

# The INSPIRE Antibiotic Stewardship Trials

I*ntelligent* S*tewardship* P*rompts* to I*mprove* R*eal-time* E*mpiric*  
A*ntibiotic* S*election* for P*atients*

*NIH Collaboratory Steering Committee*  
*Lightning Rounds*



# INSPIRE Trials: Purpose & Design

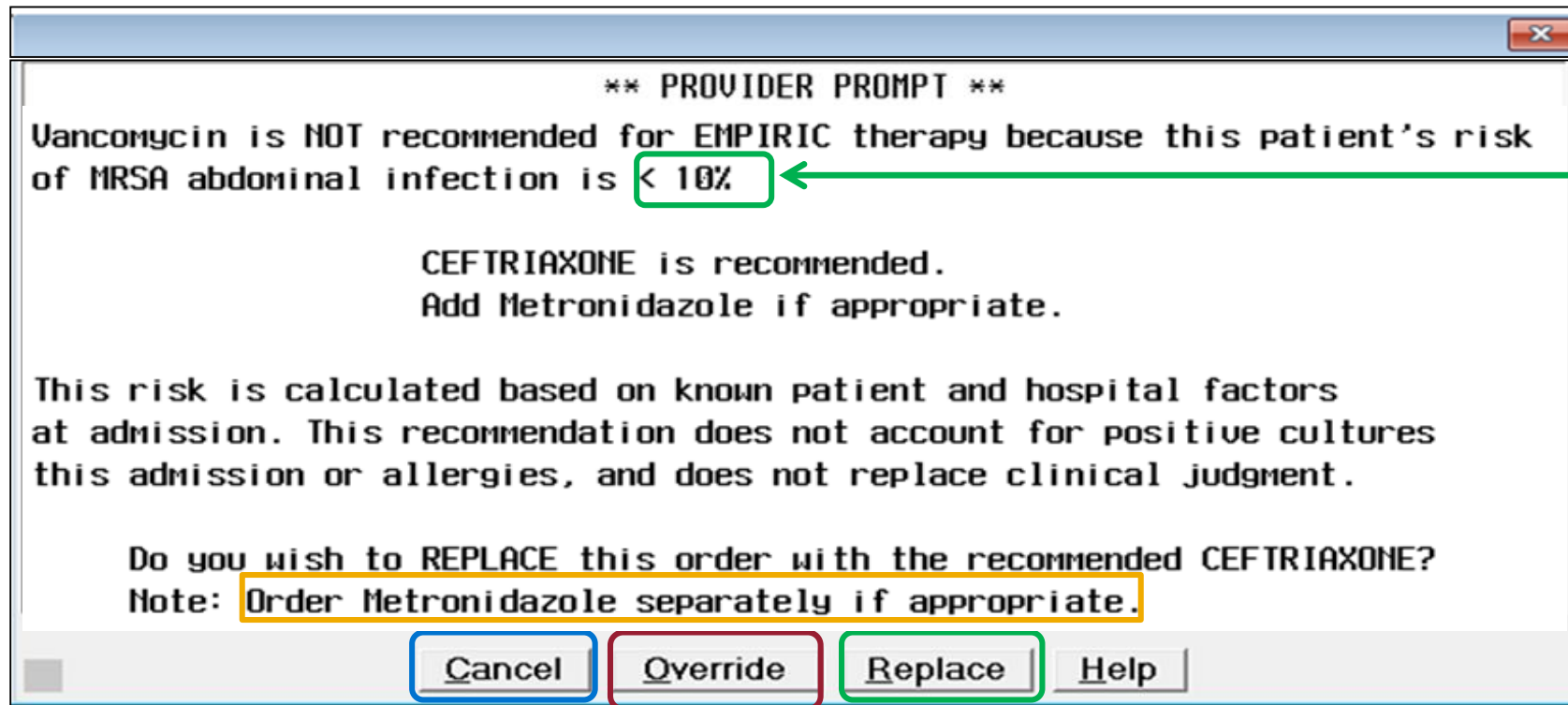
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- **Purpose:** Reduce unnecessary empiric extended-spectrum antibiotic use
- **Design:** Cluster-randomized trials, 92 HCA Healthcare hospitals, non-ICU patients
- **Intervention:** CPOE prompts for abdominal or skin/soft tissue infections
- **Outcomes:**
  - **Effectiveness** – antibiotic use first 3 inpatient days
    - Primary – any broad-spectrum antibiotics, secondary – antibiotic subsets
  - **Safety:** days to ICU transfer, hospital length of stay



# Intervention: Prompt With Patient-Specific Risk for Antibiotic Resistance

- Physician orders antibiotic, algorithm calculates absolute risk, if risk for antibiotic resistant calculated to be low (<10%), then prompt fires



**Absolute risk estimate**

**specific to:**

- ✓ Patient
- ✓ Infection
- ✓ Pathogen
- ✓ Hospital

Returns to order screen

Next screen asks reason to keep vancomycin

Taken to ceftriaxone order screen





# INSPIRE Abdominal & Skin/Soft Tissue Infection Trials

## Results

# INSPIRE Trial Participants

- 92 hospitals in 15 states
- Non-ICU intervention period admissions – **Abdominal Infection = 105,044**  
**Skin & Soft Tissue Infection = 60,725**

## Routine Stewardship

### 46 Hospitals

Abdominal Infection Trial: N = 54,384

Skin & Soft Tissue Infection Trial: N = 31,337

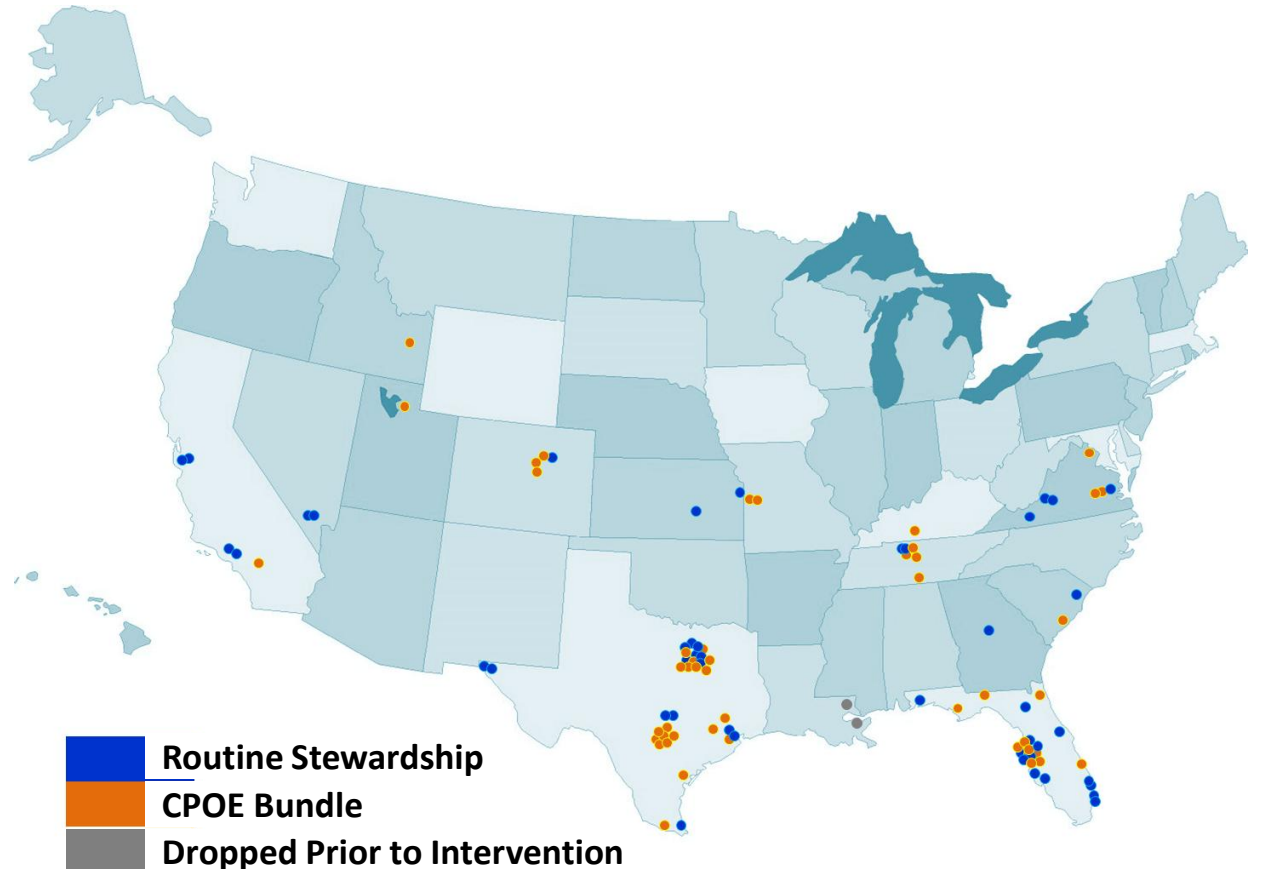
## CPOE Bundle

### 46 Hospitals\*

Abdominal Infection Trial: N = 50,620

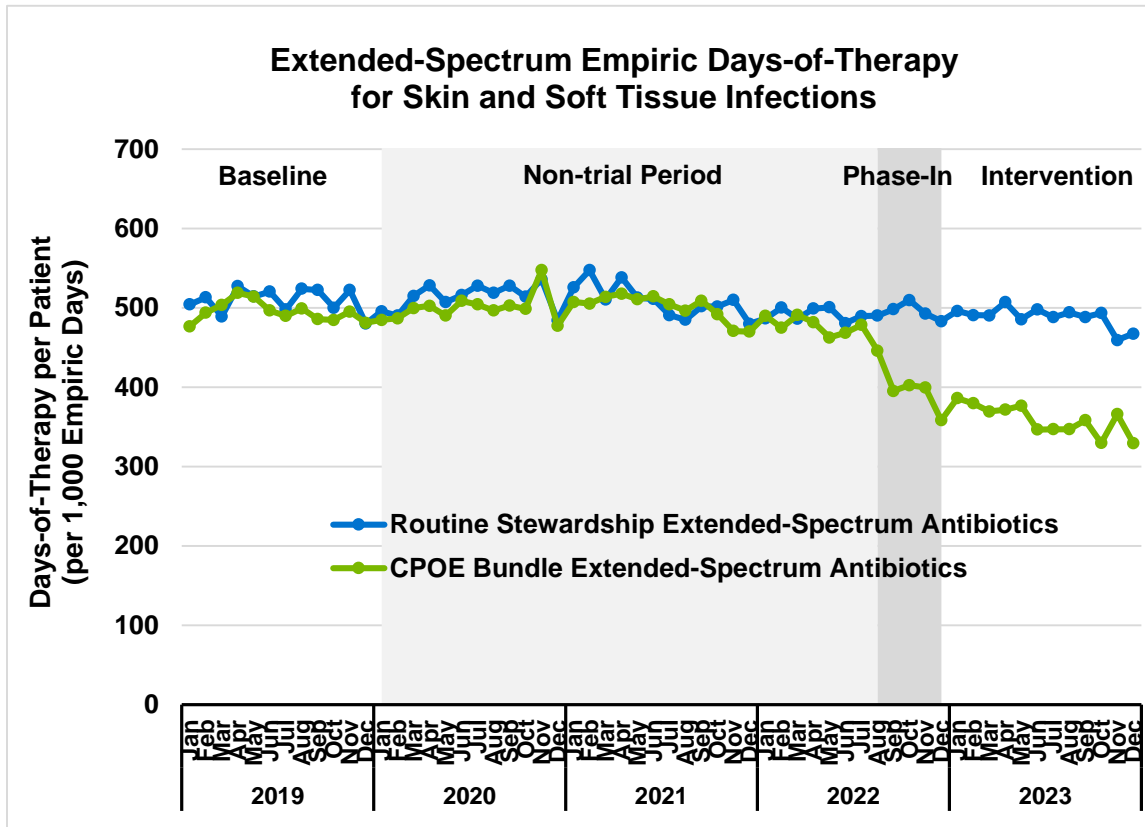
Skin & Soft Tissue Infection Trial: N = 29,388

\*2 hospitals divested from HCA Healthcare before intervention

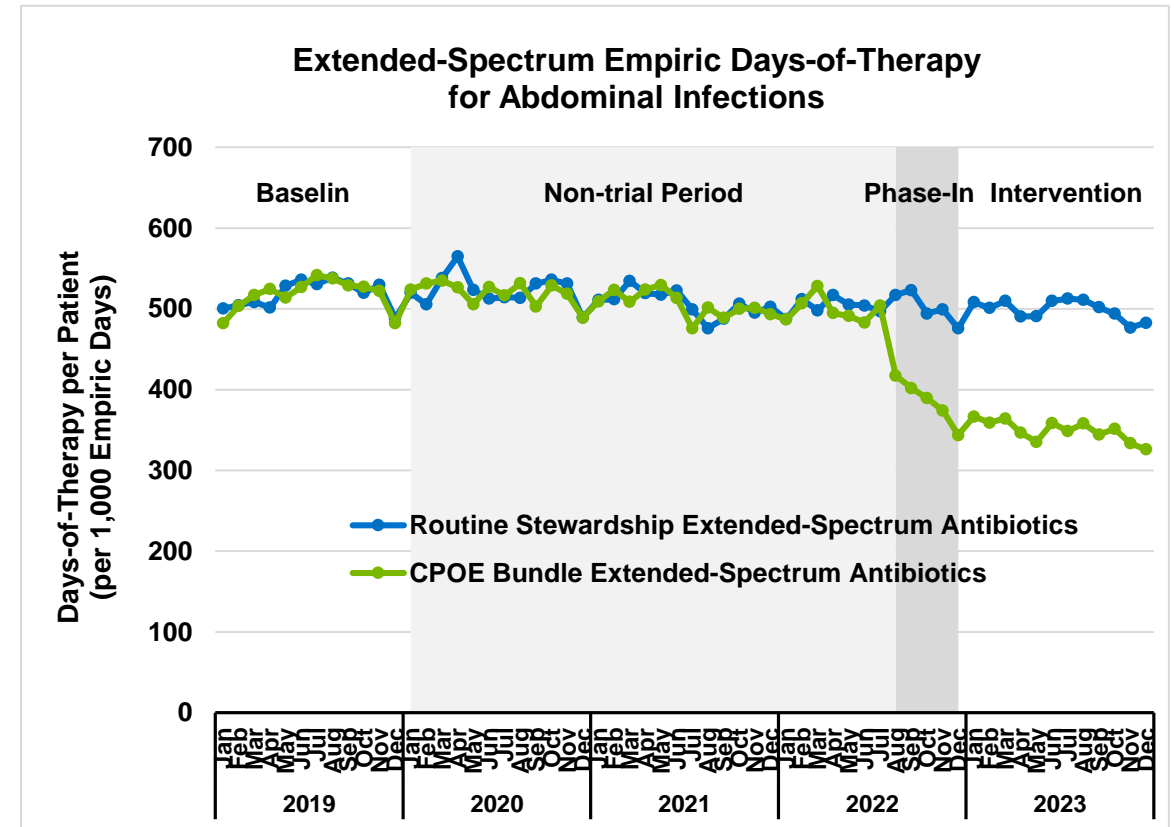


# Reduction in Empiric Days of Therapy Across Study Period

**Skin & Soft Tissue Infections**  
**28% crude absolute reduction**



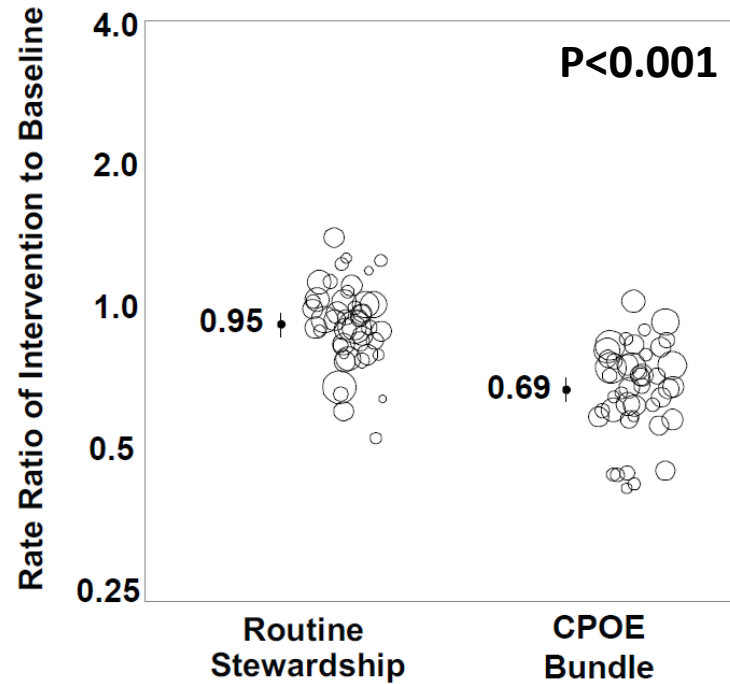
**Abdominal Infections**  
**35% crude absolute reduction**



# INSPIRE Trial Effectiveness Outcomes – As Randomized

## Skin & Soft Tissue Infections

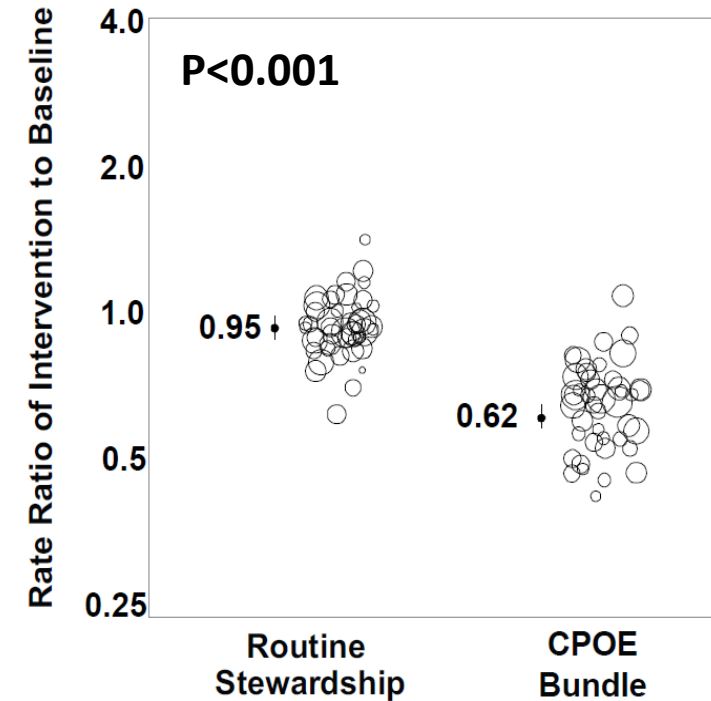
### Extended-Spectrum Days of Therapy



**INSPIRE Intervention**  
**28% reduction**

## Abdominal Infections

### Extended-Spectrum Days of Therapy



**INSPIRE Intervention**  
**35% reduction**

*No evidence of inferiority in safety outcomes*

# INSPIRE Publications & Presentations

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JAMA Internal Medicine | [Original Investigation](#) | LESS IS MORE

Improving Empiric Antibiotic Selection for Patients Hospitalized With Skin and Soft Tissue Infection

The INSPIRE 3 Skin and Soft Tissue Randomized Clinical Trial

JAMA Surgery | [Original Investigation](#)

Improving Empiric Antibiotic Selection for Patients Hospitalized With Abdominal Infection

The INSPIRE 4 Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial

**2 Trials, >160,000 Patients**

- Abdominal infection – ↓35%
- Skin/soft tissue infection – ↓28%

**2 Primary manuscripts**

**1 Editorial**

**1 Commentary**

**3 Secondary studies in progress**

**3 National/international presentations**

**1 National society research award**

# Learning Lessons: Robust Randomization Protects Against the Unexpected

- Multivariable randomization
- Weighted 18 different variables
- Very well-balanced study groups

Variable Name
Annual Admissions – Abdominal (ABD)
Annual Admissions – Skin/Soft Tissue (SST)
Extended-Spectrum (ES) DOT ABD
ES-DOT SST
Vancomycin DOT ABD
Vancomycin DOT SST
Antipseudomonal DOT ABD
Antipseudomonal DOT SST
% Admits Cultured - ABD
% Admits Cultured - SST
% SST Admits MRSA positive
Length of stay ABD
Length of stay SST
Mean Elixhauser score ABD
Mean Elixhauser score SST
% ABD Admitted for Surgery
% Admits Meeting >10% Absolute Risk - ABD
% Admits Meeting >10% Absolute Risk - SST

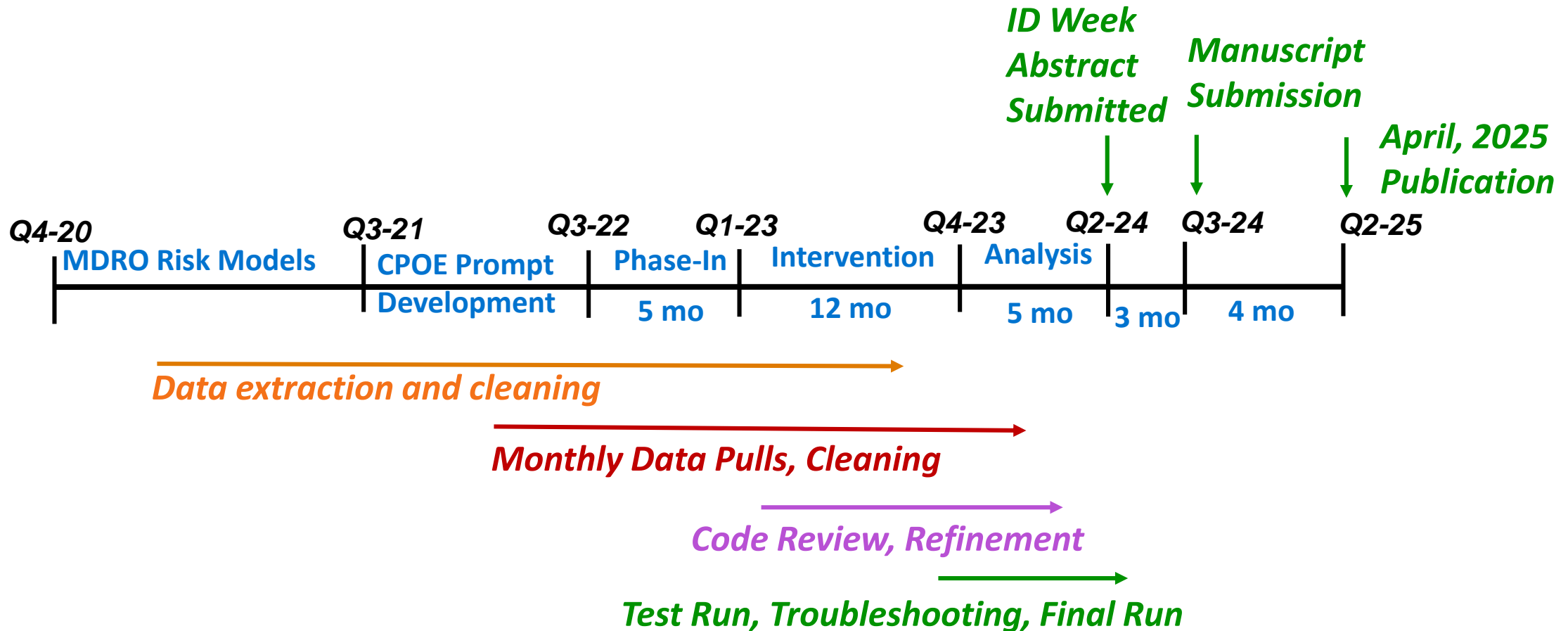


## Lessons Learned: Find Shortest Trial Period Needed To Get the Answer

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- Target recruitment: 60 hospitals out of ~200 → 92 hospitals requested enrollment
- Entire Divisions agreed to participate, health system leadership requests not to limit
- Tradeoff: higher precision versus ethics of over-recruitment
- Recalculated power – what is the shortest intervention period to assess effectiveness but also sufficient to assess safety outcomes?  
→ Able to shorten from 18 to 12 months

# Learning Lessons: Proactive Steps Can Shorten Time to Trial Analysis



# Next Steps

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- Secondary manuscripts
- Dissemination
- Follow-up studies



## Next Steps: Dissemination

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- HCA Healthcare dissemination: activation of prompts to non-trial sites
- Online dissemination toolkit: roadmap for implementation
  - <https://ucihealth.org/healthcare-professionals/inspire>
- Amplify publicity
  - Leveraged media/press teams for joint release through multiple channels
  - Web-based opportunities for feature stories
- Seeking other opportunities to expand adoption
  - Engaging EHR vendors



## Next Steps: Future Studies

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- Can we improve upon the INSPIRE results?
  - Find and prompt for high-risk patients
  - Change prompt language
  - Assess physician phenotype associated with prompt response
  - Target other infections that are overtreated



# PRIM-ER: Primary Palliative Care for Emergency Medicine

May 7, 2024



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Results

- We identified 98,922 initial visits with 51% occurring during the pre-intervention period and 49% in the post-intervention period
- After adjusting for temporal trends and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no difference in the primary outcome
- The hospital admission rate was 64.4% during preintervention vs 61.3% during postintervention (absolute difference, -3.1% [95%CI, -3.7% to -2.5%]; adjusted odds ratio [OR], 1.03 [95% CI, 0.93 to 1.14])

# Results

Table 1: Sample Characteristics

	Pre-Intervention (N=50458)	Post-Intervention (N=48464)
<b>Age</b>		
Median (Q1-Q3)	77.0 (71.0-85.0)	76.0 (71.0-84.0)
<b>Age in Categories, No. (%)</b>		
66-69	9274 (18.4%)	9904 (20.4%)
70-74	10286 (20.4%)	10436 (21.5%)
75-79	9521 (18.9%)	9490 (19.6%)
80-84	8389 (16.6%)	7674 (15.8%)
85+	12988 (25.7%)	10960 (22.6%)
<b>Sex, No. (%)</b>		
Female	25137 (49.8%)	23904 (49.3%)
Male	25321 (50.2%)	24560 (50.7%)
<b>Race and Ethnicity, No. (%)</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	93 (0.2%)	60 (0.1%)
Asian	2042 (4.0%)	1689 (3.5%)
Black	6177 (12.2%)	6863 (14.2%)
Hispanic	2555 (5.1%)	2437 (5.0%)
White	38126 (75.6%)	35891 (74.1%)
Unknown	914 (1.8%)	1018 (2.1%)
Other	551 (1.1%)	506 (1.0%)
<b>COVID Period, No. (%)</b>		
COVID	11795 (23.4%)	43411 (89.6%)
Pre-COVID	38663 (76.6%)	5053 (10.4%)
<b>Gagne Score</b>		
Median (Q1-Q3)	8.00 (7.00-10.0)	8.00 (7.00-10.0)

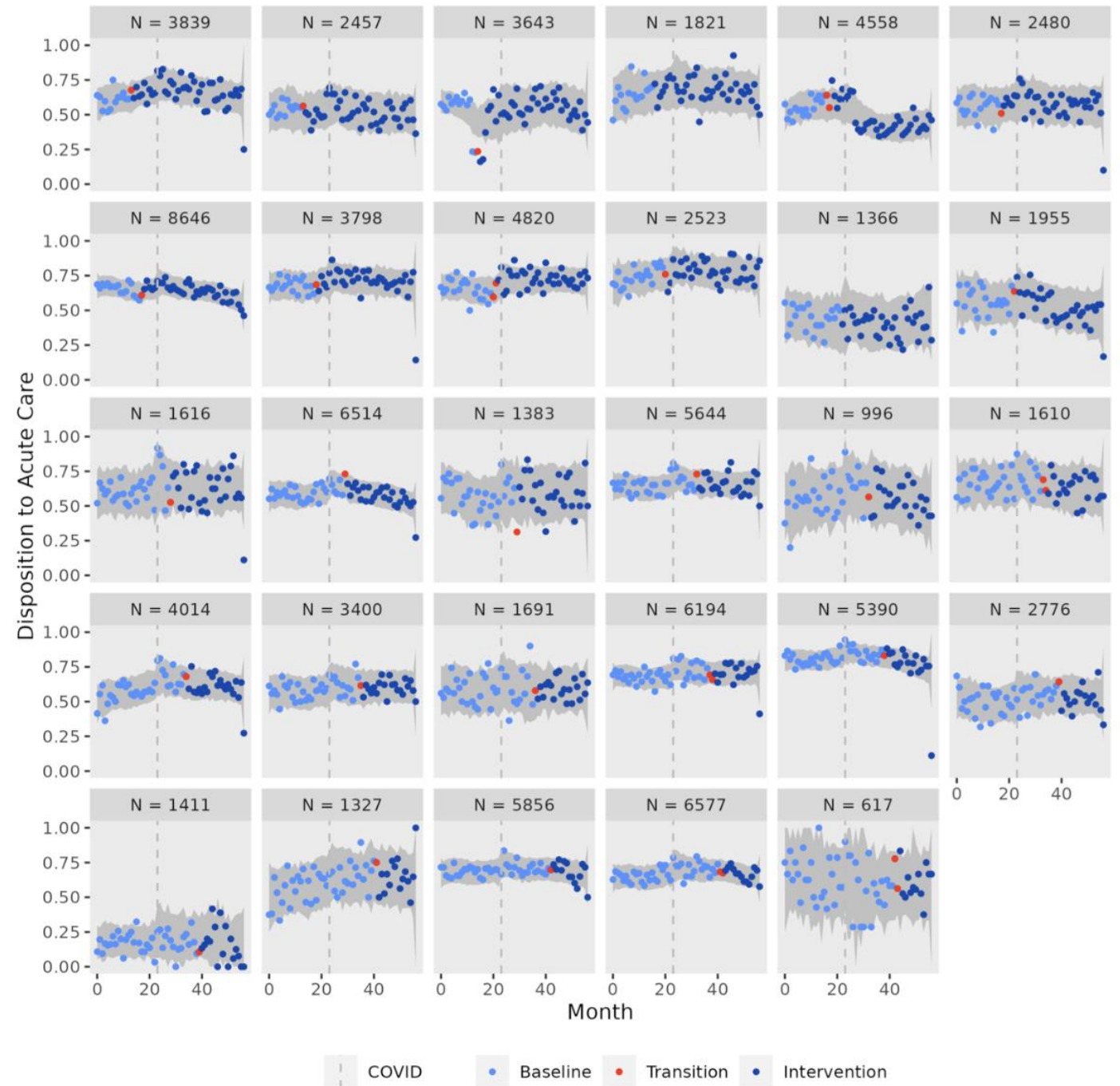
# Results

**Table 2: Model Results**

term	Pre-specified Model		Model adjusting for patient characteristics	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Intercept	1.30	[1.06 to 1.60]	0.42	[0.33 to 0.54]
COVID period	1.36	[1.20 to 1.56]	1.37	[1.20 to 1.57]
Intervention period	0.88	[0.76 to 1.03]	0.90	[0.77 to 1.04]
Post-Intervention period	1.03	[0.93 to 1.14]	1.04	[0.93 to 1.15]
COVID * Intervention period	1.18	[0.96 to 1.45]	1.17	[0.95 to 1.44]
COVID * Post-Intervention period	0.94	[0.84 to 1.05]	0.93	[0.83 to 1.04]
Age (10-year increments)			1.07	[1.06 to 1.09]
Black			0.82	[0.79 to 0.86]
Hispanic			0.79	[0.71 to 0.88]
Asian			1.10	[1.01 to 1.19]
Other race			0.93	[0.87 to 0.99]
Male			1.09	[1.06 to 1.12]
Gagne score			1.06	[1.06 to 1.07]

# Results

Figure 1: Observed proportions by site and month



# Results

- In this cluster randomized clinical trial, which was conducted at 29 US emergency departments (Eds) and included 98 922 initial visits, there was no difference in the rate of hospital admission in older adults with serious, life-limiting illness receiving care before (64.4%) vs after (61.3%) ED clinical staff receipt of a multicomponent primary palliative care intervention.

# Surprises

- It was more challenging to implement the ED nurse training (1-hour online training) vs. the physicians/advance practice providers 4-hour in-person and/or Zoom training
- Approximately 1 in 3 emergency nurses reported that they will encounter barriers while engaging in serious illness conversation. Barriers included: human factors, time constraints, and challenges in the emergency work environment
- It is estimated that 1 trained EM provider will engage 19 seriously ill patients in serious illness conversations every year
- One year after active implementation of the final site, all sites (n=33) still had the BPA/Banner(s) active in the ED.
  - Only 7 sites out of 33 (21%) did not intend to continue to use the BPA/Banner in the future
  - 70% (23/33) sites stated they would recommend the Best Practice Alerts/Banner(s) to other EDs

# Lessons Learned

- A sustainable training infrastructure needs to be in place
  - Ex: We did not have a mechanism to train/re-train new hires after active intervention period
- At teaching facilities collaborate with residency programs to ensure residents are also aware of provider facing best practice alerts and programs
  - Ex: We did not have the capacity to include residents in the intervention
- Engage IT leadership more than 6 months pre-implementation for building and reporting Best Practice Alerts

# Future Plans

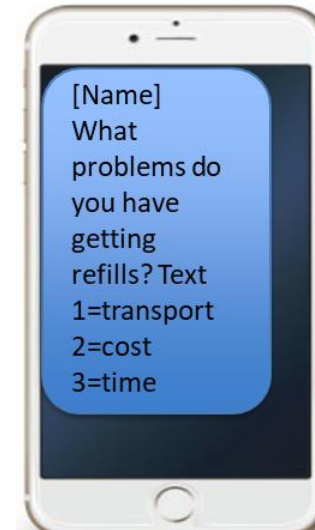
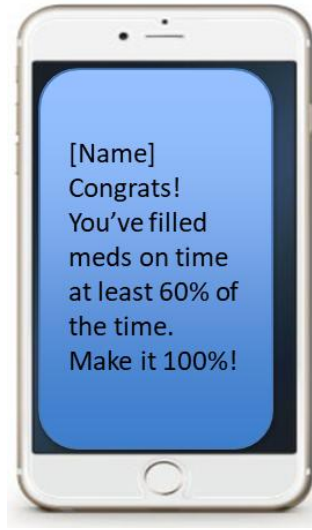
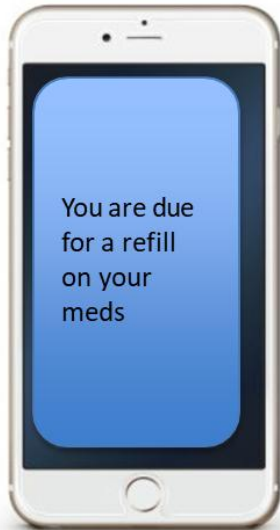
- LEading the Transformation of Alzheimer's and Dementia Care (ED- LEAD)
  - Leveraging PRIM-ER and other interventions, we are testing three interventions relevant to Persons Living With Dementia and their care partners who visit the ED:
    1. Emergency care redesign (UH3AT009844) of new and intentional workflows for emergency providers reinforced by digital alerts (*BPA component of PRIM-ER*)
    2. A nurse-led telephonic care program (PCORI) that increased advance care planning and connected patients to hospice; and
    3. Aa community paramedic-led structured coaching intervention (R01AG050504)

JAMA | Original Investigation

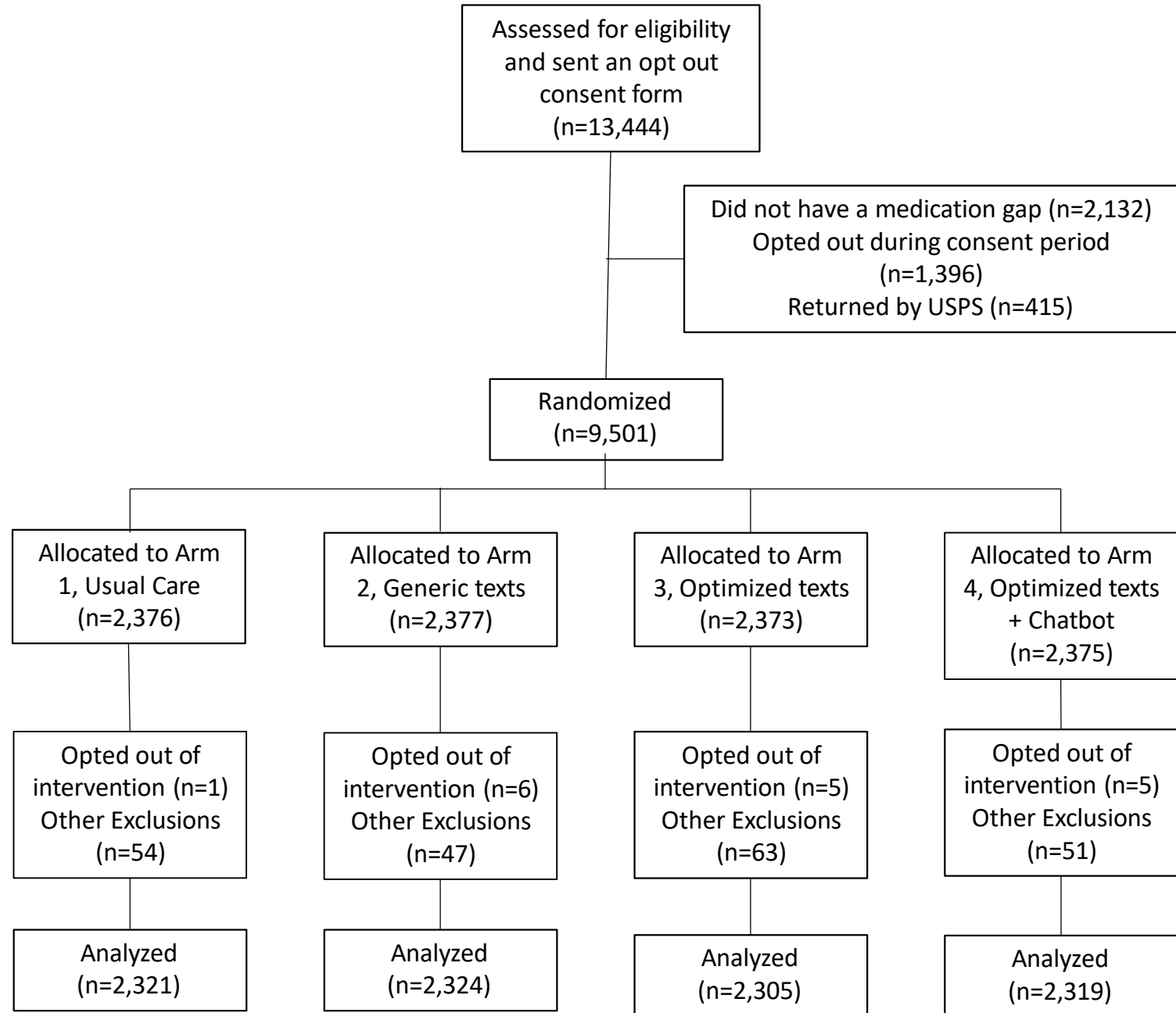
# Personalized Patient Data and Behavioral Nudges to Improve Adherence to Chronic Cardiovascular Medications

## A Randomized Pragmatic Trial

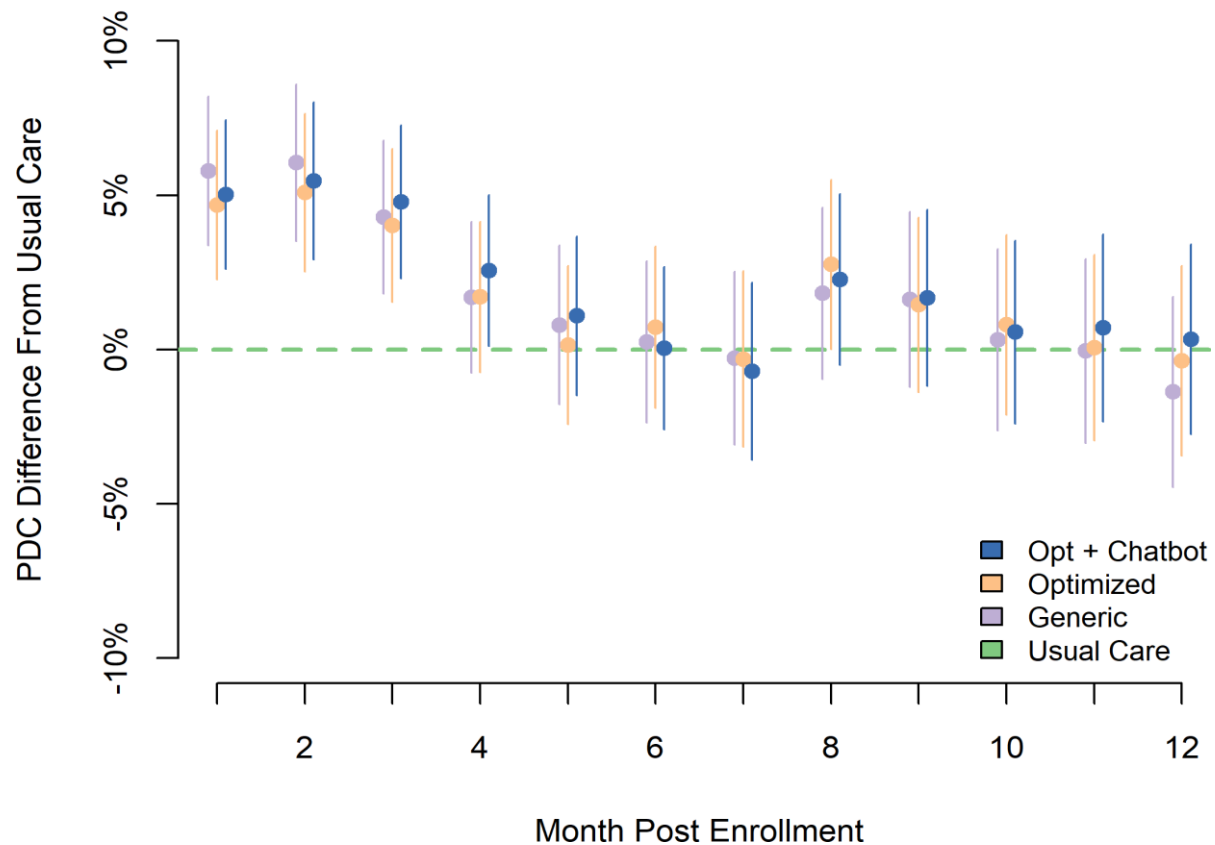
P. Michael Ho, MD, PhD; Thomas J. Glorioso, MS; Larry A. Allen, MD, MHS; Richard Blankenhorn, MSDA, BSF; Russell E. Glasgow, PhD; Gary K. Grunwald, PhD; Amber Khanna, MD; David J. Magid, MD, MPH; Joel Marrs, PharmD, MPH; Sylvie Novins-Montague, BA; Steven Orlando, PharmD; Pamela Peterson, MD, MSPH; Mary E. Plomondon, PhD; Lisa M. Sandy, MA; Joseph J. Saseen, PharmD; Katy E. Trinkley, PharmD, PhD; Shawni Vaughn, MAS; Joy Waughtal, MPH; Sheana Bull, PhD



# Patient flow



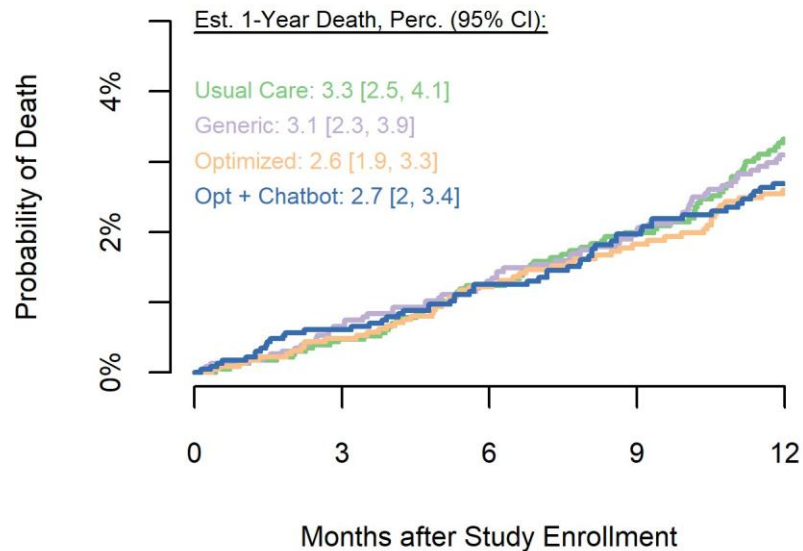
**PDC Difference from Usual Care by Study Month**



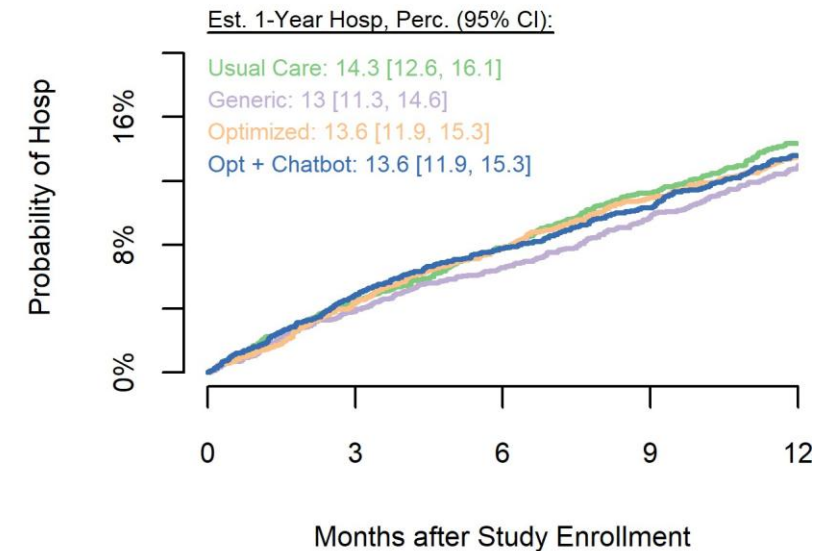
	Usual Care	Generic	Optimized	Opt + Chatbot
PDC at 3 months	56.2%	61.4%	61.1%	61.6%
PDC at 12 months	60.6%	62.0%	62.3%	63.0%

# Clinical Events

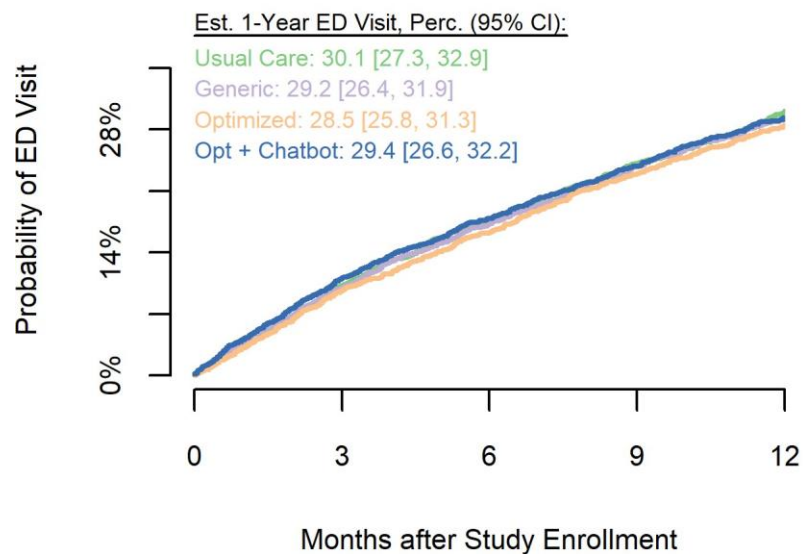
## Death



## Hospitalization



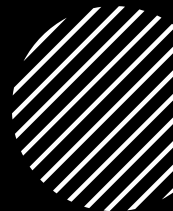
## Emergency Department



- Usual Care
- Generic
- Optimized
- Opt + Chatbot



# Lessons Learned



Opt-out enrollment approach is an option for low-risk studies



Adherence interventions should be multi-modal and bi-directional



Defining outcome measures that are sensitive to the intervention



Consideration of pros/cons of health system integration










Next steps: Conducting Chat 4 Heart Health study



# Pragmatic trial of higher vs lower serum phosphate targets in patients undergoing hemodialysis

Rishi Chakraborty  
DCRI, Duke University

# HiLo: A Pragmatic, Randomized Trial of Phosphate Management for Patients on Maintenance Hemodialysis

Setting & Participants	Intervention	Novel Design Features
 <p>Pragmatic, cluster-randomized trial</p>  <p>4,400 patients receiving thrice-weekly hemodialysis in 80-120 dialysis facilities</p>	<p><b>'Hi' phosphate target (<math>\geq 6.5</math> mg/dl)</b></p> <p>vs</p> <p><b>'Lo' phosphate target (<math>&lt; 5.5</math> mg/dl)</b></p> <p>Follow-up: 27-45 months</p> <p>Interventions to reach phosphate targets at the discretion of the dietitians &amp; providers</p>	 <p>Extensive stakeholder engagement with patients, dietitians, nephrologists</p>  <p>Hierarchical composite outcome of all-cause mortality &amp; hospitalizations</p>  <p>Pragmatic trial with liberal eligibility criteria</p>  <p>Electronic informed consent (eConsent)</p>  <p>Real-world data collection from EHR</p>

**CONCLUSION:** HiLo will address the question of what serum phosphate target to use in hemodialysis while advancing methods for pragmatic clinical trials in nephrology.

Daniel L. Edmonston, Tamara Isakova, Laura M. Dember, et al (2020)

@AJKDonline | DOI: 10.1053/j.ajkd.2020.10.008



# Study Overview

- **Target Enrollment**

  - Cluster: 4400 participants at 100-150 dialysis centers across the US.

  - Individual: 3800 participants at 100-150 dialysis centers across the US.

- **Study Population**

  - Adults > 18 years with end stage renal disease (ESRD) undergoing three-times-weekly in-center hemodialysis for at least three months

- **Dialysis Providers**

  - DaVita, Inc

  - University of Utah (later acquired by DaVita)



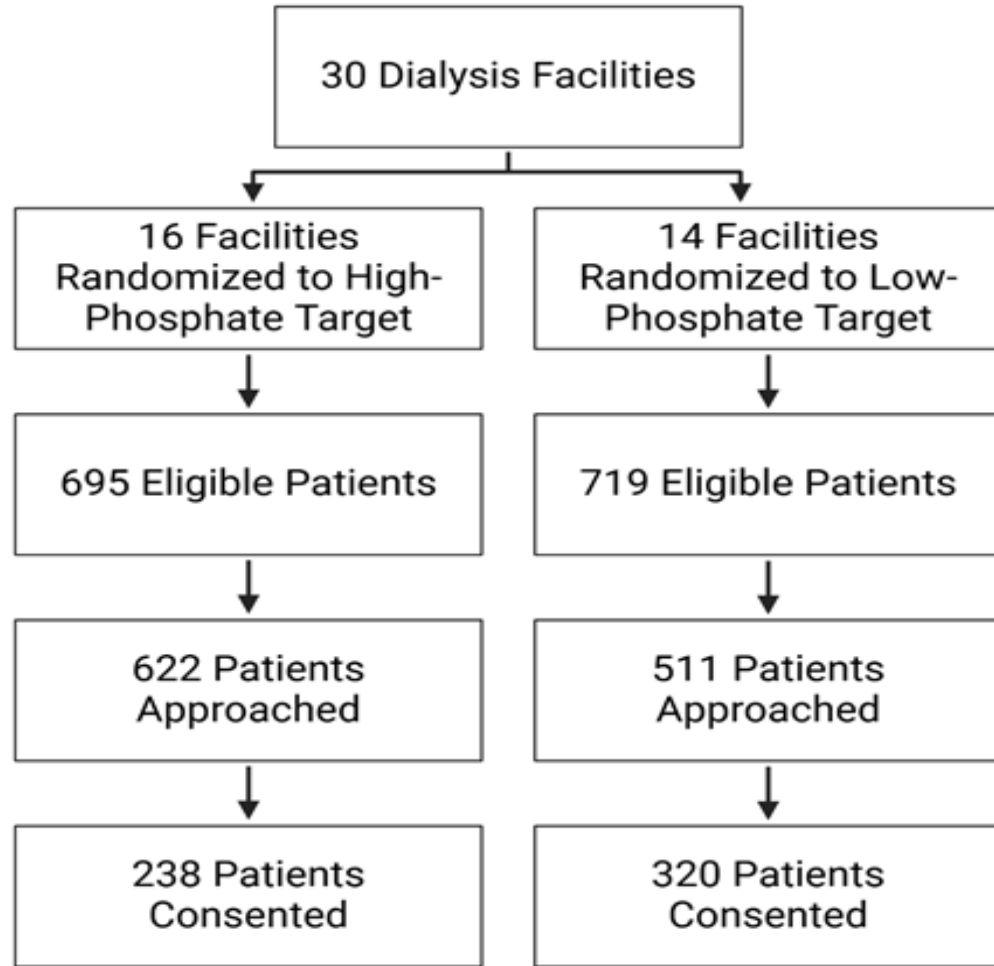
# Timeline Overview

- **Original Study Design (starts: November 2019 protocol)**  
Pragmatic, **cluster-randomized**, open-label, non-inferiority outcomes trial.
- **Modified Study Design (starts: September 2021 protocol)**  
Pragmatic, open-label, multicenter, clinical outcomes trial with **individual-level randomization**.
- **Study Ends: November 2023**

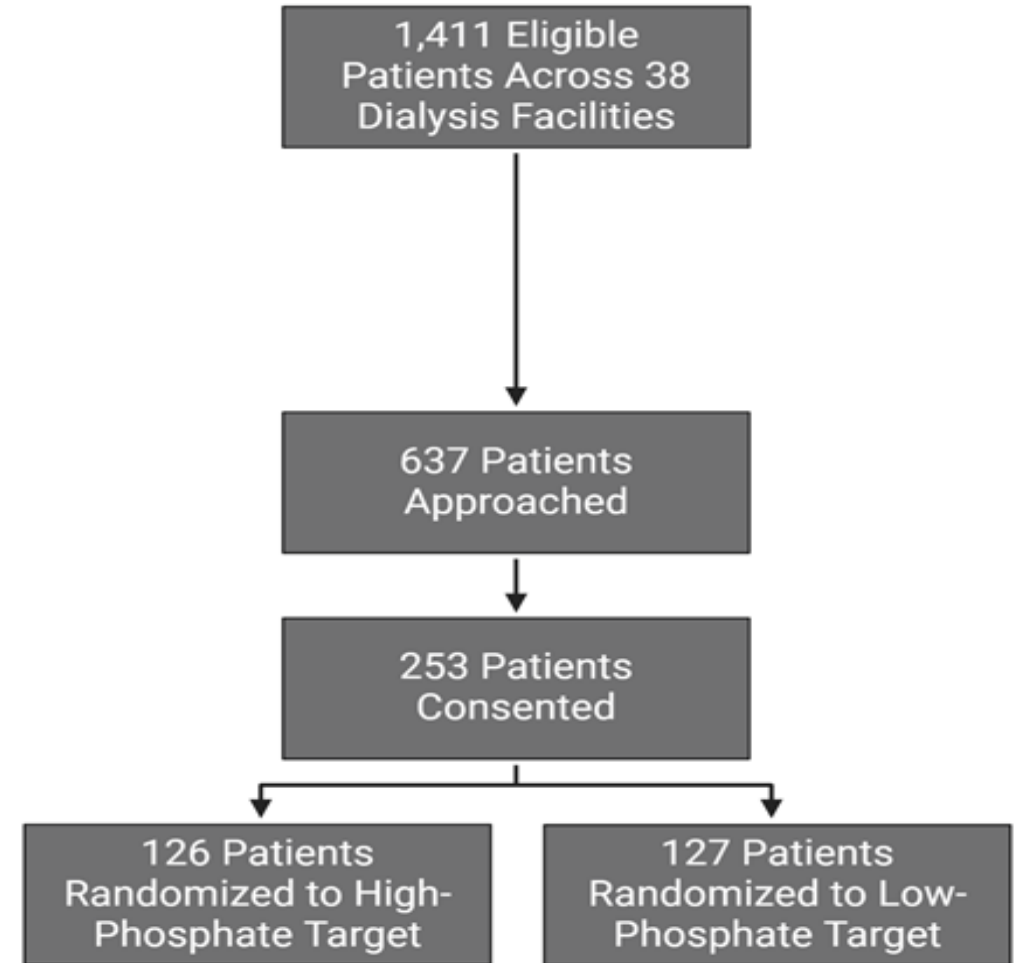


# Enrollment

## Cluster Randomization Phase

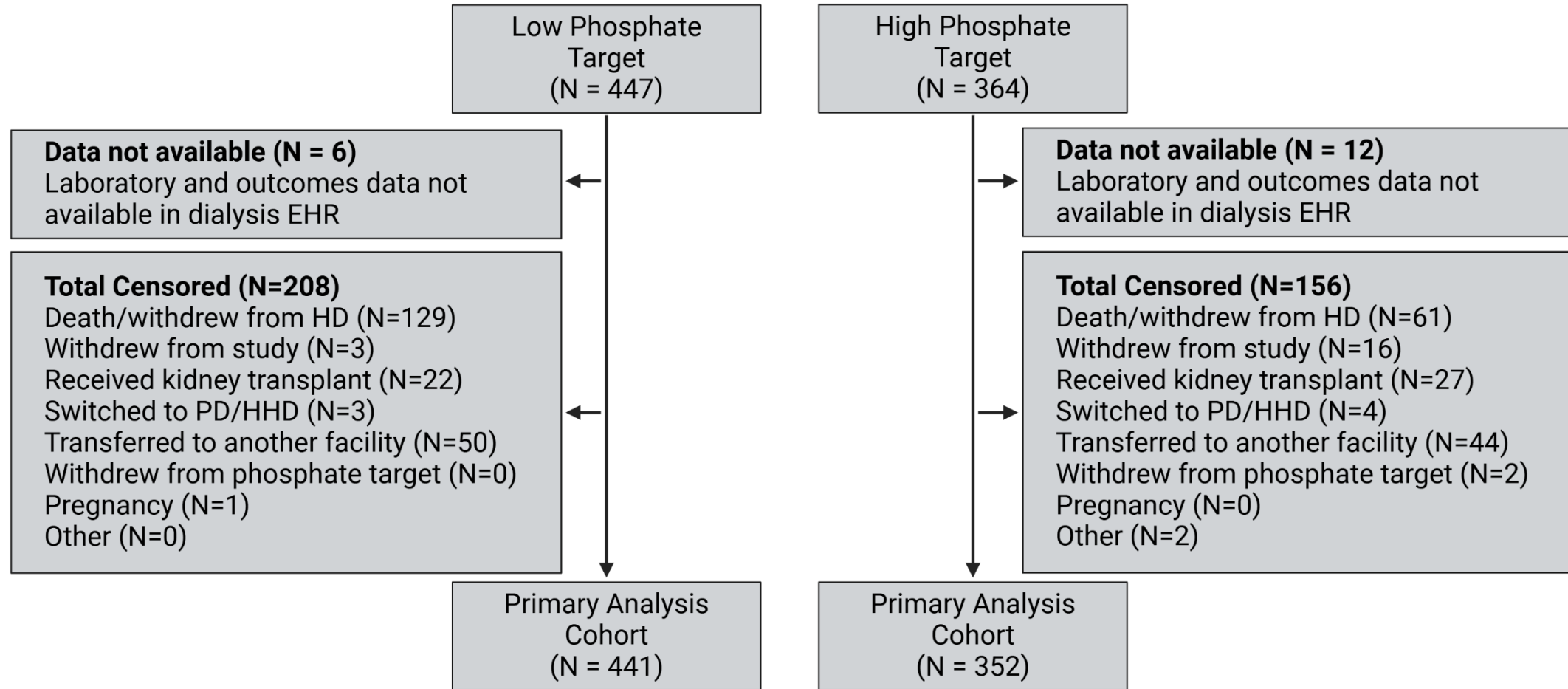


## Individual Randomization Phase



# Enrollment

## Combined Analysis Cohort





# Conclusions

- The primary hierarchical composite outcome did not differ between groups (win ratio for Hi versus Lo targets was 0.97; 95% confidence interval, 0.55-1.71).
- Although insufficient enrollment and inadequate phosphate separation between groups preclude inferences about the effects of phosphate targets on clinical outcomes, features of HiLo can inform future trial design in maintenance hemodialysis populations.

*Higher versus Lower Phosphate Targets for Patients Undergoing In-Center Hemodialysis: A Randomized Controlled Trial (submitted to Journal of the American Society of Nephrology in May 2025)*



# Discussion



**NIH PRAGMATIC TRIALS  
COLLABORATORY**

Rethinking Clinical Trials®