



# CONCERN

COMMUNICATING NARRATIVE CONCERNS ENTERED BY RNS

This project is supported by: National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR): 1R01NR016941-01 Sarah Rossetti and Kenrick Cato MPs

\*The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health \*

# Overview



Background: What is CONCERN?



Study Specific Aims



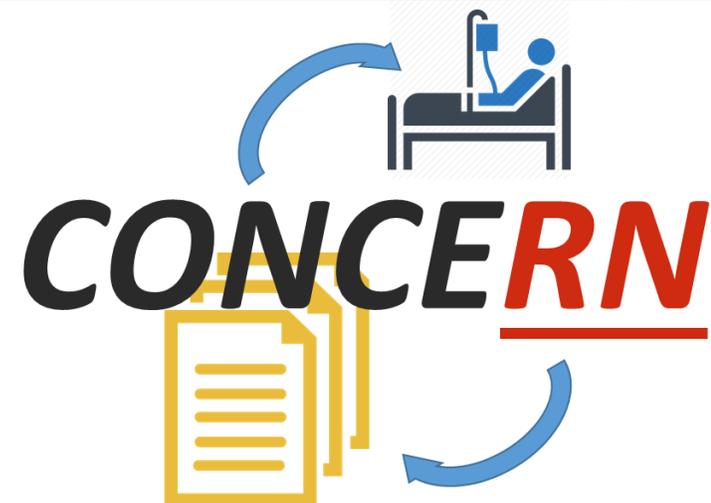
Ongoing Informatics/Data Science Work



Discussion/Conclusions



Next Steps



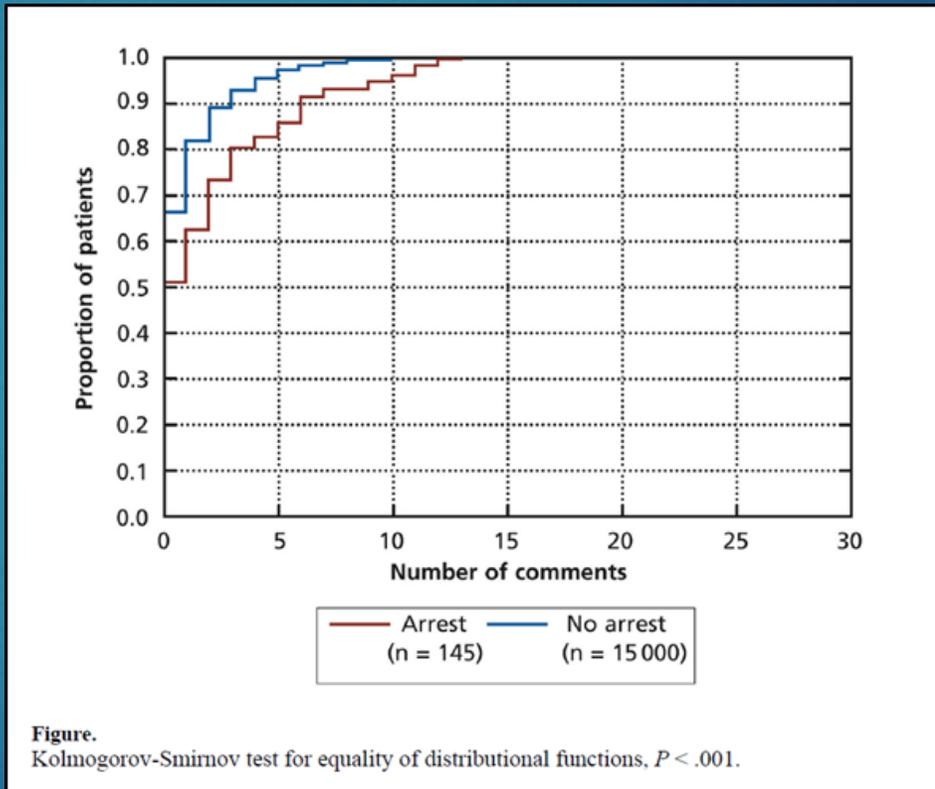
# Introduction to the Patient Safety Issue

- ▶ Many inpatient deaths are preventable
  - 130,000-200,000 inpatient deaths from cardiac arrest and sepsis (Merchant et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2014)
- ▶ Nurses detect subtle indicators of patient deterioration and increase surveillance in response
  - Document concern for risky patient states in flowsheet comments before vital sign changes
- ▶ Difference between the physician's expectations for physiological changes and the nurse's observations
- ▶ Sub-optimal interdisciplinary communication

Nursing documentation patterns and content useful to predict deterioration and mortality in inpatient settings

# EHR Metadata Patterns As Signals Of Clinical Concern

- ▶ Focusing only on EHR data values will miss healthcare processes and nursing interventions activated far before a patient's vital signs are abnormal
- ▶ Approach can shift how we understand and leverage clinical observational skills and clinician entered data within a patient's chart



The act of documenting a **free-text comment** or other optional data in a flowsheet row



Information that the nurse likely determined an event or observation was **clinically significant enough to record**

# What is CONCERN?

- ▶ Early warning system (EWS) for patient deterioration based on nursing documentation patterns or “signals”.
- ▶ Detects the nurses' expert clinical judgment when it perceives changes in a patient's clinical state.
- ▶ Alerts earlier than other EWSs, because these subtle patient changes usually occur well before physiological alterations in the patient.
- ▶ Leverages existing documentation, preventing increases to documentation burden.

**Purpose**

Patients may be entering a risky state

Patients *already* in a risky state

**CONCERN Levels**

- = High: “Showing signs of deterioration”
- = Medium: “Increased risk for deterioration”
- = Low: “Low risk for deterioration”

**Communicating Narrative Concerns Entered by RNs**

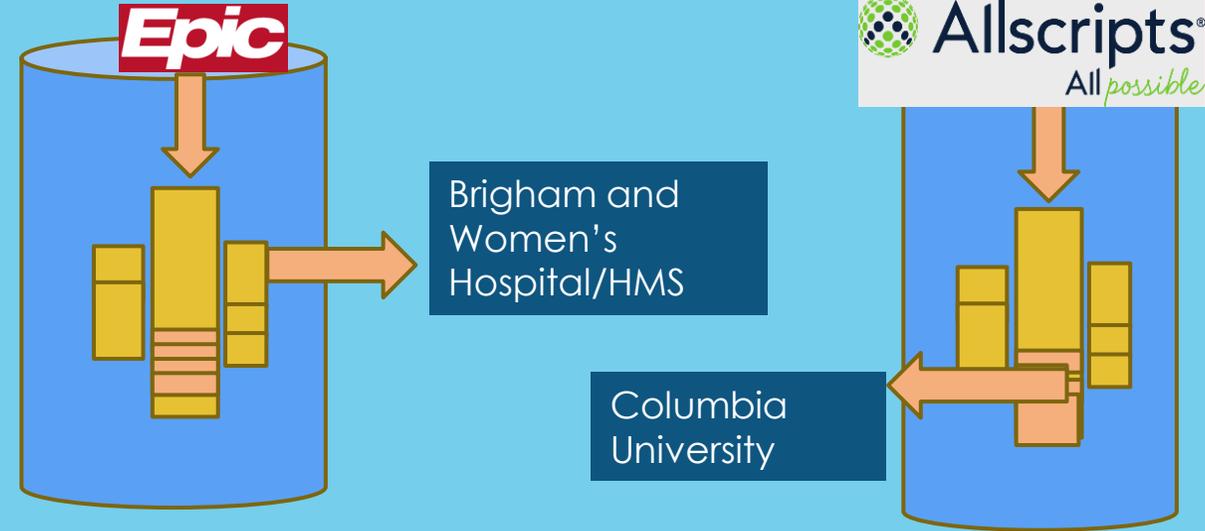
# CONCERN Specific Aims

- ▶ **Aim 1.** Perform analytics of existing nursing data and documentation patterns to confirm predictive factors and notification thresholds for patients at risk of adverse outcomes in the hospital
  - ▶ Natural Language Processing (NLP)
  - ▶ Machine Learning
  - ▶ Predictive analytics
- ▶ **Aim 2.** User-centered design and testing of CONCERN SMART App
  - ▶ Prototype development and simulation testing
- ▶ **Aim 3.** Implementation and evaluation of the impact of the CONCERN SMART App on patient outcomes
  - ▶ **Primary outcomes:** in-hospital mortality and length of stay
  - ▶ **Secondary outcomes:** cardiac arrest, unanticipated transfers to the intensive care unit, and 30-day hospital readmission rates.
  - ▶ **Hypothesis:** CONCERN SMART App will be associated with decreased in-patient mortality, length of stay, and 30-day hospital readmission rates across two hospital systems compared to current state.

**CONCERN Goal:** Expose predictive data from clinical documentation to physicians and nurses to increase care team situational awareness of at risk patients to decrease preventable adverse outcomes

Mass General Brigham  
(Partners HCS) Data

NewYork Presbyterian  
Health System  
Data

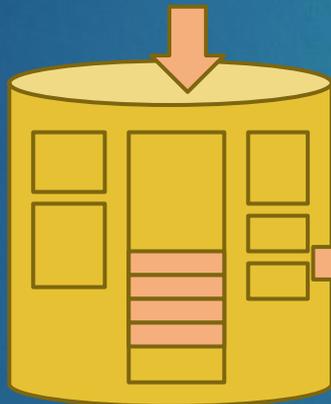


# CONCERN DATA

HARMONIZATION, ACQUISITION AND VALIDATION

2+ years of work to harmonize data and build CONCERN database...  
...now have a resource for future projects

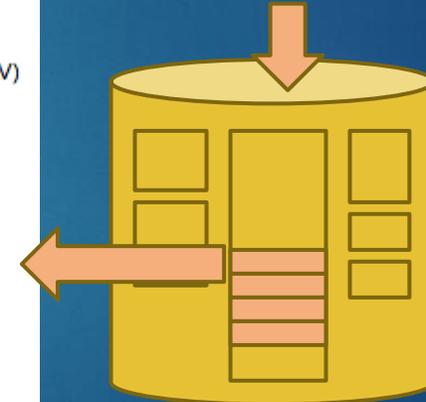
## NewYork Presbyterian Health System Data



i2b2 Data Model

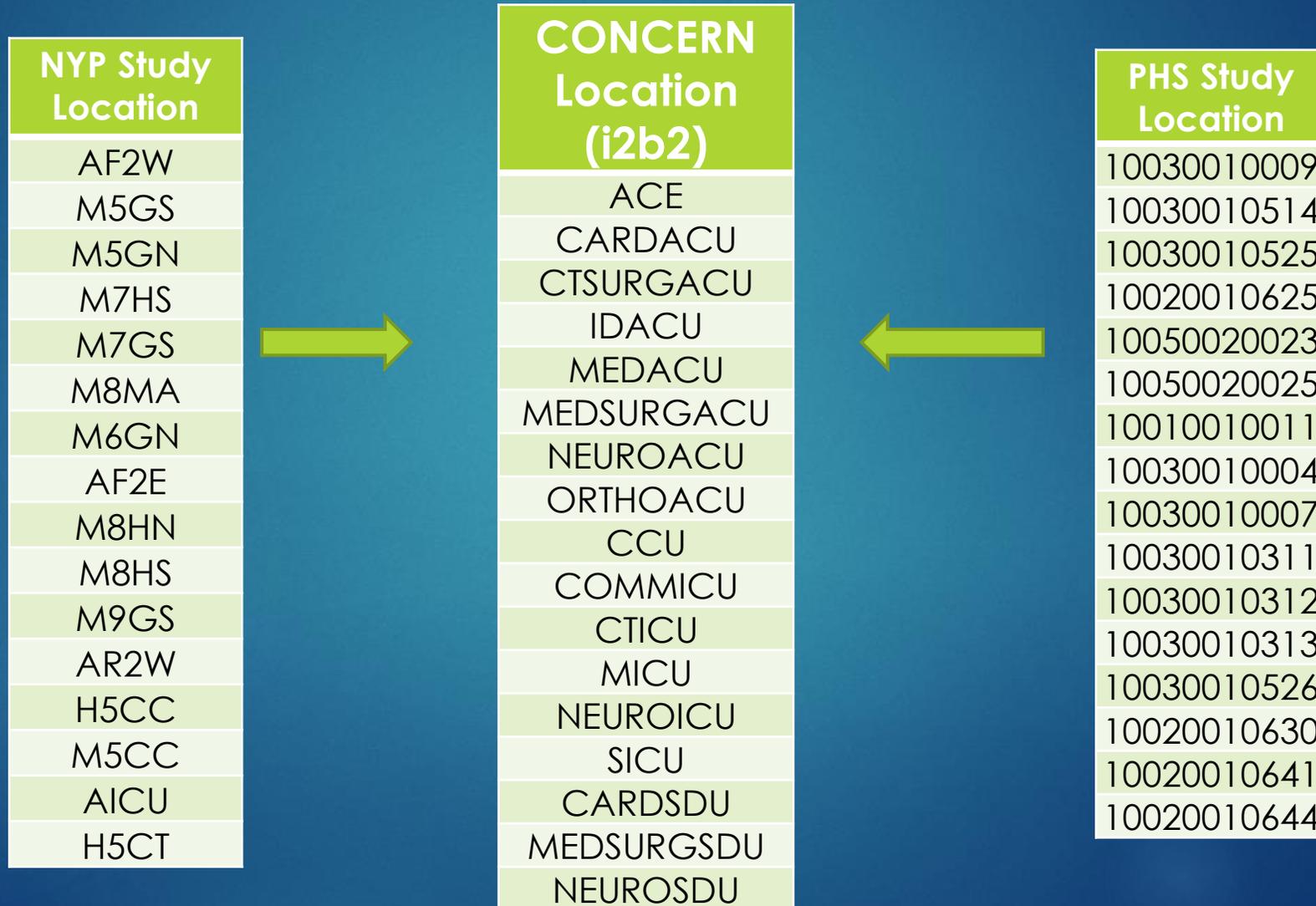
- CONCERN Flowsheets v2
  - Assessment (IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT)
  - Audit C/Tobacco (PHS AUDIT C NAV)
  - Braden Scale Assessment (PHS IP BRADEN SCORE/SKIN NAV)
  - Complex Assessment (IP COMPLEX ASSESSMENT)
  - Daily Cares/Safety (IP DAILY CARES/SAFETY)
  - Intake/Output (IP INTAKE/OUTPUT)
  - Intra Procedure Sedation (INTRA OP SEDATION DOCUMENTATION)
  - IV Line Assessment (IP IV ASSESSMENT)
  - Occupational Performance (T PHS IP OT OCCUPATIONAL PERFORMANCE NAV)
  - Psycho/Social/Spiritual (PHS PSYCHOSOCIAL INA NAV)
  - PT Ranking (PHS IP PT RANKING)
  - QIDS-C (QUICK INVENTORY OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMATOLOGY)
  - Screenings (SCREENINGS)
  - Vital Signs (IP VITALS SIMPLE)
  - Vital Signs Complex (IP VITALS ICU)
- CONCERN Notes
  - Assessment & Plan Note
  - Family Meeting
  - H&P
  - Nursing Note
  - Nursing Summary
  - Plan of Care
  - Procedures
  - Progress Notes
  - Rapid Response Documentation
  - Significant Event
  - Transfer / Sign Off Note
  - Transfer of Care

## Mass General Brigham Data



i2b2 Data Model

# Harmonizing nurse data at the *concept level*



# Harmonizing Flowsheets Data Concepts

BUCKET 1	BUCKET 2-SubBucket	PHS_Group Display Name	PHS_Row Display Names	PHS_Template Full Name	NYP_FSNAME	NYP_ITEM_NAME	NYP_ITEM_DESCRIPTION
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Ectopy	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	1) Vital Signs Flowsheet	vs_hr_ectopy	vs_hr_ectopy
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Ectopy Frequency	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	1) Vital Signs Flowsheet	vs_hr_ectopy_freq	Ectopy freq
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Pulse	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	1) Vital Signs Flowsheet	vs_vasc_pulse	Pulses
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Clinical Monitor Alarms	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	3) Respiratory Flowsheet	resp_check_alaramon	Alarms On
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	PR Interval	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	5) Treatment Flowsheet	fs_tx_bedside_procs_12lead	12 Lead EKG
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	QRS Interval	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	5) Treatment Flowsheet	fs_tx_bedside_procs_12lead	12 Lead EKG
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	QT Interval	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	5) Treatment Flowsheet	fs_tx_bedside_procs_12lead	12 Lead EKG
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	QTc Interval	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	5) Treatment Flowsheet	fs_tx_bedside_procs_12lead	12 Lead EKG
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac Additional Assessments	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	5) Treatment Flowsheet	fs_tx_cardiac_monitor	Cardiac Monitoring
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Heart Sounds	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	6) ICU Assessments	as_icu_cv_heart_sounds	Heart Sounds
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac Rhythm	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	6) ICU Assessments	as_icu_cv_rhythm	Rhythm
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac Signs/Symptoms	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	6) M/S Assessment	as_icu_cv_chest_pain	Chest Pain
Cardiac	Cardiac	Cardiac	Anginal Symptoms	IP SIMPLE ASSESSMENT	6) M/S Assessment	as_icu_cv_chest_pain	Chest Pain

# Nursing “Big Data” and CONCERN

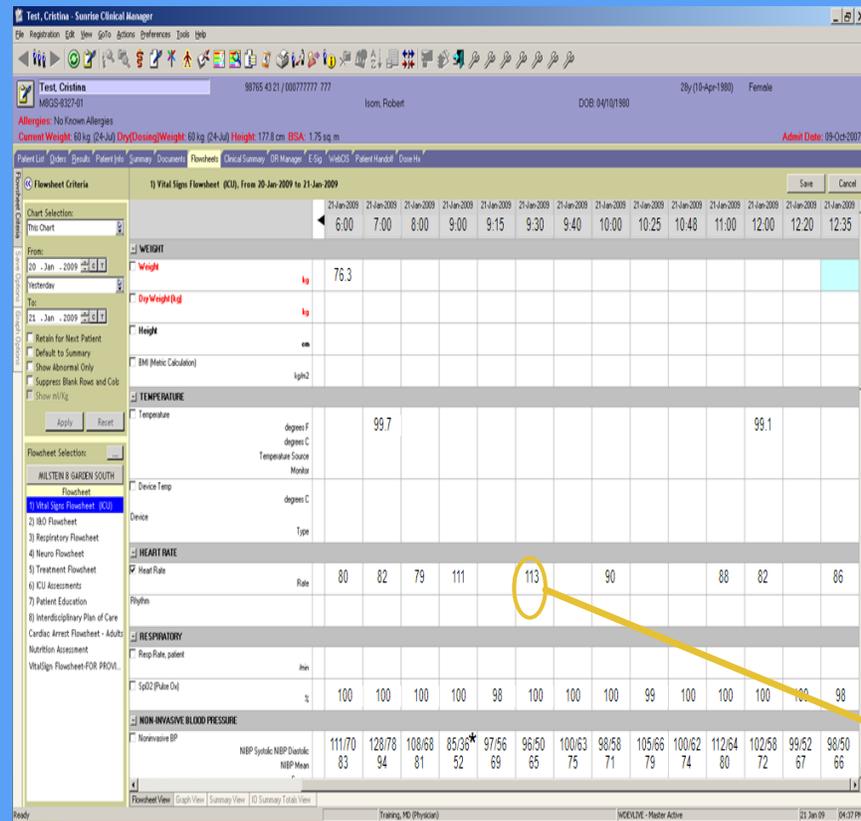
- ▶ Nurses represent the largest group of health care providers
  - ▶ Contribute significant amounts of data to repositories.
- ▶ Nurses routinely collect, analyze and apply data and observations directly to patient care decisions.
- ▶ CONCERN patient cohort includes 160,000 BWH/PHS patients
  - ▶ >170 million flowsheet observations recorded by nurses!

Nursing “big data” can be used to identify and to protect patients at risk for deterioration.

# Nursing Data IS Big Data: EHR Flowsheet Data

- ▶ Volume
- ▶ Velocity
- ▶ Variety
- ▶ Veracity
- ▶ Value

“Patient alternating nsr 80's and afib 120's. MD X aware. Patient given coumadin 2.5 as ordered. VSS. Lopressor given via duo tube.”



“Levophed increased to 13 when MAP decreased after starting CVVH. MD notified.”

# CONCERN Data



Patient Demographics

Patient Acuity

Patient Encounter

(admission, transfer, discharge)

Flowsheet

Data points  
Free-text comments

Notes

Nurse-written notes

Orders

Procedure Orders  
Medication Orders



Medication Administration Record (MAR)

Labs

Results

Diagnoses

Admit diagnosis  
Discharge diagnosis



Provider

Job title  
Role

Department

Unit type (ICU vs. acute care)

**Use I2b2 infrastructure and ontologies for harmonization**

- Identify relevant concepts
- Leverage standardized terminologies to describe concepts
- Identify and map data across sites



**Scalable & Shareable**

**Infrastructure and database architecture planning are essential for data to be useful**

Critical when harmonizing data across two sites and two EHRs

# Data Acquisition

- Hospitals:
  - MGB (Partners): BWH, NWH, MGH, NSMC, BWFH
  - NYP: CUMC, ALLEN
- Data Period: 2015 May ~ 2017 June
- Patient Cohort
  - Include: Inpatients on study units for > 24 hours
  - Exclude:
    - <18 years of age
    - Hospice
    - Did not have hospital encounter
- Research Outcomes:
  - Cardiac Arrest/Rapid Response, Sepsis, 7 days ,  
Readmission, Unplanned Transfer to ICU, Expired

Patient Demographics

Patient Acuity

Patient Encounters  
(admission, transfer, discharge)

Flow sheet

Notes

Procedure  
Medical

Medication Administration Record (MAR)

Labs Results

Diagnosis  
Admission  
Discharge

Provider  
Job title  
Role

Department  
Unit type (ICU vs. acute care)

# Data Acquisition – Study Data set

	MGB (Partners)	NYP
Unique Patients	45,309	44,589
Encounter Cohort	61,782	64,842
Flowsheet Data	141,097,242 Rows	76,785,642 rows (Vitals Template) 170,541,580 rows (Assess. Template)
Notes	4,652,682 Rows	4,181,900 rows
Orders	Medication: 9,052,279 Rows Procedures: 5,872,679 Rows	Medication: 3,607,277 Diagnostic: 7,294,739 Other: 4,045,800
MAR(Medication Administration Records)	27,745,906 Rows	16,027,243 Rows

# Data Validation

- Validation Principles
  1. Correct data extraction
  2. Appropriate Clinical explanation

## Study Data Set (e.g., Flowsheet, Orders, Notes)

- Validate Data Types
- Chart Review (Random sampling)
- Statistical calculation  
(Min/Max/Median, Average of  
Frequency, Count per Month)
- Compared with Hospital Policy
- Compared Values between Sites

## Study Outcomes

- Compared incident rates  
between sites
- Compared with the literature
- Chart Review (Random sampling)

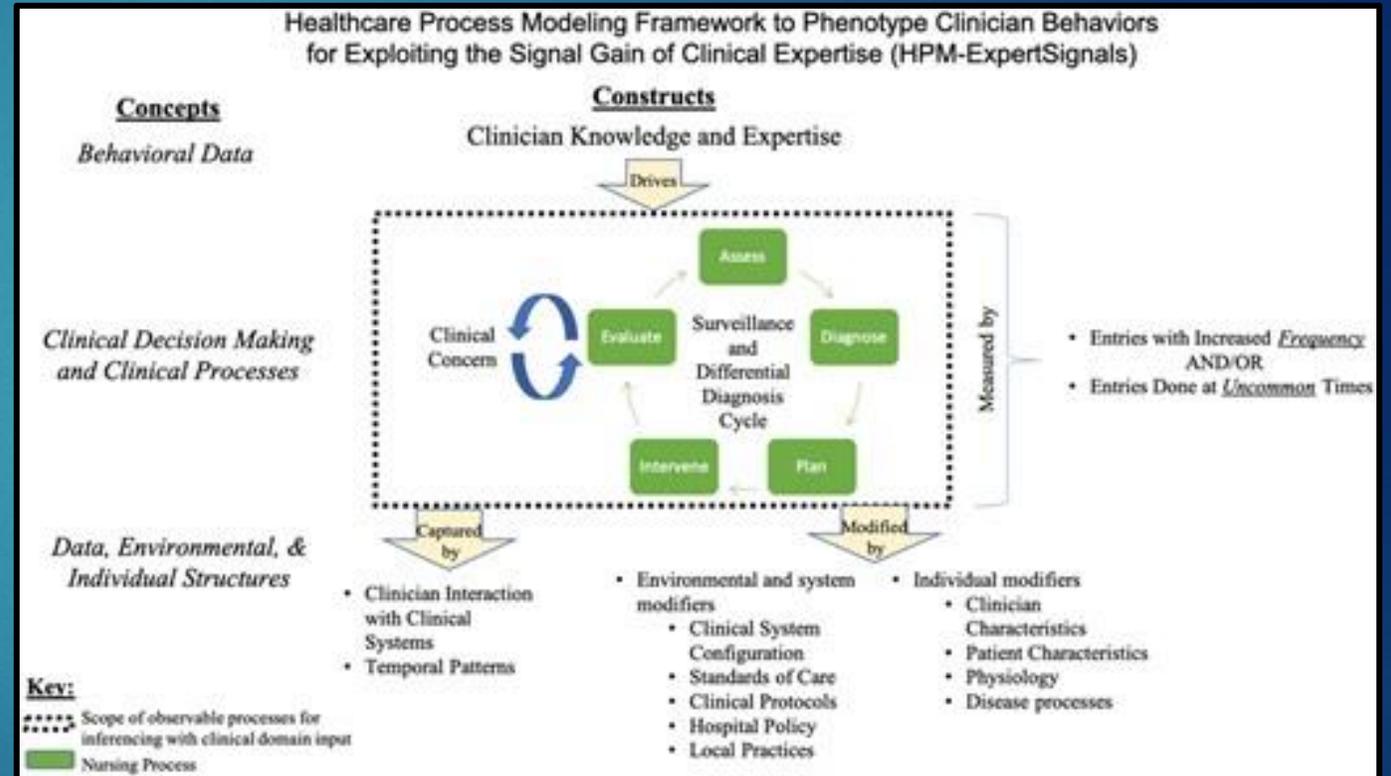
# Data Cleaning: Ongoing search for EHR data errors

	Data Counts	Date Ranges
Admission Discharge Transfer (ADT)	468,003	2015-06-01 ~ 2018-05-07
Flowsheet (With LDA)	22,203,937	2015-05-08 ~ 2018-02-08
Flowsheet (WithOut LDA)	152,617,858	2015-05-18-~ 2018-02-13
MAR	40,944,742	2015-05-29 ~ <b>2047-06-05</b>
Notes	1,992,583	2015-05-28 ~ 2018-03-20
Order (Medication)	9,052,279	<b>1840-12-31 ~ 2106-09-17</b>
Order (Procedure)	9,677,510	2013-01-12 ~ <b>2024-07-10</b>

# Pattern Discovery

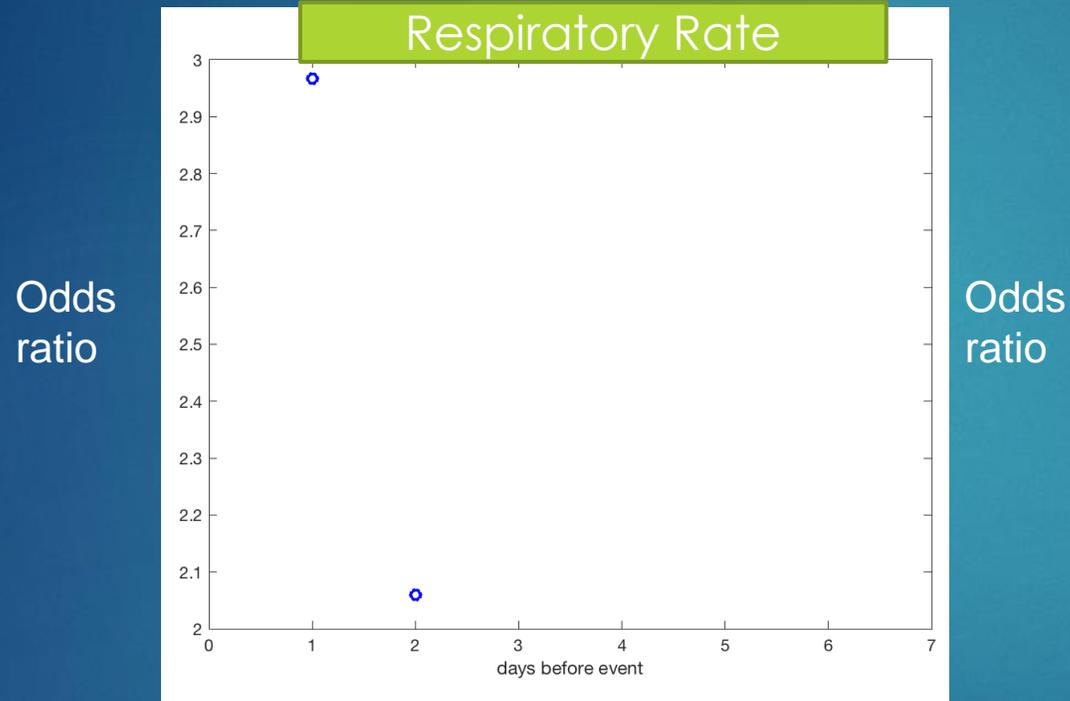
## Healthcare Process Modeling

- ▶ Signals of patient status and nursing workload buried in EHR that could be surfaced to drive situational awareness
  - ▶ Temporal patterns
  - ▶ Comments associated with structured data
  - ▶ Mentions of “concern” in unstructured text
  - ▶ Potential for CDS
- ▶ Sub-study Use Cases:
  - ▶ Documentation Burden
  - ▶ Medication Administration

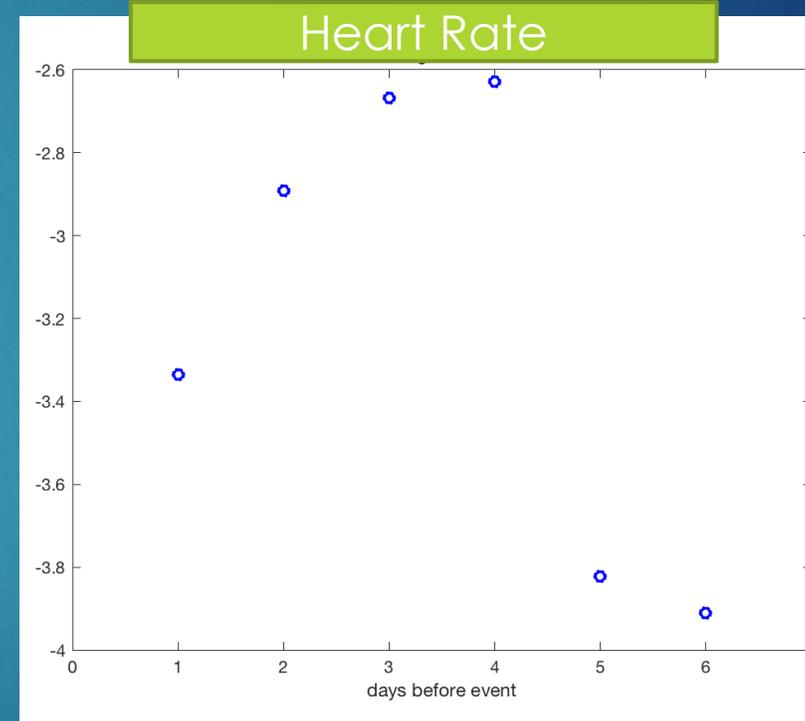


# Healthcare process models of clinical concern (HPM-CC)

Greater Respiratory Rate Documentation  
=> INCREASED RISK of death



Greater Heart Rate Documentation  
=> DECREASED RISK of death



Longitudinal Logistic Regression      Event: discharged alive or expired

Odds ratio

beta=0 implies no relationship between variate (dependent) and covariate (independent) variables

beta > 0 implies the risk is INCREASED when covars are increased

beta < 0 implies the risk is DECREASED when covars are increased

# Pattern Discovery Use Case #1:

## Quantifying and Visualizing Nursing Flowsheet Documentation

1. Purpose: To investigate flowsheet documentation burden by quantifying the number and frequency of data points entered into an EHR using analyses of data entry log-files.
2. Site/setting: Acute care general medicine (4 units) and ICU (2 units) at AMC in Boston January – December 2017.
3. Methods: Captured mean number of data entries per nurse (# flowsheet data points documented during 12-hour shifts/# nurse users that documented during that same time period)
  1. a) Mean number and standard deviation of data points documented
  2. b) Mean number and standard deviation of users that documented
  3. c) Mean number of data points per user

# QUANTIFYING Nurse Documentation Burden

Mean Flowsheet data points per 12 hour <u>DAYTIME</u> shift								
Unit Type		Total data points for unit (SD)	RNs on unit (SD)	Data points /RN	Device data points /RN	Manually entered data points/ RN N (%)	Manually entered data points per RN/hour	1 data point manually documented every:
ICU	Unit A	5531.45 (1210.82)	6.82 (1.20)	810.50	160.31	650.19 (80%)	54.18	1.11 minutes
	Unit B	5522.36 (1168.48)	7.01 (1.16)	787.37	153.93	633.44 (80%)	52.79	1.14 minutes
Acute Care	Unit C	1993.36 (747.02)	2.83 (1.07)	705.37	43.29	662.09 (94%)	55.17	1.09 minutes
	Unit D	2071.64 (838.38)	2.94 (1.17)	704.99	49.13	655.86 (93%)	54.65	1.10 minutes
*nurse to patient ratio in ICU is 1:1 to 1:2, depending on patient acuity; †nurse to patient ratio in acute care is 1:3 for day shift								



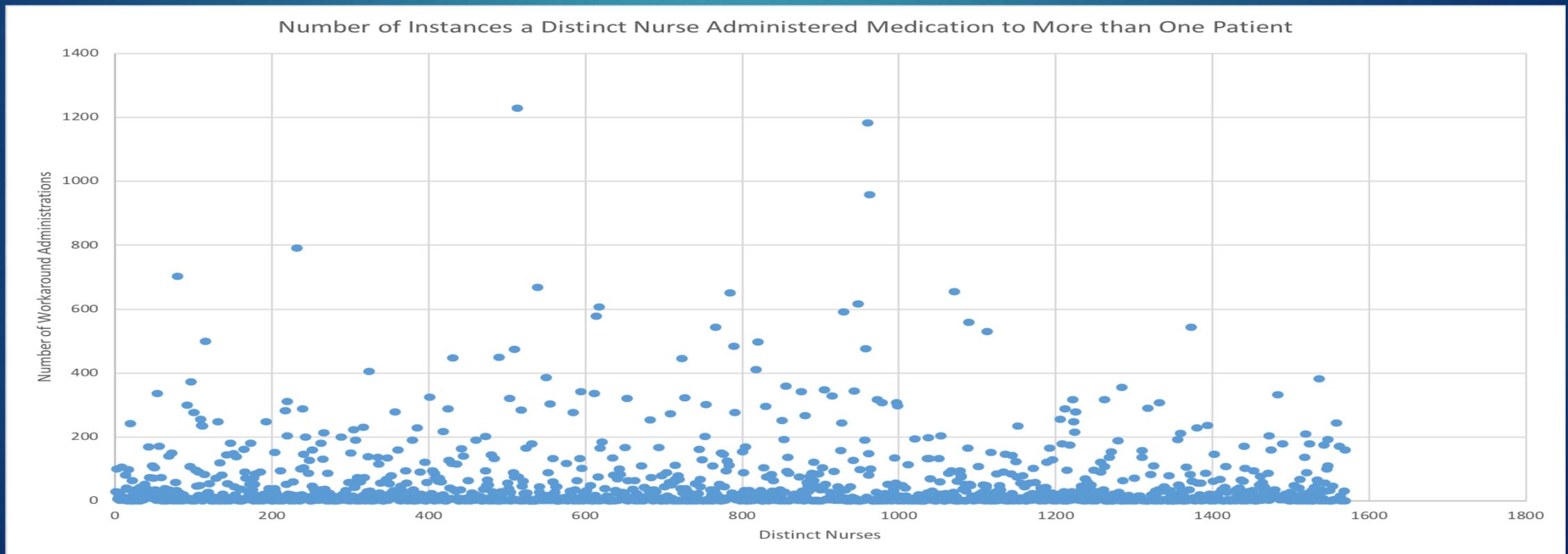
# Pattern Discovery Use Case #2:

## Signals of Nurse Workarounds in Electronic Medication Administration Record (EMAR) Data

- ▶ Analyzed CONCERN eMAR log files
  - ▶ Queried two years of eMAR data
  - ▶ Two hospital in Northern Manhattan,
    - ▶ 745-bed adult facility in an academic medical
    - ▶ 300-bed community hospital
  - ▶ 2,280,241 medication administrations
  - ▶ Extracted timestamp from eMAR logfiles
  - ▶ Charted medications for more than one patient within 60 seconds

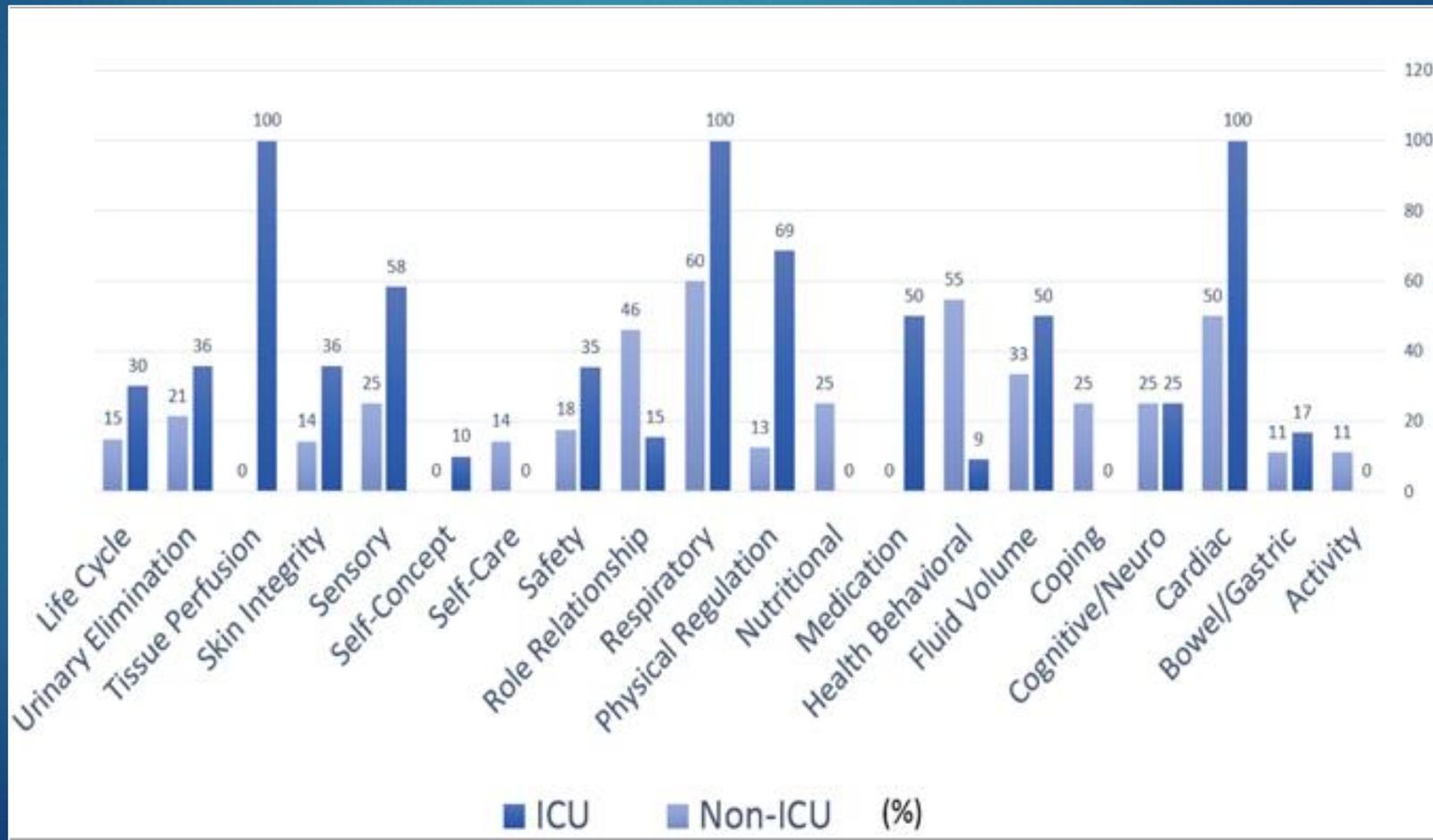
# Findings: Signals of Nurse Workarounds in Electronic Medication Administration Record Data

- Workarounds are a signal for important workflow phenomena
  - 25% of nurses performed this “workaround” at least once in two years
  - 10% of nurses accounted for 76% of “workarounds”
- Analyses need to take these workaround biases into consideration
  - Removal of outliers
  - Analyze on a shift level



# Approaches for NLP of Nursing Concern in Notes across 2 Healthcare Systems

CCC Concepts rated by SMEs for Nursing Concern in ICU and non-ICU Settings

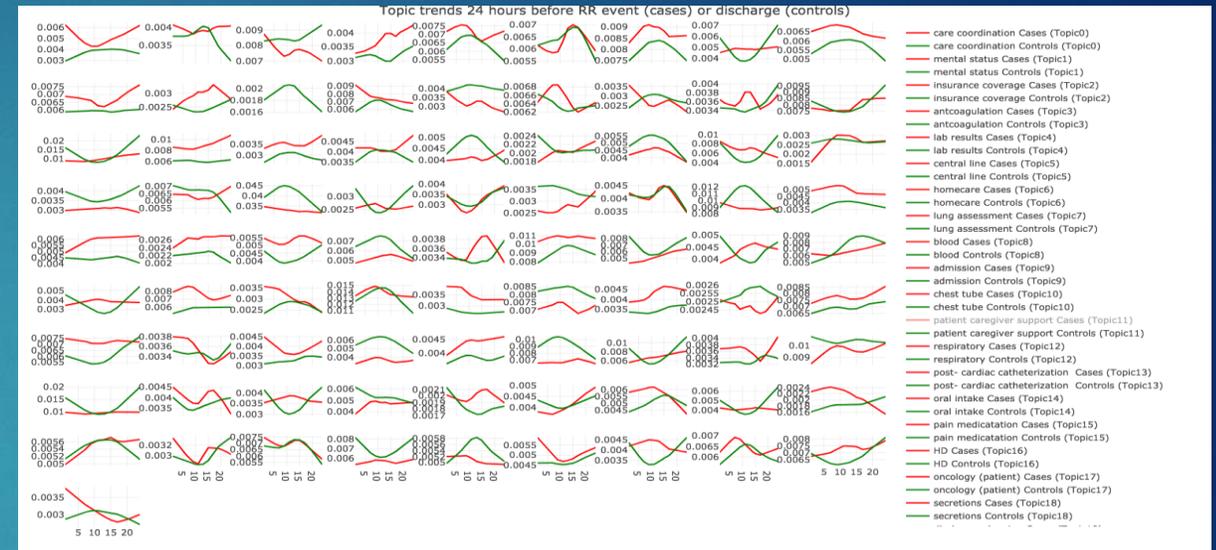


# Flowsheet Topic Modeling of Subjective Nursing Topics

## LDA Topic Modeling Results – Survival analysis for Rapid Response Events

Title	Coef.	P value
Admission	0.07576	0.0011
edema assessment	0.06667	0.0423
overnight status	0.04692	0.3991
oral intake	0.03526	0.2623
alertness status	0.02722	0.1607
homecare	0.01581	0.6073
skin assessment	0.01281	0.545
clinical concern	0.0123	0.759
urinary catheter	0.00519	0.9313
antibiotic dosing	-0.00407	0.9148
skin protection	-0.01537	0.7248
mental status	-0.01785	0.4403
medication frequency	-0.0378	0.0883
ng tube status	-0.04203	0.3742
heart failure medications	-0.05812	0.0206
discharge planning	-0.06033	0.0078
nurses concerns	-0.11882	0.0169

Topic trends of **rapid-response cases (red)** versus **controls (green)**



- Out of the 71 titles, 17 were found significant in one-sided testing.
- Extended Cox model found significant association for 5 of them between the topic presence and RR event.
  - coefficient >0: increases hazard
  - coefficient <0 decreases hazard

# Identifying CONCERN Concepts in Free Text Data



## Purpose:

TO IDENTIFY AND DEFINE NURSE CONCERN CONCEPTS AND TERMS ABOUT PATIENT DETERIORATION, WHICH CAN BE USED TO SUPPORT AUTOMATED TASKS, SUCH AS NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING, RISK PREDICATION, AND CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT

CONCERN  
Sentiment  
Analysis:  
Domain  
expertise  
needed for  
each step

Database design and setup

- Extraction, cleaning, harmonization, structuring

Feature selection

- Identification based on workflows, clinical “hunches”

Feature interpretation

- Signal meaning/explanation from clinical perspective

Model translation

- Clinical significance, not only predictive power

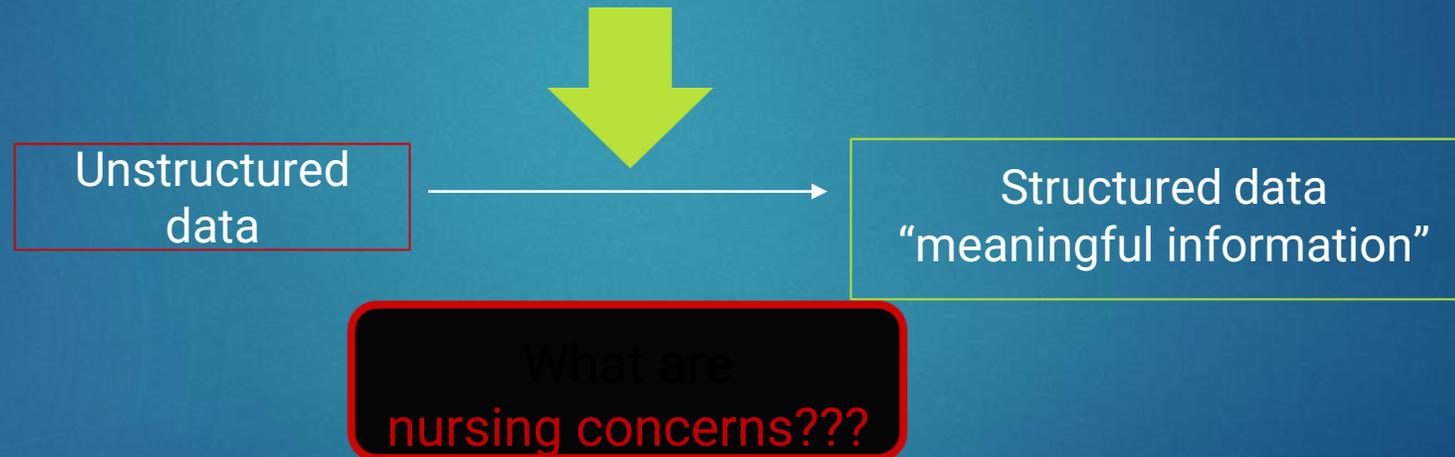
CDS design

- Useful and easy to use

# Extracting Nursing Concerns

Automated text analysis

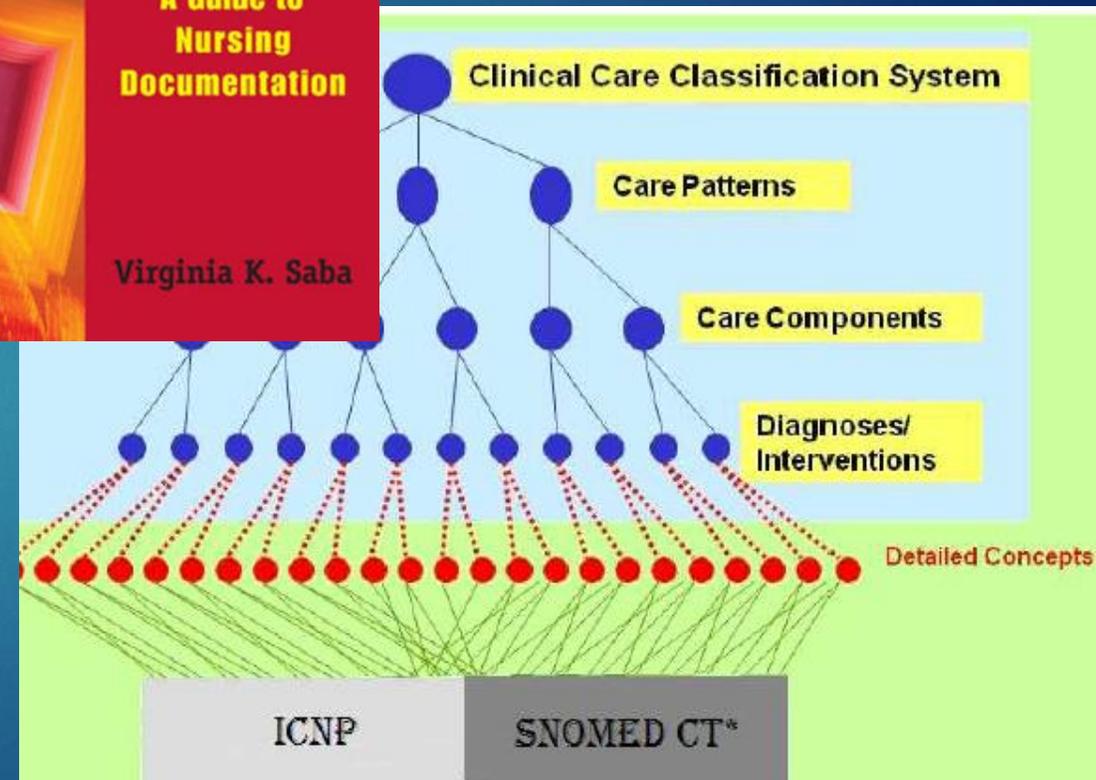
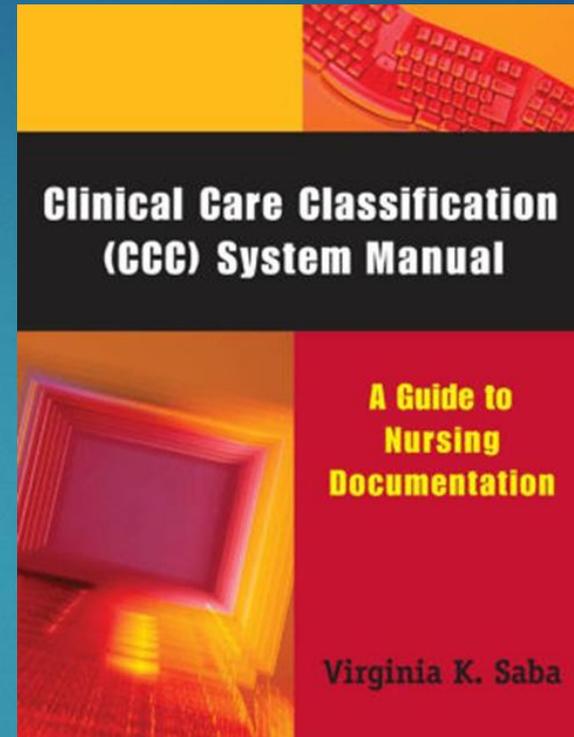
Natural language processing,  
machine learning, data mining



'Concern' is based on an individual nurse's intuition and subjective judgement  
→ Difficult to clearly define the phenomenon in a standardized format

# Clinical Care Classification System (CCC)

- ▶ Standardized nursing terminology
- ▶ 21 Care Components, 176 nursing diagnoses and 201 nursing intervention concepts
- ▶ Offers nursing conceptual framework → capture subjective descriptors under the higher level CCC concepts
- ▶ CCC is linked with other reference terminologies → making it easy to further map concepts to granular terms

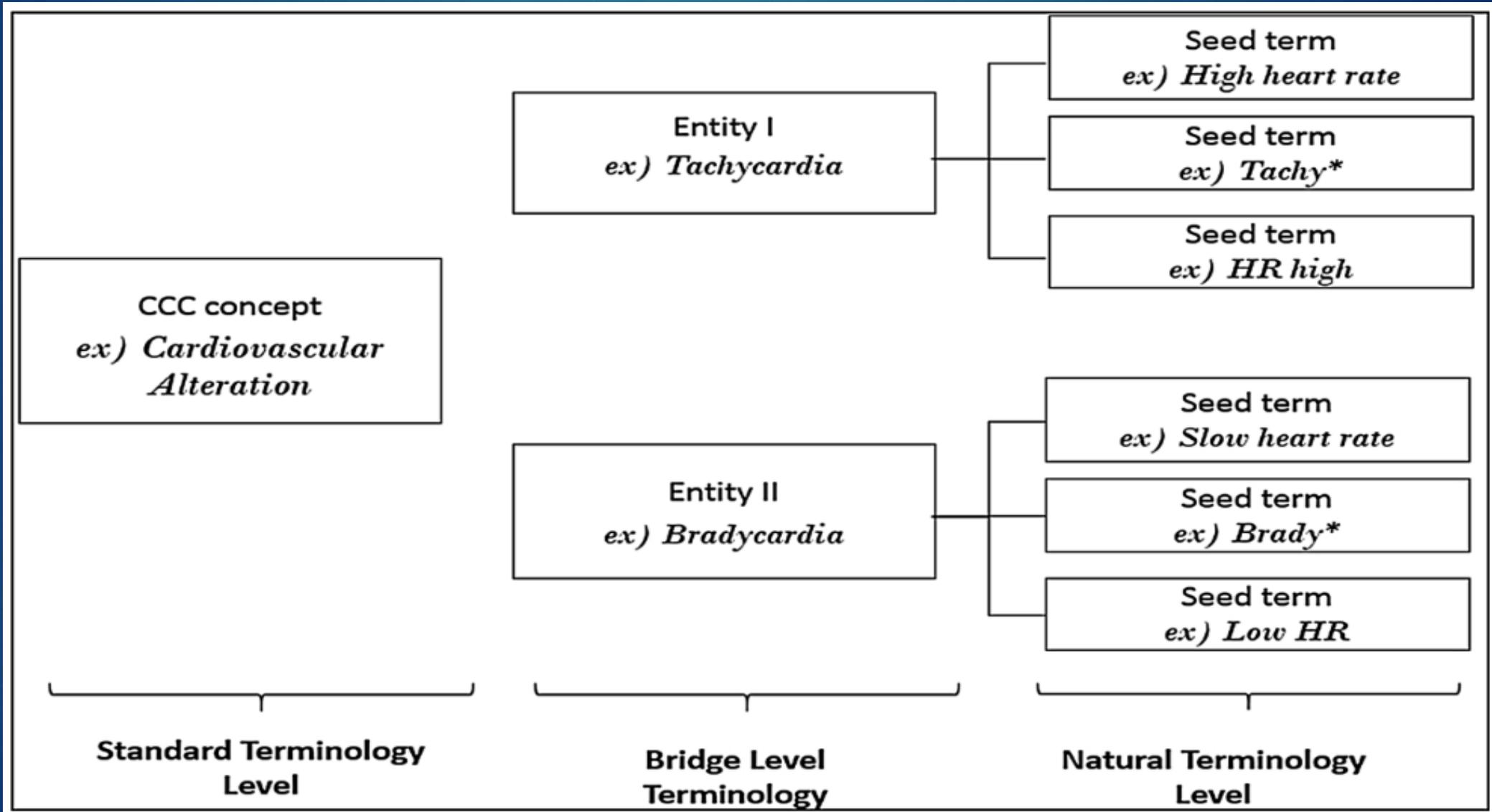


\*Mappings to PND, NANDA, NIC, NOC through SNOMED CT

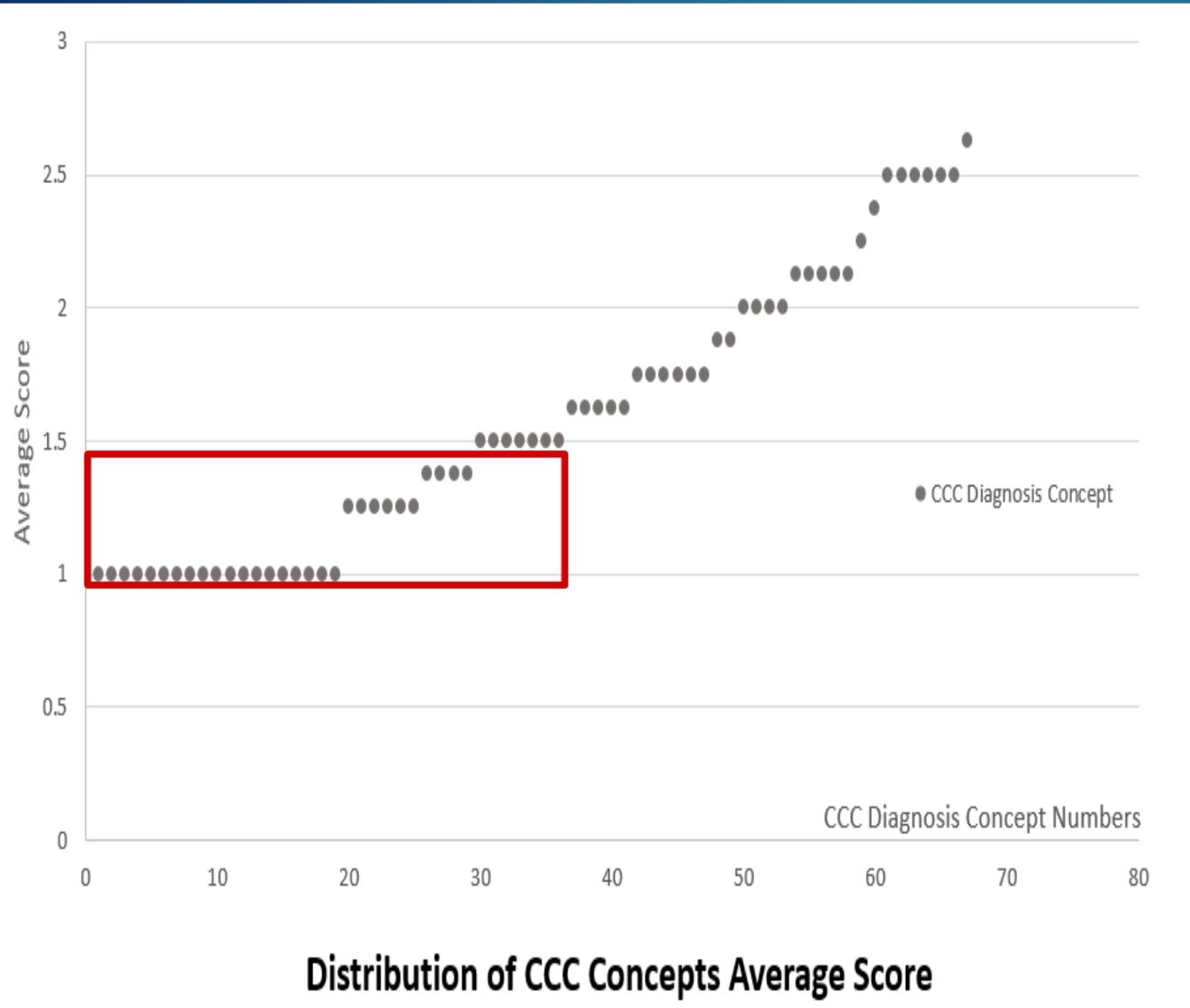
# Methods

- ▶ Group consensus meetings
- ▶ Five nurse subject-matter experts (SMEs)
- ▶ Question: what concepts do nurses document in nursing notes when they feel a patient is at risk of deteriorating?
- ▶ How: reviewed and graded the individual CCC concepts
  - ▶ 3 scales: 1: High concern, 2: moderate concern, 3: No concern
- ▶ Scored grades within six types of clinical units
  - ▶ Acute care units: medicine, surgery
  - ▶ Intensive care units: MICU, SICU/Trauma ICU, Cardiac ICU, Neuro ICU

► Methods



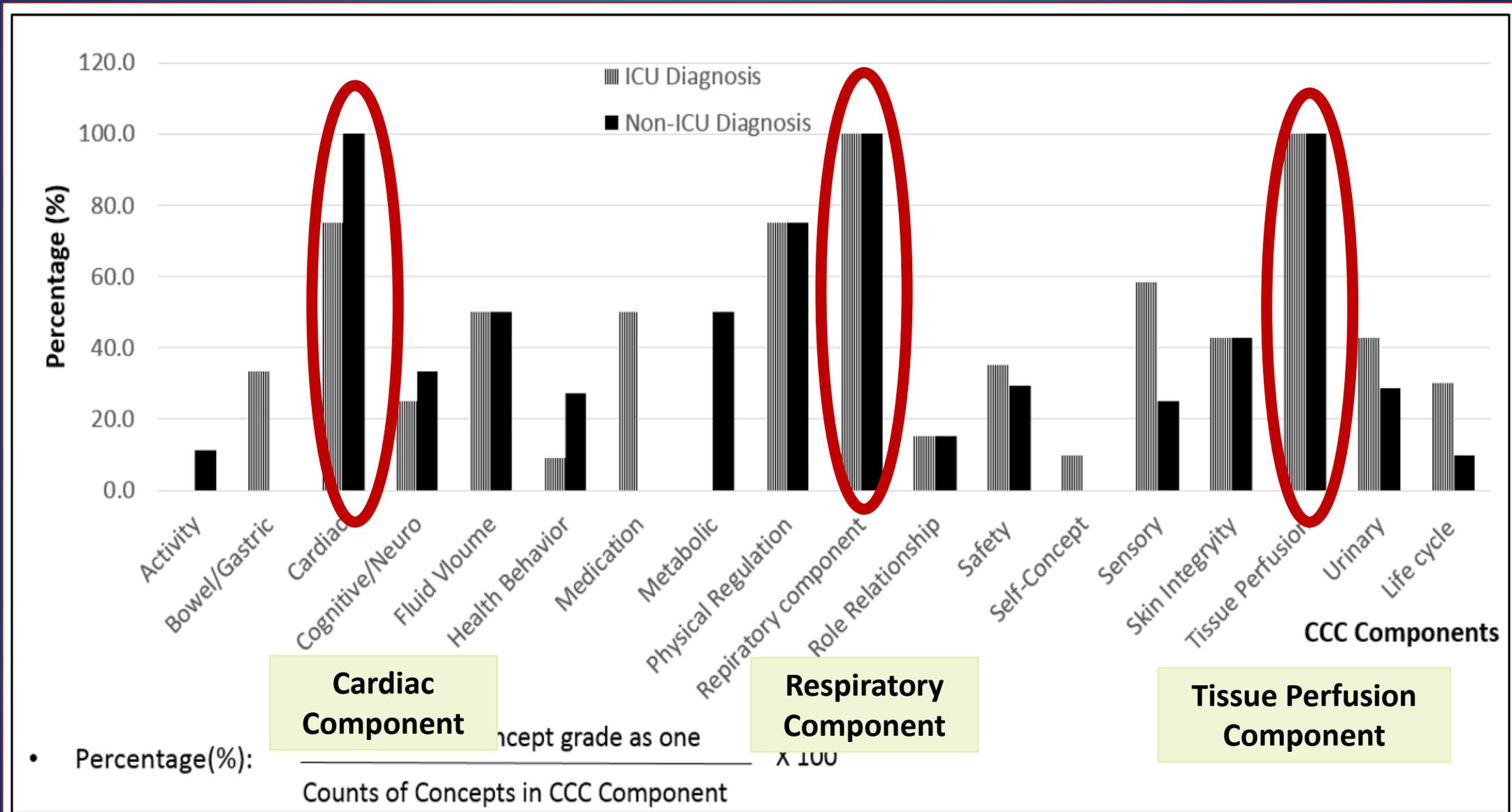
# Results



- ▶ Scored as grade one by SMEs: 67/176 CCC diagnosis concepts
- ▶ Based on clinical judgement threshold for inclusion score: 1.357
- ▶ Exclusion threshold were individually reviewed by SMEs to confirm exclusion

**29 Concepts**

► Results: Percentage diagnoses concepts rated as “1” per CCC Care Component



# Core Concepts Count per CCC Component

Average Grade	CCC Component	CCC Concepts
1.0	Cardiac	Blood Pressure Alteration; Cardiac Output Alteration; Cardiovascular Alteration
	Cognitive/Neuro	Confusion; Cerebral Alteration
	Respiratory	Breathing Pattern Impairment; Gas Exchange Impairment; Respiration Alteration
	Role Relationship	Communication Impairment; Verbal Impairment
	Sensory	Acute Pain; Visual Alteration
	Safety	Suicide Risk; Violence Risk
	Fluid Volume	Fluid Volume Deficit
	Tissue Perfusion	Tissue Perfusion Alteration
	Physical Regulation	Hyperthermia; Hypothermia; Intracranial Adaptive Capacity Impairment
1.25	Coping	Airway Clearance Impairment
	Physical Regulation	Autonomic Dysreflexia
	Safety	Injury Risk; Self-mutilation Risk
	Fluid Volume	Fluid Volume Excess
	Urinary Elimination	Urinary Elimination Alteration
1.35	Fluid Volume	Fluid Volume Alteration
	Physical Regulation	Infection
	Skin Integrity	Peripheral Alteration
	Cognitive/Neuro	Thought Processes Alteration

	ICU		Non- ICU	
CCC Component	Medicine (MICU)	Surgery (SICU, Trauma ICU)	Medicine	Surgery
Bowel/ Gastric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diarrhea</li> <li>- Fecal Impaction</li> <li>- Gastrointestinal Alteration</li> </ul>		
Physical Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autonomic Dysreflexia</li> <li>- Hyperthermia</li> <li>- Hypothermia</li> <li>- Thermoregulation Impairment</li> <li>- Intracranial Adaptive Capacity Impairment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autonomic Dysreflexia</li> <li>- Hyperthermia</li> <li>- Hypothermia</li> <li>- Thermoregulation Impairment</li> <li>- Intracranial Adaptive Capacity Impairment</li> <li>- Infection</li> </ul>		
Skin Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Latex Allergy Response</li> <li>- Peripheral Alteration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Latex Allergy Response</li> <li>- Peripheral Alteration</li> <li>- Skin Incision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skin Integrity Impairment</li> <li>- Latex Allergy Response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skin Integrity Impairment</li> <li>- Latex Allergy Response</li> <li>- Peripheral Alteration</li> </ul>
Urinary Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urinary Elimination Alteration</li> <li>- Renal Alteration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urinary Elimination Alteration</li> <li>- Renal Alteration</li> <li>- Urinary Retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urinary Elimination Alteration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urinary Elimination Alteration</li> <li>- Urinary Retention</li> </ul>

## ▶ Discussion/Conclusion

### ▶ Final 29 CCC diagnosis concepts

- ▶ Patients' physiological status
- ▶ Common condition indicators for all inpatients across unit type and patient acuity
- ▶ The CCC concepts with average grade may mask importance in particular setting

**Activity Intolerance Scored 2**

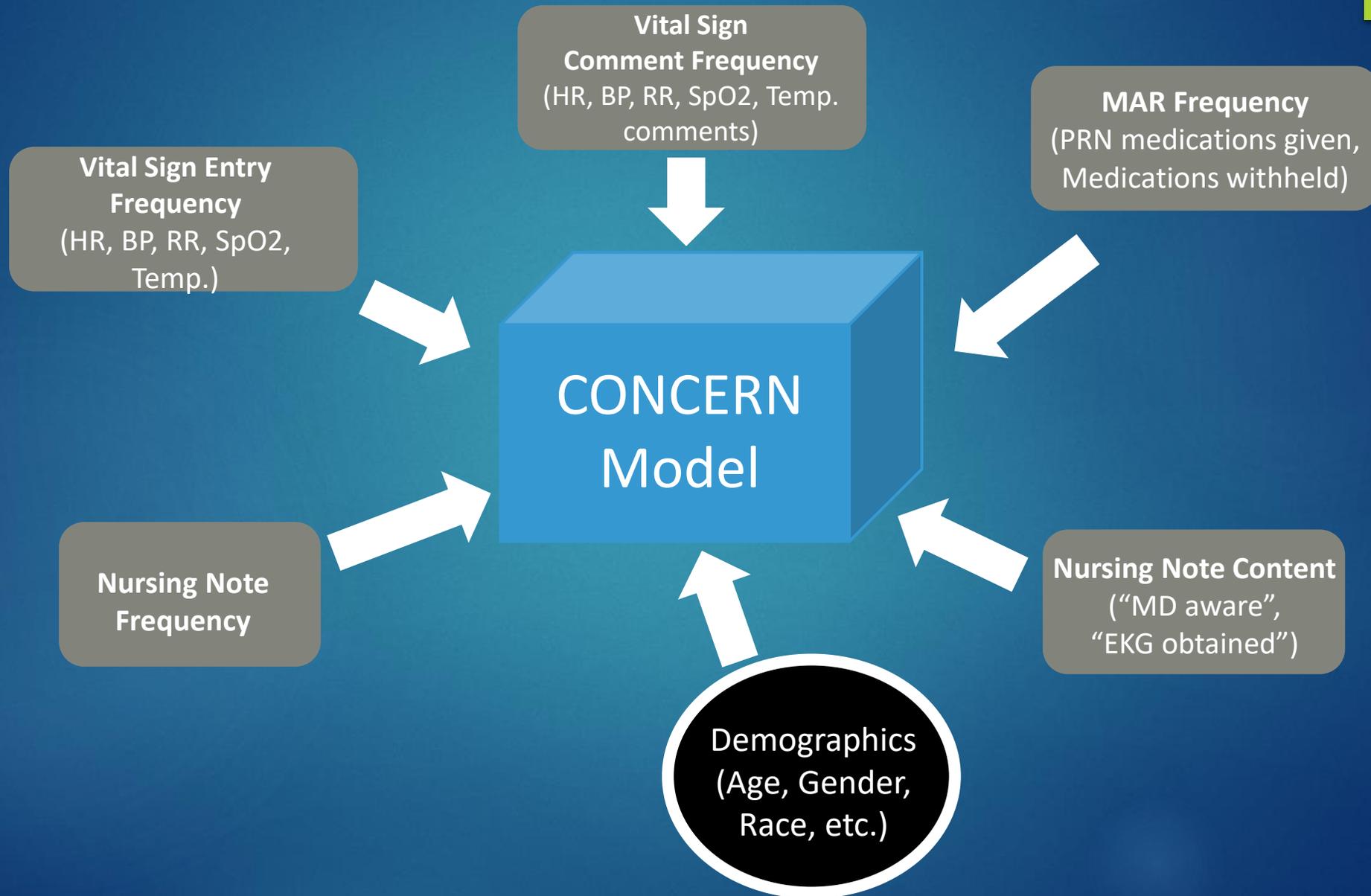
**Acute Care : 1**

**ICU Setting : 2/3**

- ▶ Future research: linking entities and seed term to other standard terminologies

# CONCERN Predictive Model

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# The CONCERN Predictive Model

## Validation

- Multinomial Gradient Boosted Machine (GBM) model selected
- Built on random 12-hour time slices to predict (over the next 24 hours) whether a patient is discharged, will still be in the hospital, or has a negative event
- Trained on 70% of the dataset – 30% was used for 10-fold cross validation

## Model Performance

Setting	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	Logloss	AUC
ICU	0.970938	0.431373	0.594595	0.073695	0.934683
ACU	0.973341	0.813559	0.643935	0.089369	0.955982

*Better lead time than other early warning scores (EWS)*

# How is CONCERN Different than Other EWS?

	Patient Deterioration (Early Warning System)	24 Hour Mortality	ICU Readmission	30-Day Readmission
MEWS	x	x		
CONCERN	x	x		
Rothman Index		x	x	x

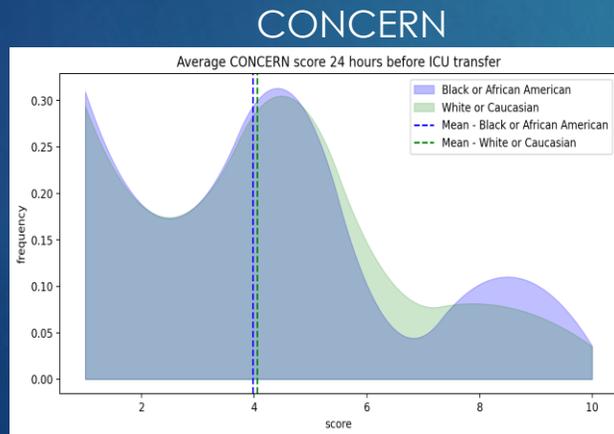
“Clinically, deteriorating patients in general wards either die or are transferred to ICU. This criterion resulted in exclusion of the Rothman Index, which predicts “death within 24 hours” but not ICU transfer.”

*Linnen et. al. Statistical Modeling and Aggregate-Weighted Scoring Systems in Prediction of Mortality and ICU Transfer: A Systematic Review. J Hosp Med. 2019 Mar; 14(3): 161–169.*

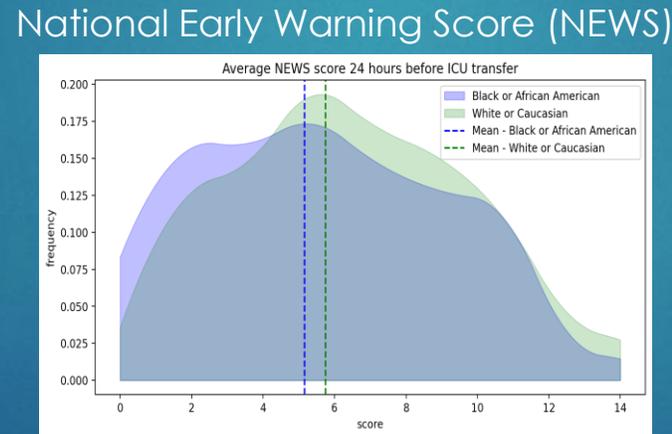
# How is CONCERN Different than Other EWS?

## Racial Bias: Comparison of 3 Early Warning Systems

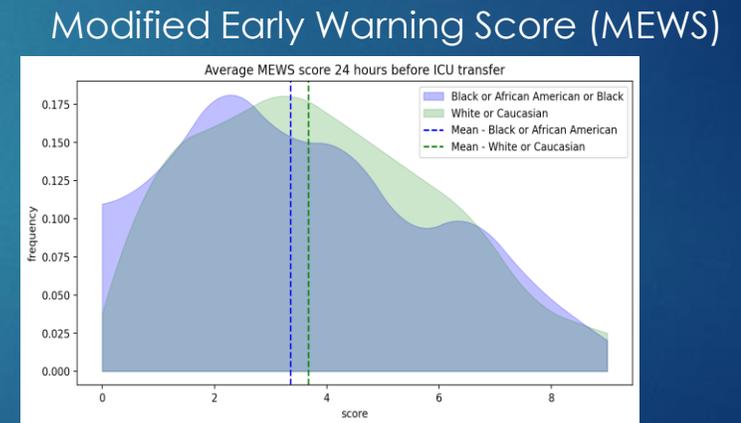
- Anticipated that race (and other patient demographics) would play a role in an EWS based on documentation patterns (CONCERN). Demographic information was included in the model building and postprocessing steps to reduce racial bias in the score.
- NEWS and MEWS based on a patient's physiological state and do not account for potential racial biases. White or Caucasian patients who are transferred to the ICU receive a statistically higher average scores than Black or African American patients.



Mean - Black or African American	Mean - White or Caucasian	P-value
3.976190	4.053905	<b>0.210805</b>



Mean - Black or African American	Mean - White or Caucasian	P-value
5.161055	5.752857	<b>0.009656</b>



Mean - Black or African American	Mean - White or Caucasian	P-value
3.355838	3.673857	<b>0.046306</b>

# Benefits of CONCERN approach to EWS

- ▶ Approaching EWS modeling from different paradigm
  - ▶ Data types (metadata patterns) & data temporality (simulated real-time prospective analysis)
- ▶ Simple rule
  - ▶ Interpretable/not black box
  - ▶ Based on frequencies of documentation
  - ▶ Derived from expert knowledge of practice patterns
- ▶ Triggered alarms 42 hours earlier
  - ▶ Highly clinically significant
  - ▶ Machine learning models have equivalent or slightly better performance than MEWS but no reported lead time (e.g., Churpek et al.)
- ▶ Confirmed that how, when, and why a clinical observation is documented impacts information signals

# Concern Specific Aims:

**Aim 1.** Perform analytics of existing nursing data and documentation patterns to confirm predictive factors and notification thresholds for patients at risk of adverse outcomes in the hospital

- Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Predictive analytics

**Aim 2.** User-centered design and testing of CONCERN SMART App; Prototype development and simulation testing

**Aim 3.** Implementation and evaluation of the impact of the CONCERN SMART App on patient outcomes

- **Primary outcomes:** in-hospital mortality and length of stay
- **Secondary outcomes:** cardiac arrest, unanticipated transfers to the intensive care unit, and 30-day hospital readmission rates.

# CONCERN: User-centered Design

- ▶ Goals: To determine how data should be presented
  - ▶ Best screen layout
  - ▶ Pop-up warning, dashboard icon, message
  - ▶ Workflow integration
- ▶ Methods:
  - ▶ Focus groups/interviews to identify user interface requirements
  - ▶ Iterations of high-fidelity prototypes
    - ▶ ICU and non-ICU nurses and physicians

# Screen #1 – patient list

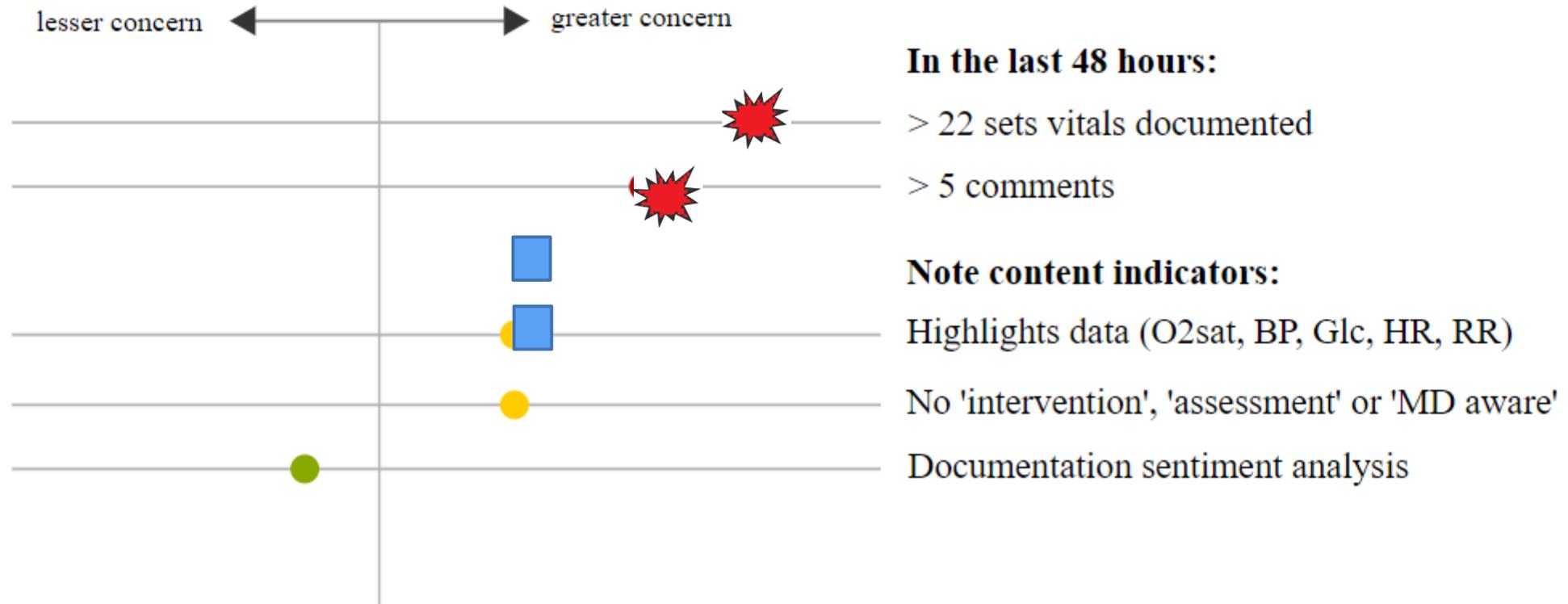
MRN	Lastname	Firstname	DOB	CONCERN MEWS	last 48 hours
23456	Jones	Diana	5/4/2010		0
14245	Smith	Fred	4/3/1986		20
22222	Severn	Joana	4/4/2004		12
33333	Mumpy	Aliria	3/4/1976		19
44444	Bodescu	Grant	5/6/1997		4

clickable



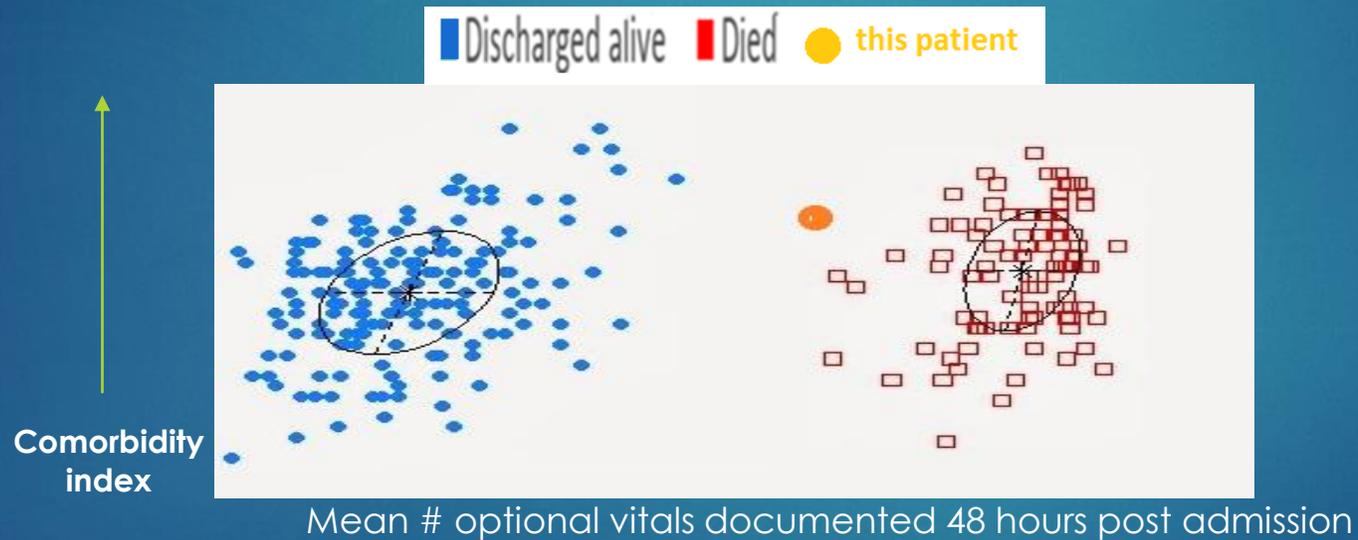
# Screen #2 – rapid at-a-glance explanation

**Alert!** The CONCERN algorithm (PPV+=88%) shows this patient fits the profile of those at risk:



# Screen #3 Drill down to detailed evidence

- ▶ **Alert!** The CONCERN algorithm (PPV+=88%) shows this patient fits the profile of those at risk:



Note content indicators: Document content  
Not MD aware

[More info...](#)

Collins S, Cato K, Albers DJ, Scott K, Stetson PD, Bakken S, et al. [Relationship Between Nursing Documentation and Mortality](#). Am J Crit Care 2013; 22: 306-13.

# CONCERN Intervention: Configured in Patient List

My patients 5 Patients Refreshed just now  Search All My Lists 

Patient Name / Age / Sex	Unit/Bed	New Messages	Unacknowledged Orders	Med Due	New Rslt Flag	Reassess Pair	CONCERN Score	Admit RN Req Doc	Shift Req Doc	Code Status	Problem	Respondin Clinician	Med Over Pend	Signed/Held
<i>Concern, Martin (91yrs M)</i>	BWH SH 9E 903-1	—				—	 *			None on file	None	—		—
<i>Concern, Pal (78yrs M)</i>	BWH 11D 75-1	—		—	—	—	 *			None on file	None	—		—
<i>Concern, Sacu (82yrs M)</i>	NWH ICU ICU289 A	—		—		—	 *			None on file	None	—	—	—
<i>Concern, Sicu (68yrs M)</i>	NWH 4 USEN 4U457 A	—		—	—	—	 *			None on file	None	—	—	—
<i>Concern, Trans (79yrs M)</i>	BWH 14D 75-1	—		—	—	—				None on file	None	—	—	—

# CONCERN "App" Intervention

CONCERN Dashboard

The patient is at **high risk** for decline.

**high**

Josephine Test

Unit/Bed  
NWH6EAST-5E123-A

Date of Birth  
01-01-1950

MRN  
12345789

## About CONCERN

The CONCERN algorithm predicts patient decline based on nursing documentation.

[View the Model](#)

[Watch the Video](#)

[Review the Research](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Factors

Nursing Note Content

04-29 17:27  
**prn:** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL

Vital Sign Frequency

04-29 17:27  
**prn:** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g

Nursing Note Frequency

04-29 17:27  
**prn:** ZZ IMS TEMPLATE

VS Comment Frequency

04-29 17:27  
**prn:** FUROSEMIDE 20 MG TABLET

Medication Administration

04-29 17:27  
**prn:** LABETALOL 100 MG TABLET

04-29 17:27  
**prn:** DILTIAZEM 60 MG TABLET

04-29 18:52  
**prn:** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL

04-29 18:52  
**prn:** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g

04-29 18:52  
**prn:** INSULIN LISPRO (U-100) 100 UNIT/ML SUBCUTANEOUS SOLUTION

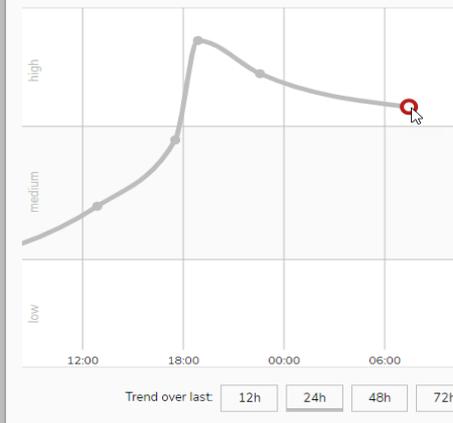
04-29 20:33  
**prn:** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL

04-29 20:33  
**prn:** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g

04-30 07:25  
**prn:** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL

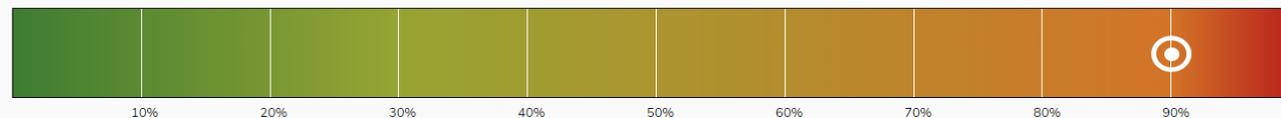
04-30 07:25  
**prn:** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g

## CONCERN Trend



## CONCERN Model

Your patient is a higher risk than **90%** of currently hospitalized patients in ICU & Acute Care units.



**Risk Score Distribution** (for currently hospitalized patients in ICU & Acute Care units)

# CONCERN Intervention: Configured Nurse Leader Quality Safety Dashboard

IP Nurse Manager Quality Safety Dashboard

Departments: NWH 3 WEST

### Assessment Risk Metrics

Last Refresh: 10:07:39 AM

	09:00	10:00
No Vitals	0/27	-
Allergies Not Reviewed	0/27	-

### Orders Risk Metrics

Last Refresh: 10:07:40 AM

	09:00	10:00
Signed and Held Orders	0/27	-
No Orders	0/27	-

### Readmission Metrics

Last Refresh: 10:07:39 AM

	09:00	10:00
Fall Risk Assessment Overdue	1/27	-
High Fall Risk Without a Fall Care Plan Initiated	0/23	-
Actual Patient Falls	0/0	-

### Pain Documentation

Last Refresh: 10:07:40 AM

	09:00	10:00
Pain Assessment Overdue	1/27	-
Pain Reassessment Overdue	8/27	-
Persistent Pain	7/27	-
Severe Pain	4	-
Multiple PRN Pain Meds	7/27	-

Last Refresh: 10:07:40 AM

	09:00	10:00
Patients with Indwelling Urinary Catheters	4/27	-
Patients with Central Lines	1/27	-
Patients on Invasive Mechanical Ventilation	0/27	-

### Concern Score (limited depts. at BWH and NWH only)

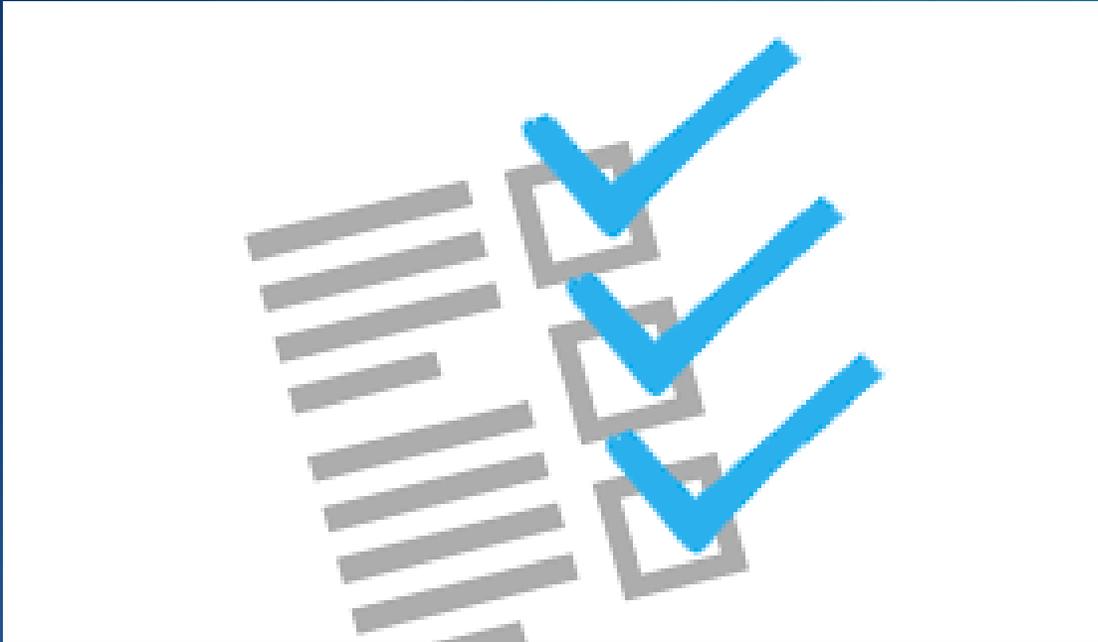
Last Refresh: 10:07:40 AM

	09:00	10:00
Low Risk for Deterioration	18/27	-
Increased Risk for Deterioration	2/27	-
Showing Signs of Deterioration	1/27	-

# CONCERN Simulation Testing

- ▶ Evaluate the impact of CONCERN prototype on RN/MD shared situational awareness of patient's risk
  - ▶ Method: The Situation Awareness Global Assessment Technique (SAGAT)
    - ▶ “Freeze and Query”
      - ▶ Perception of the situation
      - ▶ Comprehension of the data presented in each prototype
      - ▶ Projection of the patient status in the near future
    - ▶ Compare responses between nurses and physicians

# CONCERN: User-centered Design



Themes from nurse and physician interviews and simulation sessions

- ▶ Do not add interruptive alerts
  - ▶ Too many of these already
- ▶ Harmonize with existing information flow and workflow
  - ▶ Patient list
  - ▶ Unit dashboard
- ▶ Perceived concerns:
  - ▶ Every patient in ICU would be red or yellow
  - ▶ Potential increase in documentation
- ▶ Perceived usefulness for:
  - ▶ Handoff reporting
  - ▶ Prioritizing patient rounds
  - ▶ Helping new nurses prioritize patients
  - ▶ Helping float pool nurses assigned to round on units to prioritize
  - ▶ “Evidence” that backs up nurses’ intuition with patient deterioration

# Concern Specific Aims:

**Aim 1.** Perform analytics of existing nursing data and documentation patterns to confirm predictive factors and notification thresholds for patients at risk of adverse outcomes in the hospital

- Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Predictive analytics

**Aim 2.** User-centered design and testing of CONCERN SMART App; Prototype development and simulation testing

**Aim 3.** Implementation and evaluation of the impact of the CONCERN SMART App on patient outcomes

- **Primary outcomes:** in-hospital mortality and length of stay
- **Secondary outcomes:** cardiac arrest, unanticipated transfers to the intensive care unit, and 30-day hospital readmission rates.

# CONCERN Clinical Trial Research Questions

- ▶ Is the CONCERN app associated with improved patient outcomes?
  - ▶ Primary outcomes: In-hospital mortality, Length of stay
  - ▶ Secondary outcomes: Cardiac arrest, Unanticipated transfers to the intensive care unit, 30-day hospital readmission rates

# Site/Setting

- ▶ BWH/NYP (Academic Medical Centers) and Newton-Wellesley/Allen Hospitals: Community Teaching Hospitals
  - ▶ Non specialty acute care
  - ▶ ICUs

Randomly assigned by healthcare system to intervention and control units

# Hypothesis and Study Design

- ▶ CONCERN SMART App will be associated with decreased in-patient mortality, length of stay, and 30-day hospital readmission rates across two hospital systems compared to current state.
- ▶ Cluster randomized design (units within health system)

Study Arm	Site	Pre-intervention (6 months)		Phase 1 (9 months) [Intervention]		Phase 2 (3 months)
Control Groups	BWH MIL	B	XXXX	Silent	XXXX	Silent
	NWH ALN	B		Silent		Silent
	Intervention Groups	BWH MIL		B		Active
NWH ALN		B		Active		Silent

Silent = CONCERN App will function but will not display to clinician

Active = CONCERN App will display to clinician.

B = Baseline data

# CONCERN Pocket Card

BRIGHAM HEALTH BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL | **CONCERN SmartApp** | An Epic-integrated Clinical Decision Support Tool | NEWTON-WELLESLEY HOSPITAL

## Communicating Narrative Concerns Entered by RNs

**About CONCERN:** The CONCERN algorithm predicts patient decline based on nursing documentation.

---

### CONCERN Levels

*Calculated every hour*

Intervention Units

= High: "Showing signs of deterioration"

= Medium: "Risk for deterioration"

= Low: "Low risk for deterioration"

= "New Result"

Control Units

= Null: "Risk for deterioration has not been calculated"

↖

Double-clicking on the colored icons in the Patient List will open the CONCERN SmartApp

concernstudy@partners.org

## CONCERN SmartApp Screen

**CONCERN Level**: high

**CONCERN Level Description**: The patient is at high risk for decline.

**Patient Information**: Josephine Clark, Date of Birth: 02-07-1953, Room: 208-84-738

**CONCERN Background**: About CONCERN, View the Model, Watch the Video, Review the Research, FAQs, Contact Us.

**CONCERN Factor Breakdown**:

- Nursing Note Content: 04-29 17:27 **prn** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL
- Vital Sign Frequency: 04-29 17:27 **prn** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g
- Nursing Note Frequency: 04-29 17:27 **prn** CZ HIG TEMPLATE
- VS Comment Frequency: 04-29 17:27 **prn** FUROSEMIDE 20 MG TABLET
- Medication Administration: 04-29 17:27 **prn** LABETALOL 100 MG TABLET
- 04-29 17:27 **prn** DILTIAZEM 60 MG TABLET
- 04-29 18:52 **prn** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL
- 04-29 18:52 **prn** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g
- 04-29 20:33 **prn** INSULIN LISPRO (U-100) 100 UNITS/mL SUBCUTANEOUS SOLUTION
- 04-29 20:33 **prn** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL
- 04-29 20:33 **prn** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g
- 04-30 07:20 **prn** Sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % syringe flush 3 mL
- 04-30 07:20 **prn** Dextrose (D50W) 50 % syringe 0-25 g

**CONCERN Level Trendline**: Trend over last 12h, 24h, 48h, 72h

**CONCERN Score Distribution**: Model CONCERN Risk Score Distribution. Note: Your patient is at higher risk than 70% of current (20:00:00) CONCERN patients in the hospital right now.

**CONCERN Level Driving Factors**

- **Nursing Note Content:** Examples of concerning phrases: "MD aware", "EKG obtained"
- **Medication Administration:** Frequency of PRNs given, medications withheld
- **Vital Sign Frequency:** Frequency of vital signs entered
- **VS Comment Frequency:** Frequency of vital sign comments entered
- **Nursing Note Frequency:** Frequency of nursing notes entered

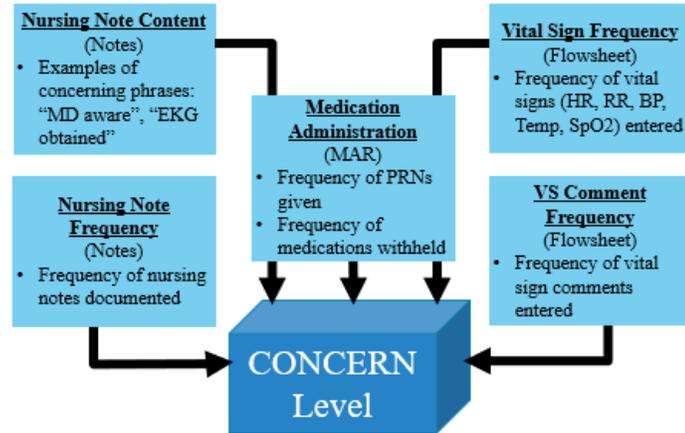
concernstudy@partners.org

# CONCERN Training Poster

**About CONCERN (C**ommunicating **N**arrative **C**oncerns **E**ntered by **R**Ns): The CONCERN algorithm predicts patient decline based on nursing documentation.

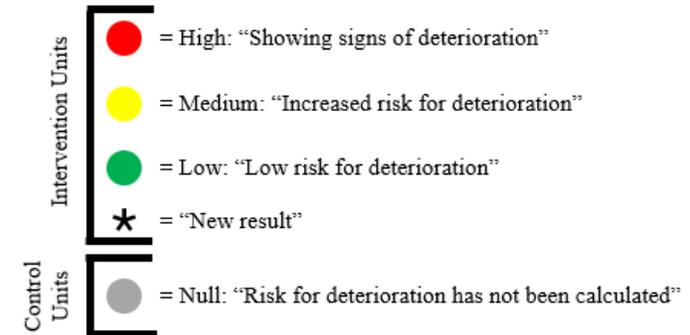
### What drives the CONCERN Level?

*Calculated from the previous 24 hours*



### CONCERN Levels

*Calculated every hour*



### CONCERN-integrated Epic Patient List

My patients 5 Patients													
Patient Name / Age / Sex	Unit/Bed	New Messages	Unacknowledged Orders	Med Due	New Staff Flag	Reassess Pat	CONCERN Score	Admit RN Reg	Shift Reg	Code Status	Problem	Responsible Clinician	Med Prescribed
Concern, Martin (81yrs M)	BWH SH 9E 563-1						High	None on file	None on file	None	None		
Concern, Pal (78yrs M)	BWH 11D 75-1						Low	None on file	None on file	None	None		
Concern, Saccu (82yrs M)	NWH ICU ICU289 A						Medium	None on file	None on file	None	None		
Concern, Sloc (86yrs M)	NWH 4 USEN 40467 A						Low	None on file	None on file	None	None		
Concern, Trane (78yrs M)	BWH 14D 75-1						Grey	None on file	None on file	None	None		

Default CONCERN Column

Double-clicking on the colored icons in the Patient List will open the CONCERN SmartApp

Indicator of New Level

Grey Reading, indicating no score available (e.g., patient is on palliative care)

### CONCERN SmartApp Screen

**CONCERN Level**: High

**Patient Information**: Josephine Clark, 81yrs, Female, 5'00", 130.00 lbs

**CONCERN Level Description**: The patient is at high risk for decline.

**CONCERN Background**: Overview of patient history and current status.

**CONCERN Factor Breakdown**: Detailed view of the factors contributing to the current CONCERN level.

**CONCERN Level Trendline**: Graph showing the patient's CONCERN level over time.

**CONCERN Score Distribution**: Bar chart showing the distribution of scores across the patient population.

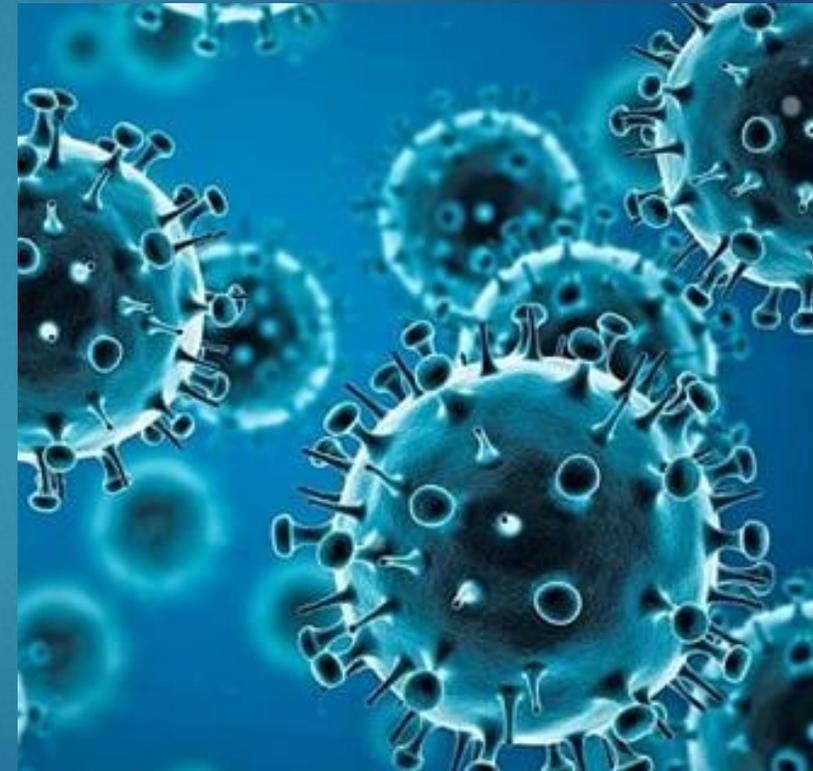
# Implementation Challenges

- ▶ COVID!!!
  - ▶ Timelines
  - ▶ Unit movement
- ▶ eCare integration
  - ▶ Different EPIC configurations

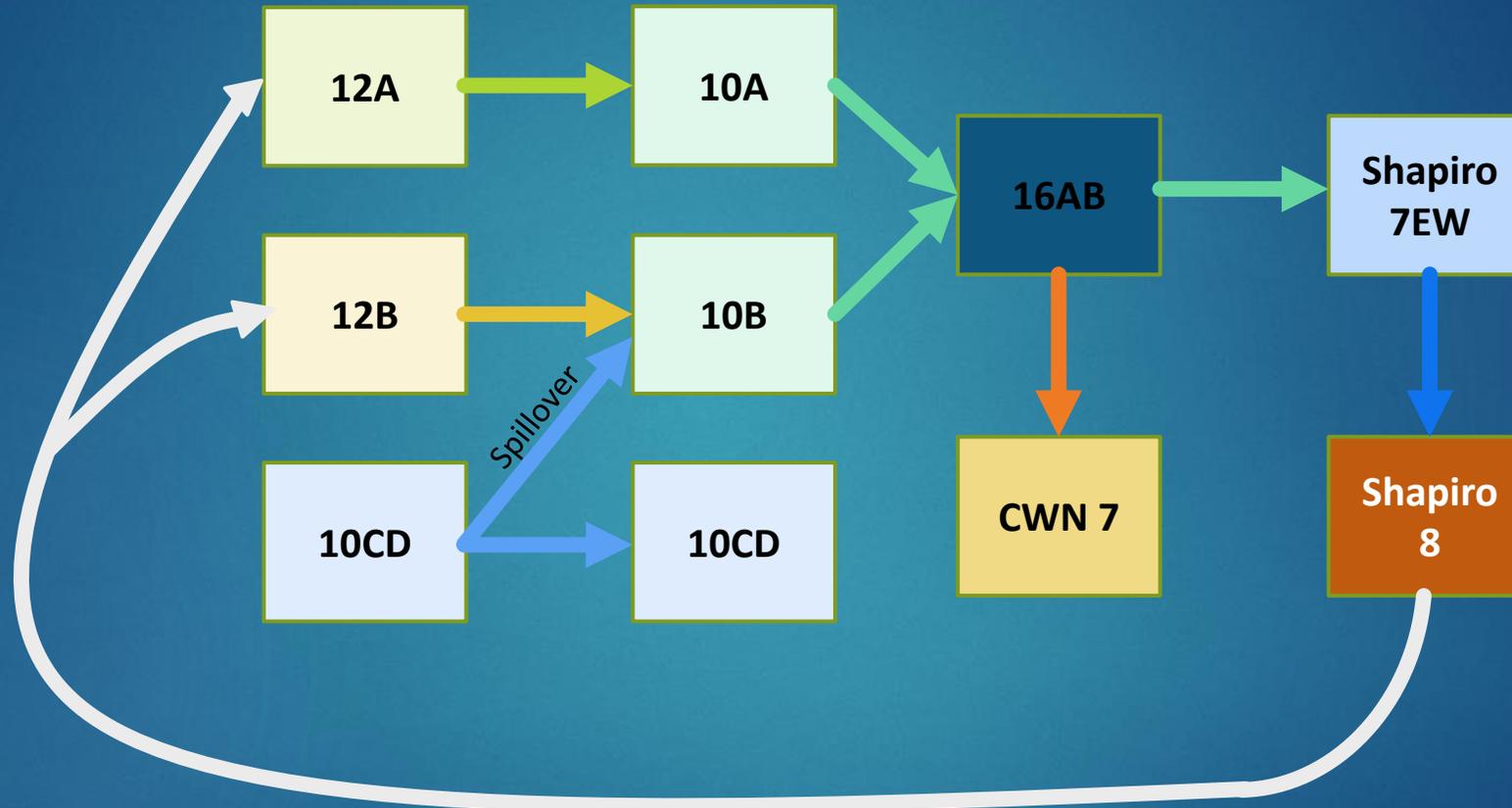


# Impact of COVID 19 Public Health Emergency on CONCERN Research and Implementation

- ▶ COVID-19 pandemic highlighted deficiencies in public health and research infrastructures
- ▶ Federal research funding diverted to COVID-19 related clinical trials
  - ▶ Approximately 80% of non-COVID-19 clinical trials were stopped or interrupted
- ▶ Widespread efforts to minimize COVID-19 transmission
  - ▶ Healthcare facilities closed their doors to “nonessential” services
- ▶ Stopped or limited research activities
  - ▶ Researchers largely became remote workers
  - ▶ Restrictions impacted data collection, monitoring, and other protocol-related requirements



# Unit Movements—Convolution, Visualized

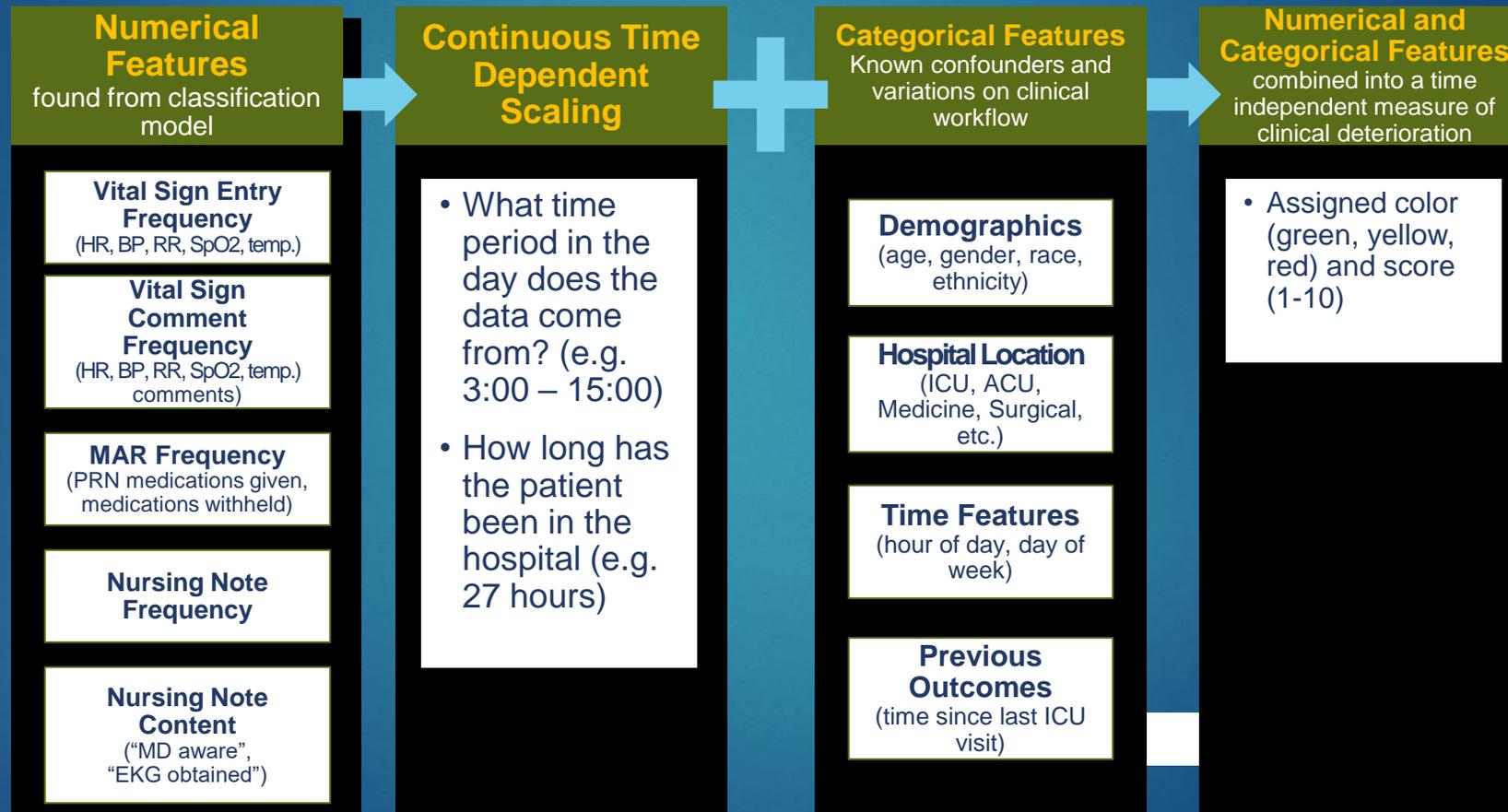


- Spring 2020 Forward: High influx of COVID-19 hospitalizations, BWH performed frequent location changes of several units/ services
- Movements were considered “temporary” in response to adapting care and census requirements

# EHR integration and Configuration Options

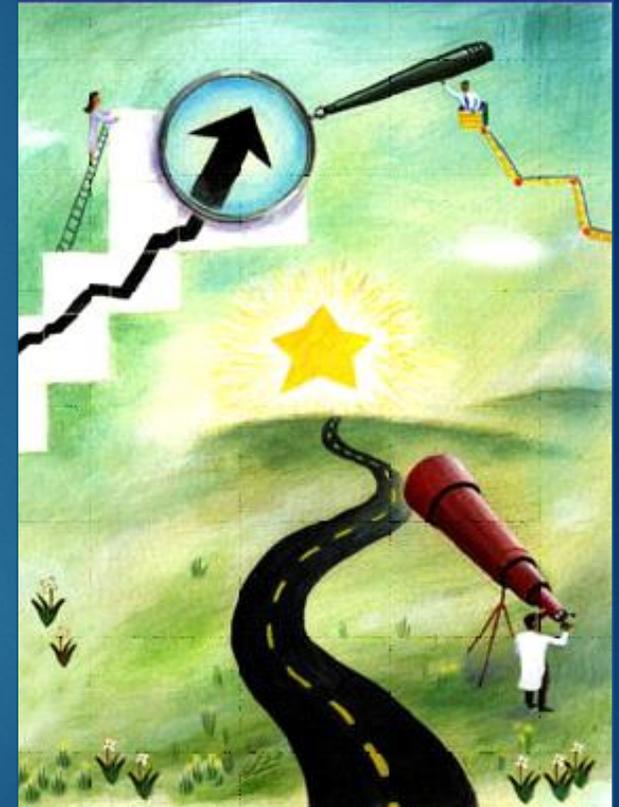
Components	Options	Purpose
CONCERN Decision Engine	FHIR web services Interface Epic web services	Get patient/unit data for prediction Write CONCERN score and related info to flowsheet
CONCERN Dashboard	FHIR web services Interface Epic web services	Pull patient data Write user interaction
Patient list	In Epic	See CONCERN risk level

# The CONCERN Back-End Engine (Using FHIR)



# Discussion

- ▶ Previous studies suggest a linkage between nursing documentation patterns and patient status
- ▶ Nursing data is BIG data--- methods are needed for processing and analysis (quantitative and qualitative)
  - ▶ Methods are needed for “unlocking” documentation patterns and unstructured data from nursing documentation
- ▶ Healthcare Process Modeling uses metadata patterns that reflect nurse expert decision making
  - ▶ Clinically significant improved led time for patient deterioration
- ▶ Leveraging domain expertise is essential for accurate modeling
  - ▶ Processing & analyzing clinical data
  - ▶ Translating predictive models for CDS design
  - ▶ CDS implementation
- ▶ CONCERN will enable early identification of at-risk patients for implementation in clinical decision support



# Next Steps:

- ▶ Evaluate clinical trial results for the impact of the CONCERN SmartApp on patient outcomes at both sites
- ▶ Perform deeper investigation of nursing and interprofessional communication patterns discoverable from the EHR in relation to hospitalized patients at risk of decompensation
- ▶ Openly share a de-identified version of our CONCERN data set
- ▶ American Nursing Foundation Grant to Spread to other hospitals/healthcare systems:
  - ▶ MGB: Additional sites
  - ▶ Vanderbilt Univ Medical Center
  - ▶ Washington Univ Medical Center, St. Louis



# CONCERN Team



## Advisory Board Members

### Informatics Experts

Bonnie Westra PhD, RN, University of Minnesota  
David Bates MD, MSc, BWH  
Suzanne Bakken, PhD, RN, *Columbia University*

### Clinical Nursing Subject Matter Experts

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Robert Schroeder, RN  
Amy Moynihan, RN

#### MGB Site

Sarah Beth Thomas, BSN, RN

#### NWH Site

Hailey Poole, RN

## CONCERN Study Team

### *Columbia University*

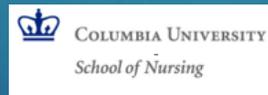
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David Albers, PhD



(NINR): 1R01NR016941-01: Communicating Narrative Concerns Entered by RNs (CONCERN): Clinical Decision Support Communication for Risky Patient States.



# Thank You!

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