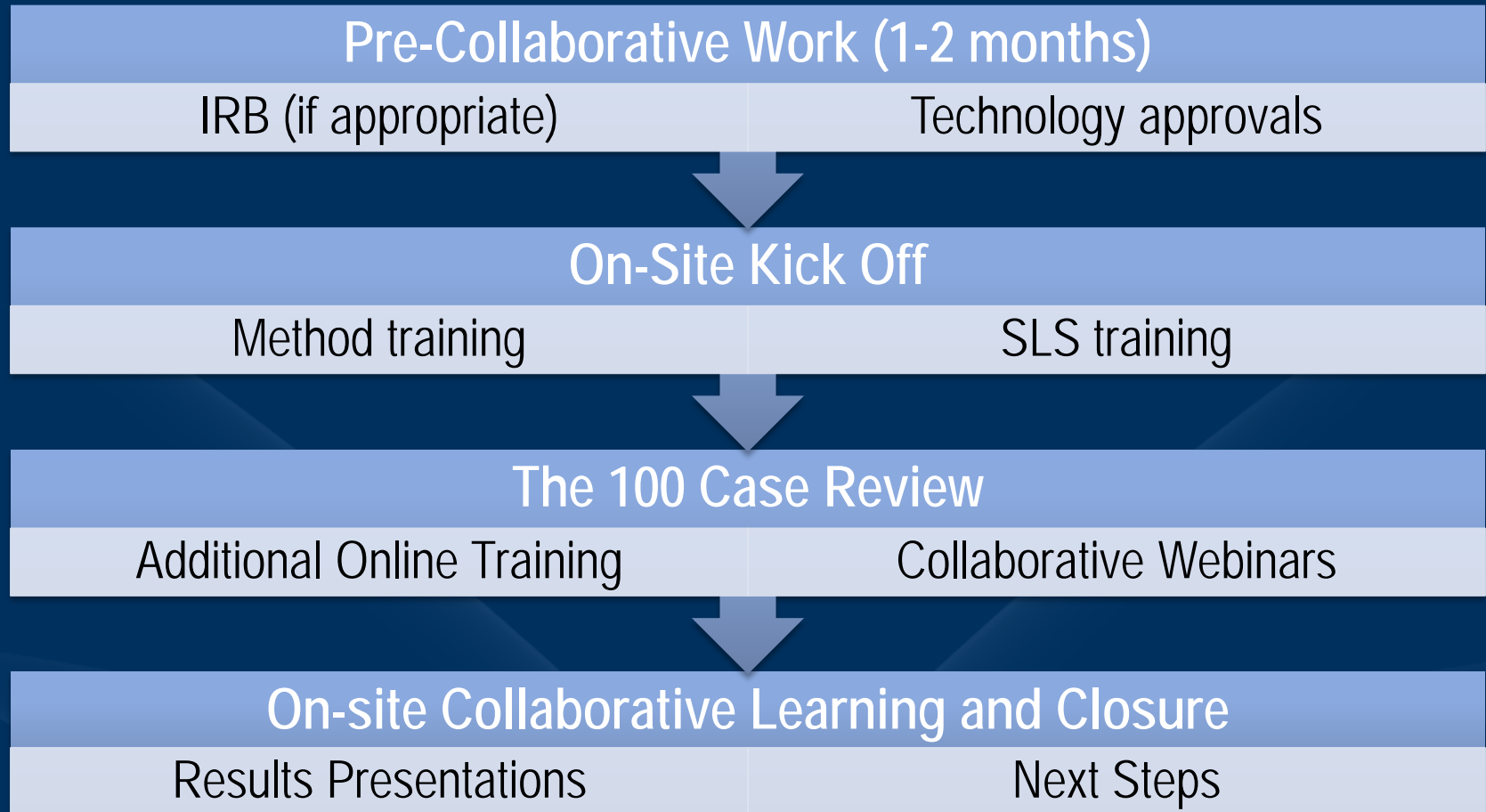
# Safety Learning System Research Collaborative 2016

- Mayo Clinic Rochester
- Regions Hospital, Minneapolis
- Beaumont Health, Michigan
- Sharp HealthCare
- MedStar Health
- University of Mississippi Medical Center
- University of Washington Medical Center

# Safety Learning System Research Collaborative 2017

- Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- Tasmania Health System, Australia
- Hoag Hospital
- Aurora Health System
- Eastern Maine Health System
- UT Southwestern

# SLS Collaborative Timeline



# Safety Learning System: Review & Organizational Learning Execution

## Group Buy-In

### Philosophical Approach

Large group session: lecture format with Q&A (onsite or video)

History and evolution of SLS

Multidisciplinary, multispecialty collaboration

Importance of reaching consensus

Chatham House Rule

Care good enough for your family?

System and process of care review – NOT peer review

Not related to preventability or causality

Opportunities for Improvement

## Individual Training and Site Preparation

### Site Configuration

One live webinar with administrative lead of project to describe components of the configuration.

Complete Excel template

Review configuration completed by HBHS for accuracy

This configuration will be duplicated for hospital-specific training sites

### Case Entry Training

Select two people to participate in live webinar training

Hospital training site will be used

Cases entered here will be used for the reviewer training

### Tier 1 Review Training

These are screening reviews intended for detailed data collection or to minimize physician time spent reviewing cases

### Clinical Review Training

Select 1-2 nurse and 1-2 physician "super-users" to participate in live webinar training

Include committee leads  
Hospital training site will be used

Cases reviewed will be used for committee prep training

## Group Training

### Committee/Case Discussion Preparation

Committee Leads participate in live webinar

Review OFIs identified by reviewers and reconcile duplicates

If necessary, split aggregated OFI's into more specific ones

Synthesize all reviews with case discussion and generate a final summary for distribution

### Case Discussion Training

One facilitator and one note-taker

Multidisciplinary, multispecialty case discussion

Discuss only cases with OFI's

Stress Chatham House rule

Identify missed OFI

### Reporting and Enhancing Organizational Knowledge to Influence Change



# Collaborative Participants Receive:

- Two ONSITE training visits by Dr. Huddleston
- Dr. Huddleston's consulting time as needed and 2x/month webinars for training and collaborative learning
- Materials for standardized case review training
- Project management support
- Study design, data aggregation and analysis
- Manuscript coordination, publication costs
- Site-specific report generation and benchmarking
- Safety Learning System (SLS) configuration & support
- Use of SLS at no cost (no license fee) for duration of collaborative (provided by HB Healthcare Safety, SBC)

New		In-Progress		Final	
Draft Cases	12	Pending Reviews	50	Pre-Committee	0
Unassigned Cases	8	Reviewed - No OFI's	33	Committee Review	5
				Finalized Cases	77

Search

Q

Review Type

<

1 to 25 of 85

>

10

Records per page

Status	Encounter	Patient	Admission	Discharge	Review Type	Notes	
Draft	1563289	Anderson	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Mortality		Edit
Unassigned	1563289	Hoffensburger	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Sepsis		Assign
Pending	1563289	Watsonburg	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Readmission	Physician Review	Re-Assign
Pending	1563289	Watsonburg	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Readmission	Physician Review	Re-Assign
Pending	1563289	Watsonburg	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Readmission	Physician Review	Re-Assign
Pre-Committee	1563289	Kawasaki	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Mortality	OFI's Found	Reconcile
Reviewed - No OFI's	1563289	Radcliffe	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Mortality	No OFI'S Found	Finalize
Committee	1563289	Meyersons	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 05, 2016	Readmission		Review

Standardized reviews

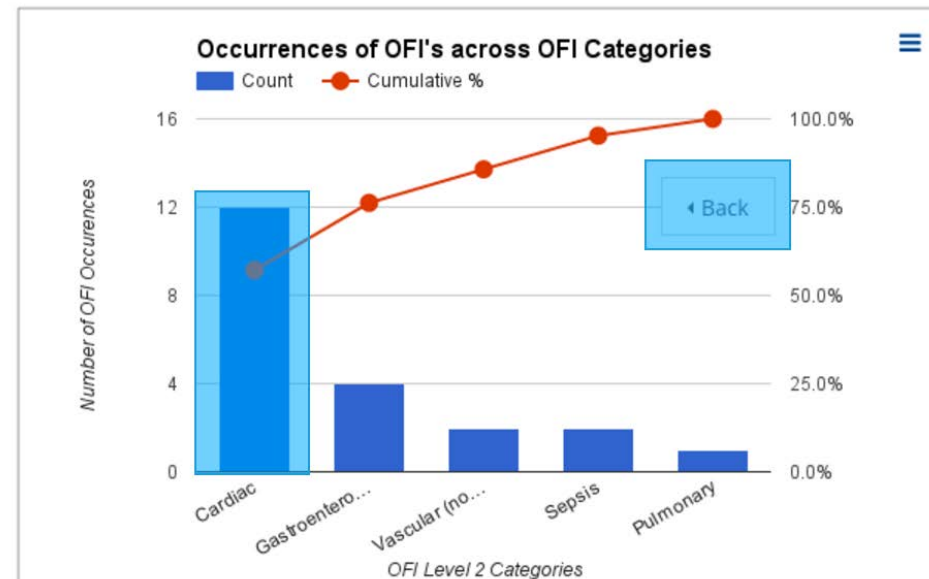
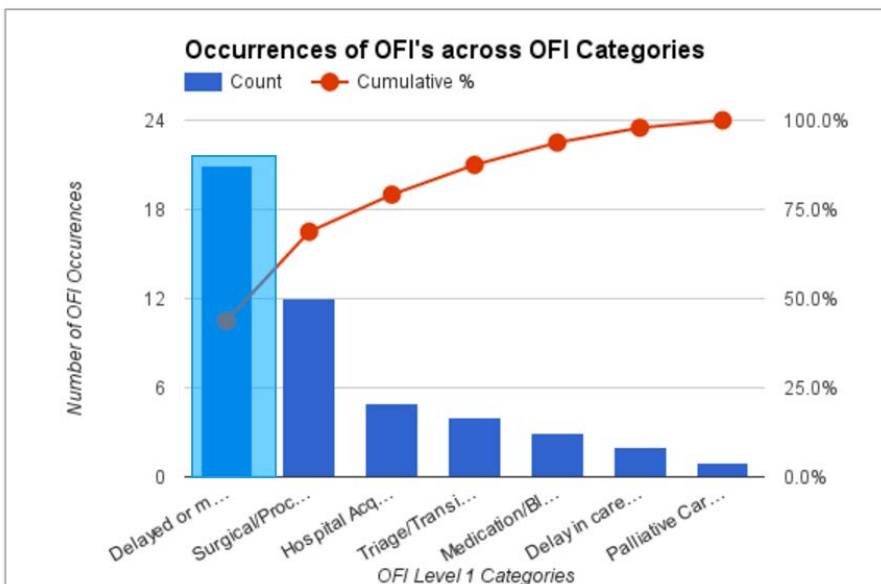
Workflow management

Dynamic analysis

Chart downloads

Enterprise solution

## PARETO REPORT



What are you doing to learn from  
process of care and system failures?

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The small tip above the water surface represents the visible part of a problem, while the much larger, jagged mass below the surface represents the hidden, underlying issues. The background is a deep blue gradient with faint geometric patterns.

JOIN US!!

# Literature/Resources



## SPECIAL ARTICLE

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# Learning From Every Death

*Jeanne M. Huddleston, MD,\*† Daniel A. Diedrich, MD,§ Gail C. Kinsey, RN,||  
Mark J.ENZler, MD,‡ and Dennis M. Manning, MD\**

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Journal of Patient Safety, April 2014

## Learning from patient safety incidents in incident review meetings: Organisational factors and indicators of analytic process effectiveness



Janet E. Anderson<sup>a,\*</sup>, Naonori Kodate<sup>b,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, King's College London, James Clerk Maxwell Building, 57 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8WA, United Kingdom

<sup>b</sup> School of Applied Social Science, Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

## A 100% Departmental Mortality Review Improves Observed-to-Expected Mortality Ratios and University HealthSystem Consortium Rankings

Martin J Heslin, MD, MSHA, FACS, Benjamin Taylor, MD, Mary T Hawn, MD, MPH, FACS, James E Davies, MD, FACS, Ryan T Heslin, Andrew H Mims, John E Morgan, R Luke Rabun, W Andrew Smedley, Melanie S Morris, MD, FACS, Donald A Reiff, MD, FACS, Gerald McGwin, PhD, Kirby I Bland, MD, FACS, Loring W Rue, MD, FACS

**Methods and Tools**

# Saving Lives by Studying Deaths: Using Standardized Mortality Reviews to Improve Inpatient Safety

*Helen Lau, R.N., M.H.R.O.D.; Kerry C. Litman, M.D.*

**Methods, Tools, and Strategies**

# The Mortality Review Committee: A Novel and Scalable Approach to Reducing Inpatient Mortality

*John S. Barbieri, BA; Barry D. Fuchs, MD, MS, FACP; Neil Fishman, MD; Carolyn Crane Cutilli, RN, PhD-c, MSN, ONC, CRRN; Craig A. Umscheid, MD, MSCE; Craig Kean, MS; Sherine Koshy, MHA, RHIA, CCS; Patricia Garcia Sullivan, PhD; PJ Brennan, MD; Rachel R. Kelz, MD, MSCE*