A Story of Quality Improvement in the Emergency Department:

Reducing Low Value Diagnostic Imaging

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Michigan Radiological Society

Up North Conference | 10.14.23







Disclosures

- Michigan Emergency Department Improvement Collaborative (MEDIC)
 - www.medicqi.org (Kocher, PI)
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network
- Grant funding
 - AHRQ: R01 HS027811
 - NHLBI/NIH: R01 HL163438
 - Department of Defense: W81XWH2211024
 - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - SAMHSA





Learning objectives

- 1. Describe *clinical scenarios* in the emergency department where there is high quality evidence to guide diagnostic imaging testing practices
- 2. Discuss common *barriers and facilitators* to reducing low value diagnostic imaging testing in the emergency department
- 3. Identify *quality improvement strategies* to reduce low value diagnostic testing in the emergency department



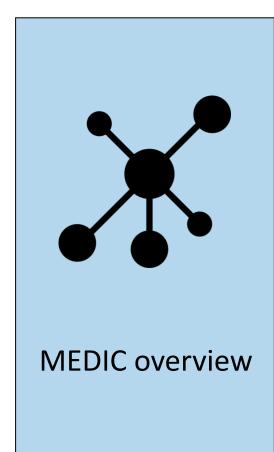


Shape of the Talk

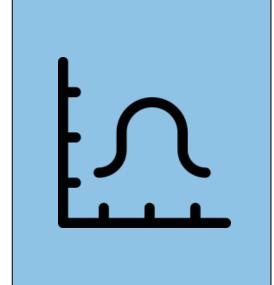


Orientation to ED

Part I

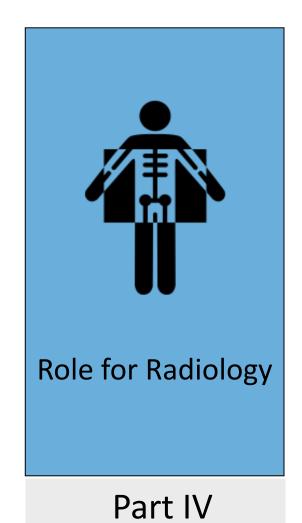


Part II



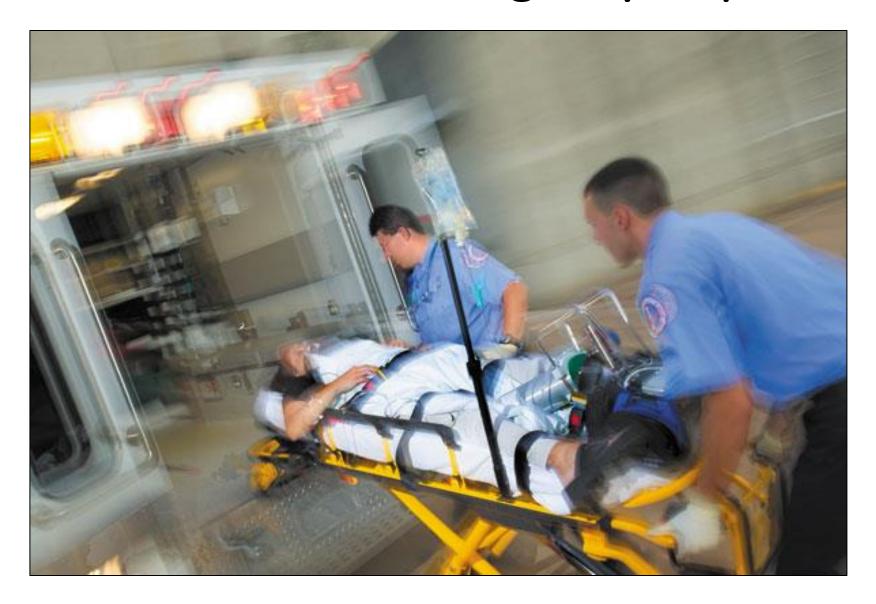
QI in ED imaging

Part III

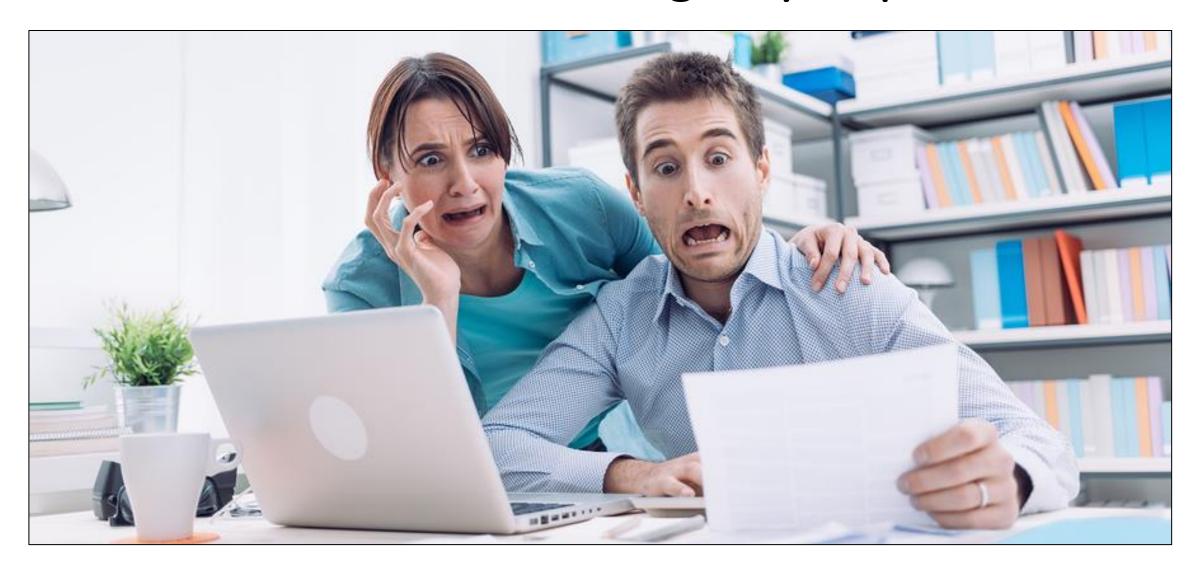


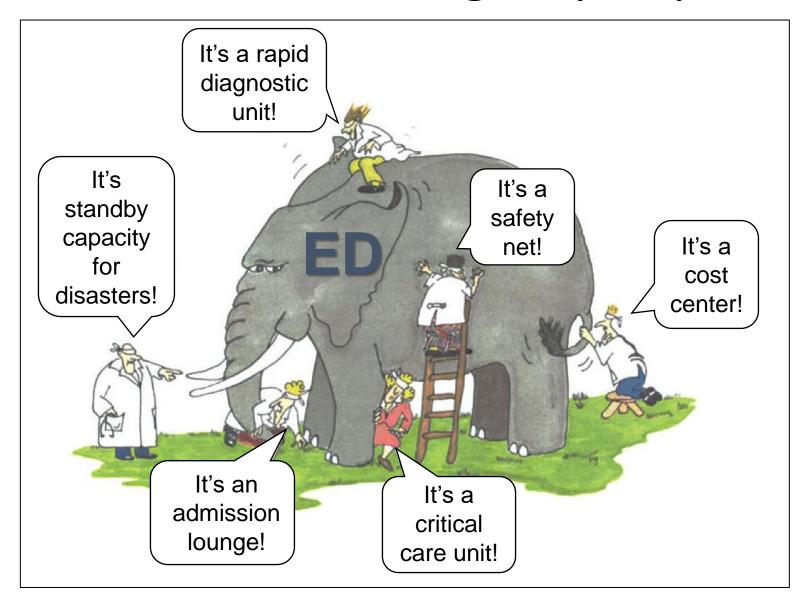








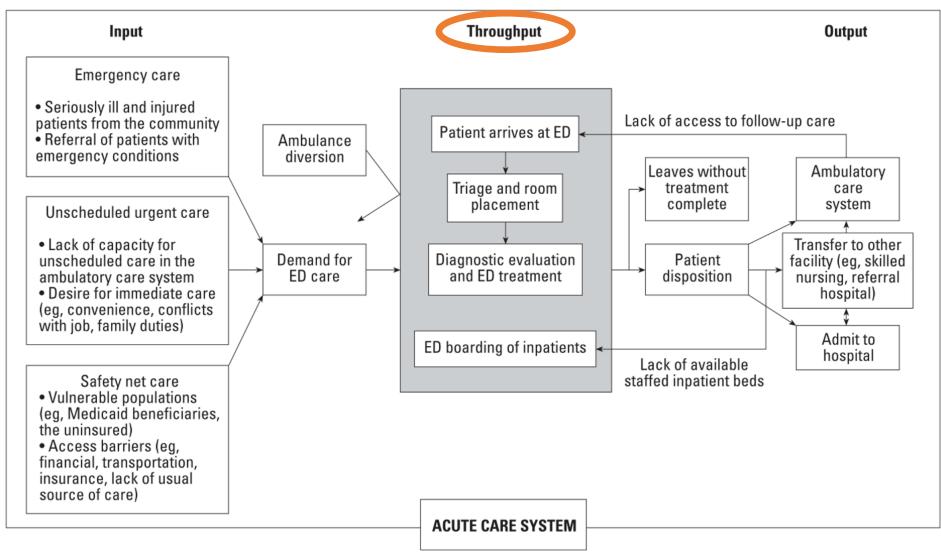




- ✓ "Anyone, Anything, Anytime"
 - Ethos of utilitarianism
 - Safety net culture
 - Only location in health care that is always open 24/7/365
 - Federally mandated to provide a medical exam for anyone seeking care
 - Triage mind set in order of time sensitive health care needs











- √ ~150 million ED visits in the US in 2019
 - = About 1 ED visit for every 2 people in the US
- ✓ Costs
 - Aggregate spending on emergency care is probably 5% 6% of total national health expenditures
- ✓ More than half of all hospital admissions are sourced from the ED
 - = About 18 million annually
 - Collectively, EDs in the US make the decision to hospitalize about 400,000 times a day across 5,000 EDs





- ✓ ED radiology use
 - Major modalities:

MRI < ultrasound < CT < radiographs

Use of CT continues to increase



ED care delivery is highly dependent on radiology!

ED Type	MRI Procedures per 100 Patients	Ultrasound Procedures per 100 Patients	CT Procedures per 100 Patients	Simple Radiograph Procedures per 100 Patients
All EDs (n=1,400)	1.8	7	27	48
Under 20k Volume	0.6	4	18	37
20-40k	1.5	6	20	41
40-60k	1.5	9	25	45
60-80k	2.5	10	29	48
80-100k	2.5	9	30	53
Over 100k Volume	3.3	8	20	40
Pediatric EDs	1	5	5	26
Adult EDs	2.5	6	36	50
Freestanding EDs		4	12	36

From ED Benchmarking Alliance, 2019

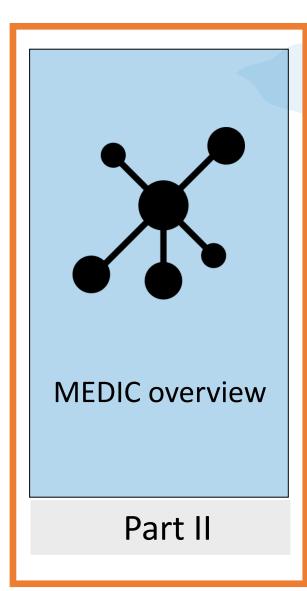


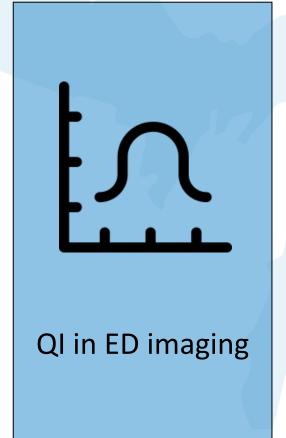




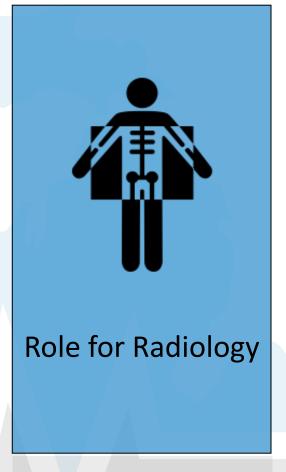
Orientation to ED

Part I





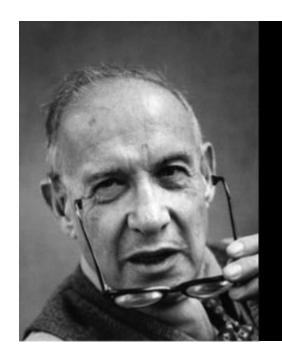




Part IV







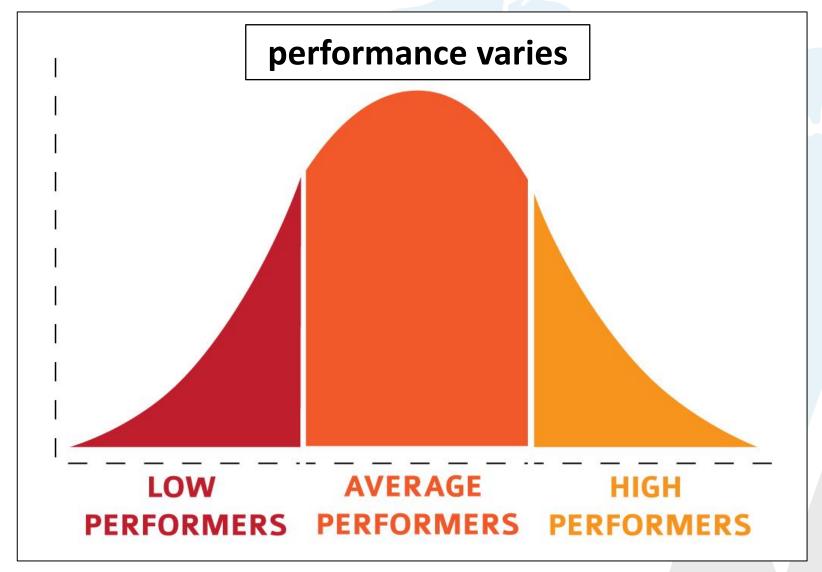
"If you can't measure it, you can't improve it."

- Peter Drucker





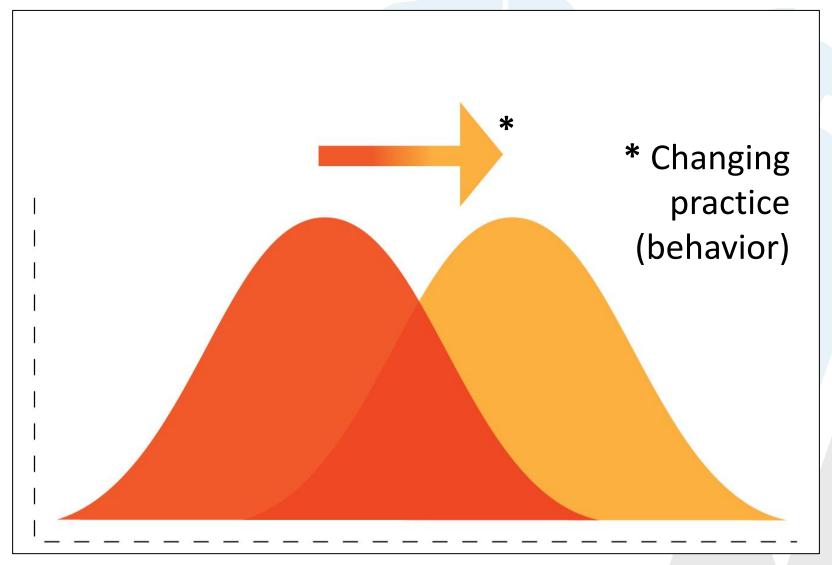
Why Measure in Health Care?







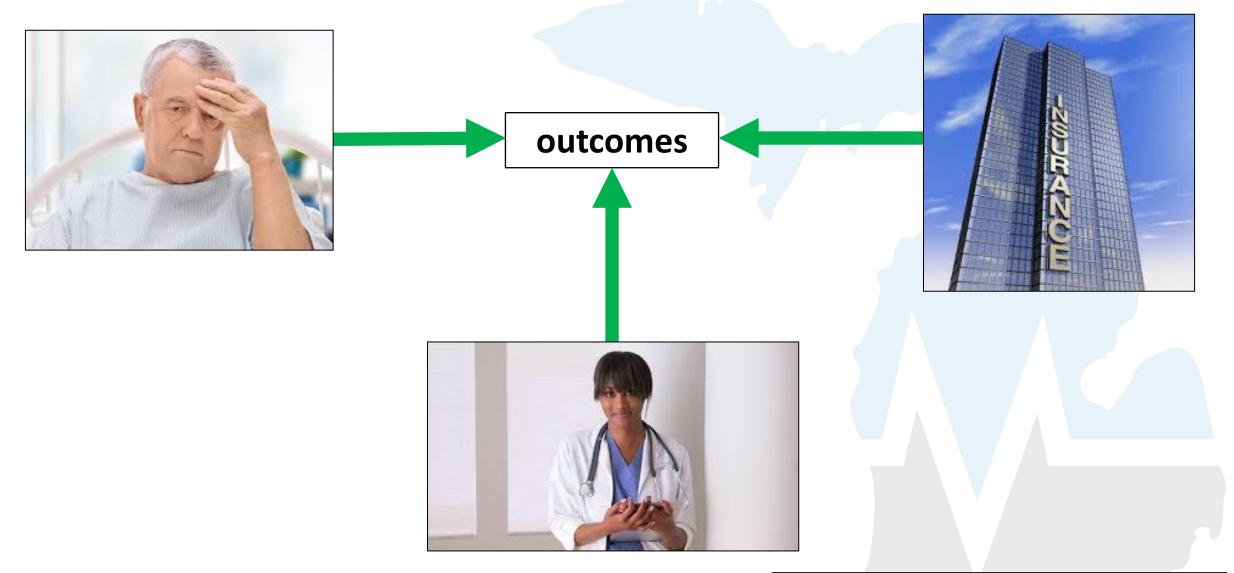
How Do We Change Performance?







Who Cares about Performance?







What is the Michigan Emergency Department Improvement Collaborative (MEDIC)?







What is MEDIC?

That the following assumptions are true:

✓ Opportunity

Gaps in practice

✓ Alignment

- Payer = Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Provider = Hospitals and emergency physicians

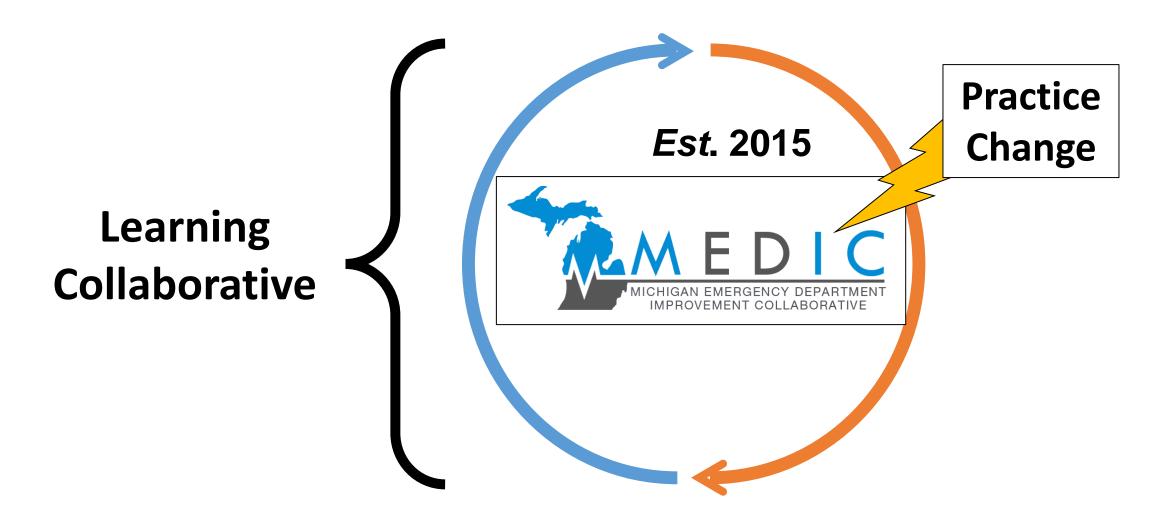
✓ Community

Engagement + leadership





What is MEDIC?

















BCBSM Value Partnerships



















































MEDIC Membership 2023

40 participating sites

8 different health systems

Major pediatric EDs in MI

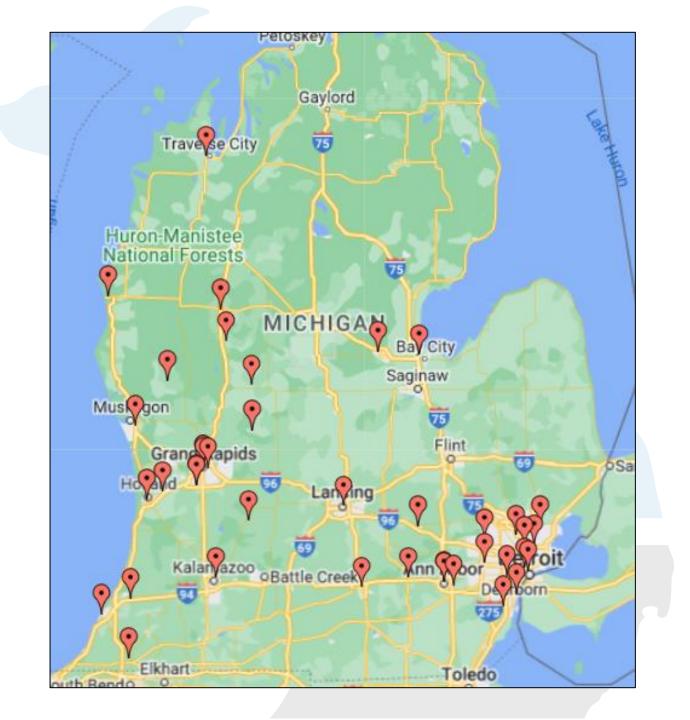
66% of all pediatric ED visits in MI represented

46% of all ED visits in MI represented









40 participating sites & growing

















ALL major pediatric EDs in MI







8+ million

ED visits in registry

Automated Electronic Data

Every ED visit

- Patient demographics
- Chief complaints
- Vital signs
- Triage score
- Timestamps
- Procedure codes
- Diagnostic codes
- Disposition
- Provider



600,000+

abstracted ED visits in registry

Manual Chart Abstraction

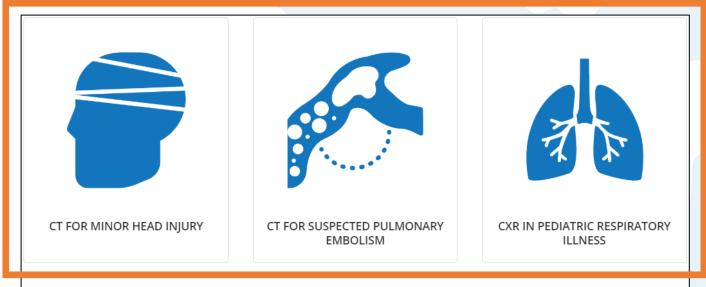
Specific to core quality initiatives

- Minor head injuries (symptoms, findings)
- CT scans for suspected PE
- Pediatric respiratory illnesses
- Chest pain and asthma related visits
- Opioid related visits

On demand real time reporting via tableau platform

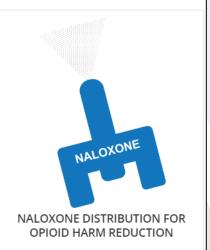
Coordinating center customized reports

Current Quality Initiatives









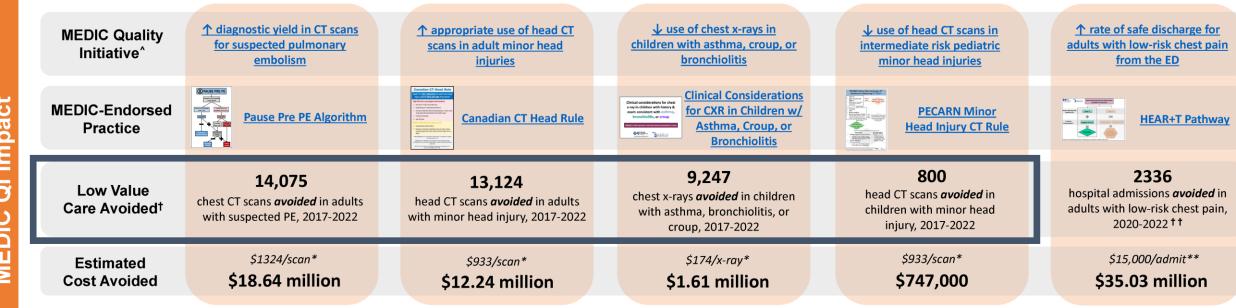








Impact



- *Estimated cost/scan & cost/x-ray from fairhealthconsumer.org, zip code 48201, as performed at a hospital outpatient facility without anesthesia, for an insured patient by an in-network provider
- **Estimated cost/admit of a low-risk adult chest pain patient from https://www.hospitalcostcompare.com/drgs/313
- † Estimated avoided scans, x-rays, hospital admissions calculated using the difference between baseline performance prior to MEDIC interventions & current improved performance
- $^{\wedge}$ MEDIC quality initiative for discharge of children with asthma is still in the pilot phase & thus not included here
- † †New quality initiative, only active as of 2020











= \$68.2 million avoided





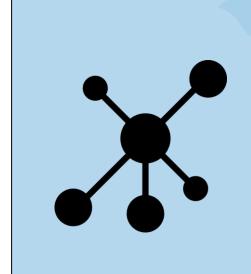






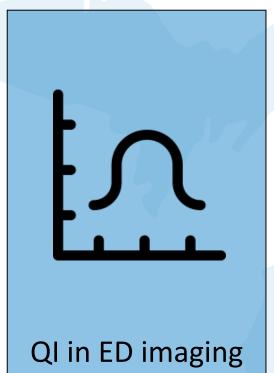
Orientation to ED

Part I



MEDIC overview

Part II



Part III



Part IV





Quality Improvement Framework

EVIDENCE

support from published literature, clinical guidelines, sources of authority

IMPACT

meaningful projected outcomes for all stakeholders

OPPORTUNITY

current performance & practice can feasibly be improved





Characteristics of Quality Measurement

✓ Evidence

Support from literature

✓ Fair

Within the scope of the ED

✓ Actionable

Discriminate between low/high performers

✓ Feasible

- Collect data
- Meaningful measurement





Evidence Guiding ED Diagnostic Imaging

Annals of Emergency Medicine

CLINICAL POLICY

TRAUMA/0

An International Journal Critical Issues in the Evaluation and Management of Adult Patients Presenting to the Emergency Department With Suspected Pulmonary Embolism

Clinical Policy: Neuroimaging and Decisionmaking in Adult Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in the Acute Setting

The Canadian CT Head Rule for patients with minor head injury

Ian G Stiell, George A Wells, Katherine Vandemi R Douglas McKnight, Richard Verbeek, Robert B Worthington, for the CCC Study Group

Identification of children at very low risk of clinicallyimportant brain injuries after head trauma: a prospective cohort study

Nathan Kuppermann, James F Holmes, Peter S Dayan, John D Hoyle, Jr, Shireen M Atabaki, Richard Holubkov, Frances M Nadel, David Monroe, <u>Rachel M</u> Stanley, Dominic A Borgialli, Mohamed K Badawy, Jeff E Schunk, Kimberly S Quayle, Prashant Mahajan, Richard Lichenstein, n A Lillis, Michael G Tunik, Elizabeth S Jacobs, James M Callahan, Marc H Gorelick, Todd F Glass, Lois K Lee, Michael C Bachman, ooper, Elizabeth C Powell, Michael J Gerardi, Kraiq A Melville, J Paul Muizelaar, David H Wisner, Sally Jo Zuspan, J Michael Dean, Sandra L Wootton-Gorges, for the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN)*

PEDIATRICS°

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

Variation and Trends in ED Use of Radiographs for Asthma, Bronchiolitis, and Croup in Children

Evidence Guiding ED Diagnostic Imaging



American College of Emergency Physicians



Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question

Avoid computed tomography (CT) scans of the head in emergency department patients with minor head injury who are at low risk based on validated decision rules.

Minor head injury is a common reason for visiting an emergency department. The majority of minor head injuries do not lead to injuries such as skul fractures or bleeding in the brain that need to be diagnosed by a CT scan. As CT scans expose patients to ionizing radiation, increasing patients' lifetime risk of cancer, they should only be performed on patients at risk for significant injuries. Physicians can safely identify patients with minor hea injury in whom it is safe to not perform an immediate head CT by performing a thorough history and physical examination following evidence-based guidelines. This approach has been proven safe and effective at reducing the use of CT scans in large clinical trials. In children, clinical observation the emergency department is recommended for some patients with minor head injury prior to deciding whether to perform a CT scan.



American College of Emergency Physicians



Five More Things Physicians and Patients Should Question



Avoid CT pulmonary angiography in emergency department patients with a low-pretest probability of pulmonary embolism and either a negative Pulmonary Embolism Rule-Out Criteria (PERC) or a negative D-dimer.

Advances in medical technology have increased the ability to diagnose even small blood clots in the lung. Now, the most commonly used test is known as a CT pulmonary angiogram (CTPA). It is readily available in most hospitals and emergency rooms. However, disadvantages of the CTPA include patient exposure to radiation, the use of dye in the veins that can damage kidneys and high cost.



American Academy of Pediatrics – Section on Emergency Medicine and the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics



Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question

Do not obtain radiographs in children with bronchiolitis, croup, asthma, or first-time wheezing

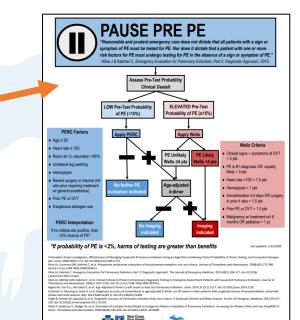
Respiratory illnesses are among the most common reasons for pediatric emergency department (ED) visits, with wheezing being a frequently encountered clinical finding. For children presenting with first-time wheezing or with typical findings of asthma, bronchiolitis, or croup, radiographs rarely yield important positive findings and expose patients to radiation, increased cost of care, and prolonged ED length of stay. National and international guidelines emphasize the value of the history and physical examination in making an accurate diagnosis and excluding serious underlying pathology. Radiography performed in the absence of significant findings has been shown to be associated with overuse of antibiotics. Radiographs should not be routinely obtained in these situations unless findings such as significant hypoxia, focal abnormalities, prolonged course of illness, or severe distress are present. If wheezing is occurring without a clear atopic etiology or without upper respiratory tract infection symptoms (eg. rhinorrhea, nasal congestion, and/or fever), appropriate diagnostic imaging should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

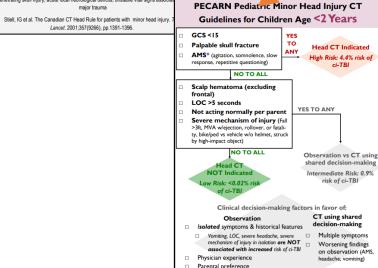
tain findings in a patient's medical history put them at very low risk for having a blood clot in the lung. In some may be additionally used to screen for the possibility of a clot. If patient historical factors and physical examination egative D-dimer (if the physician chooses to order it), evidence shows that the risk of an undiagnosed blood clot is ative CTPA. Such a strategy saves the risk of radiation, kidney injury and the high cost of a CTPA.







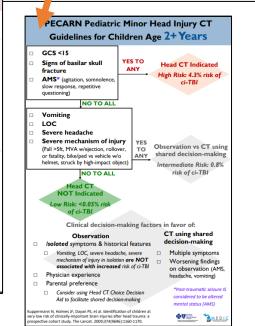




☐ Consider using Head CT Choice Decision

Aid to facilitate shared decision-making

nn N. Holmes JF. Davan PS. et al. Identification of children a



Clinical considerations for CXR in children with history & exam consistent with asthma, bronchiolitis, or croup

If **NONE** of the below are present, question your reason for a CXR

	ASTHMA 2-17 yrs old	BRONCHIOLITIS 2mo-2yrs old	CROUP 6mo-3yrs old		
HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS	Fever ≥38°C (100°F) for ≥72 hrs				
	Chest pain				
	Suspected foreign body ingestion or choking episode in past 2 wks				
PAST MEDICAL HISTORY	 Cerebral palsy &/or neurom Prematurity (-37 weeks gest Bronchopulmonary dysplasis Tracheostomy Cystic fibrosis 	eation) • Congenital hear • Sickle cell disea	Ciliary dyskinesias Congenital heart disease Sickle cell disease Immunosuppression (cancer, HIV/AIDS, transplant)		
EXAM FINDINGS	Toxic, ill appearance, somnolent, lethargic, or listless				
	Focal lung exam findings (decreased breath sounds, rales, rhonchi) or crepitus				
CLINICAL COURSE	Worsening clinical status: Vital signs and/or exam findings and/or requiring escalation of care				
Preser	ce of one or more of these	does <u>NOT</u> automatically re	equire a CXR.		
*If wheezing is occu	rring without a clear atopic etiology or URI sy	mptoms, diagnostic imaging may be cons	idered on a case-by-case basis.		





Lancet. 2001;357(9266), pp.1391-1396.



considered to be altered

OVEL MED

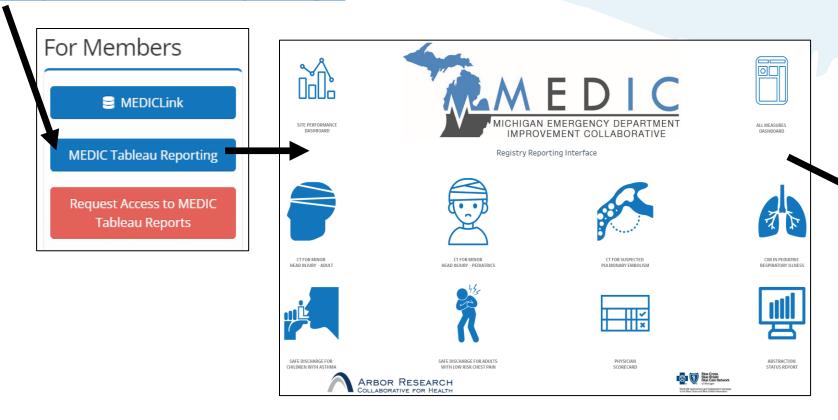
mental status (AMS)





Audit & Feedback

https://medicqi.org/



Analytics:

- Ranking charts
 - Site vs site
 - Physician vs physician
- Outlier detection reports
- ✓ Time series analyses
- ✓ Balancing measures
- Disparities dashboard

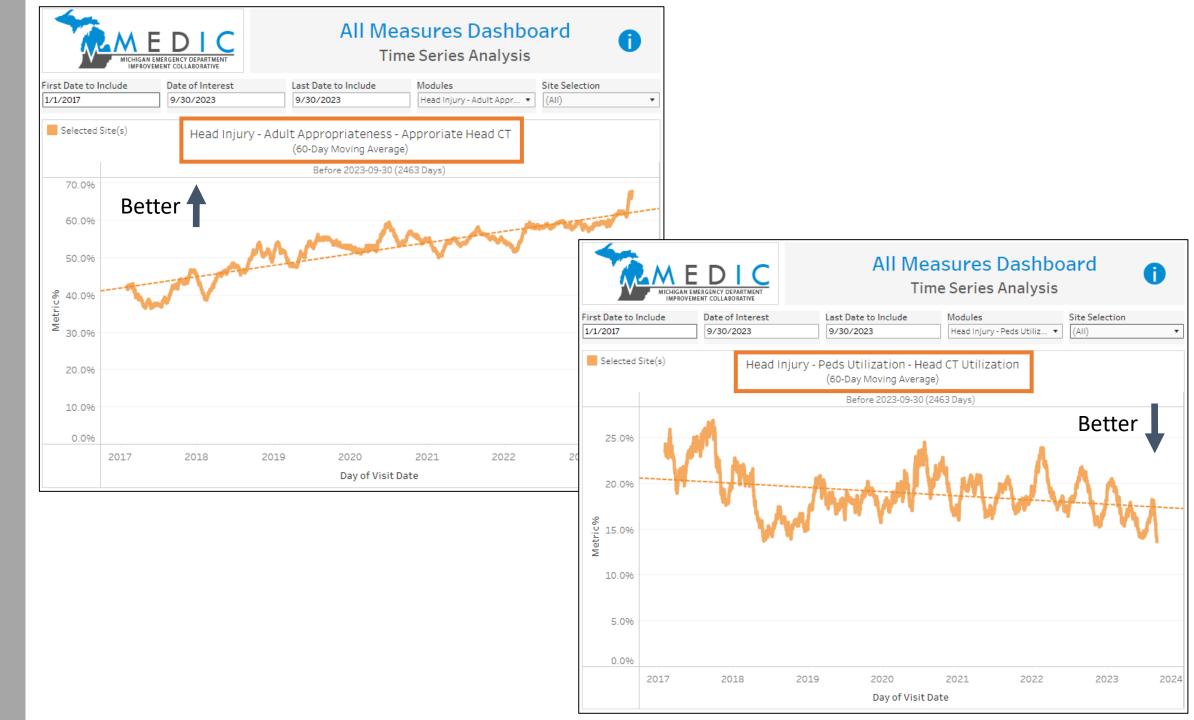


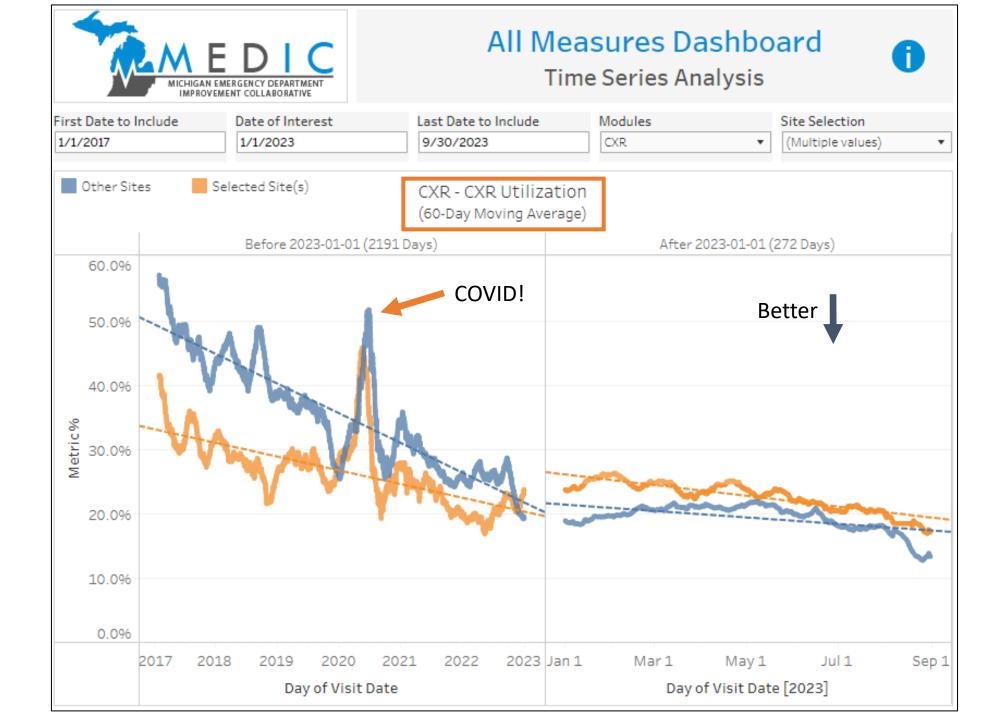


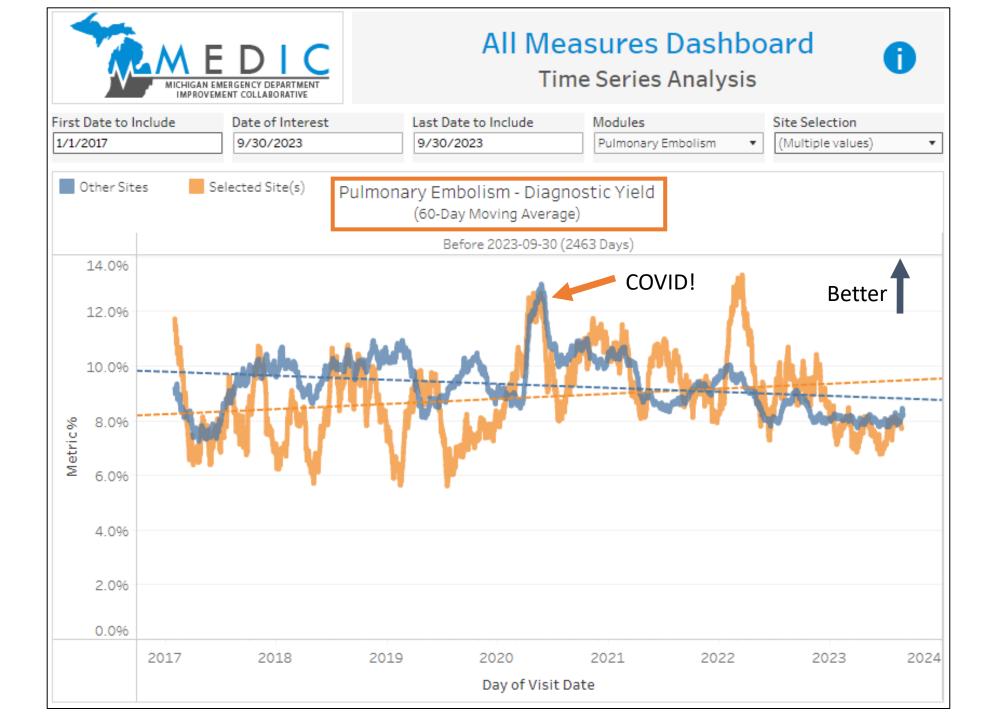


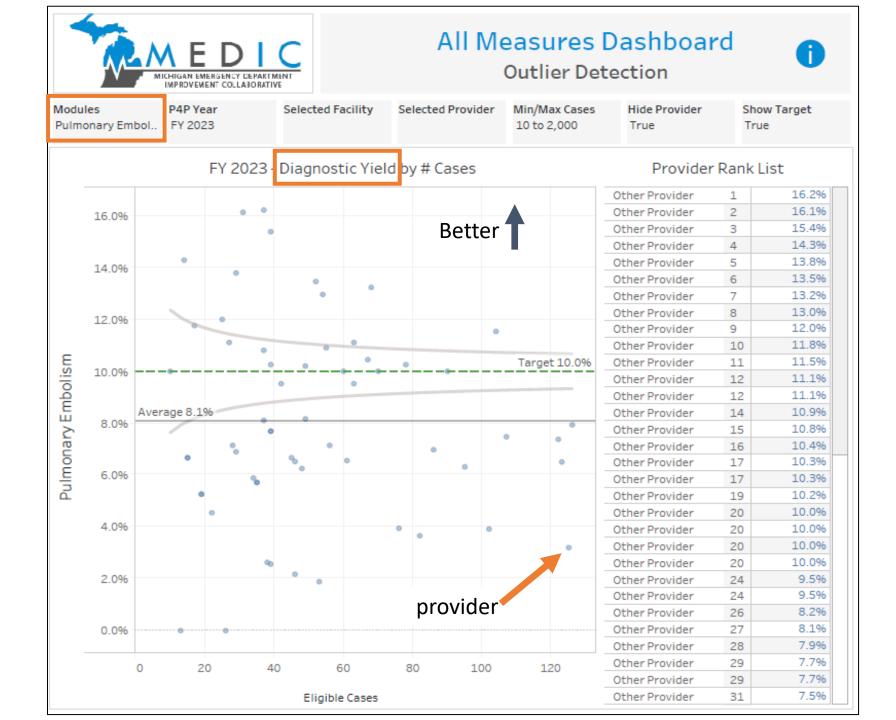


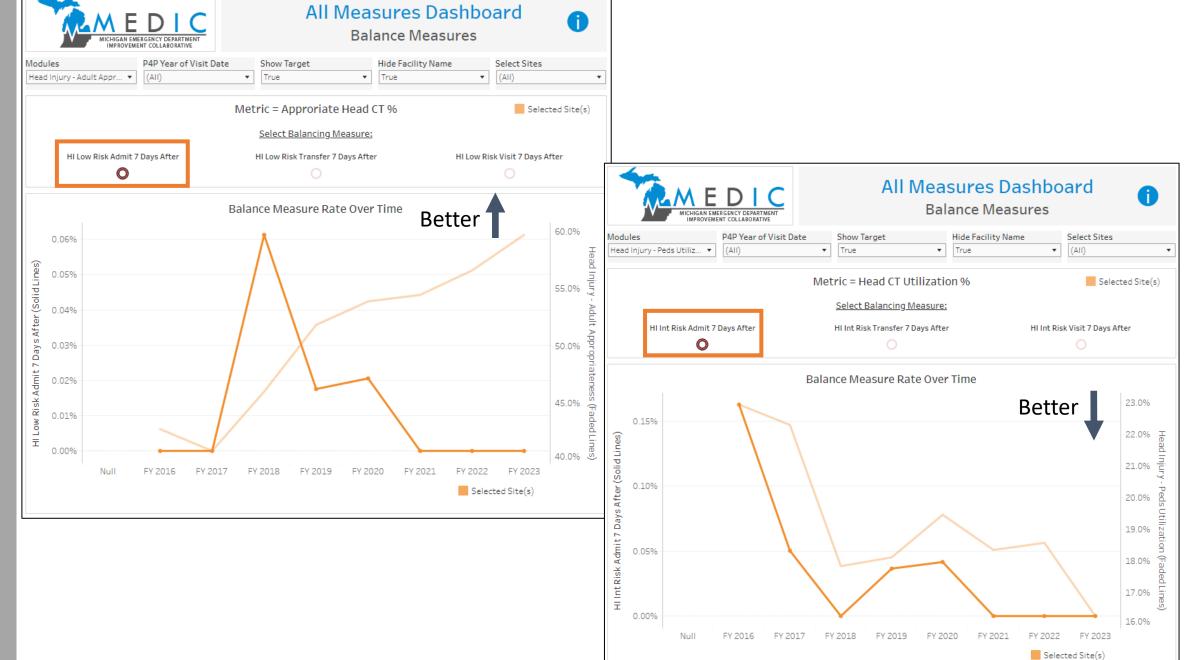








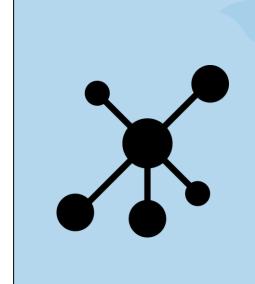






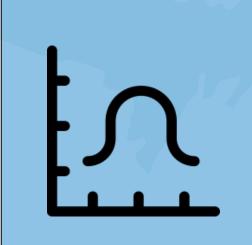
Orientation to ED

Part I



MEDIC overview

Part II



QI in ED imaging

Part III



Part IV







"If you can't describe what you are doing as a process, you don't know what you're doing."

- W. Edwards Deming





Quality Improvement Mindset & Principles

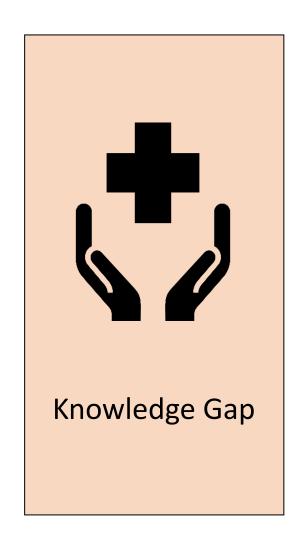
- ✓ Approach humbly & with curiosity
- ✓ Solicit stakeholder input & ownership
- Establish the urgency of the problem
- ✓ Build a coalition
- ✓ Invest in the relationships, time, and resources

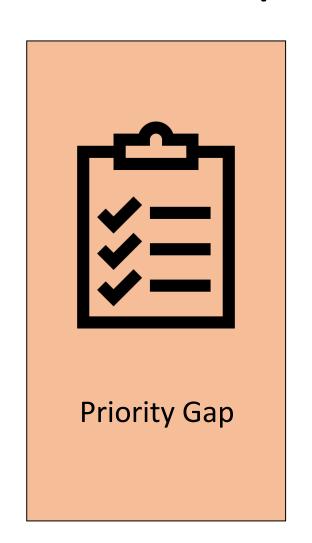
- ✓ Solutions are local
- ✓ Go to the gemba
- ✓ Design with the end in mind
- ✓ Make the right thing the easier thing
- ✓ Learn and adapt
- ✓ Reinforce feedback loops
- ✓ Consider the intervention moment

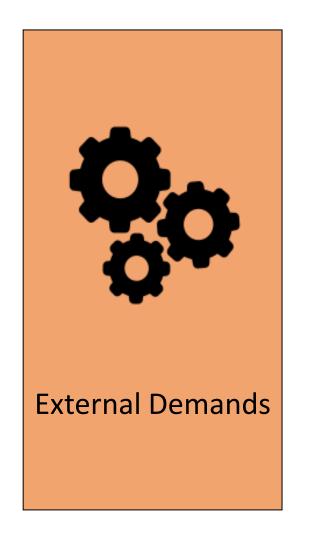




Barriers and Facilitators to Improvement in the ED





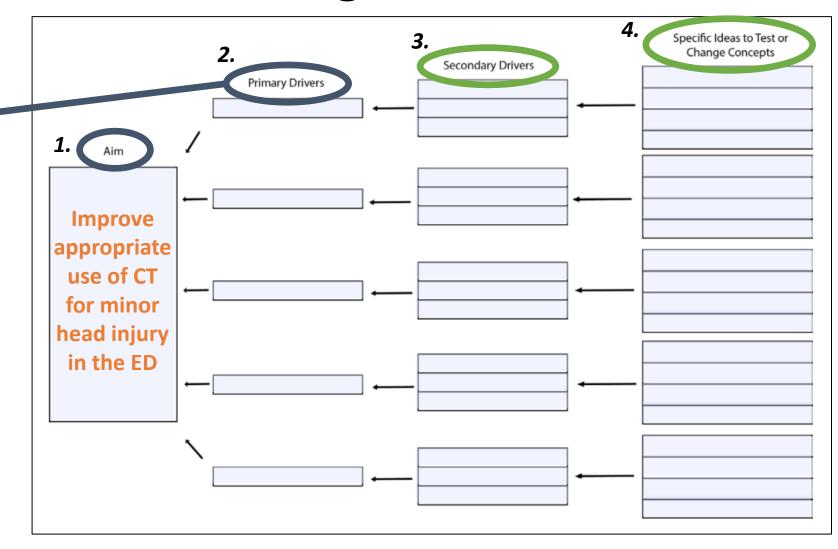






Knowledge Gap Priority Gap

Driver Diagram

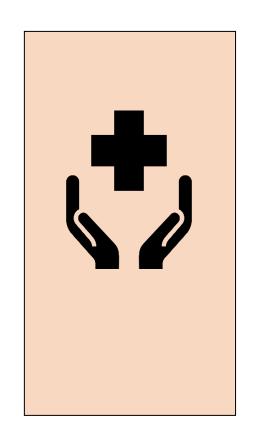


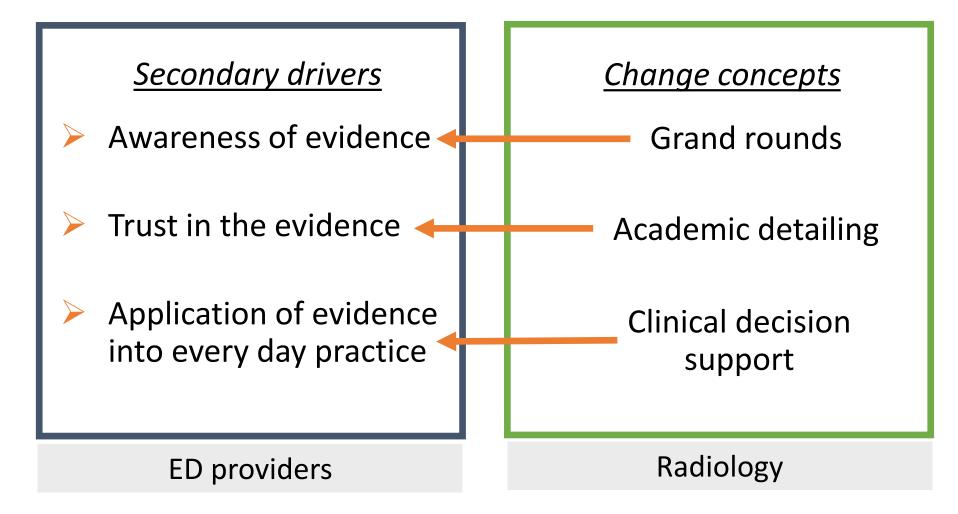


External Demands



Knowledge Gap









Priority Gap



Secondary drivers

- Not important to individual clinician
- Not aligned with institutional goals
- Quality agenda deprioritized

ED providers

Change concepts

Grand rounds

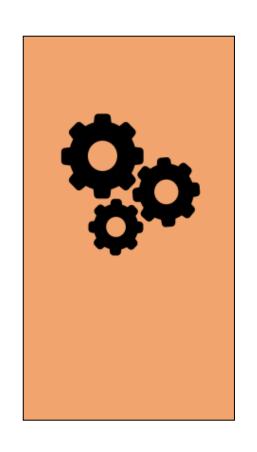
Radiology leadership support

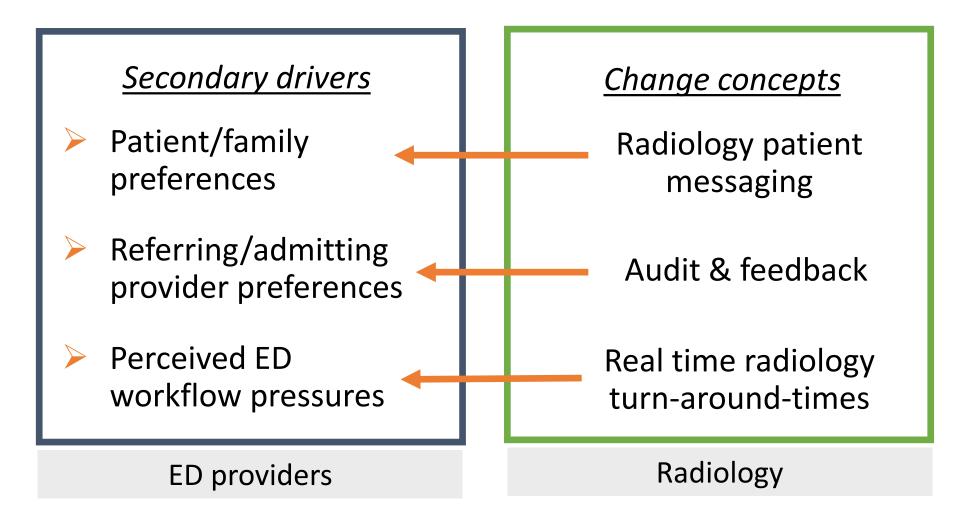
Radiology





External Demands

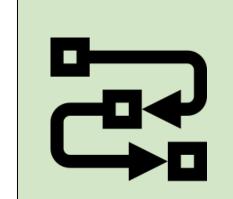




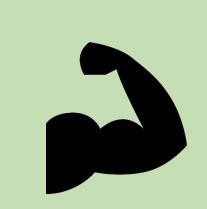




Summary Thoughts!



Radiology essential to ED care



Leverage the evidence



Build/join the coalition



Act locally



humble inquiry



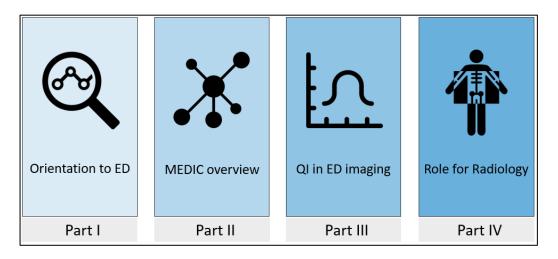


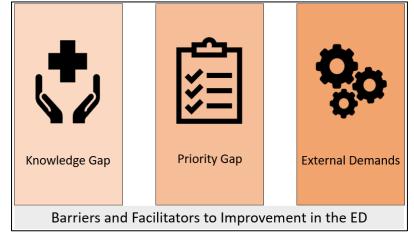












Questions













