

Radiologists Add Value by Participating in Patient Progression and Complex Care Management Rounds

Ammar Sarwar, MD • Jonathan B. Kruskal, MD PhD

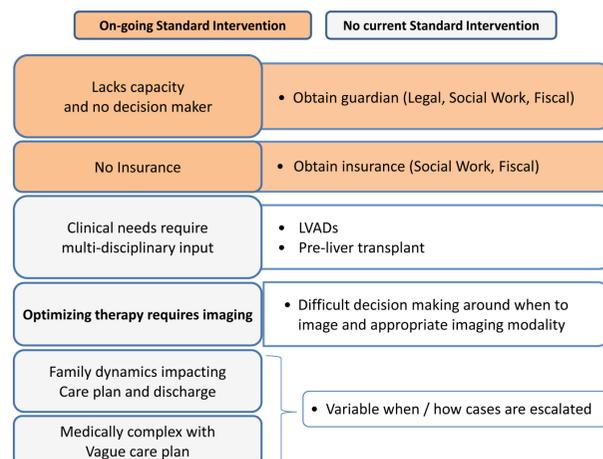
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA



BACKGROUND

- Longer length of stay usually occurs:
 - For patients requiring complex procedures
 - For patients having multiple co-morbidities
 - For difficult to manage conditions
 - For patients with complications during their hospital stay
- Value-based payments are linked to:
 - length of stay
 - readmission rates
 - outcomes
 - patient satisfaction
- Currently radiologists can directly reduce length of stay by
 - reducing report turnaround time
- Value for imaging increases if:
 - Right test
 - Right time
 - Right patient
- However, radiologists are currently not present at the point of order entry
- Therefore, their ability to affect decision-making is limited for:
 - Right test
 - Right time

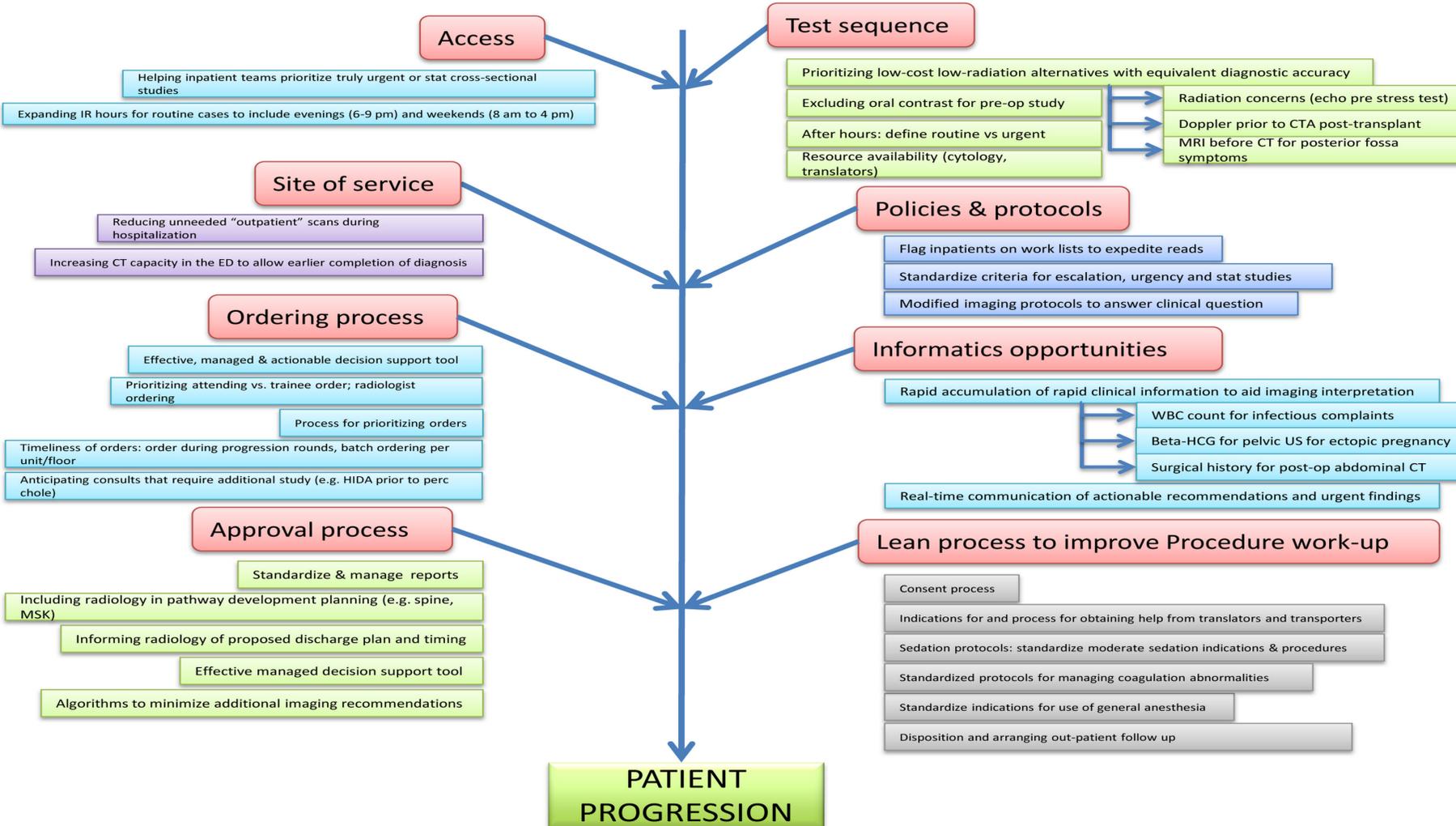
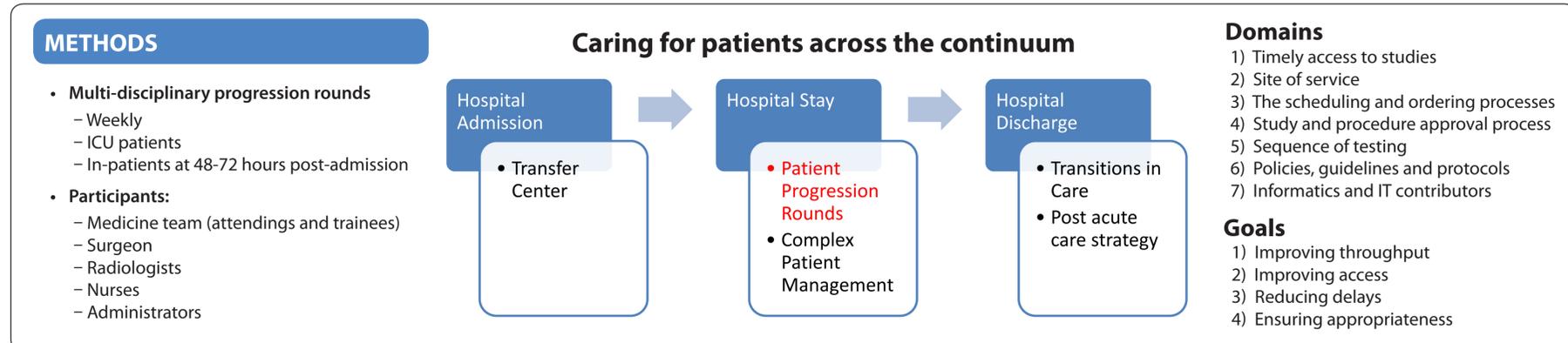
COMPLEX PATIENT MANAGEMENT – Pre-Study period



- Radiologists can also potentially affect length of stay:
 - Rapid diagnosis in the ED to help initiate therapy
 - CT/MRI for stroke
 - Abdominal CT for acute abdominal conditions
 - Post-therapy imaging to guide management plan
 - Serial radiography for pneumonia or pulmonary edema
 - Post-surgical imaging for early recognition of complications
 - Pre-discharge imaging to prevent readmissions
 - Doppler ultrasounds for liver transplant patients

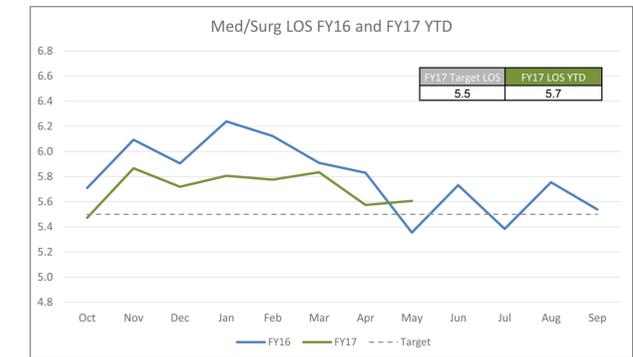
PURPOSE

Document how radiologists can contribute to progression rounds and safely reduce length of stay



RESULTS

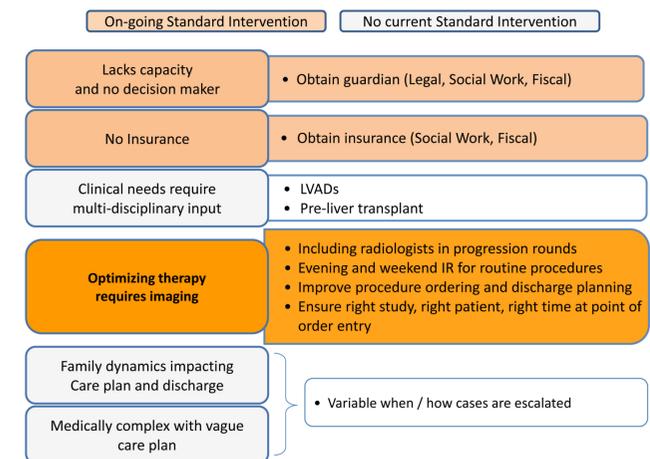
- Of the 8 domains, 29 implementable opportunities were identified
- Those with greatest impact included:
 - prioritizing attending orders
 - bypassing surgical consults for certain procedure requests
 - reducing use of oral contrast
 - radiologist on rounds facilitates procedure requests
 - flag inpatients on reading lists
- The greatest delays were related to scheduling, performance and disposition of patients undergoing procedures
- Additional roles that the radiologists played included:
 - interpreting studies during rounds
 - coordinating timely consults on complex cases
 - interpreting "outside" studies, thus avoiding duplicative imaging



Lower overall LOS and LOS Index compared to same period last fiscal year

	LOS	LOS Index
FY16 (Oct-May)	5.9	1.05
FY17 (Oct-May)	5.7	1.01

COMPLEX PATIENT MANAGEMENT – Post-Study period



CONCLUSION

- Radiologist participation in Patient Progression Rounds is a novel way to contribute to reducing the length of stay
- Radiologist on rounds improve visibility and demonstrate new ways in which imaging specialists can contribute to providing care
- Radiologists can establishing relationships with clinical providers through active participation