



Healthcare
Working Group

5th Annual Systems
Engineering in Healthcare
Conference

May 1-2, 2019
Minneapolis, MN

The Future of Healthcare Through a Systems Approach

Alan Ravitz PE, PhD

Chief Engineer, National Health Mission Area
Johns Hopkins University

Applied Physics Laboratory
alan.ravitz@jhuapl.edu

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How Systems Engineering Can Reduce Cost & Improve Quality

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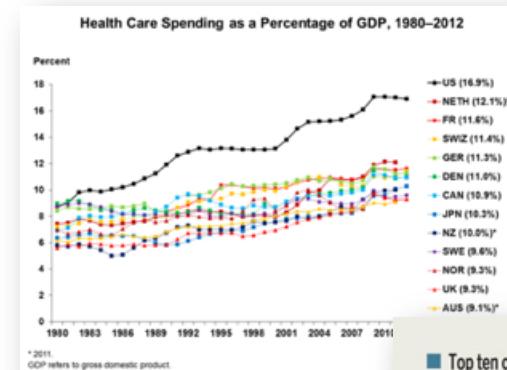


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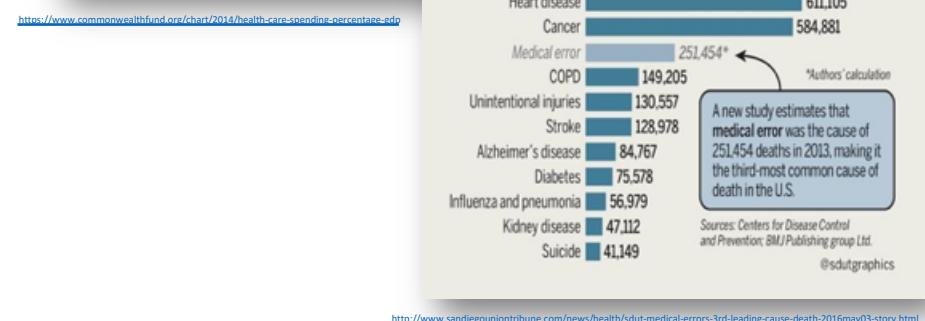
The Challenge

- Lack of reliable safety, access, affordability, and outcomes → diminished value
 - Worldwide, hundreds of thousands of patients die from preventable harms
 - Significant healthcare costs are wasted
 - Hospital-based clinicians spend significant time documenting, hunting for supplies, and other nonproductive work
- Healthcare costs constrain investments in other social programs (e.g. education, etc.)



* 2011
GDP refers to gross domestic product.
Source: OECD Health Data 2014.

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/chart/2014/health-care-spending-percentage-gdp>

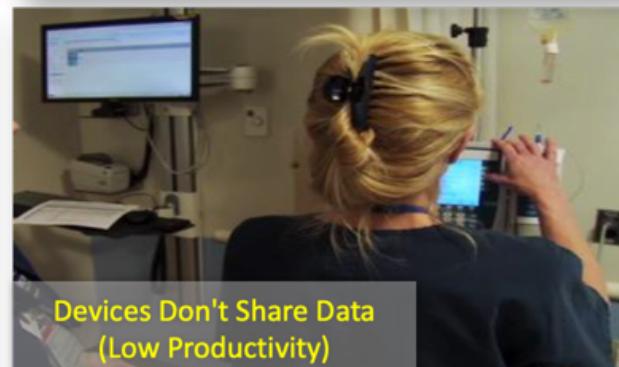
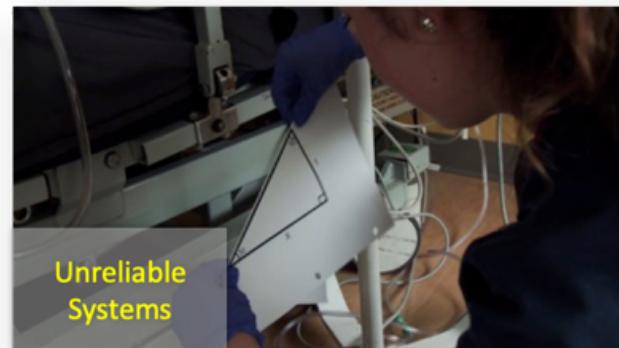




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Symptoms of the problem

Current-state – in-patient



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System Evolution

Aviation



Legacy



Today

Healthcare



Legacy



Today

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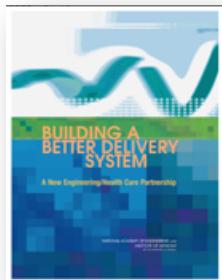
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Recognition of the problem

Engineering approaches to resolve the challenges



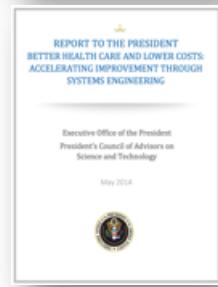
NAE/IOM, 2005



RAE, 2017



JHM, APL, 2017



PCAST, 2014

- **Rapid advances have outgrown the capacity** of any one individual or even a group of individuals to comprehensively absorb and apply new knowledge to the benefit of patient care
- **Cottage-industry** origins counter to today where healthcare is a **complex partially interconnected myriad of services** that relies heavily on technology, influenced by markets, and is implemented in any one of a number of different provisioning models subject to statutory laws, policies, licensing, and regulation
- **Persistent underinvestment** by the healthcare delivery sector in information/communication technology

Systems must be designed from the start to ensure seamless integration between culture, workflows, and technology

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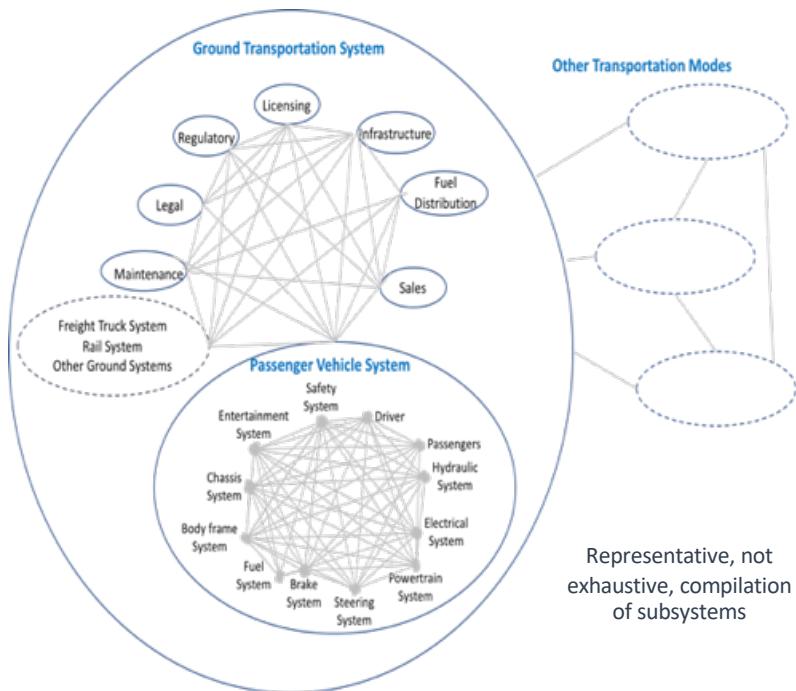


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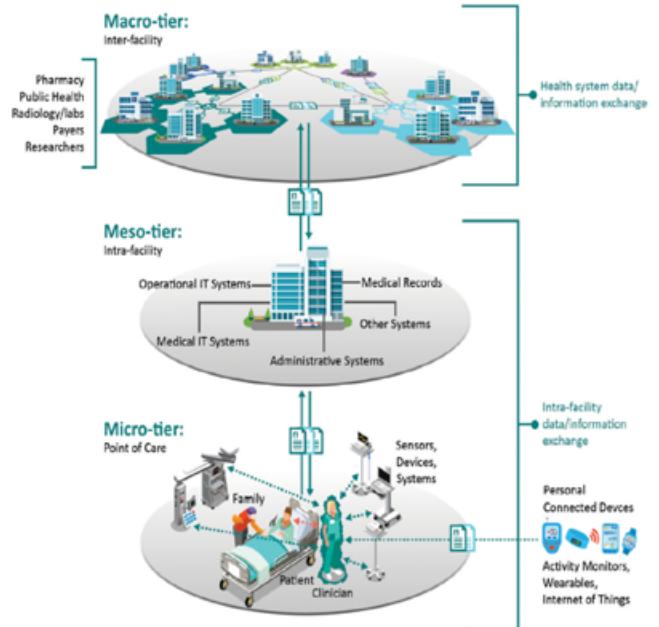
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System of Systems

Transportation



Healthcare



"Procuring Interoperability – Achieving high-quality, connected, and person-centered care", National Academy of Medicine, October 2018

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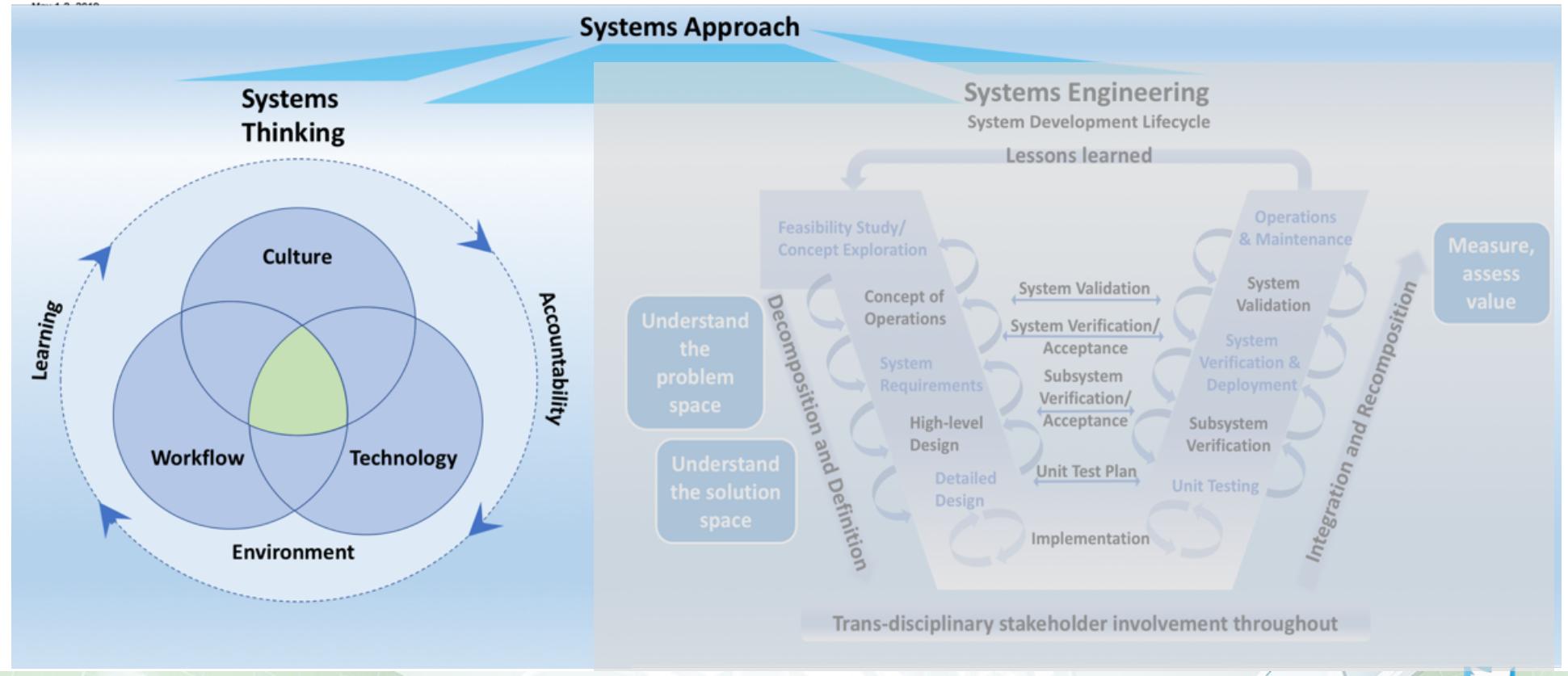
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Systems Approach



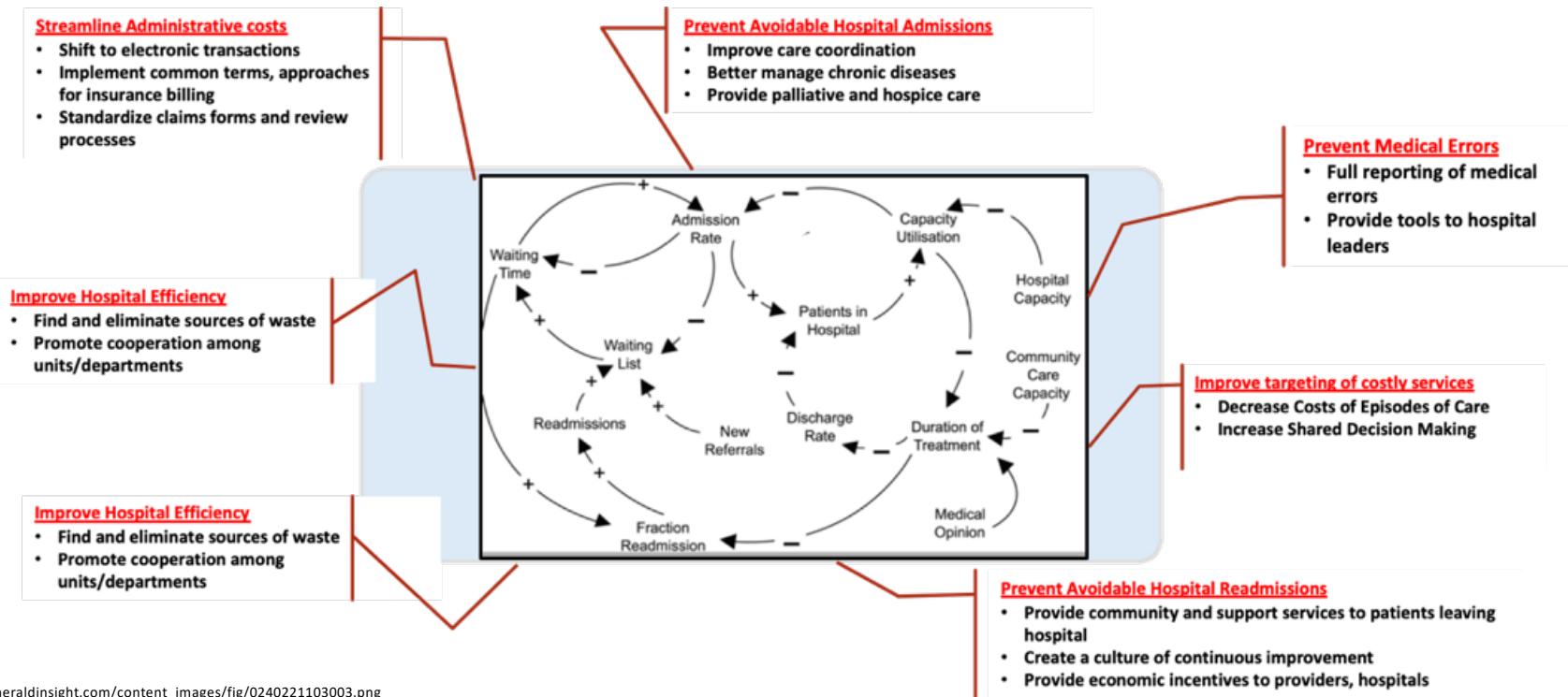
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Healthcare System Costs Causal Effects

Systems Thinking Perspective (Notional)



Source: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/content_images/fig/0240221103003.png

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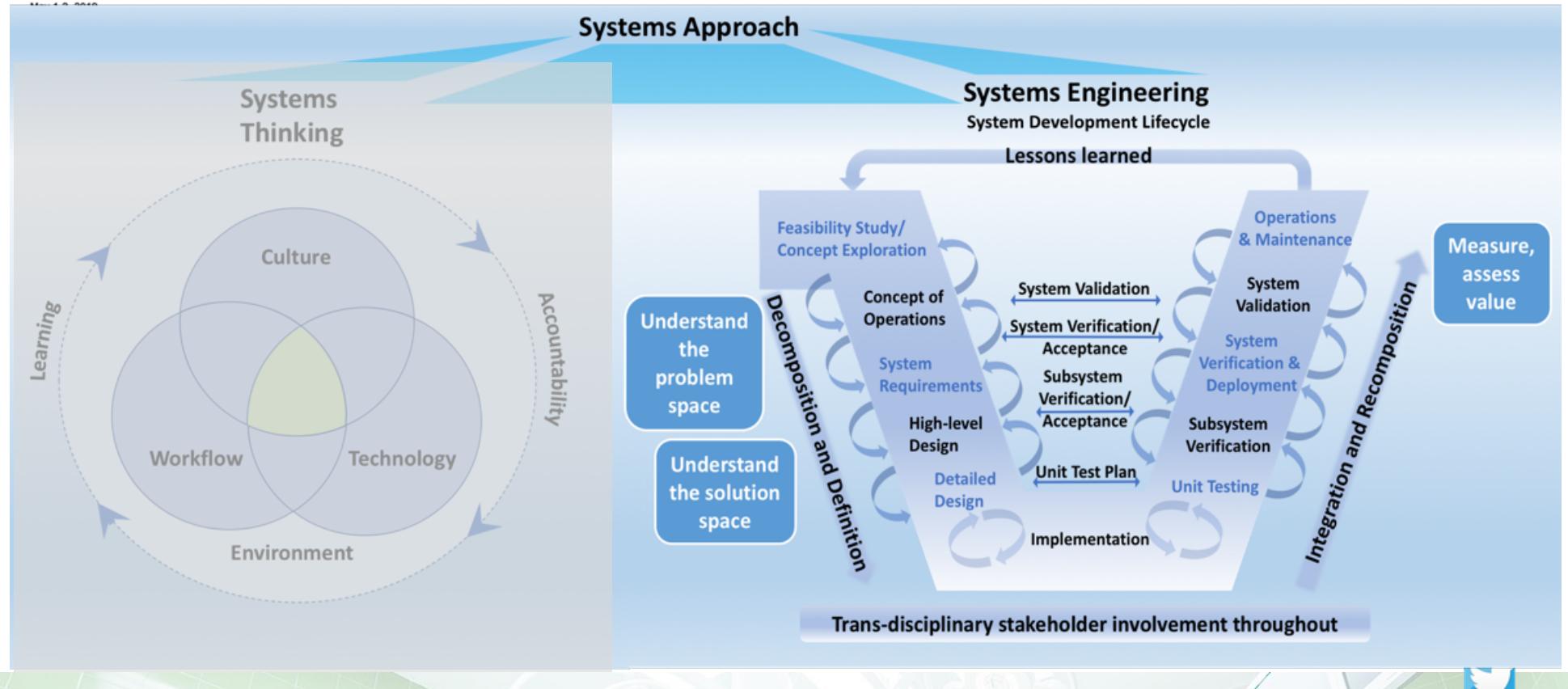


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Systems Approach

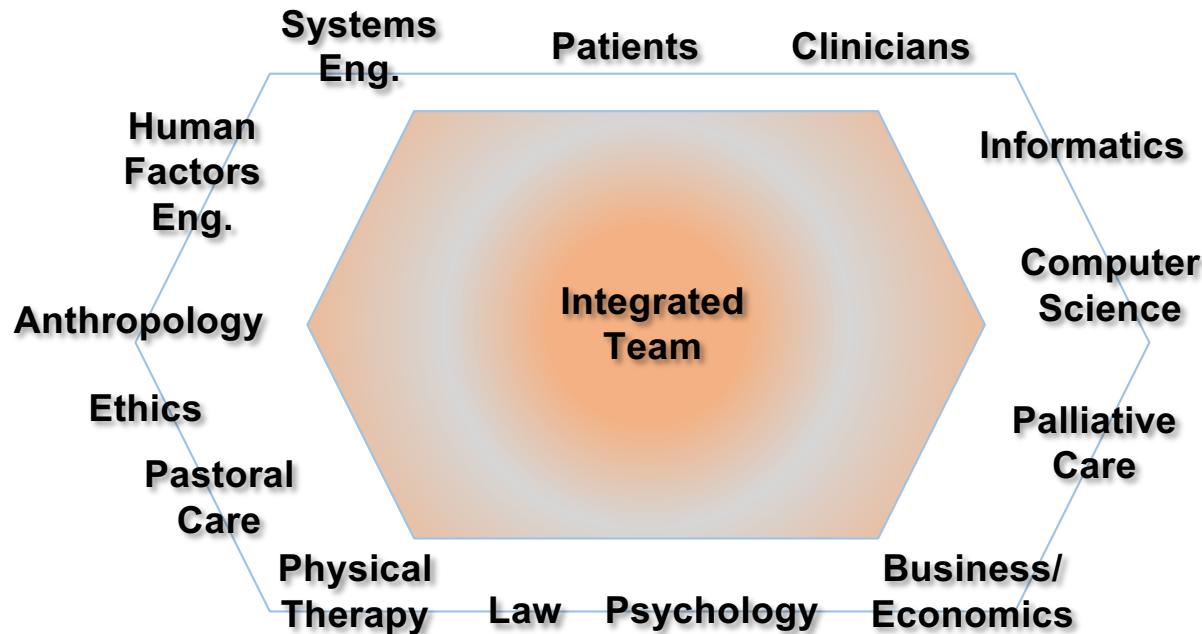


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Culture, Lexicon, Transdisciplinary Teams



- **Challenges**

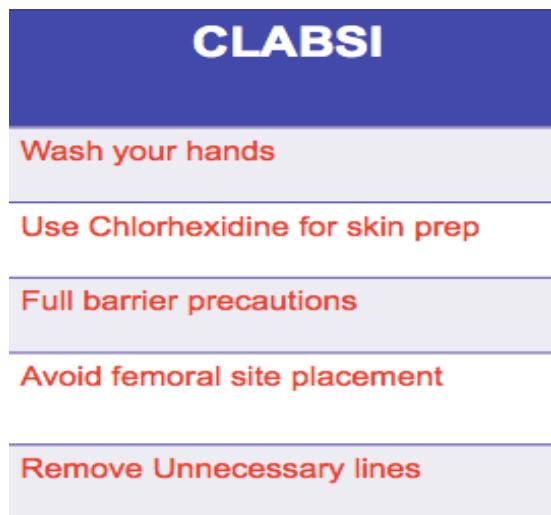
- Diverse educational background
- Different value propositions
- Varying terminology
- Engineers who think they understand healthcare
- Clinicians who think they knew systems engineering

- **Approaches**

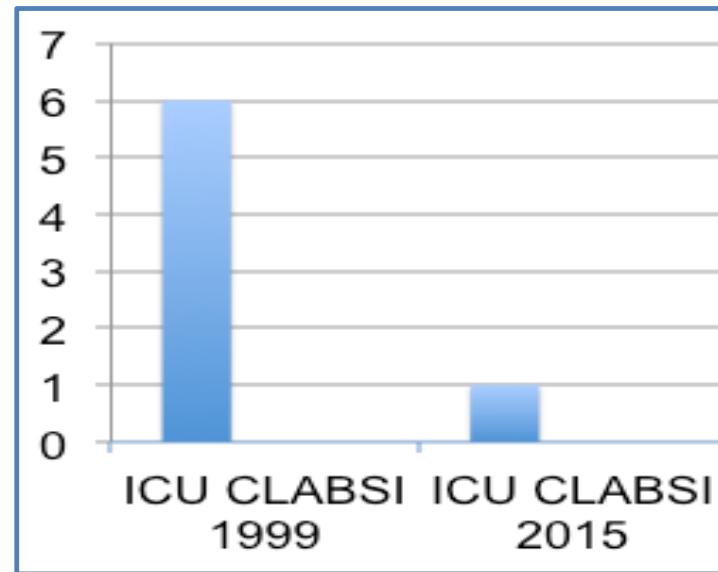
- Shadow healthcare professionals
- Be less rigid in language used
- Identify individuals who can “bridge the divide” between healthcare and engineering
- Stay focused on addressing project objective(s)
- Engineers know they have done their job when healthcare professionals actively speak as if the solution is theirs



Success, but not scalable



ICU CLABSI Rates per 1000 catheter days in US



CLABSI Checklist: highly successful *but not scalable to multiple harms*





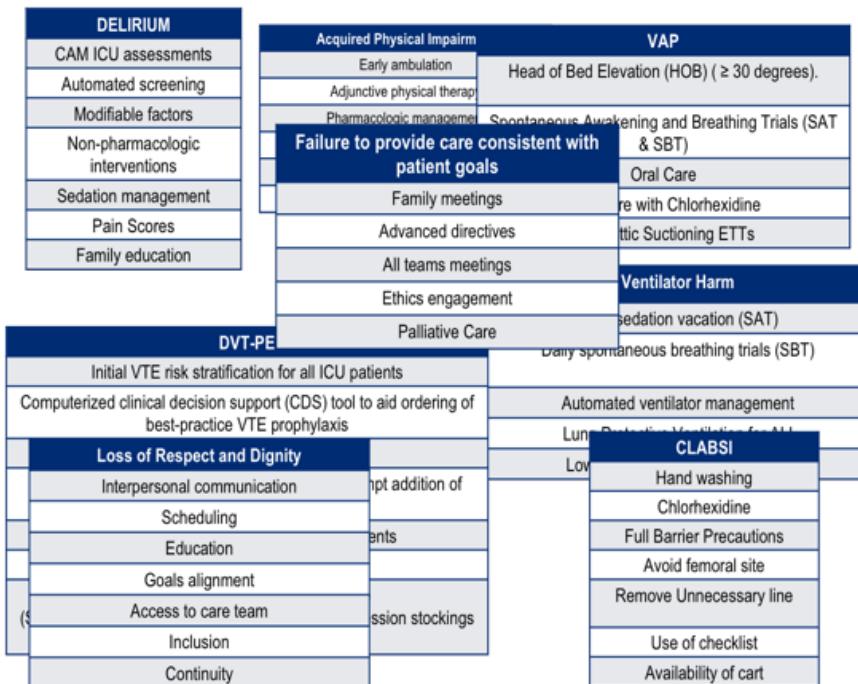
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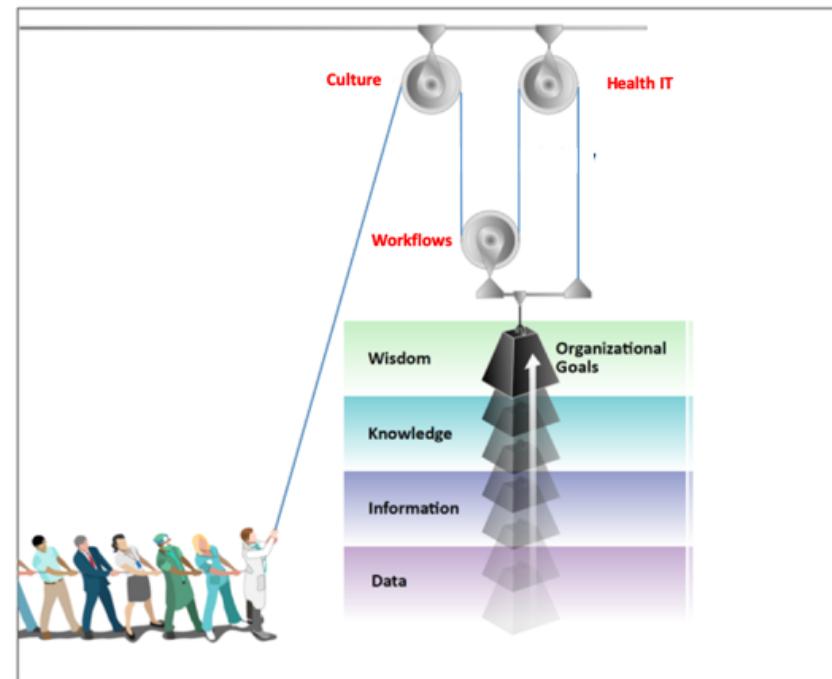
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Current Approach to Manage the Challenge

Challenge: data and workload overload



Current approach: culture, workflows, health IT



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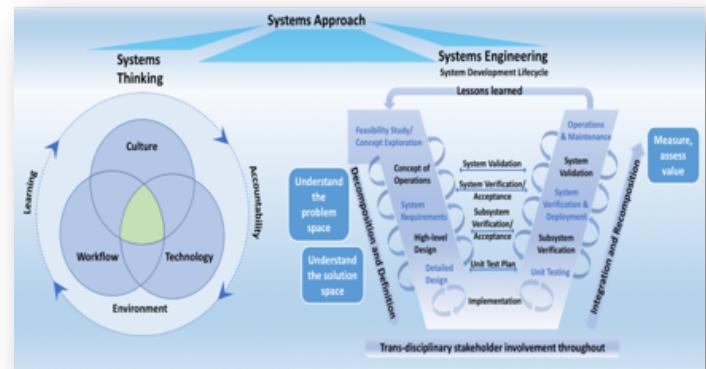
The Emerge Vision

Project Emerge (Sponsor: Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation)

Partner with patients, their loved ones and others to eliminate preventable harm, optimize patient outcomes and experience, and reduce waste in health care delivery.

Develop a solution that eliminates (7) harms using a systems approach:

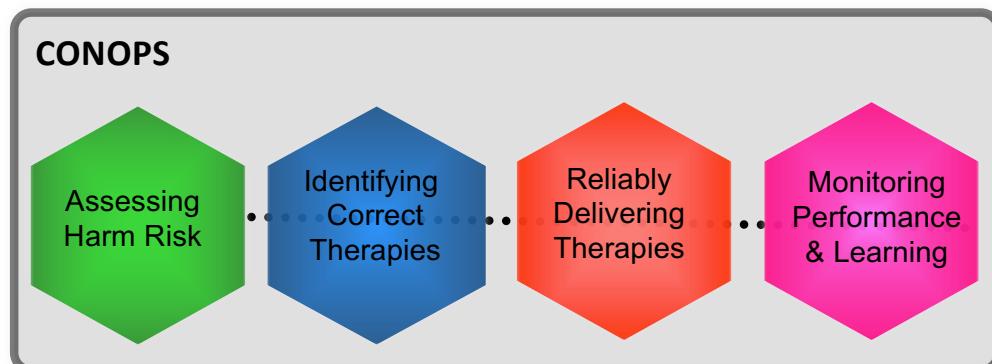
1. Loss of respect and dignity
2. Failure to provide care consistent with patient goals
3. Delirium
4. Acquired physical impairment
5. Ventilator-associated infections and harms
6. VTE
7. CLABSI



Original Conceptual Discussions

Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

- Understand the as-is current state
 - What works well with our capabilities today?
 - What gaps exist in our capabilities today?
 - Who is affected by these gaps that exist today?
 - How may we retain the capabilities that work well while addressing the gaps that exist?



How Systems Engineering Can Reduce Cost & Improve Quality

- Start with the end in mind – independent of a specific implementation:
 - Why: do we lack what the system will ultimately provide?
 - Who: are the stakeholders involved with the system?
 - What: are the known elements and high-level capabilities of the system?
 - What: are physical, technical, policy, financial, etc. constraints bound the system?
 - When: is the system needed?
 - How: will we design, build, and test the system?
- Forces problem definition and project objectives
- Clear vision of the current and future states
- Team's "north star"

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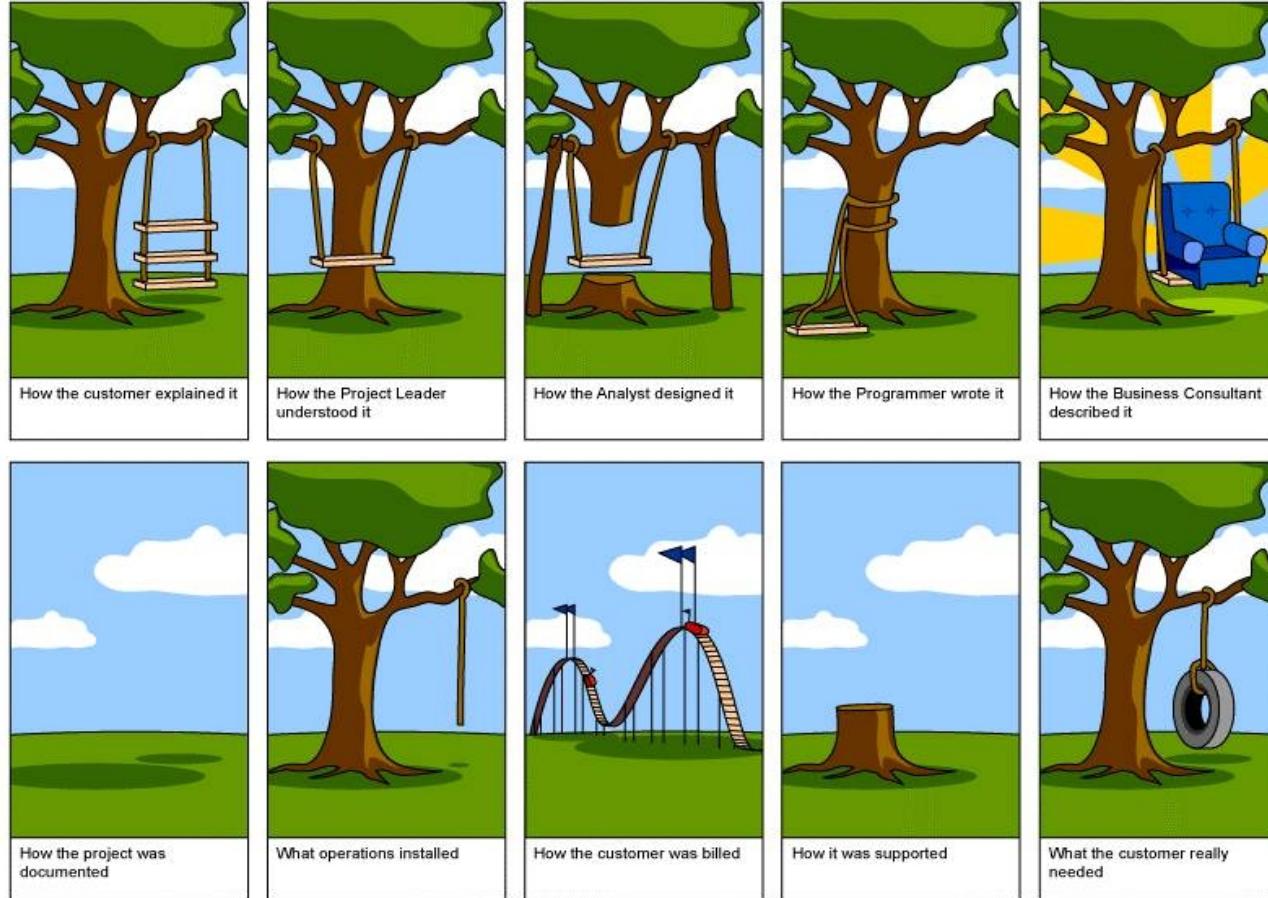
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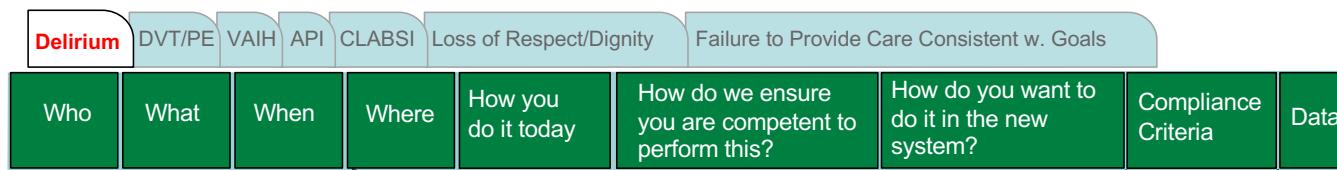


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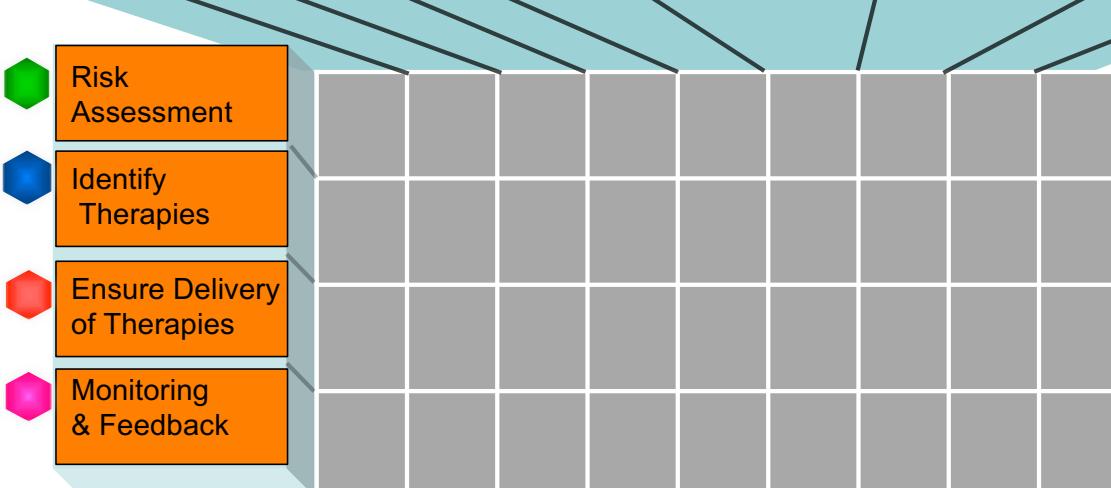
Engineering Discipline Applied to Care Delivery

CONOPS: understanding the as-is state & envisioning the future state
independent of a specific solution

For Each Harm:



Specify:



Across each stage
of the CONOPS model:

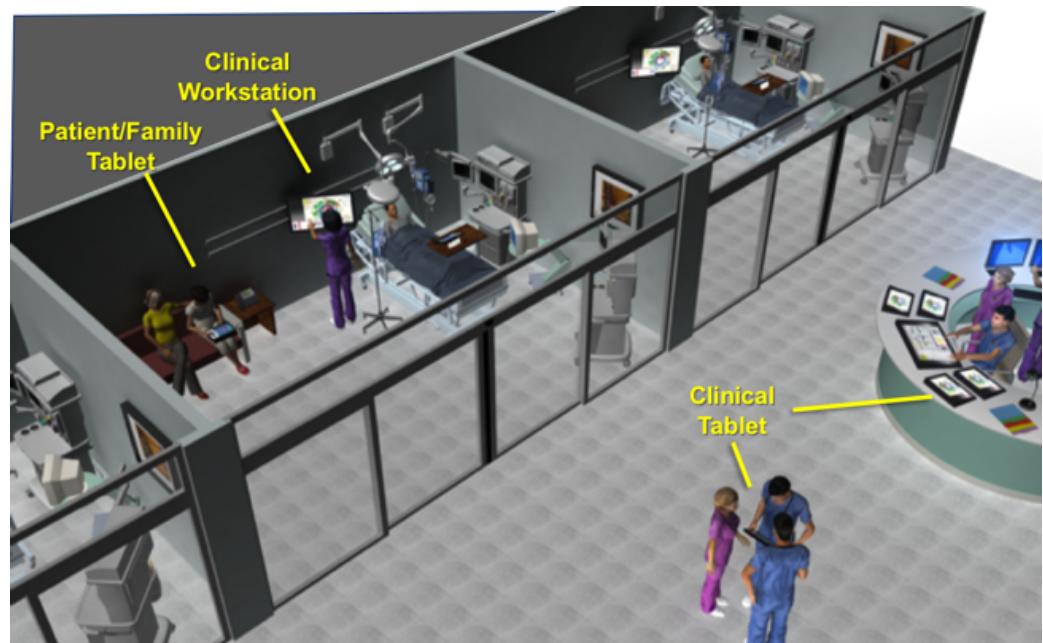
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Emerge Operational View

- Structured and methodical means for **capturing knowledge** to be **shared** among the team
- Research prototype
- Data sources:
 - Electronic medical record
 - Patient, family
 - Clinical team
- If required data isn't readily available, implement solution that doesn't require additional work



Using technology to decrease the distance between providers and patients, and improve the quality of care.



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Clinical View

Detailed Patient Specific View

Aggregated Unit View



Unit views



Harms monitor



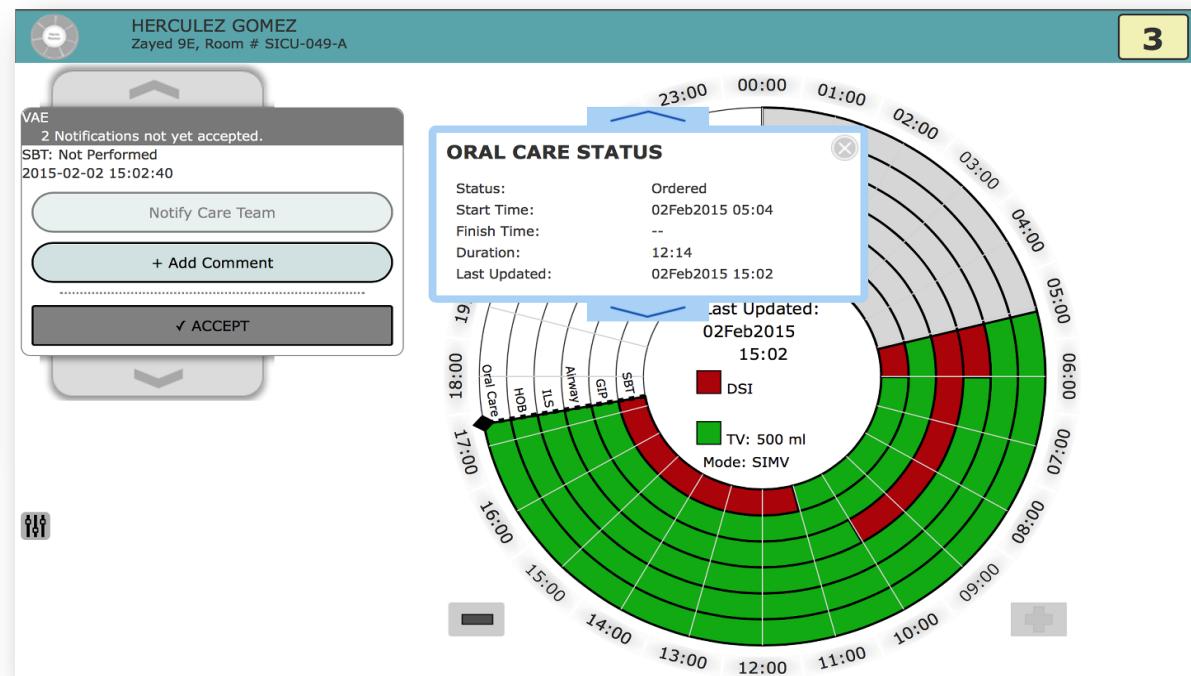
Condition specific displays

- Visual signals & data help care teams assess & respond to care needs
- Links to the patient/family tablet spark point-of-care dialogs
- Part of a suite of tools, including sensor integration



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Condition Specific Display



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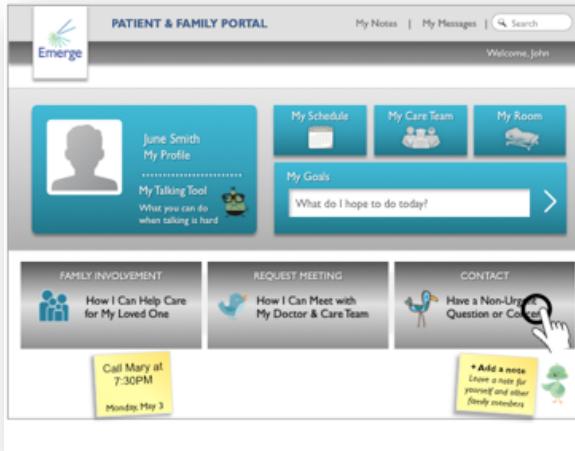


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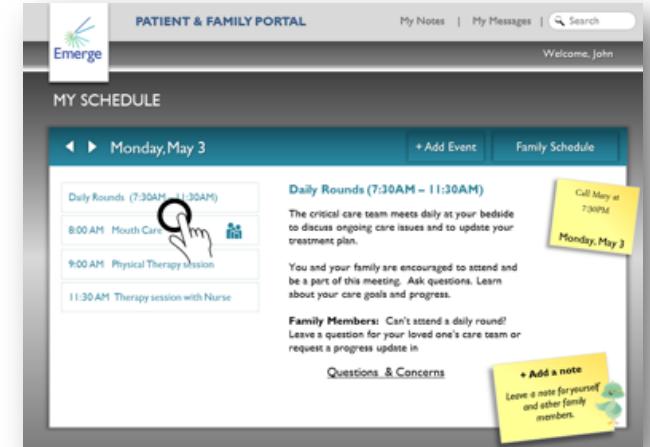
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Patient/Family View



- Personalization options
- Education tools
- Scheduling tools
- Family Involvement Menu



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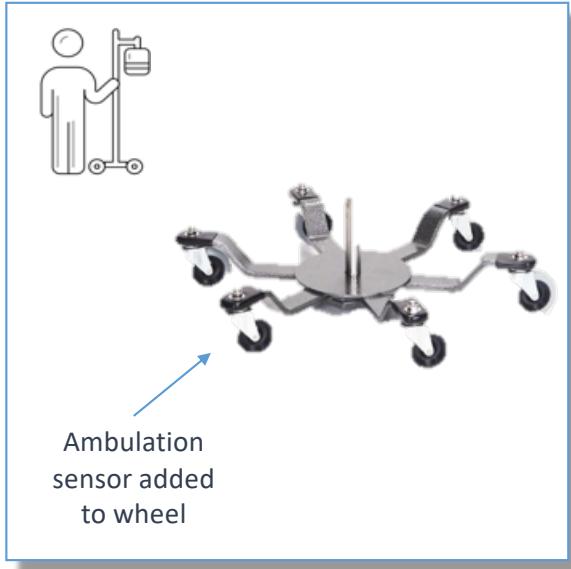
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Sensor Integration



- Types
 - Ambulation sensor
 - Cyclometer
 - Hand grip dynamometer
 - Angle of the head-of-the-bed sensor
- Constraints
 - Limited/no additional data entry
- Challenges
 - Patient condition
 - Proprietary data

Image Source: <https://ubisafe.org/explore/infusory-clipart-patient/>

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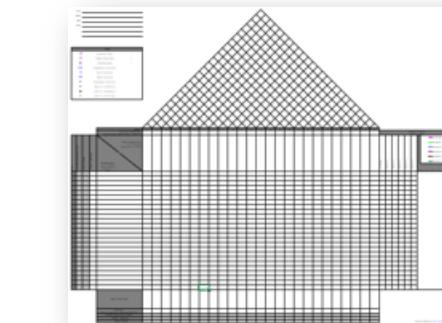
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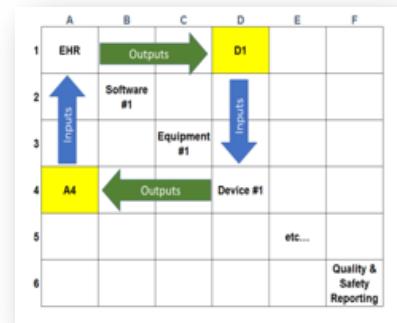
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Tools of Systems Engineering Applied to Healthcare

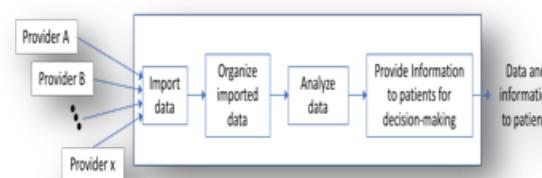
- Numerous approaches – never one size fits all and often more than one approach needed
 - Systems Thinking tools (Design Thinking, Soft Systems Methodology, etc.) and Systems Engineering tools (e.g. QFD, N-squared, etc.)
- Judge how much non-engineers need to know about technical aspects of systems engineering – make the effort “approachable”
- Remaining agnostic to specific solution can be a challenge for many non-systems engineers



QFD



N-squared



Context Diagram



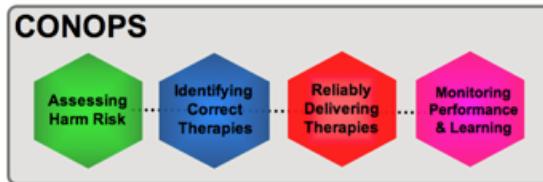
Test & Evaluation

Tools keep focus on holistic, rather than reductionist perspectives



AHRQ P30 – Patient Safety Learning Lab

Developing Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the Harm Free ICU

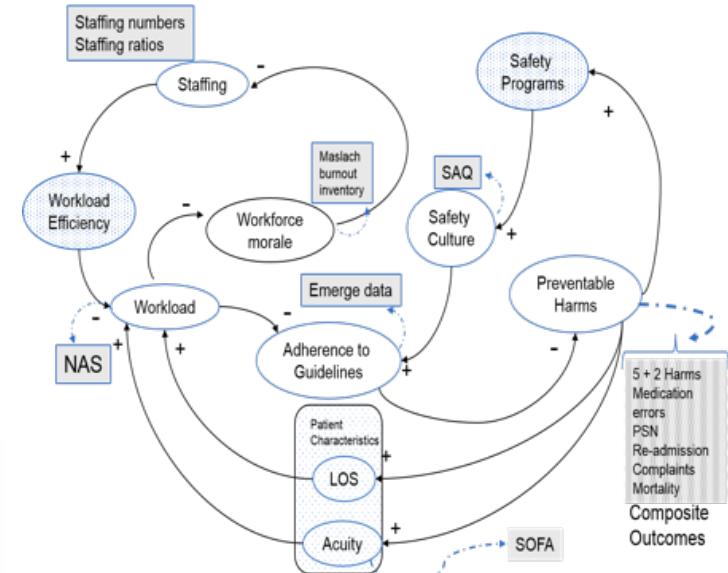


- Scalable, modular, and generalizable model
- Design to eliminate harms, build to be usable
- Founded on sound engineering model yet based in language all disciplines can understand

Demonstrating Potential for Clinical Improvement Through Device Interoperability



Measuring System Stress To Reduce Harm and Improve Performance in an ICU



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Some Lessons Learned

- Front-line provider & patient/family involvement early and throughout
- Language/communication
- Respective value propositions
- Scope control
- IT integration challenges
- Training roll out
- Transition from lab to operational setting
- Open interfaces to promote further innovation
- Timeline to achieve outcomes

Situational Awareness Tools

Visualization
Communication
Outcomes Analysis

Integrated Database

Business Logic
Data integration

Disparate Data Source Interfaces

Sensor Suite
Patient/Family Tools
Clinical Tools
Electronic Health Record



Summary

- Healthcare approach to innovation stems from medicine's hypothesis-driven approach to discovery
 - Serves the field well for understanding first-principles associated determinants of health and illness
 - Does not translate well into the conception, design, development, and fielding of processes, workflow, or technology development that leverage understanding of those health determinants
 - Time for a different approach that can spur the transformation in health needed to yield improved safety, affordability, access, and value
- Critical to define (a) the problem to be solved or opportunity to capitalize upon and (b) the stakeholders involved
 - Human nature tends to leap toward solutions without fully understanding the objective
- Technology is not a panacea
 - Systems Engineers must be disciplined: do not prioritize technology over people

Create a new generation of engineers and healthcare professionals that understand enough of the culture, terminology, and disciplines of both systems engineering and healthcare to lead the way in bringing about revolutionary change

Acknowledgements

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- Grace Tran⁴
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- Conrad Grant⁴
- Steve Griffiths⁴

¹University Hospitals

²Johns Hopkins Medicine

³Greater Baltimore Medical Center

⁴Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory





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