



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL



# Population Health Management: Expanding from Clinical to Whole Patient Insight

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Laboratory of Computer Science, Massachusetts General Hospital

Faculty at Harvard Medical School

Chief Medical Informatics Officer

SRG-Technology



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Instead I will  
focus on...

# Population Health IT: 10 Lessons Learned

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# 10 Lessons Learned

1. Optimizing processes is important
2. Focus on precise population identification
3. It's ok to (sometimes) take the physician out of the equation
4. Question your measures
5. Driving outcomes doesn't have to be expensive
6. Interoperability between all IT components is critical
7. Don't target high-risk patients only, look at how quickly low-risk patients are becoming high-risk
8. Use multi-interventions to optimize outcomes
9. Match the right high-risk patients to the appropriate interventions
10. Have an effective PHM IT system to compare effectiveness of your interventions

# Cleveland - 2001



**MetroHealth**

(County Hospital affiliated to Case Western Reserve University)

“PHM is about driving population outcomes upward”



# Boston - 2004



## Laboratory of Computer Science

The Laboratory of Computer Science at Massachusetts General Hospital—the Clinical and Research Informatics Division of the Department of Medicine—explores innovative applications of clinical technology in health care.

- › Contact the Laboratory of Computer Science by email
- › Visit our website
- › Collaborate with us

OVERVIEW

GROUP MEMBERS

RESEARCH  
PROJECTS

CONTACT

For more than half a century, the Laboratory of Computer Science (LCS) at Massachusetts General Hospital has been transforming health care delivery through biomedical informatics research and the rapid development of innovative health information systems. LCS advancements have enabled Mass General and other hospitals to provide better, more efficient service and have improved patient outcomes and quality of care.

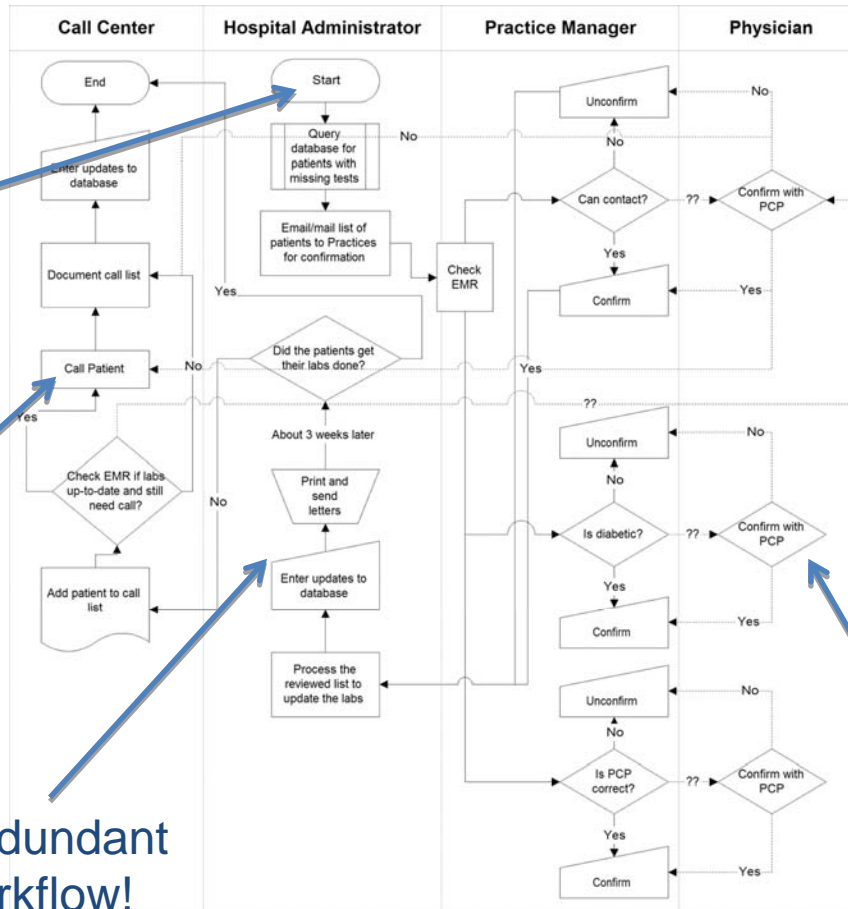
Founded in 1964 by **Dr. G. Octo Barnett**, LCS played an active role in shaping the modern health informatics field. LCS is the birthplace of MUMPS (Massachusetts General Hospital Utility Multi-Programming System) programming language, which remains the basis of clinical systems at many large hospitals today, and was involved in the development of some of the earliest electronic medical records and clinical systems.

Current projects in the lab explore novel applications of computer technology to enhance patient engagement, information management, decision support, provider workflows, medical education and clinical research.

Visit our website [↗](#)

# Which diabetic patients need a letter reminder?

Example



Why process Initiated by admin?

Can we automate via letters?

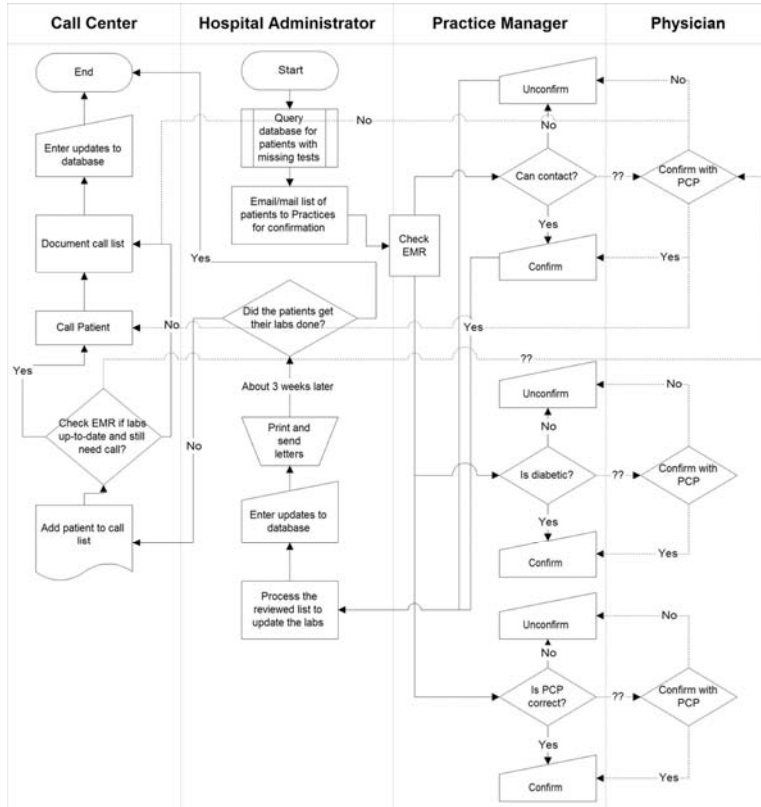
Redundant workflow!

Is this step necessary?

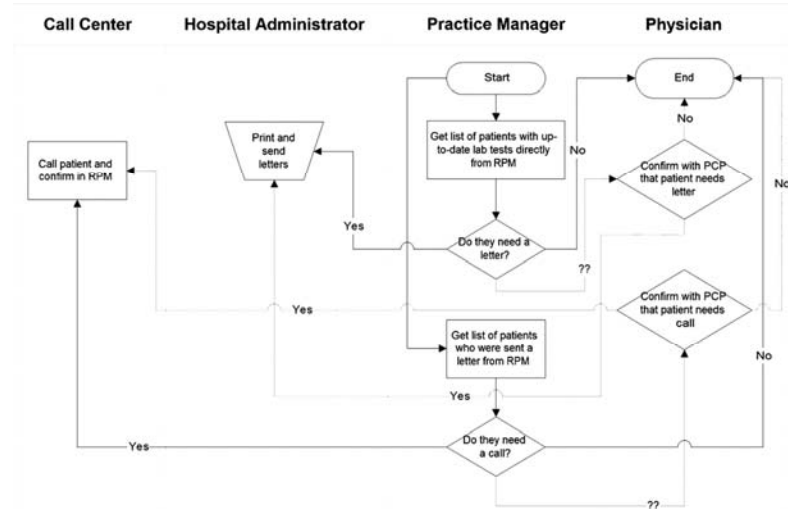


# Diabetes Workflow Redesign

Before:



After:



Zai AH, Grant RW, Estey G, Lester WT, Andrews C, Yee R, Mort E, Chueh HC. Lessons from implementing a combined workflow-informatics system for diabetes management. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association: JAMIA (2008) vol. 15 (4) pp. 524-33.



Speed-to-Value:

# Efficiency gain in identifying which patients to send letter reminders



Manual

Automated

4 months to implement  
**>70x efficiency gain/nurse\***

\* Time needed to identify need for diabetes letter reminder went from 14.4 min/patient to 12.3 sec/patient with TopCare implementation. Zai AH, Grant RW, Estey G, Lester WT, Andrews CT, Yee R, Mort E, Chueh HC. Lessons from implementing a combined workflow-informatics system for diabetes management. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2008 Jul-Aug; 15(4):524-33.

# Is this “my” patient?

In 2005...

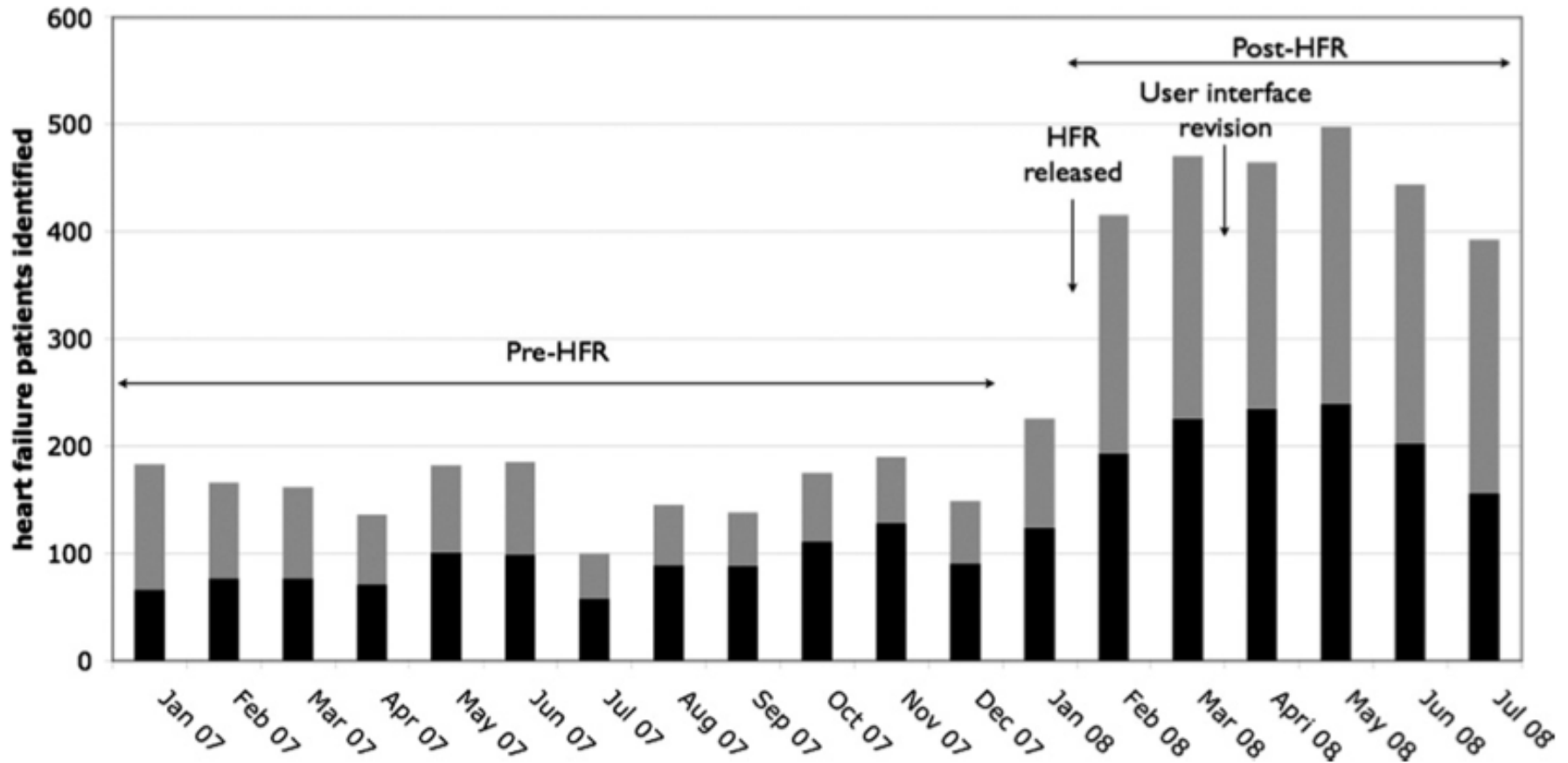


A payer-agnostic  
attribution model?  
Who needs that?

Atlas SJ, Chang Y, Lasko TA, Chueh HC, Grant RW, Barry MJ. Is this "my" patient? Development and validation of a predictive model to link patients to primary care providers. J Gen Intern Med. 2006 Sep; 21(9):973-8.

In 2006-2008...

# Identifying Heart Failure Inpatients



Zai AH, et al. "Queuing theory to guide the implementation of a heart failure inpatient registry program." *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* 16.4 (2009): 516-523.

# Linking electronic health record-extracted psychosocial data in real-time to risk of readmission for heart failure

Alice J. Watson, MD MPH<sup>1</sup>, Julia O'Rourke, PhD MS<sup>2</sup>, Kamal Jethwani, MD MPH<sup>1</sup>, Aurel Cami, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Theodore A. Stern, MD<sup>4</sup>, Joseph C. Kvedar, MD<sup>1</sup>, Henry C. Chueh, MD MS<sup>2</sup>, and Adrian H. Zai, MD PhD MPH<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Connected Health, Partners Healthcare, Boston, MA

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Computer Science, Massachusetts General Hospital; Boston, MA

<sup>3</sup>Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital; Boston, MA

## Abstract

**Background**—Knowledge of psychosocial characteristics that helps to identify patients at increased risk for readmission for heart failure (HF) may facilitate timely and targeted care.

**Objective**—We hypothesized that certain psychosocial characteristics extracted from the electronic health record (EHR) would be associated with an increased risk for hospital readmission within the next 30 days.

**Methods**—We identified 15 psychosocial predictors of readmission. Eleven of these were extracted from the EHR (six from structured data sources and five from unstructured clinical notes). We then analyzed their association with the likelihood of hospital readmission within the next 30 days among 729 patients admitted for HF. Finally, we developed a multivariable predictive model to recognize individuals at high risk for readmission.

Watson AJ, O'Rourke J, Jethwani K, Cami A, Stern TA, Kvedar JC, Chueh HC, Zai AH. Linking electronic health record-extracted psychosocial data in real-time to risk of readmission for heart failure. *Psychosomatics*. 2011 Jul-Aug; 52(4):319-27.

Zai AH, Ronquillo JG, Nieves R, Chueh HC, Kvedar JC, Jethwani K. Assessing hospital readmission risk factors in heart failure patients enrolled in a telemonitoring program. *Int J Telemed Appl*. 2013; 2013:305819.

task was successfully deleted



Options

Private mode off | on  
Expand signouts off | on

New

06.04.2014 New eBridge groups are now available.

08.08.2012 Testing something

[Full changelog](#)

[Feedback/Help](#)

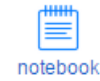
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Contact us](#)

[eBridge Training Portal](#)



mojo 2 for iOS



Oncall inpatients assigned to me (0)

[remove discharged](#) | [remove all](#)

Your responsibility: **My Inpatients**

does not contain any patients

My subscriptions (14)

Oncall inpatients assigned to me (2)

[remove discharged](#) | [remove all](#)

Norma Location: Attending Loc: me

STABLE TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

PFR MRN

add task

**Readmit Risk: H**

High readmission risk due to

- Prior admits past year (5)
- History of (or recent)
  - Complex comorbidity
  - Mood Problems
  - Palliative needs
  - Fall risk
  - Medical Frailty

[Checklist for High Risk Care Transitions](#)

Library

Oncall inpatients assigned to me (2)

Norma Location: Attending

STABLE TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

PFR MRN

add task

OE-TEST, CATHY

44 M

Test Patient List

[add](#)

PFR MRN 3861820

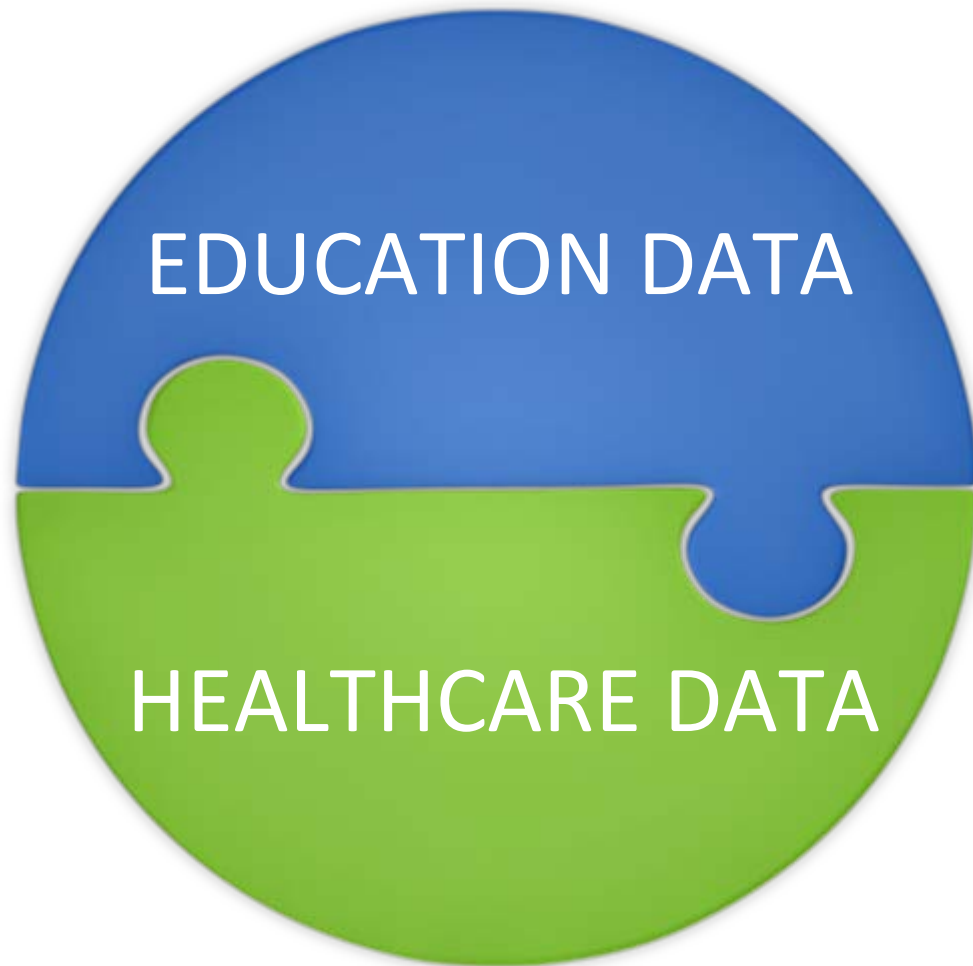
47 yo M with burn

# BUrn  
- OR tomorrow

# FEver

double-click to select image  
CTRL+double-click, ENTER or F2 to edit text

# Dayton Public School Project



In 2011...

Determine whether or not physicians need to be part of the workflow

 **TopCare**

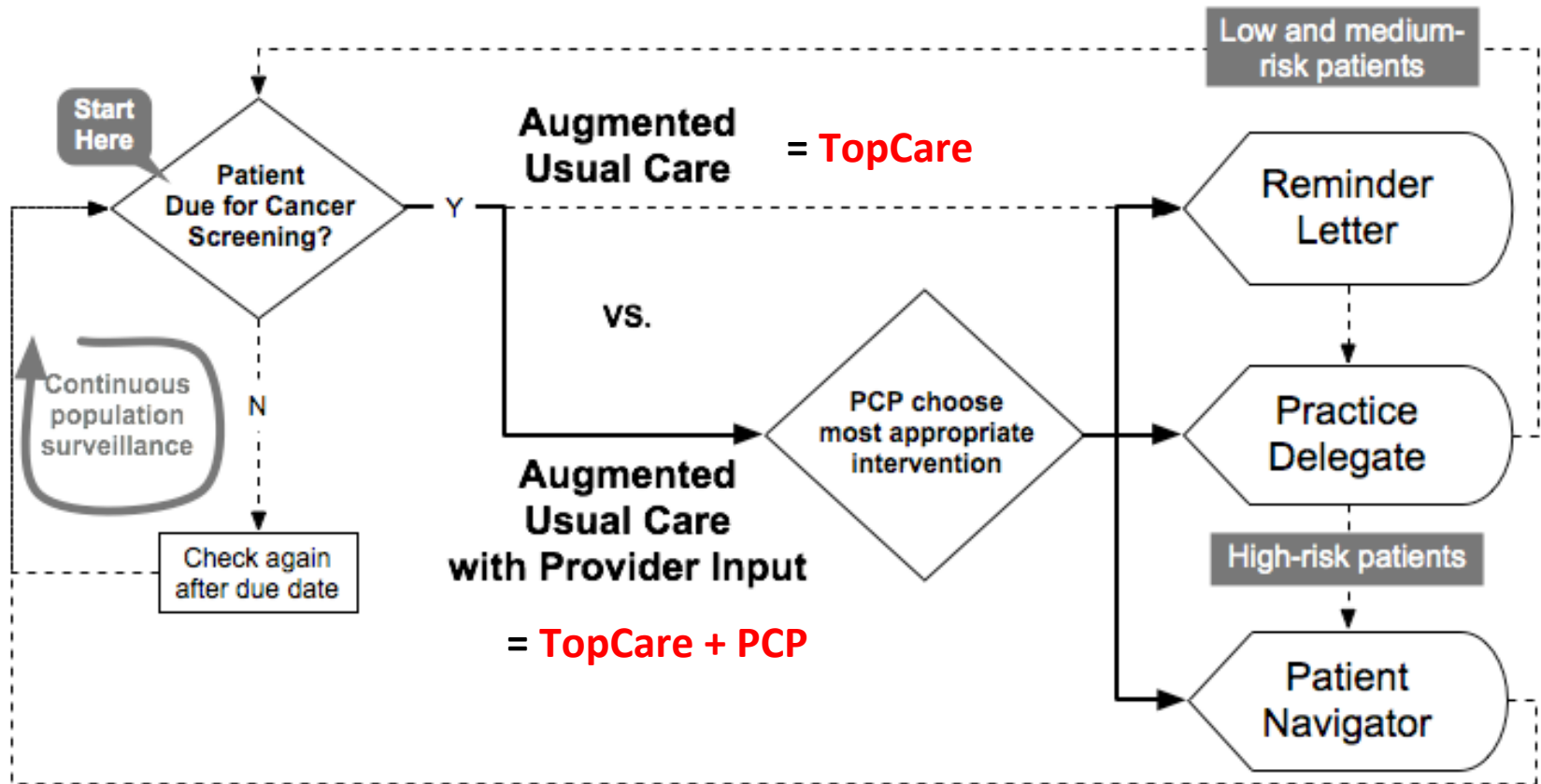
is the name of an AHRQ-funded clinical trial:

**Technology optimized for population**

**Care in a resource-limited environment**

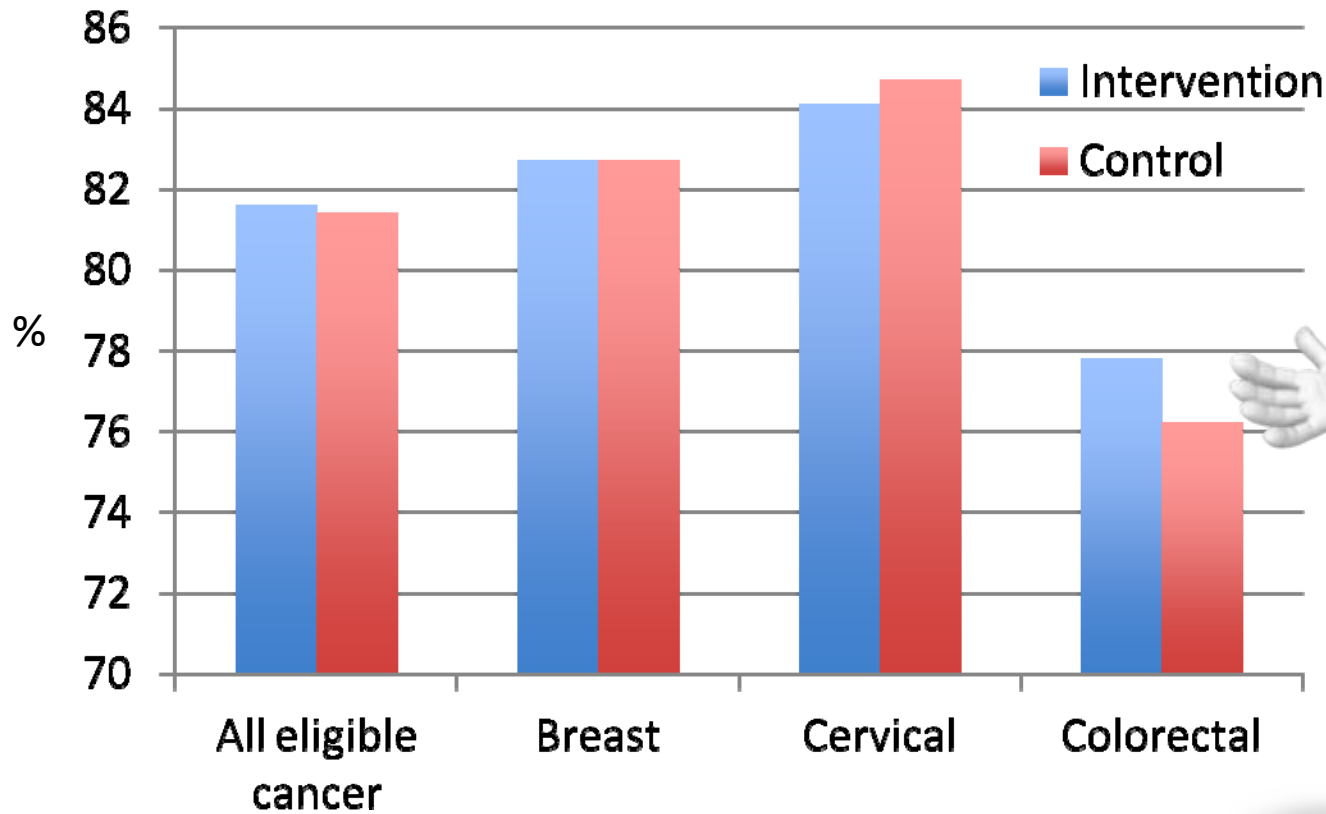


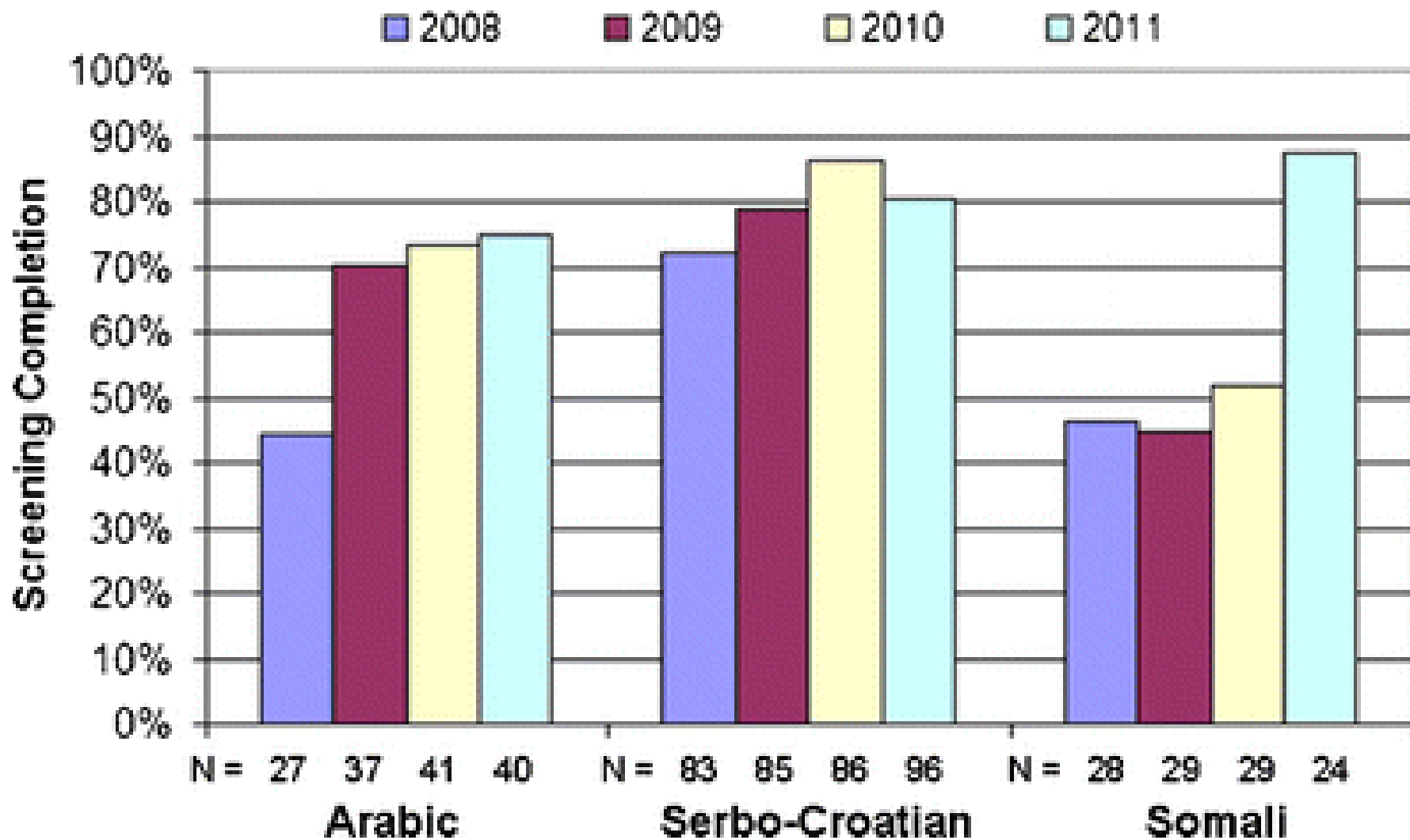
# Workflow of intervention and control groups





# “TopCare + PCP” vs. “TopCare”





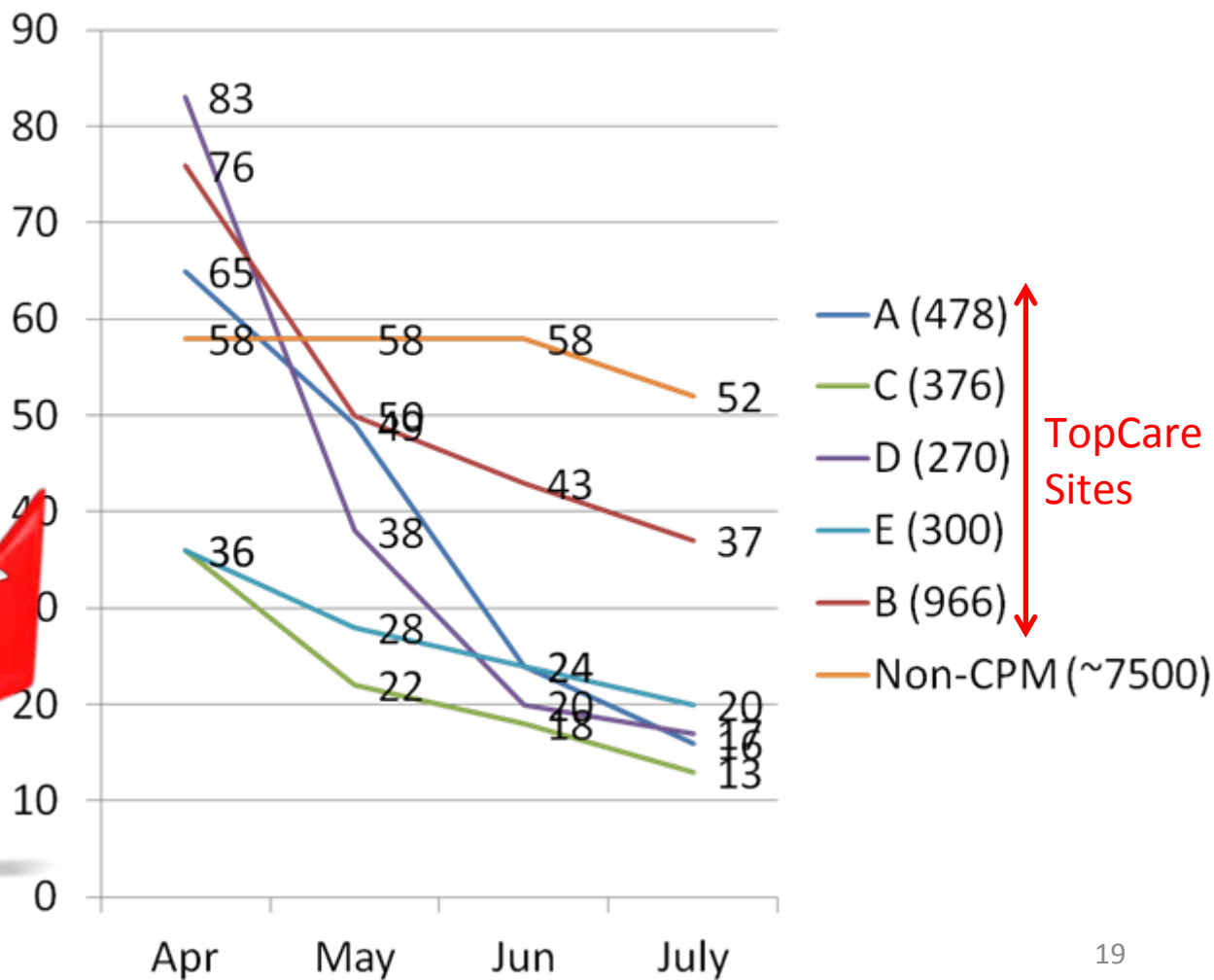
Sanja Percac-Lima MD, P. H. D., et al. "Decreasing Disparities in Breast Cancer Screening in Refugee Women Using Culturally Tailored Patient Navigation." *Journal of general internal medicine* (2013): 1-6.

# Percent of BWH Diabetics with No Pending Visit

Charles Morris MD, Mary Merriam RN, Tanya Zucconi MBA

Practices with TopCare (A-E) = ~2500 DM patients

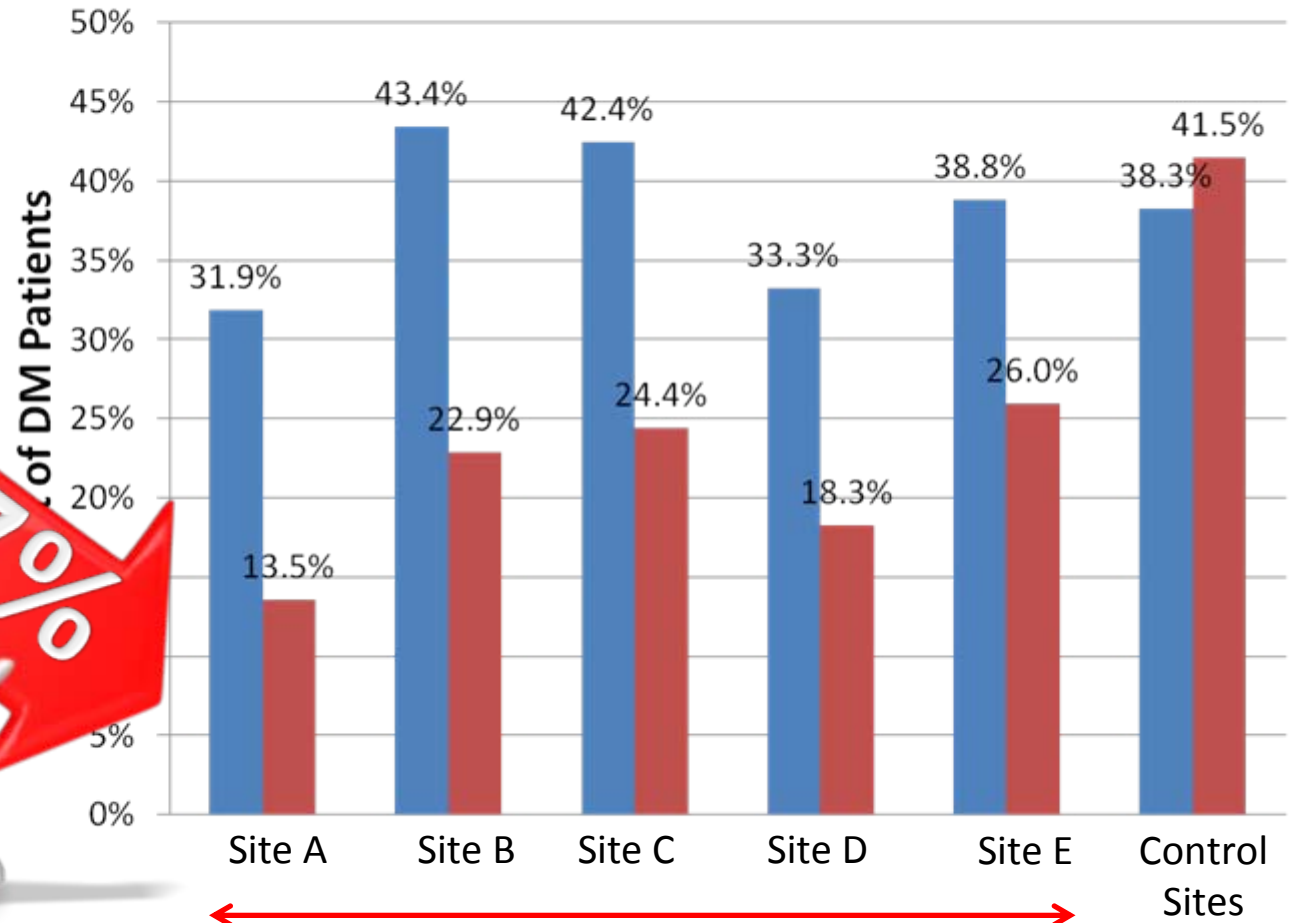
Practices without TopCare (Non-CPM) = ~7500 DM patients



# Percent of Overdue DM Labs

Charles Morris MD, Tanya Zucconi

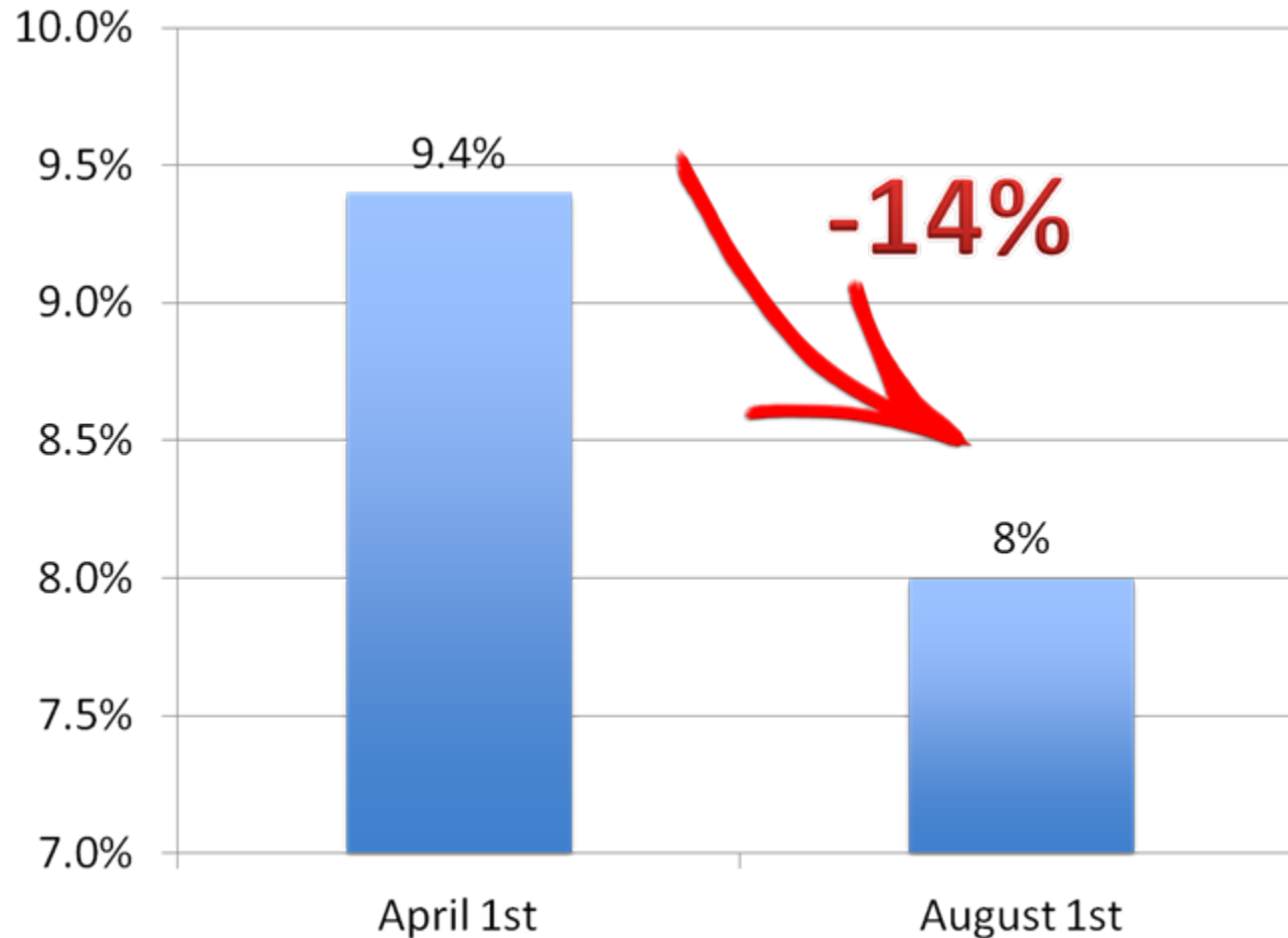
■ % Overdue A1c March  
■ % Overdue A1c June



TopCare Sites

# % of patients with HbA1c > 9

Charles Morris MD, Mary Merriam, Tanya Zucconi



Charles Morris, MD.,MPH1; Mary Merriam, RN1; Jessica Dudley, MD2; Joseph Frolkis, MD, PHD1; Tanya Zucconi2, Adrian Zai, M.D.,MPH3; Faithful Baah1, *A Centralized Approach to Population Health Management Across A Network of 14 Primary Care Practices*. Presented at the 7th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation: Transforming Health Systems to Optimize Individual and Population Health, December 2014.

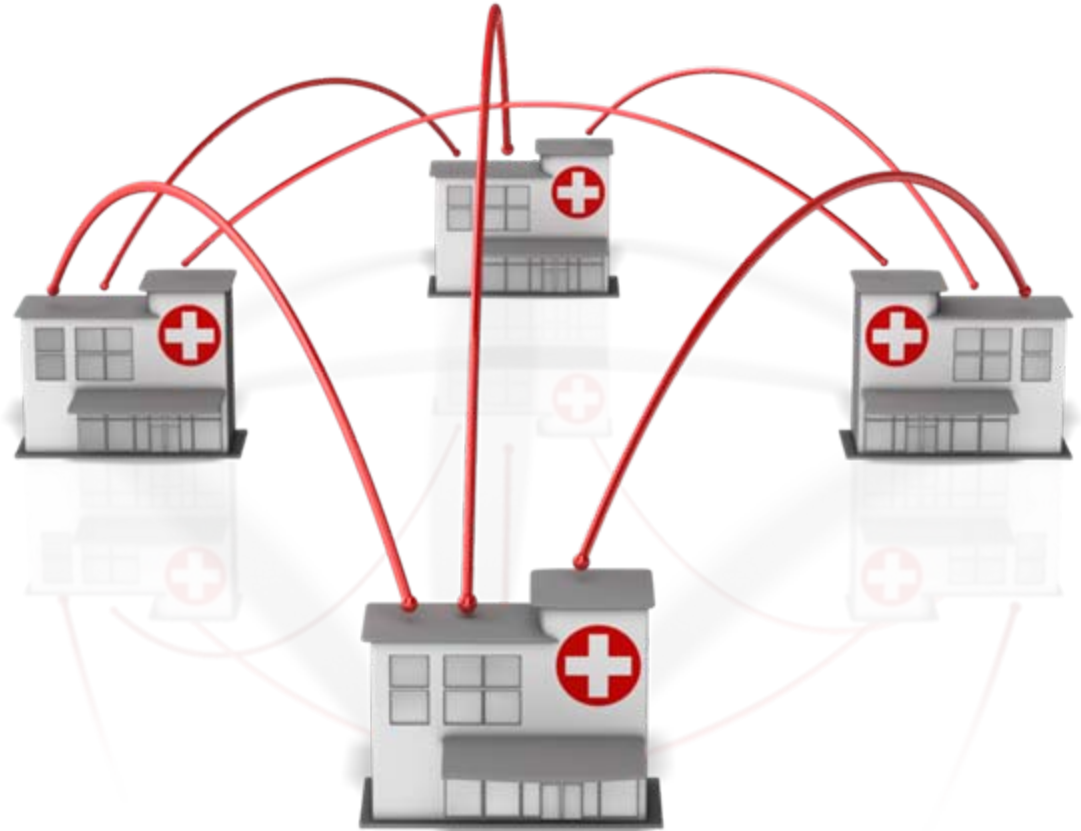
In 2012...



searches for a Pop Health Tool



# Decide on a population health management model



Central

Distributed

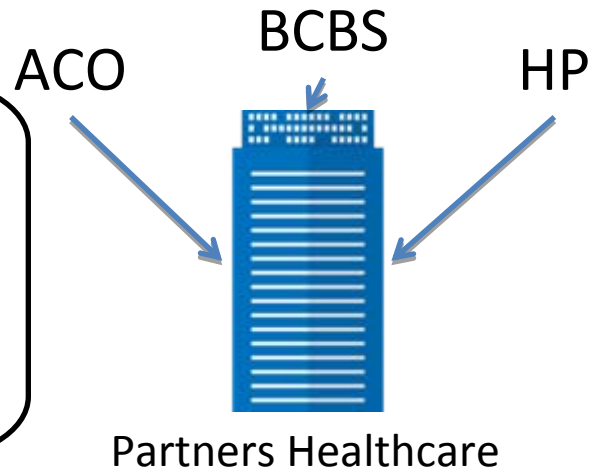
## 3 Interventions

1. Development of measures that are more clinically meaningful
2. Creation of a central Population Health Coordinator (PHC) program
3. Implementation of TopCare, an enterprise population health management IT system



# Intervention 1

We developed measures that are more clinically meaningful so that we no longer have to deal with the discrepancies of payor contracts



Internal Performance Framework (IPF)

Docs are much happier too!



Massachusetts General Hospital

Brigham & Women's Hospital

19 Primary Care Practices

14 Primary Care Practices



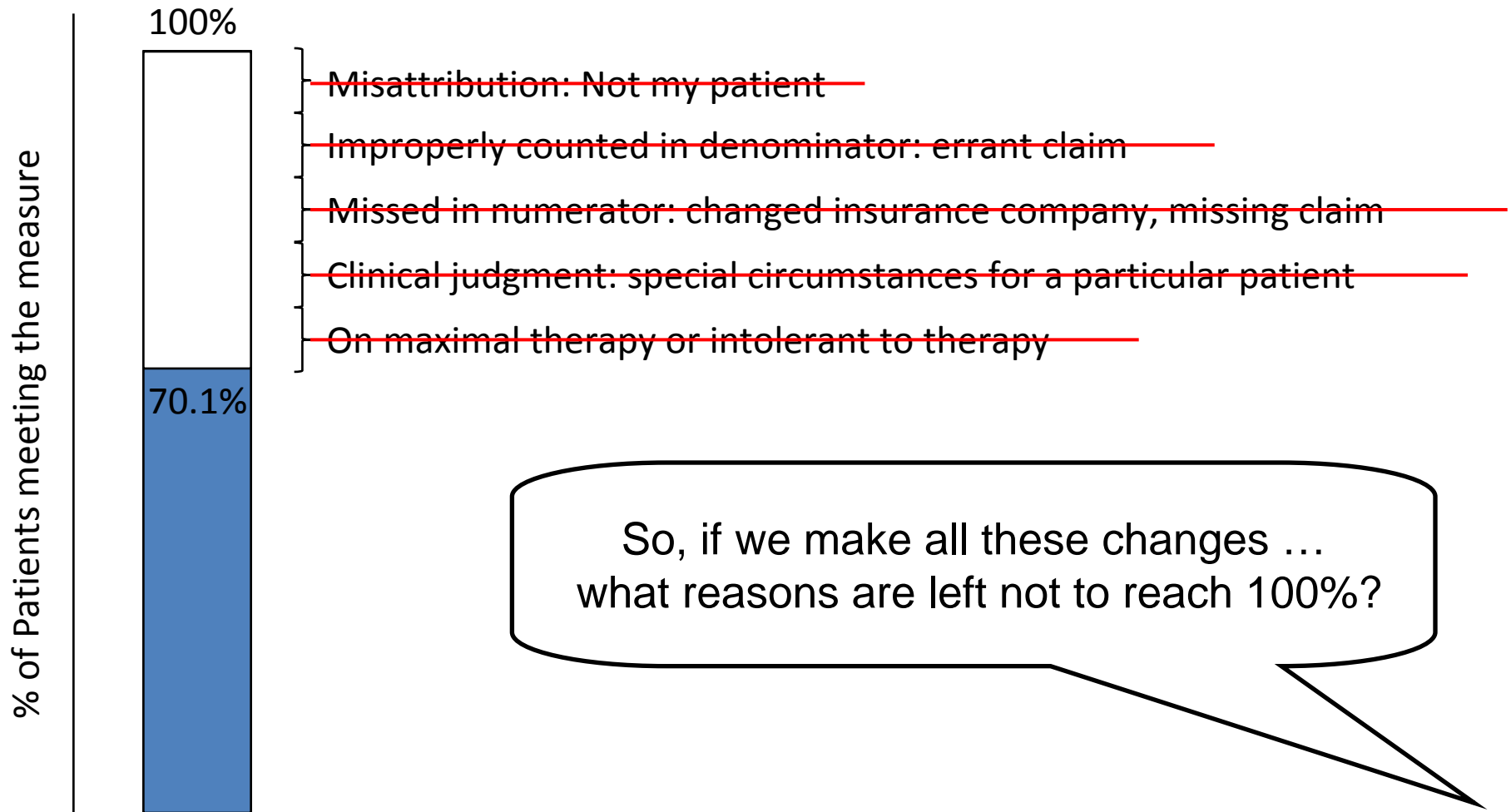
As part of our effort to create more clinically meaningful quality measures, we listened to our physicians, and asked them why they called the “old” measures “STUPID”

## The Taxonomy of “Stupid”



- A. Not a clinically important/correct idea
  - e.g. Mammography for women 40-50
- B. Clinically important idea, but measure is not an appropriate proxy
  - e.g. Antibiotics for bronchitis
- C. Attribution Error
  - e.g. “These aren’t my patients.”
- D. Payer-Specific
  - e.g. “I treat all my patients the same regardless of payer.”
- E. Denominator improperly measured
  - e.g. not diabetic: gestational diabetes, PCOS on metformin, diabetes coded by podiatrist
- F. Numerator improperly measured
  - e.g. Colorectal Cancer Screening
- G. Measurement process cumbersome/complicated/doesn’t allow for remediation
  - e.g. Antidepressant Medication Management

# No Excuses = High Targets



## Intervention 2

We created a central Population Health Coordinator (PHC) team that supports population health initiatives across the entire MGH primary care network

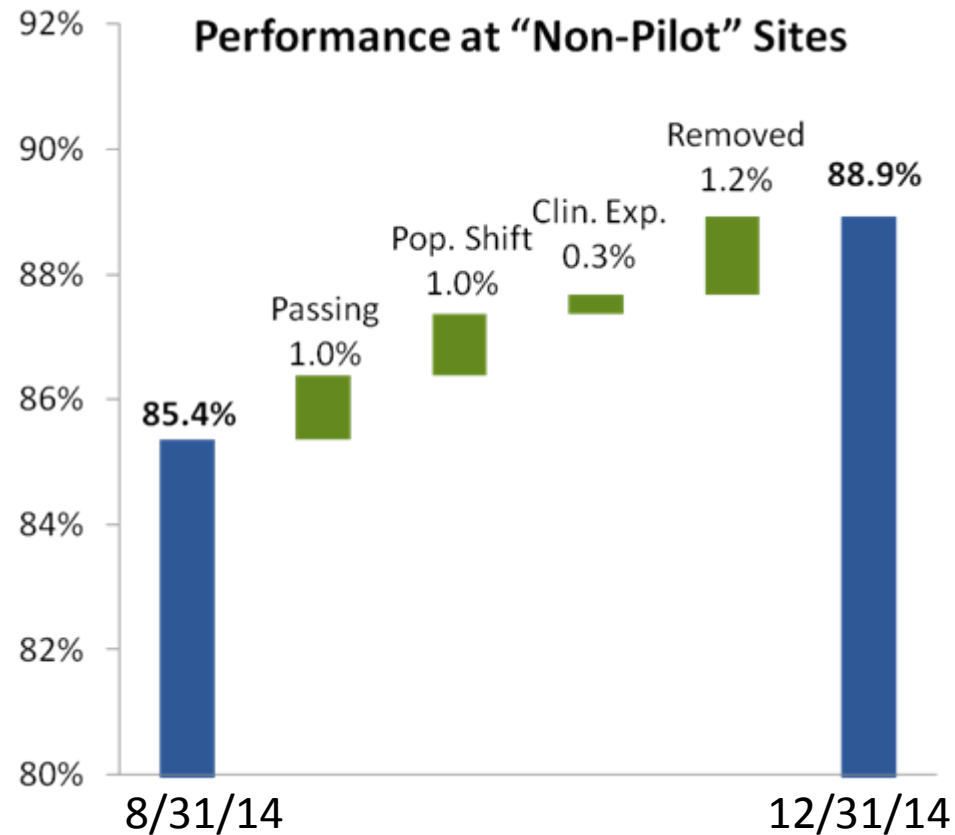
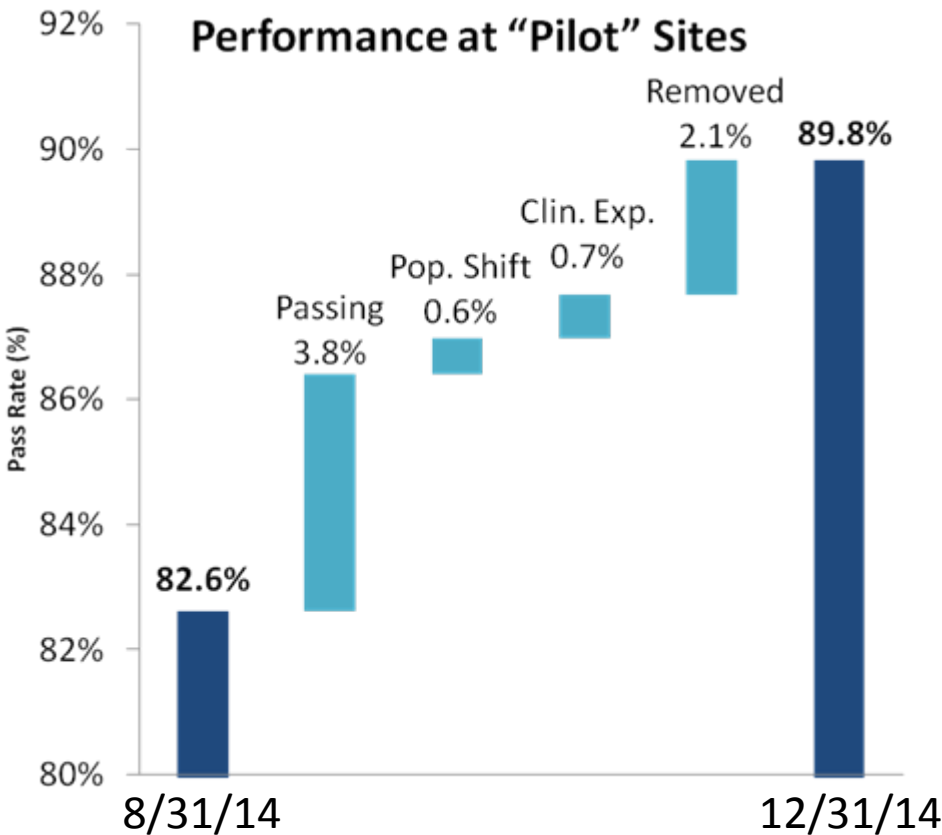


They huddle with physicians, take care of appointments, test reminders, patient outreach, and clean up EHR documentation, thereby allowing clinical providers to work at the top of their licenses!

# Operations Matter

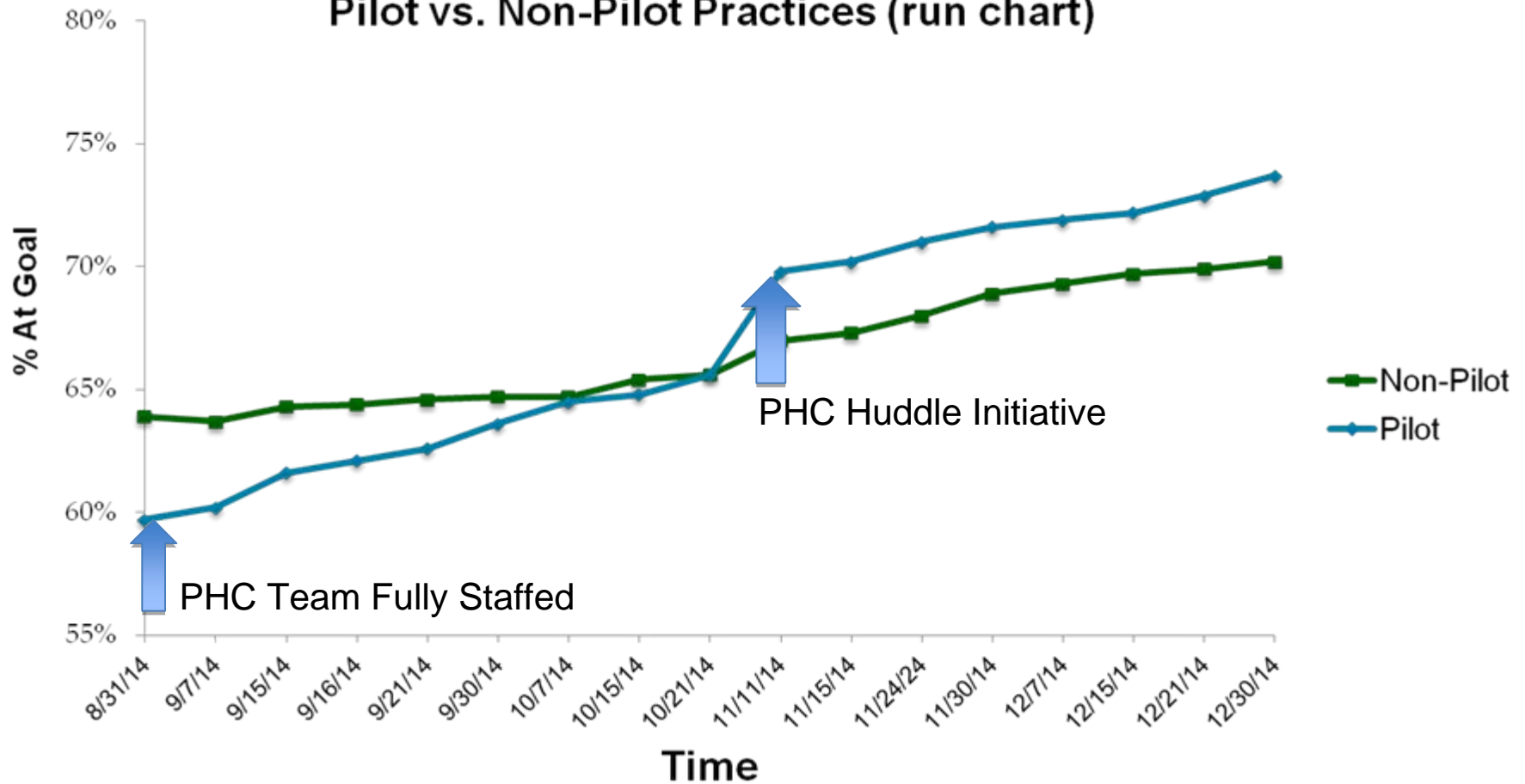
MGH compared performance at “Pilot” sites where coordinators worked lists and engaged with clinicians to “Non-Pilot” sites that did not have coordinators.

## Diabetes Blood Pressure Control



# Coordination between central and distributed model is critical

Cardiovascular Disease Outcome:  
Pilot vs. Non-Pilot Practices (run chart)

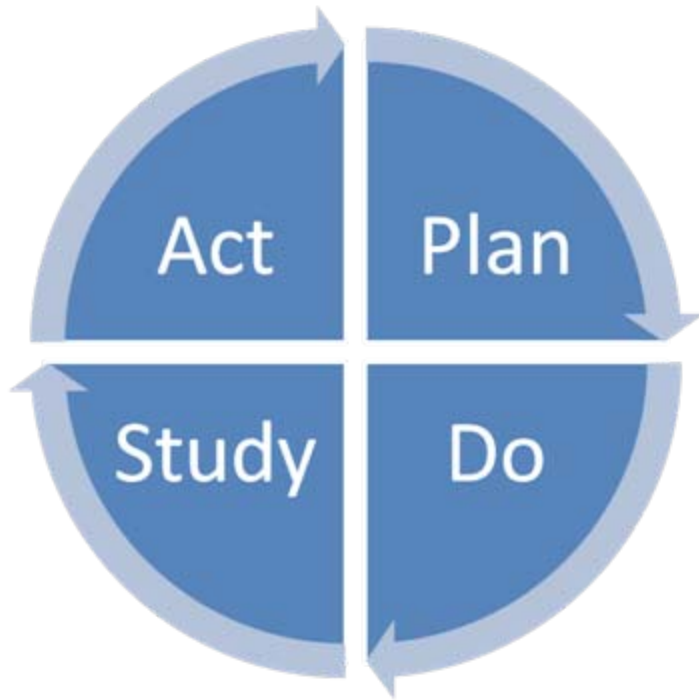


# Intervention 3

We implemented TopCare, which enabled us to identify all the gaps in care, track our outcomes, coordinate care appropriately, and intervene to close those gaps



# The Objective



To improve outcomes, you need tools that **enable continuous improvement**

# The Challenge



The tools that need to work together are found in **different** vendor solutions



# Typical PHM IT strategy scenario:

The 4 Essential PHM Pillars are:

1. Data Aggregation
2. HC Analytics
3. Care Coordination
4. Patient Outreach

Ok, let's  
purchase a  
software package  
for **each pillar!**



Data es  
el rey!



Data Aggregation

Je sais ce qu'il  
faut faire



Analytics

Dude! English  
please!



Care Coordination

Huh?



我跟患者只



Patient Outreach



# What we did on day 1 (June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014):

We managed ALL patients belonging to  
the Massachusetts General Hospital Primary Care Network

From managing  
**~70k**  
contract patients  
to:



Populations	
Diabetics	~24k
CVE (CAD, PVD, CVD)	~18k
Colorectal CS	~108k
Cervical CS	~124k
Breast CS	~71k
Hypertension	~72k
Other	n/a
<b>Total Patients Actively Tracked</b>	<b>~300k</b>

# Clinical Assets



## Clinical Setting

Academic Health Centers	2
Primary Care Practices	<b>30</b>

## Clinical Providers

Physicians	1045
Delegates	261
Practice managers	58
DM Champions	64
DSME	29
Navigators	9
PHMs	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>1499</b>




Our Results

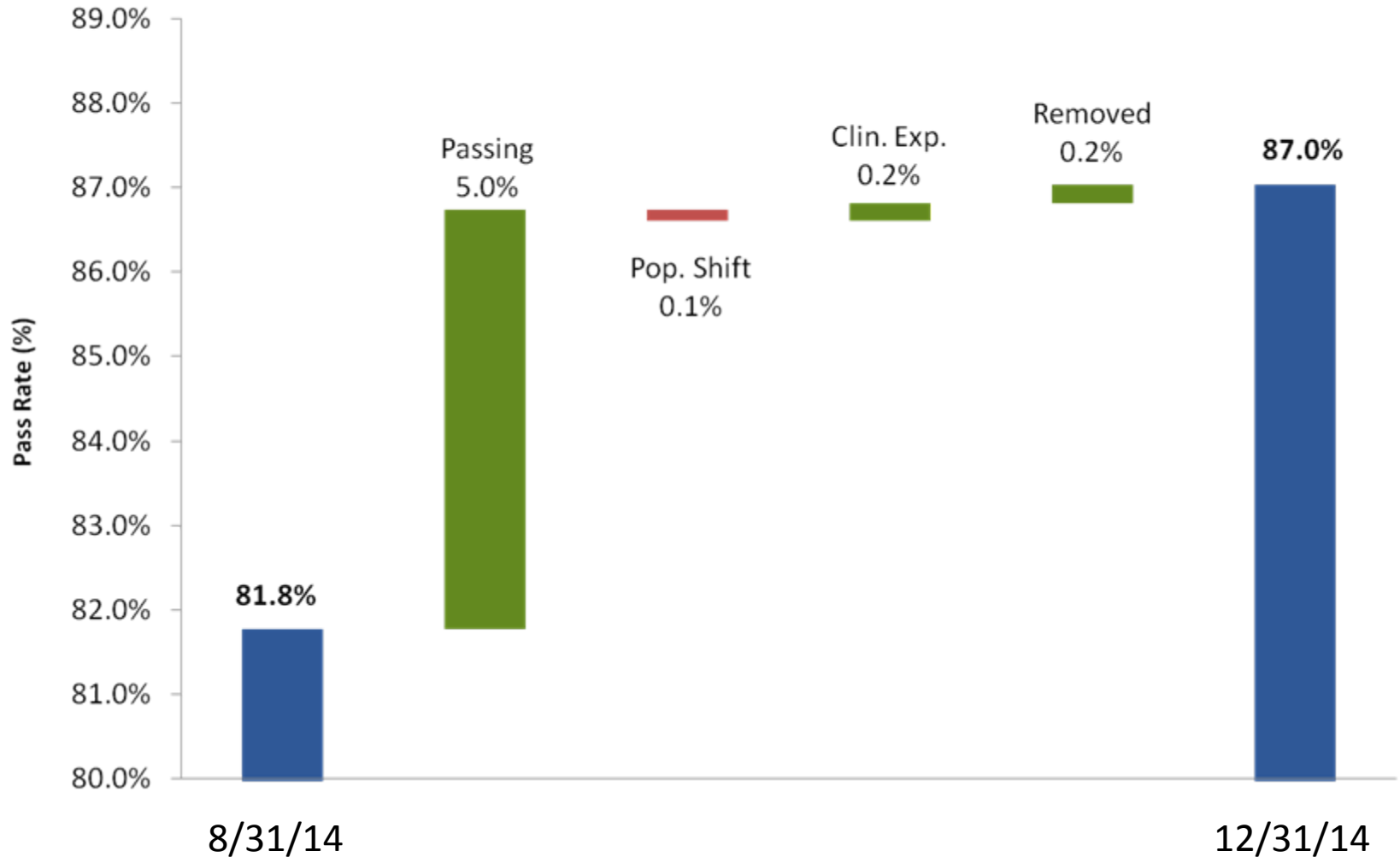
# All of our quality measures went up!

Actively managing >300,000 patients over 6 months

Measures	% Change over 6 months
Breast Cancer Screening Process Measure	+ 3.1%
Cervical Cancer Screening Process Measure	+ 7.7%
Colorectal Cancer Screening Process Measure	+ 2.6%
CVE LDL Process and Outcome Measure	+ 8.5%
Diabetes Eye Exam Process Measure	+ 7.3%
Diabetes HbA1c Process and Outcome Measure	+ 5.0%
Diabetes HbA1c Process Measure	+ 4.6%
Diabetes HTN Process and Outcome Measure	+ 6.9%
Diabetes LDL Process and Outcome Measure	+ 6.5%
Diabetes Nephropathy Process Measure	+ 3.4%
HTN BP Process and Outcome Measure	+ 4.4%



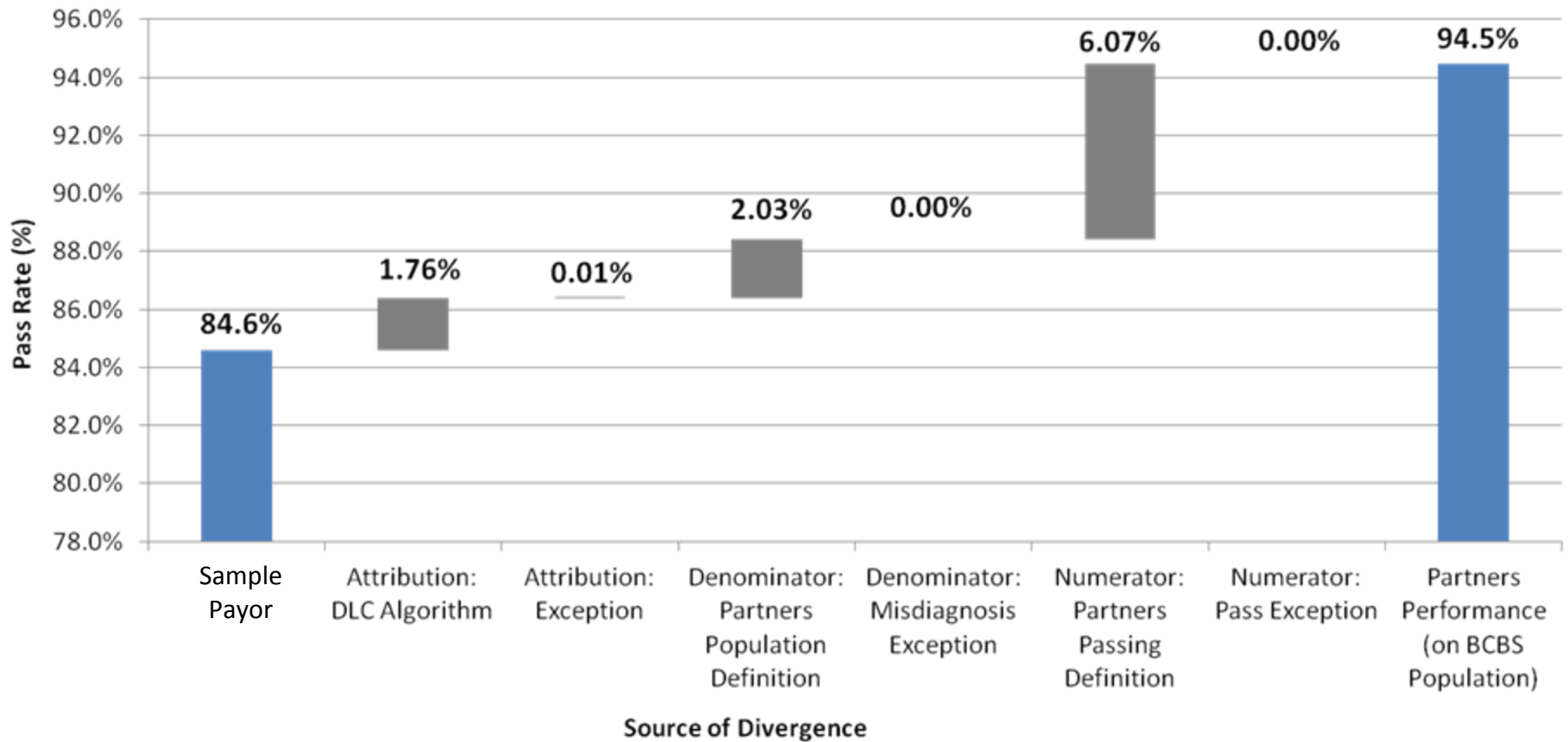
# Breakdown of Cervical Cancer Gains





# Sources of Divergence

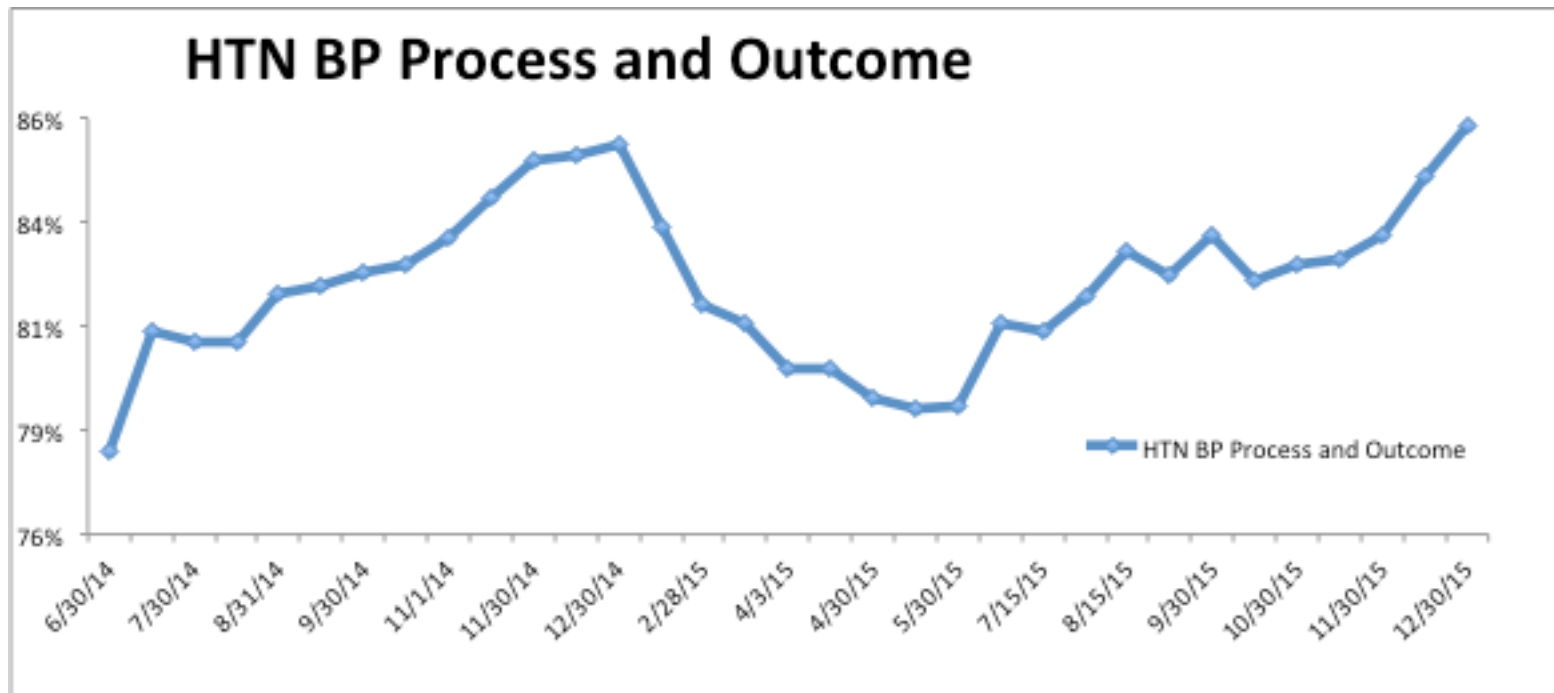
## Cervical Cancer Screening Sources of Divergence: Sample Payor vs. Partners Performance




Measure	NNT or NNS (number needed to treat to prevent 1 death/stroke/MI)	Net Patients Newly in Control from 8/31-12/31 <i>(Clinical Only, most conservative)</i>
Hypertension BP Control	1:125 (death) 1:67 (stroke) 1:100 (MI)	667
Colorectal CA Screening	1:107 (death from colon cancer)	911
Cervical Cancer Screening	1:1000 (death from cervical cancer)	6,133
CVE Lipid Control	1:27 (composite death, MI, stroke) 1:83 (death) 1:39 (MI) 1:125 (stroke)	376
Diabetes Lipid Control	1:28 (composite death, MI, stroke) 1:104 (MI) 1:154 (stroke)	384
Diabetes Blood Pressure Control	1:125 (death) 1:67 (stroke) 1:100 (MI)	289
Breast Cancer Screening	1:368 (death from breast cancer)	1,140

**Estimated 76 Lives saved with 4 Months Effort**

# Can we relax? Nope...



A 3D rendered white female figure with short hair, wearing a short-sleeved dress, stands to the left of a green chalkboard. She is pointing her right hand towards the text on the board. The chalkboard has a wooden frame and a ledge at the bottom with two small black erasers and two white chalk pieces. The text on the board is in a large, white, sans-serif font.

A few additional  
lessons

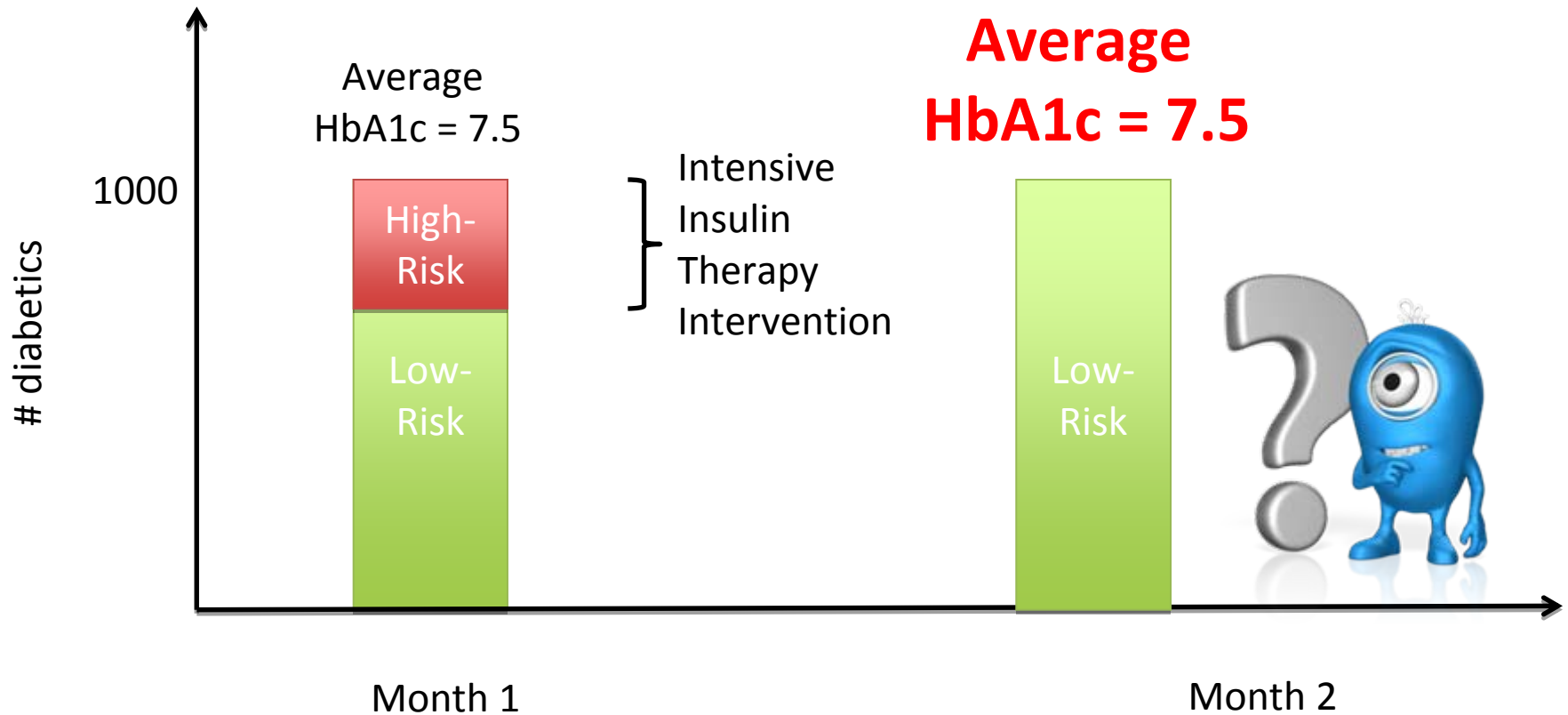


# Targeting high-risk patients is important...

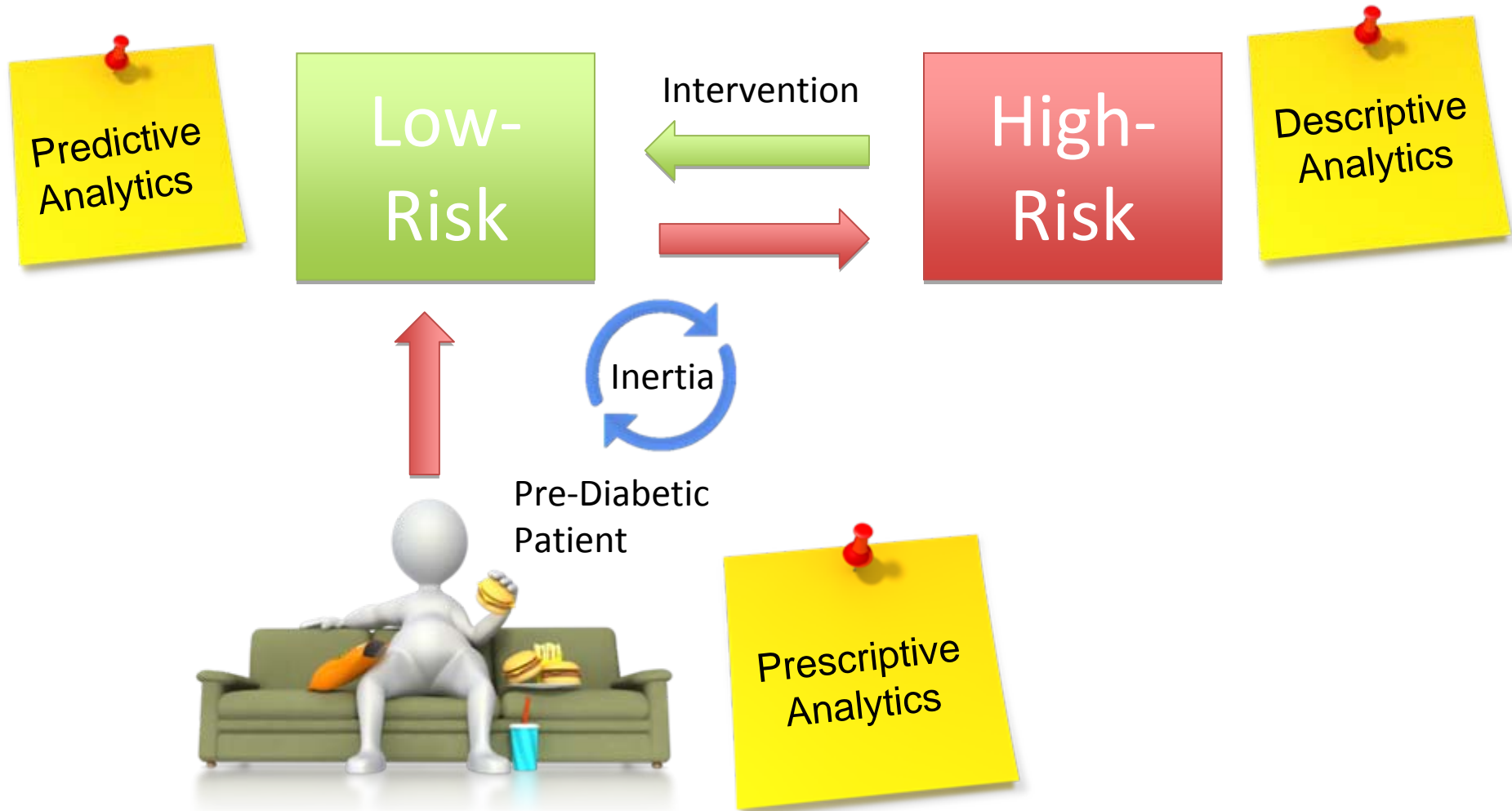
Step 1:  
Measure

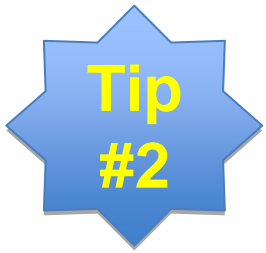
Step 2:  
Intervene

Step 3:  
Measure

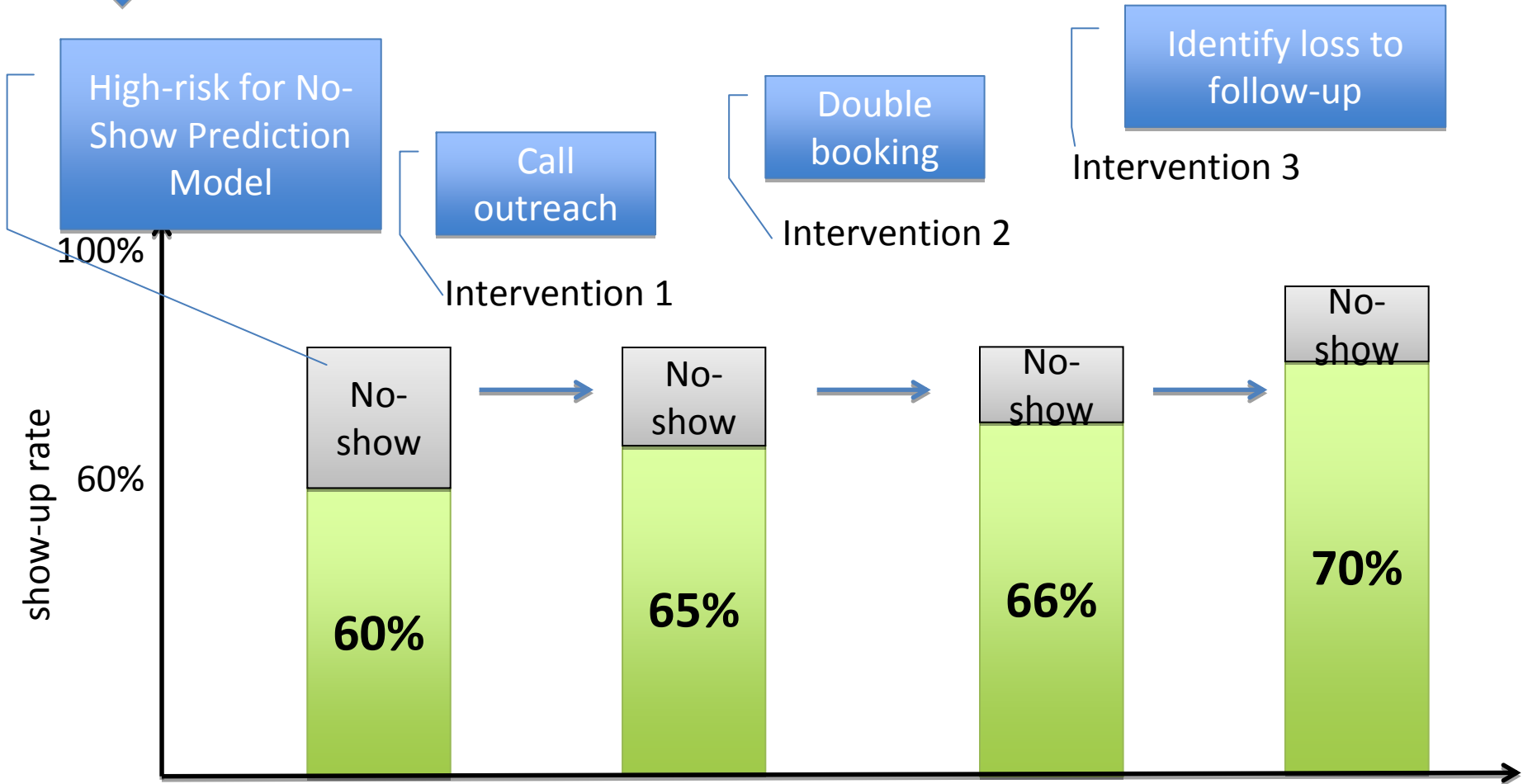


# But get the big picture first!





# Think multi-interventions



Tip  
#3

# We identify High-Risk patients

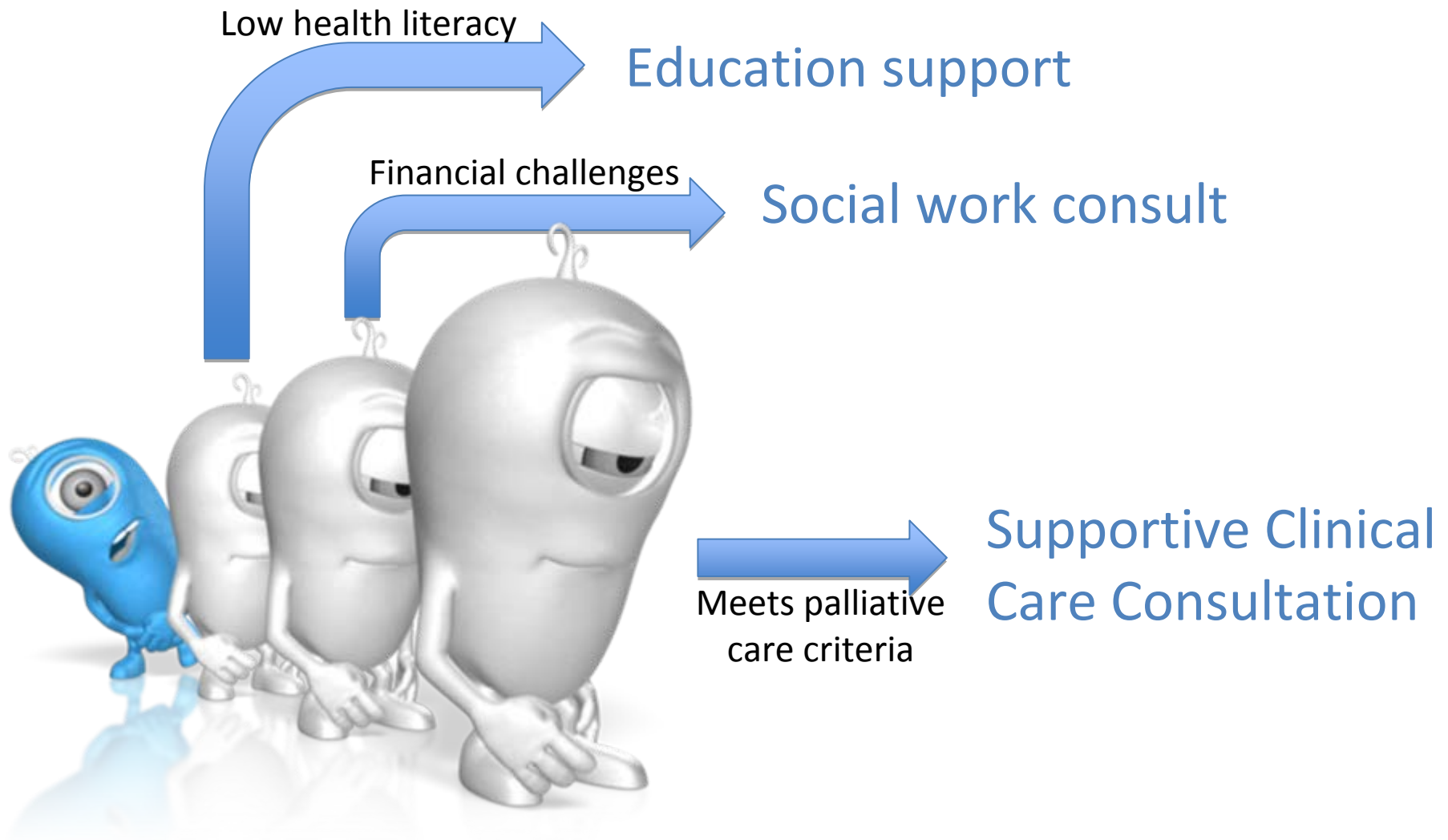
How to  
improve their  
outcomes?



- Why are they high-risk?
  - Poly-pharmacy
  - Multiple Comorbidities
  - Low-health literacy
  - Poor cognition
- High-risk for what?
  - Readmission
  - High-cost
  - Non-Adherence, etc...
- Is the risk modifiable?
- Do we have an intervention available?
- Is the intervention effective?



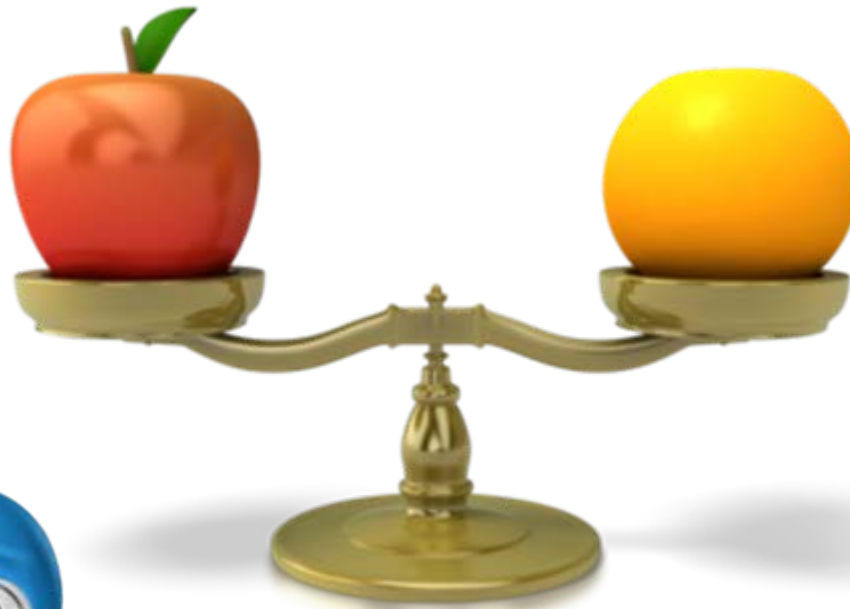
# How about identifying optimal patients to match interventions?



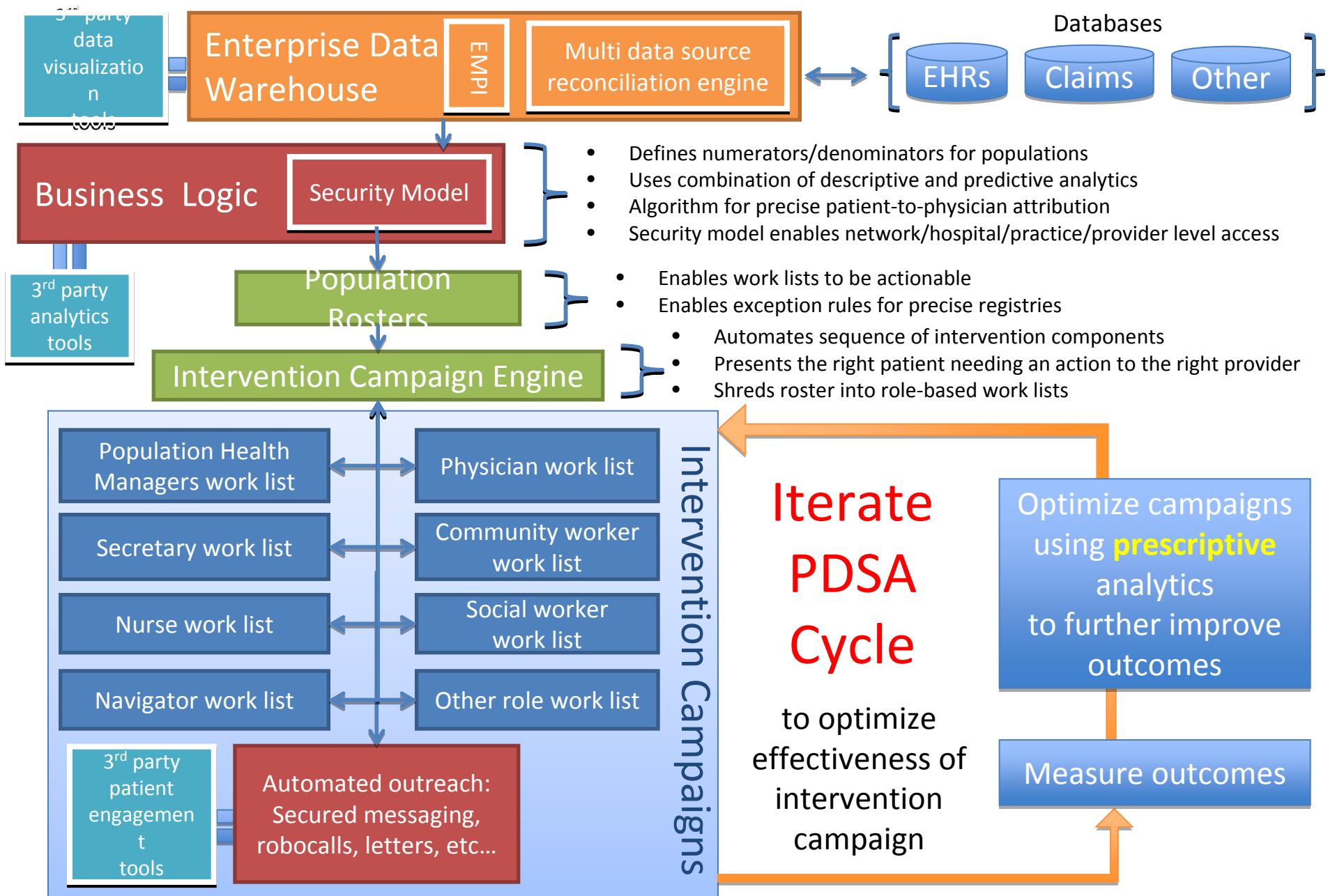


# Which intervention is better?

Invest in  
a good  
balance!



# Components needed for an effective population health IT system



# 10 Lessons Learned

1. Optimizing processes is important
2. Focus on precise population identification
3. It's ok to (sometimes) take the physician out of the equation
4. Question your measures
5. Driving outcomes doesn't have to be expensive
6. Interoperability between all IT components is critical
7. Don't target high-risk patients only, look at how quickly low-risk patients are becoming high-risk
8. Use multi-interventions to optimize outcomes
9. Match the right high-risk patients to the appropriate interventions
10. Have an effective PHM IT system to compare effectiveness of your interventions

Thank you



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