



# **Innovations and Technologies for Managing Readmissions:**

## **The Promise of Improved Quality and Functionality**

Barbara Harvath  
Senior Advisor  
Health Technology Center

June 1, 2009

## The Buzz around 30-Day

AHRQ/ HCUP report suggests that in 2006, hospitals spent \$30.8 billion on 4.4 million hospital admissions that might have been avoidable. The report used its prevention quality indicators to decide when a hospital stay might have been preventable with good enough outpatient care. Medicare patients accounted for \$20.1 billion of the full amount spent on possibly preventable admissions, while privately-insured patients were responsible for \$4.7 billion of the \$30.8 billion total. The report concluded that congestive heart failure and bacterial pneumonia were the two most common reasons for inpatient stays, mounting up \$15.6 billion in costs.

- In 2006, hospital costs for potentially preventable conditions totaled nearly \$30.8 billion—one of every 10 dollars of total hospital expenditures. As many as 4.4 million hospital stays could possibly have been prevented with better ambulatory care, improved access to effective treatment, or patient adoption of healthy behaviors.

- Congestive heart failure and bacterial pneumonia were the two most common reasons for potentially preventable hospitalizations, accounting for half of the total hospital costs (\$8.4 billion and \$7.2 billion, respectively) for all preventable hospitalizations.

- One in five (18 percent) Medicare admissions was for a potentially preventable condition. In fact, Medicare patients contributed to \$20.1 billion (67 percent) of total hospital costs for potentially preventable hospitalizations among adults.

- Hospitalization rates for potentially preventable conditions were highest among residents in poorer communities but lowest among residents from wealthier communities. This disparity was particularly evident for diabetes without complications, where the admission rate in the poorest communities was more than 400 percent higher than the rate in the wealthiest communities.

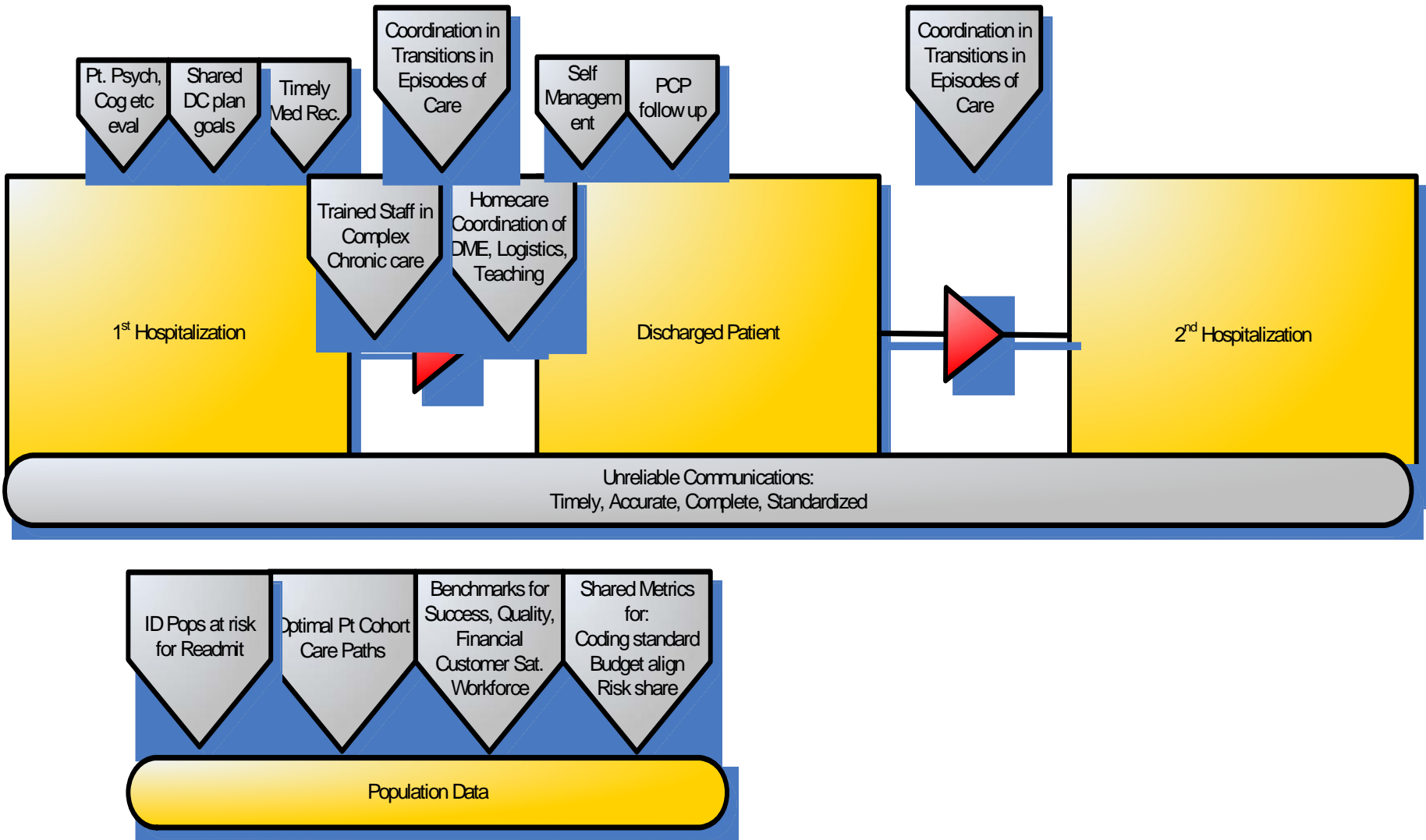


## The 30-Day Activity

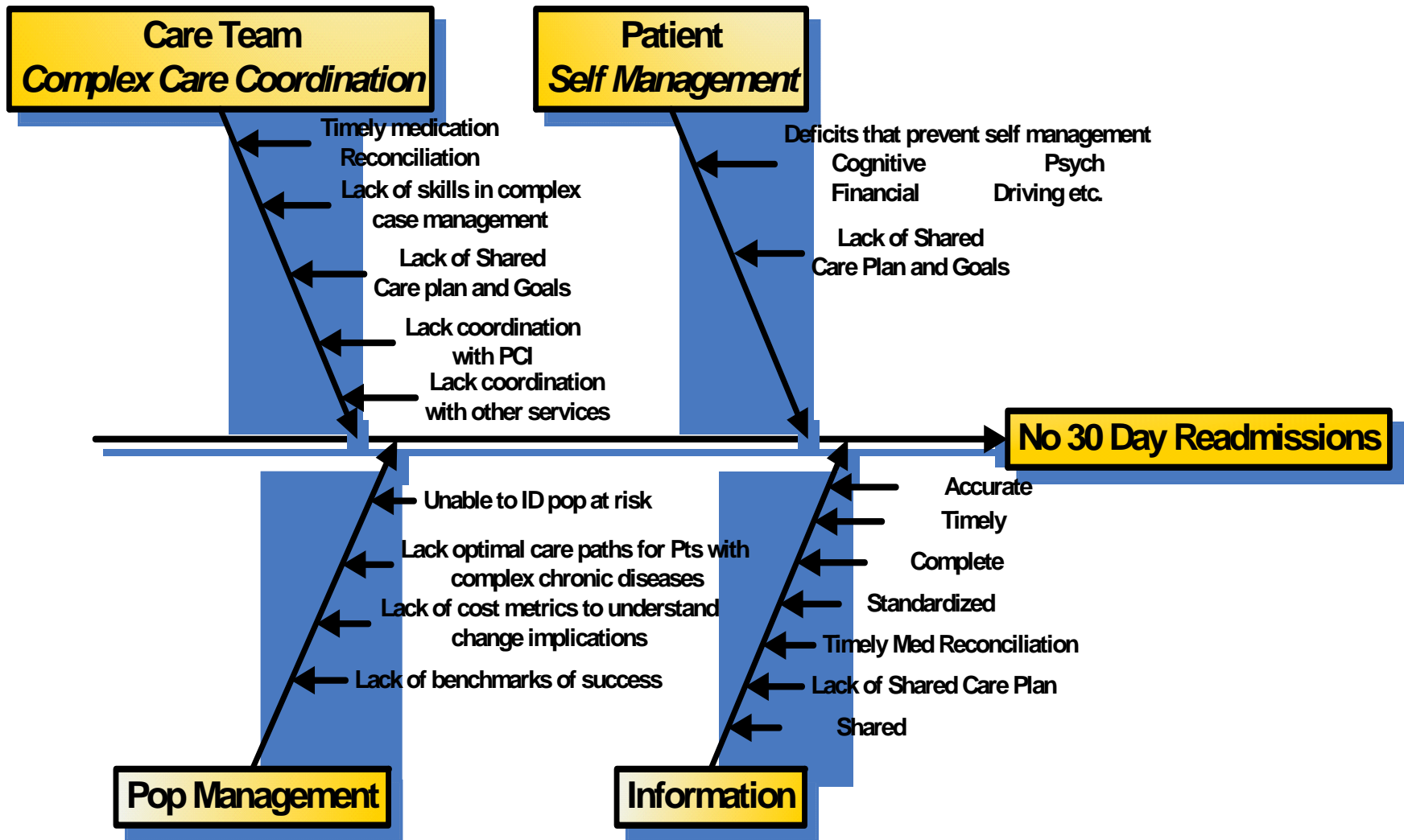
Boost	ARHQ	CMS	NC3
Better Outcomes for Older adults through Safe Transitions	HCUP – 2009 Report	Proposed Rules 4/08	The Promise of Care Coordination Report 2009
Select Sites to pilot and mentor for 1 year	Report using 2006 CMS claims data  \$4.4 mil preventable  2 DRGs = 50%	14 regions selected using care coordination to reduce Readmissions Project through 2011	<u>Transitional Care</u> Eric Coleman & Mary Naylor (Chad Boulton)
Education and Tool kit	RED  Toolkit and Education	Test Runs of Reporting measures occurred in 2008 and 2009	<u>Self-Management</u> Kate Lorig & Wheeler <u>Coordinated Care</u> CMS demos 2002
<a href="mailto:lvalentino@hospitalmedicine.org">lvalentino@hospitalmedicine.org</a> (267-702-2672).  <a href="http://www.hospitalmedicine.org/ResourceRoomRedesign/RR_CareTransitions/html_CC/project_boost_background.cfm">http://www.hospitalmedicine.org/ResourceRoomRedesign/RR_CareTransitions/html_CC/project_boost_background.cfm</a>	<a href="http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb72.jsp">http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb72.jsp</a>	Federal Register Vol. 73 No. 84 04/30/08  <a href="http://www.cfmc.org/caretransitions/">http://www.cfmc.org/caretransitions/</a>	<a href="http://www.socialworkleadership.org/nsw/Brown_Full_Report.pdf">http://www.socialworkleadership.org/nsw/Brown_Full_Report.pdf</a>



# Issues surrounding readmissions by process steps



# Issues surrounding readmissions



# Understanding readmissions starts before the first admission

19% of 30-day readmissions are from admissions that didn't need to happen in the first place." AHRQ

Severity and complexity of underlying chronic problems contribute significantly to preventable readmissions.

At home deaths from medication mistakes saw a 7 fold increase between 1984 and 2004

Known deficits that impair a patient's ability to follow through on a discharge plan

- Economics
- Transportation
- Mental (ie. depression)
- Cognitive (ie. memory)
- Physical (ie. seeing, hearing)
- Language (non-English speaking, illiterate)
- Social supports



***Top 3 issues for patient medication compliance failure***



***Most DC Planners would target this issue as being top (It's the patient's lack of a stable network )***

**A recent study looking at 150,000 patients with diabetes on medications found that 50% of patients had medication issues but of those:**

- 20% were patient issues (Economics and transportation issues, and depression accounting for the most)
- 80% were provider issues (failure to intensify treatment to optimal range being the largest issue)

**This changes how we need to start looking at compliance failure and what solutions we might implement**

# Example Page

The tool includes an Example page that allows a user to see a properly filled out Evaluation page. The inputs will vary by organization, but the example page shows correct input logic.

**Readmission Understanding Evaluation (EXAMPLE)**

Needs input from drop-down menu (Unless required to leave blank)

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CORRECTLY FILLED IN EVALUATION PAGE (INPUTS WILL VARY WIDELY BY HOSPITAL). THIS EXAMPLE PAGE REQUIRES NO INPUT AND IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

Category		Patient Psychographics												1st Hospitalization									
		Age	Sex	Marital Stat	Rec	Cit	Stat	Zip	Ecna	Tran	Phyzi	Caqui-	Mont	Admi	1st	Adm	1st	\$	ca-	Data	DC	LOS	
Item		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Currently Collect	Yes/No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
If Yes, Source	Manual/Elect/Both	Manual	Electronic	Electronic	Electronic	Electronic			Manual		Manual	Both		Manual			Both					Both	
If No, how difficult?	1 = least, 3 = most						2	1	2		2			2	1		3	2		1	1	2	

Category		Home Episode												2nd Hospitalization									
		FU	ADL	Med	DC	acc	Fall	of	Call	Visit	Office	ED	Tran-	Adm	2nd	Admi	Data	2nd	Long	Read	Marbid	Re-	
Item		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Currently Collect	Yes/No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
If Yes, Source	Manual/Elect/Both	Electronic		Both	Both	Both		Manual		Both		Manual		Electr	Electr						Both	Electr	
If No, how difficult?	1 = least, 3 = most		1				3		3		2		2		3	1	2		1			2	

Category		30-day Readmissions (RA)						Yearly Lost \$ (per DRG)									
		ALO	curt	che	raim	S	per	RA	per	RA	per	RA	per	RA	per	RA	per
Item		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Currently Collect	Yes/No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
If Yes, Source	Manual/Elect/Both	Electronic				Manual	Electronic	Manual	Electronic					Manual	Electronic		
If No, how difficult?	1 = least, 3 = most			2	3								1				

Introduction / Evaluation / Analysis / Example

Yes & No filled out for all metrics

Manual/Elec/Both filled out for "Yes" metrics only

Degree of difficulty filled out for "No" metrics only

# A Wealth of Technologies



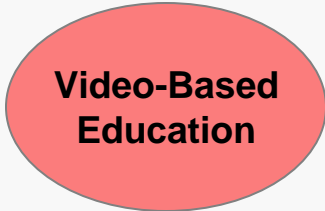
**Smart Sensors**



**Wireless Networks**



**Home Monitoring**



**Telemedicine**

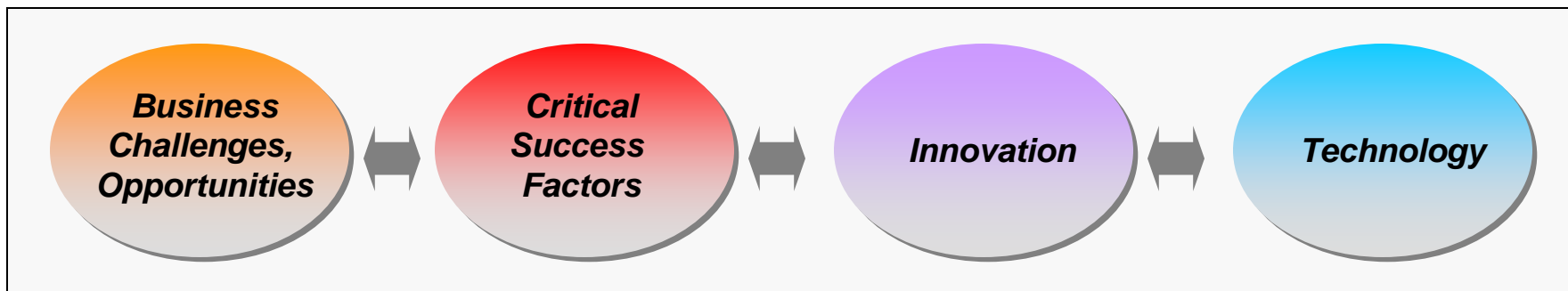
**Which technologies will have the biggest impact on 30 day readmissions?**

**How do high-impact technologies get disseminated quickly, efficiently and effectively?**



# Connecting Technology & Innovation to Healthcare Challenges

Our approach is based on a specific view of innovation and technology



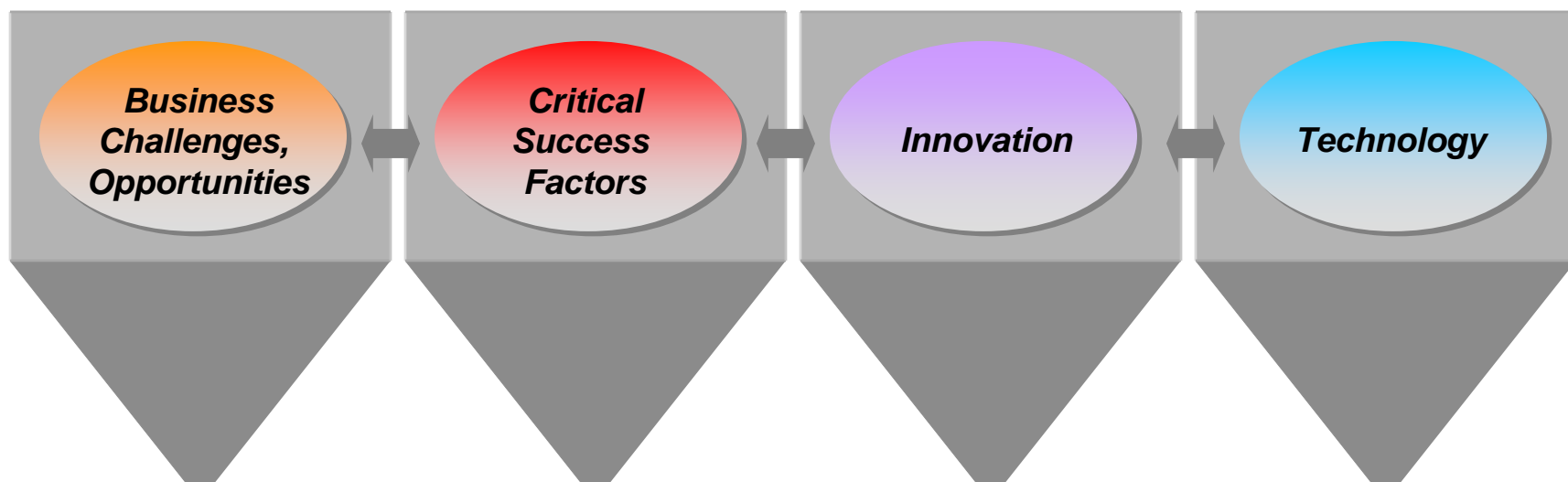
Innovations are strategic, technology is tactical

Which innovations and technologies will be truly disruptive?

How can these be leveraged to accomplish our strategy and mission?

How will they affect care processes, quality and sustainability?

## Connecting the Dots?



Healthcare Challenges & Business Problems	Critical Success Factors & Metrics	Innovations	Technologies
Home care visits labor intensive (rural visits-travel, time, weather, cost)	Number of in person visits needed for appropriate care per episode	Use of telecommunications and remote monitoring to substitute for in-person home visits	*Two-way video *Remote sensor devices *Remote disease monitoring
Unable to identify populations at greatest risk for readmit	Decrease in readmissions rates	Automation of risk profiling and readmission analysis	*Computer algorithms *Data integration/mining software *Predictive Modeling
Lack of shared care plan and structures to advance self management *Clarity of Provider goals	*Patient compliance with care plan *Decreased readmissions *Fewer calls to management team	Customized discharge care plan protocols for complex home care management	*PHR *Provider and patient teleconferencing *Shared care plan



# The Transitions of Care Matrix

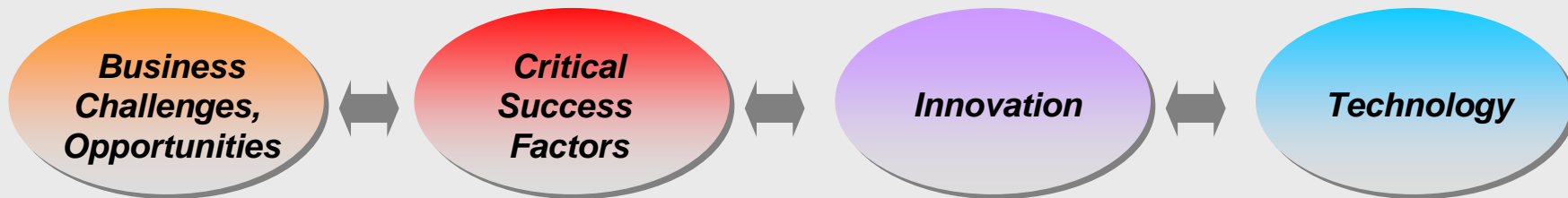
The Transitions of Care Matrix map connects challenges to metrics to innovations to technologies

HealthTech Transitions of Care Matrix				
Healthcare Challenges & Business Problems	Critical Success Factors & Metrics	Innovations	Technologies	Expected Impact
<i>(Sample)</i> Home care visits labor intensive (rural visits-travel, time, weather, cost)	Number of in person visits needed for appropriate care per episode	Use of telecommunications and remote monitoring to substitute for in-person home visits	*Two-way video *Remote sensor devices *Remote disease monitoring	Decrease number of in-person visits and add virtual visits with similar or better outcomes for episode of care
Unable to identify populations at greatest risk for readmit	Decrease in readmissions rates	Automation of risk profiling and readmission analysis	*Computer algorithms *Data integration/mining software *Predictive Modeling	Risk stratification for specificity and sensitivity for populations at greatest risk for readmission
Lack of shared care plan and structures to advance self management *Clarity of Provider goals *Clarity of Patient goals *Progression to shared decision making *Monitoring	*Patient compliance with care plan *Decreased readmissions *Fewer calls to management team	Customized discharge care plan protocols for complex home care management	*PHR *Provider and patient teleconferencing *Shared care plan	Patients and caregivers know optimal care plan after discharge and capable of effective follow through
Lack of Pt psychological, cognitive and social needs integrated into discharge plan and assessment *accountability *robust assessment *Inclusive DC/Transition plan	*Reduction in non-adherence to care plans *Higher level of patient compliance *Decrease in home medical errors	Simple, easy to use, accessible evaluation tools for pt psychosocial needs	*Patient assessment tools *Integrative case plan *Deficit reducing technologies (i.e. medication reminders, appointment pick ups etc.)	More comprehensive care plans and higher patient compliance
Lack of timely medication reconciliation	*Fewer ADEs *Fewer admissions due to ADEs *Better medication adherence	Timely team coordination and documentation	*PHR with medication administration software (ie KPHC) *Telemedicine conferencing esp. pharma	Improved disease management due to medication adherence. Better coordination of team care

## Our Methodology:

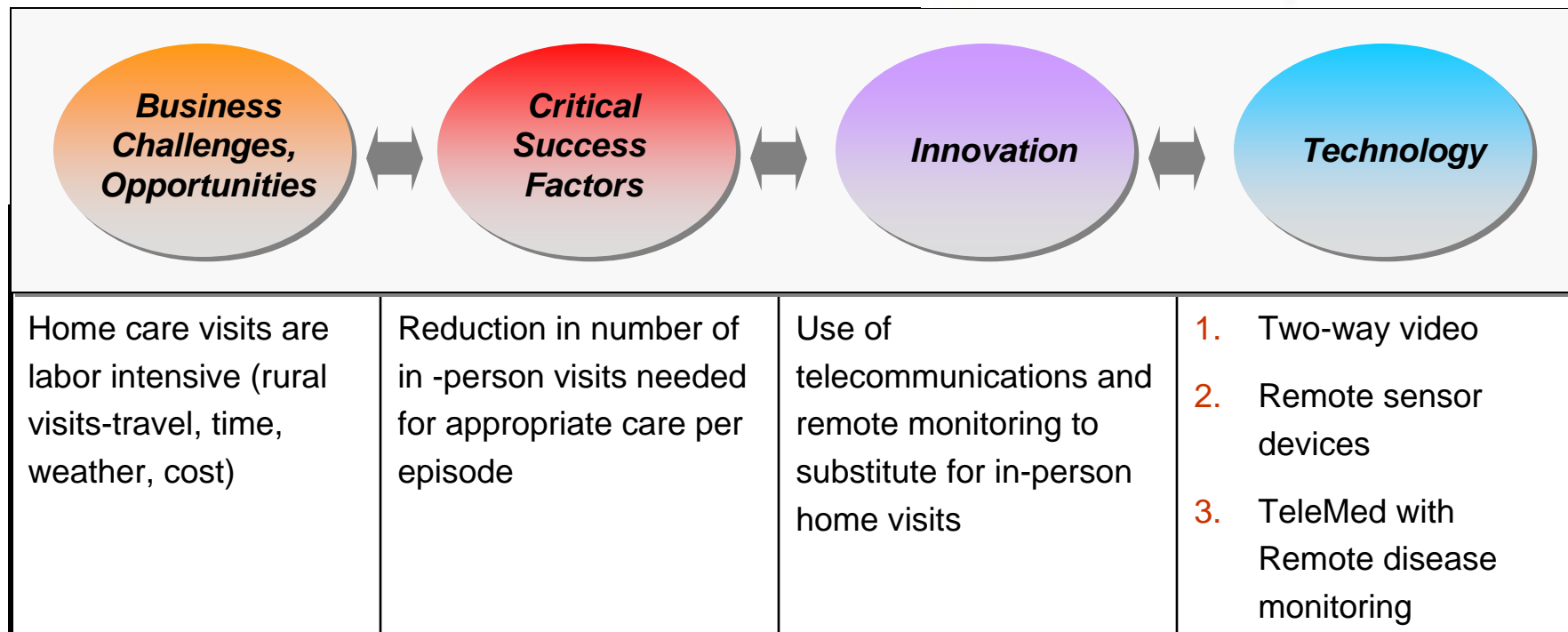
- Brainstorm **business challenges**.
- Identify related **metrics**
- Catalogue potential **innovations** that can address the challenges
- Identify specific **technologies** that can support the innovations
- Define the **expected impact** of successful implementation

# Assessing Readmissions and a technology solution example: Mercy Laredo

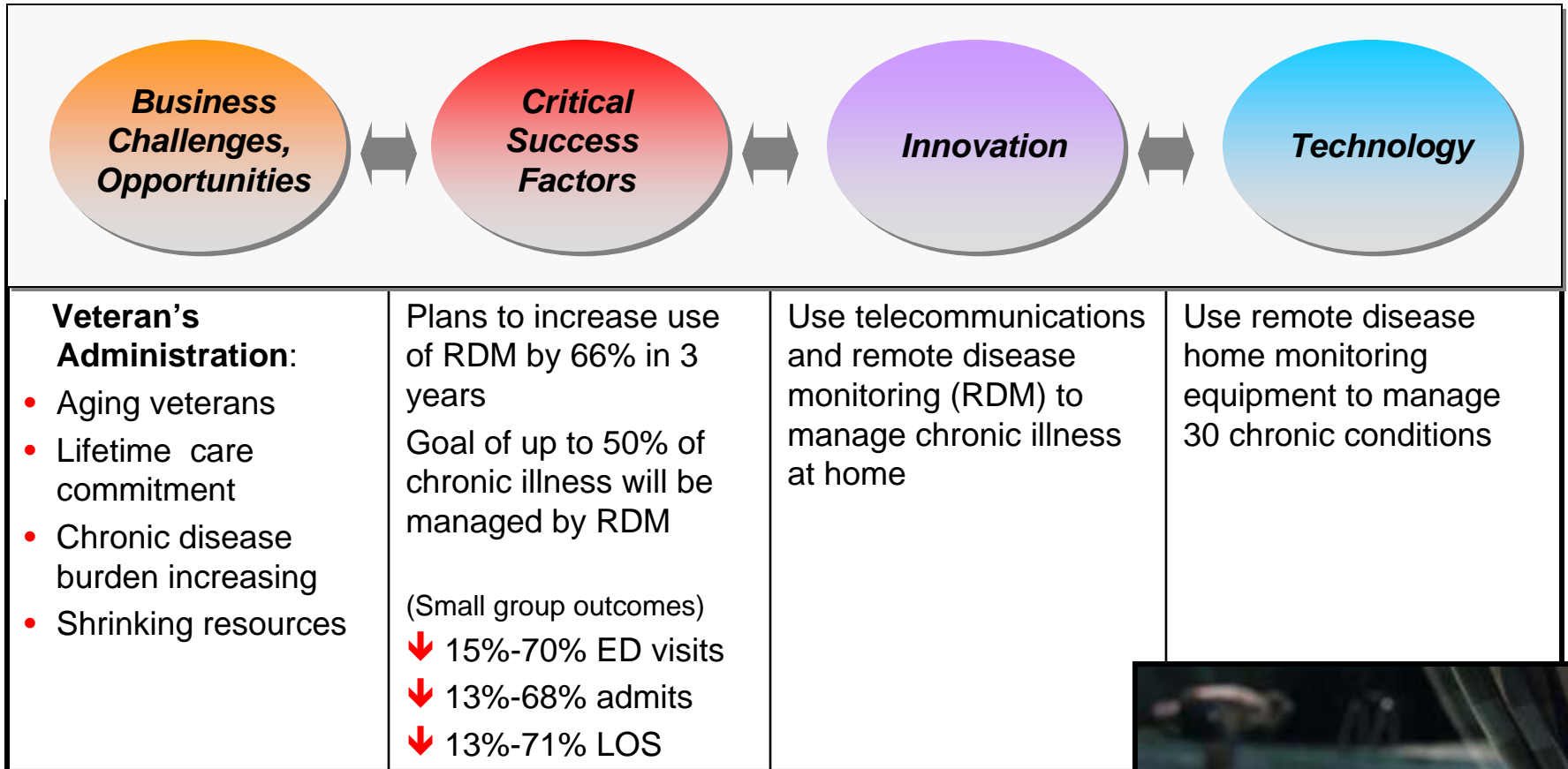


Challenge	Success Factor	Innovation	Technology
Lack of shared care plan and structures to advance self management: Clarity of Provider & Patient goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient medication compliance</li> <li>• Physician participation in goal setting</li> <li>• Patient satisfaction</li> <li>• Patient connecting to caregivers</li> </ul>	Use of telecommunications and remote monitoring to create shared care plan and monitor individual	Remote disease monitoring
Help highest utilizers with no insurance coverage and little or no continuity of care to better manage self-care, prevent hospitalizations and ED visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ Patient satisfaction</li> <li>↑ Patients' perceived connection to care team</li> <li>↑ Ability for patient to manage meds</li> <li>↑ SF-12 scores</li> <li>↓ 34% ED visits</li> <li>↓ 32% Inpatient admissions</li> <li>↓ 49% Outpatient visits</li> <li>↓ \$747 per patient/ year</li> </ul>	Use telecommunications and remote disease monitoring to manage high resource intensive diabetic patients for better self care	Used Health Buddy home monitoring tool and HealthHero case management software

## Home Care use of Telemed to reduce readmissions:



# Integrated System use of Telemedicine to reduce readmissions



Source: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1089/tmj.2008.0021>



HealthBuddy by HealthHero  
Remote Chronic Disease  
Management System



# Translating Expert Research and Partner Networks Into Results



**Barbara Harvath**  
Senior Advisor  
415.537.6969 phone  
415.537.6949 fax  
[bharvath@healthtech.org](mailto:bharvath@healthtech.org)

**Health Technology Center**  
524 Second Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
San Francisco, CA 94107