

A Trial of a “Kidney Action Team” for Hospitalized Patients with Acute Kidney Injury

F. Perry Wilson, MD MSCE

Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health

Director, Clinical and Translational Research Accelerator

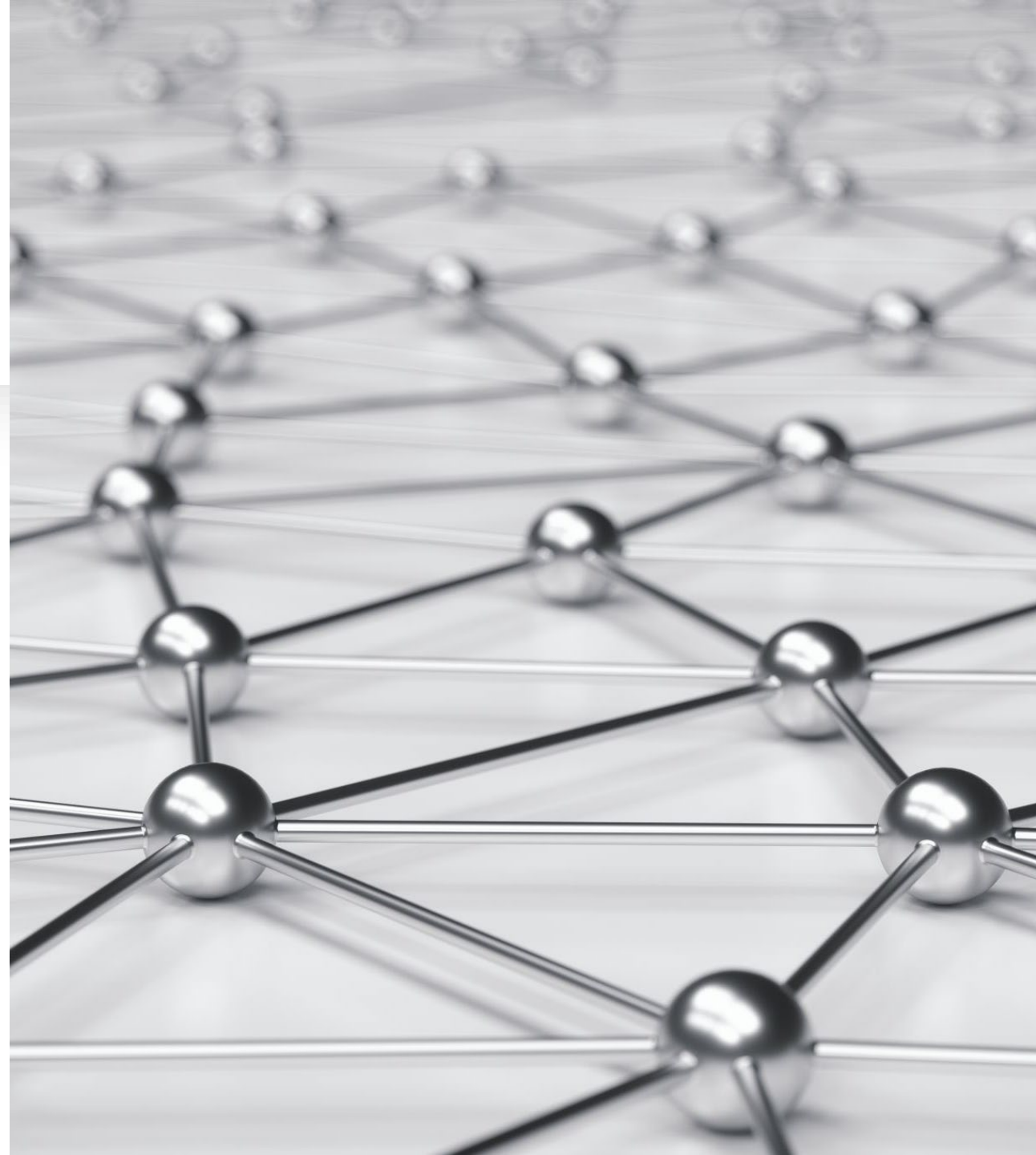
Yale University, New Haven CT USA

Disclosures

- Research support: NIDDK, AHRQ, DOD, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Whoop
- Consulting: WndrHLTH
- Ownership: Efference, LLC

Learning Objectives

- Describe the four critical elements for alerts to be successful in theory
- Describe the elements alerts require to be successful in practice
- Describe how human-supervised recommendations may lead to better alert automation



Grand Unified Theory of Electronic Alerts

Alerts
can not
work if...

- The provider already *knows* what is wrong with the patient
- They don't *care* about what is wrong with the patient
- They have no specific *action* to take in response
- The action does not *matter* - i.e it doesn't change outcomes

AKI is a Problem!

- Acute Kidney Injury is common in hospitalized patients (~15%).
- A hospitalized patient with AKI has an inpatient mortality rate of 10% (vs. 1.5% for a hospitalized patient without AKI)
- Early recognition and nephrologist involvement may improve clinical outcomes



AKI Definition

- Abrupt decline in kidney function.
- Based on serum creatinine levels:
 - Increase by 0.3mg/dL over 48 hours.
 - Relative increase by 50% over 7 days.

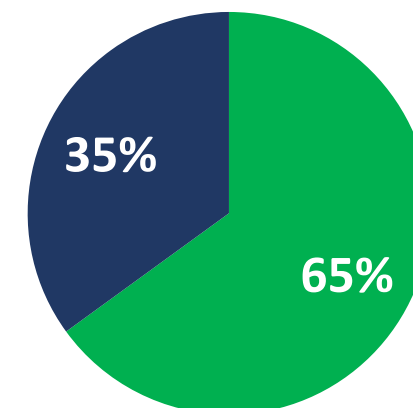
THE PROBLEM - ACTIONS

Nephrotoxic agents are continued after AKI.

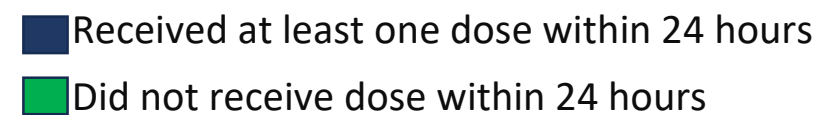
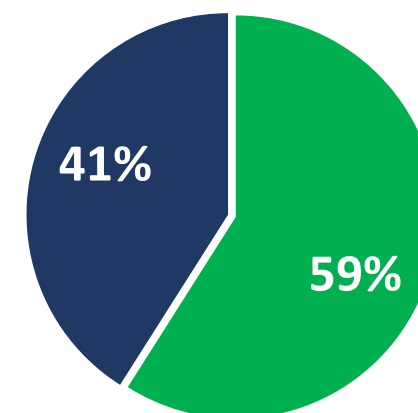
Best Practice	Current Rate
AKI Documentation	34.2%
Urinalysis	16.4%
Creatinine Monitoring	65.2%
Urine output monitoring	77.5%
Avoidance of Nephrotoxins	92.6%

AKI best practices occurring within 24 hours of AKI among 9,534 individuals with AKI at 3 study hospitals. Nephrotoxins defined as receipt of iodinated contrast, aminoglycoside, or NSAID.

ACEi

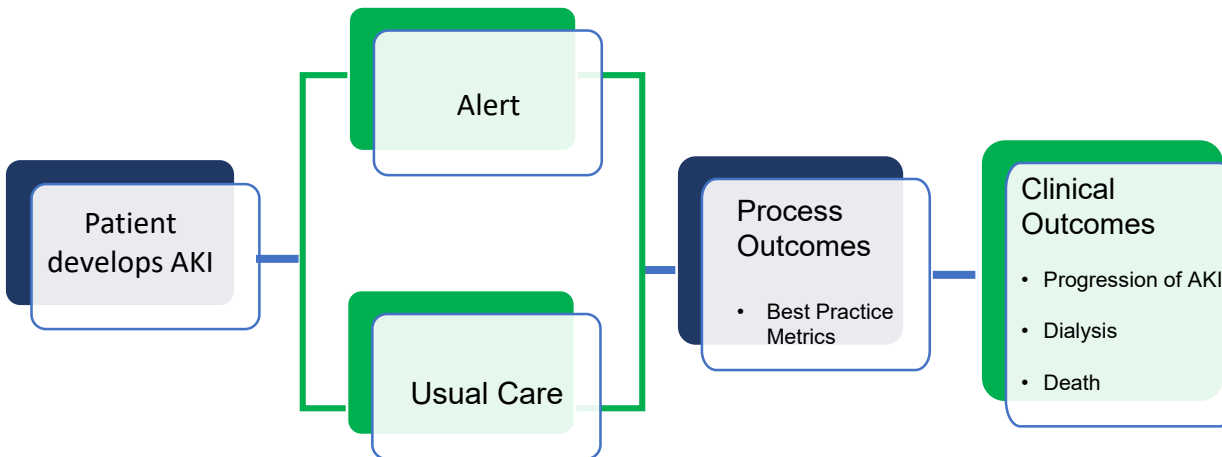


NSAIDs



ARE ALERTS A SOLUTION? A RANDOMIZED TRIAL

ELAIA-1 was a multicenter, randomized, parallel-group clinical trial of an electronic alert system for acute kidney injury.





Best Practice Alert for AKI

BestPractice Advisory

✓ Patient Safety (Advisory: 1)

⚠ AKI Alert:

Your patient has been identified as having acute kidney injury. Relevant creatinine values over the last seven days are listed below:

Most recent: 0.93 mg/dl

Lowest in past 7 days: 0.5 mg/dl

Highest in past 7 days: 0.93 mg/dl

THIS ALERT DOES NOT FIRE FOR ALL PATIENTS. This patient is part of a randomized trial. For more information click here: www.akistudy.org. For AKI best practices, click here: www.akistudy.org/aki-best-practices.

Open Order Set

Do Not Open

AKI ORDER SET [preview](#)

Add Problem

Do Not Add

Acute kidney injury > [Edit details](#) (Hospital problem, Share with patient)

Acknowledge Reason

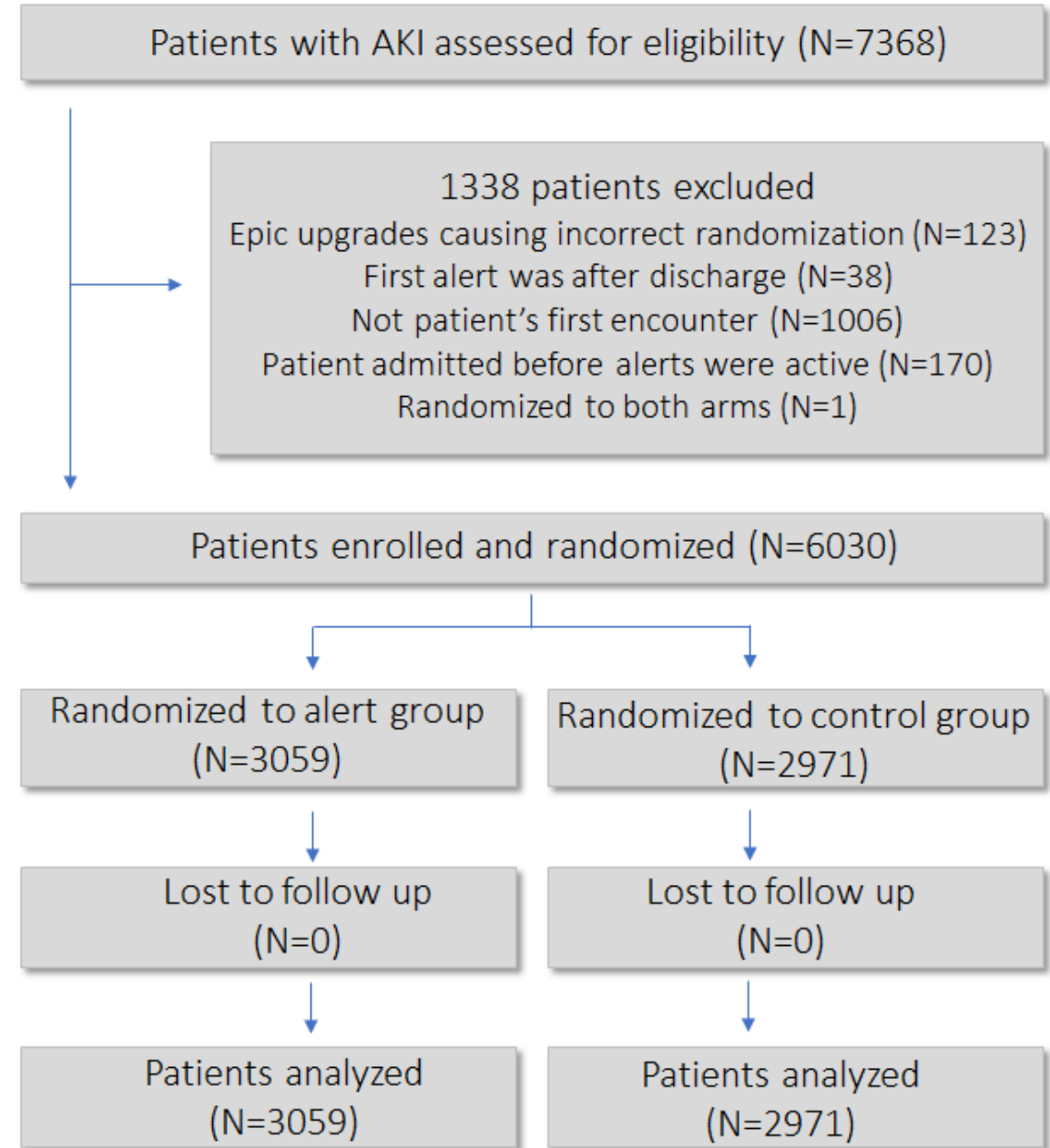
Agree - Do not alert me for 48 hours

Disagree with alert because...

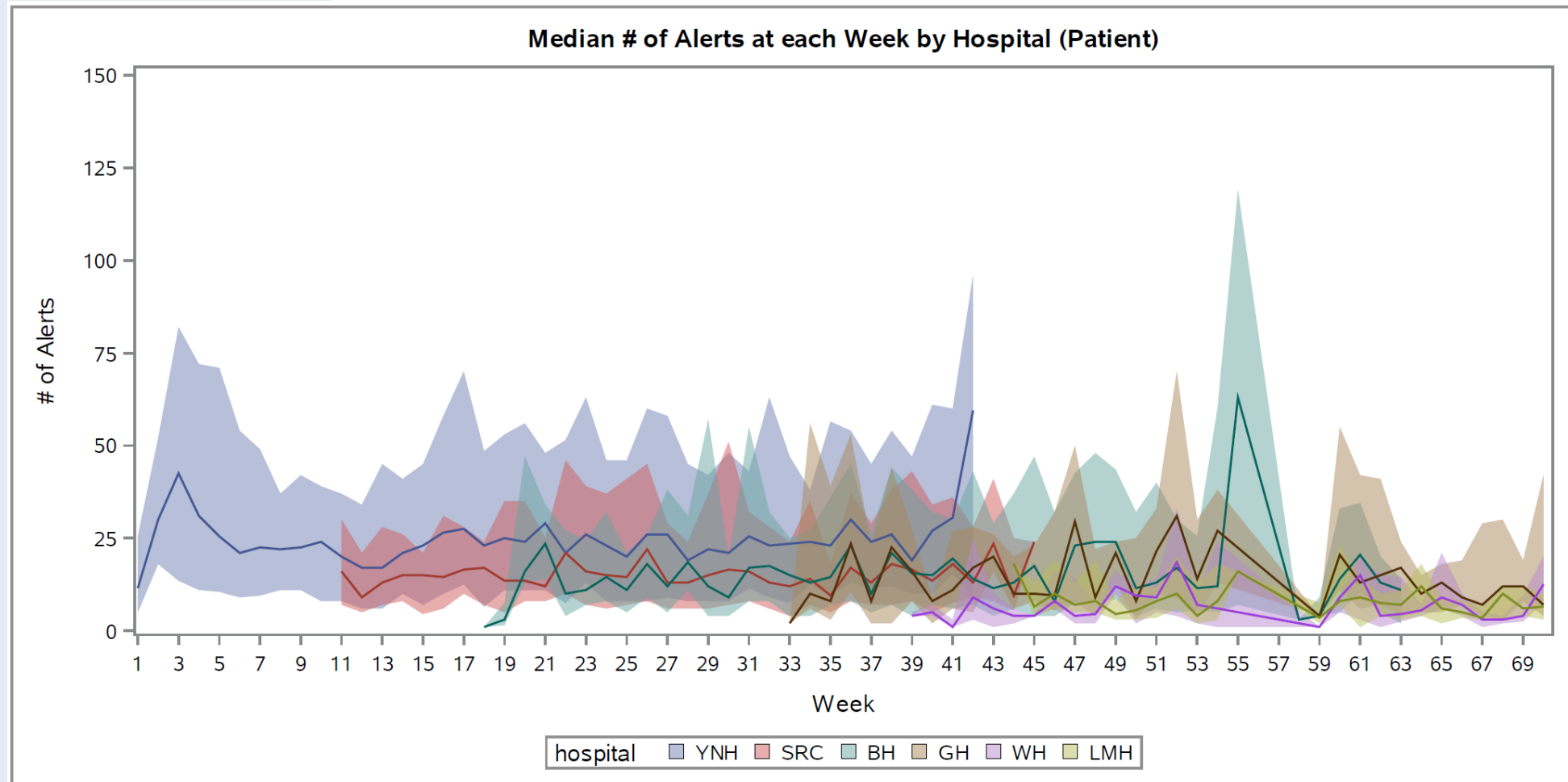
✓ Accept

Dismiss

CONSORT Diagram



THE PRICE OF REAL-TIME RESEARCH IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE



Weekly Metrics *We* Follow...



HOSPITAL	PT_DEPT_AT_TIME_ALERT_FIRED	LAG	ACTION_INSTANT	TRIGGERING_LAB_RESULT_TIME
YNH	YNH EP 65 SURGERY	-2:09	2018-06-22T06:00:00	2018-06-22T08:09:00
YNH	YNH EP 75 MEDICINE	-1:40	2018-06-22T06:34:00	2018-06-22T08:14:00
YNH	YNH NP 10 MICU SD	-1:26	2018-06-22T06:13:00	2018-06-22T07:39:00
YNH	YNH SP 51 CORONARY CARE UNIT	-2:34	2018-06-22T06:00:00	2018-06-22T08:34:00
YNH	YNH NP 11 HEME ONCOLOGY	-1:47	2018-06-22T06:04:00	2018-06-22T07:51:00
YNH	YNH SP 54 SURGERY	-1:58	2018-06-22T05:55:00	2018-06-22T07:53:00
YNH	YNH NP 9 MICU	-1:13	2018-06-22T06:33:00	2018-06-22T07:46:00

Negative time values all happening on the same day

Hi Perry

Yes. We did have some corections made that day for creatinine. The regent volume was incorrect/unupdated, but all patients that were affected during that period were repeated and corrected. Corrective action has already been taken to prevent this from happening in the future.

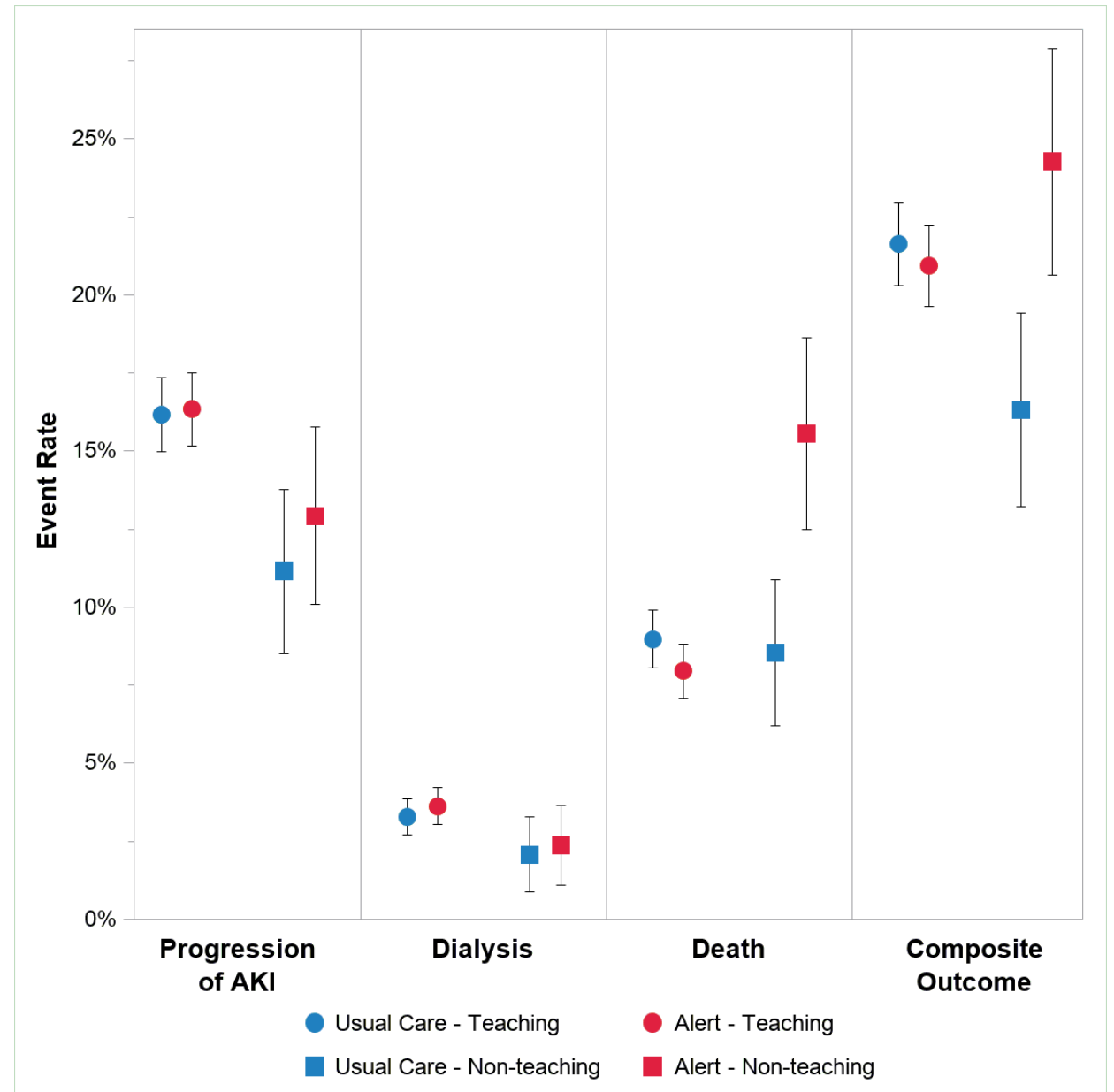
I hope this clarifies your question. I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you.

Julie

Julie Diakonikolas, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
Autochemistrty Section Coordinator

Variables “Break”

ELAIA-1: Unexpected Results



Explaining a Surprise?

	Adjusted Relative Risk of Death	Percent of Effect Mediated
Baseline adjusted Relative Risk	1.58 (1.08 - 2.31)	n/a
Markers of Fluid Overload		
IV fluid administration (binary)	1.59 (1.09 - 2.31)	-3.1
NS administration (binary)	1.58 (1.08 - 2.31)	-1.6
LR administration (binary)	1.61 (1.10 - 2.35)	-0.4
IV Fluid Administration (Total in 24h)	1.58 (1.08 - 2.31)	-0.6
O2 Sat (24 h)	1.60 (1.08 - 2.37)	-1.4
O2 Sat (48 h)	1.58 (1.07 - 2.33)	-0.5
Change in O2 sat	1.51 (1.01 - 2.24)	-0.4
Respiratory rate	1.52 (1.03 - 2.24)	-1.6
Change in Respiratory rate	1.52 (1.03 - 2.24)	-1.6
Medications		
IV Contrast	1.58 (1.08 - 2.33)	0.8
Diuretic use	1.54 (1.05 - 2.25)	-0.1
Loop Diuretic use	1.58 (1.08 - 2.31)	-0.6
Process Factors		
Other alert burden	1.58 (1.08 - 2.31)	0
Percent of Alerts to Attending Physicians	1.57 (1.07 - 2.30)	2.8
Renal Consult	1.58 (1.07 - 2.31)	-0.3

ELAIA-1 TAKE HOME POINTS



Real-time clinical research is highly efficient and cost effective.



These studies are pragmatic and give practical, actionable information for a health system.



Randomized trials are key to detect unexpected effects



AKI Bundles May Improve Outcomes

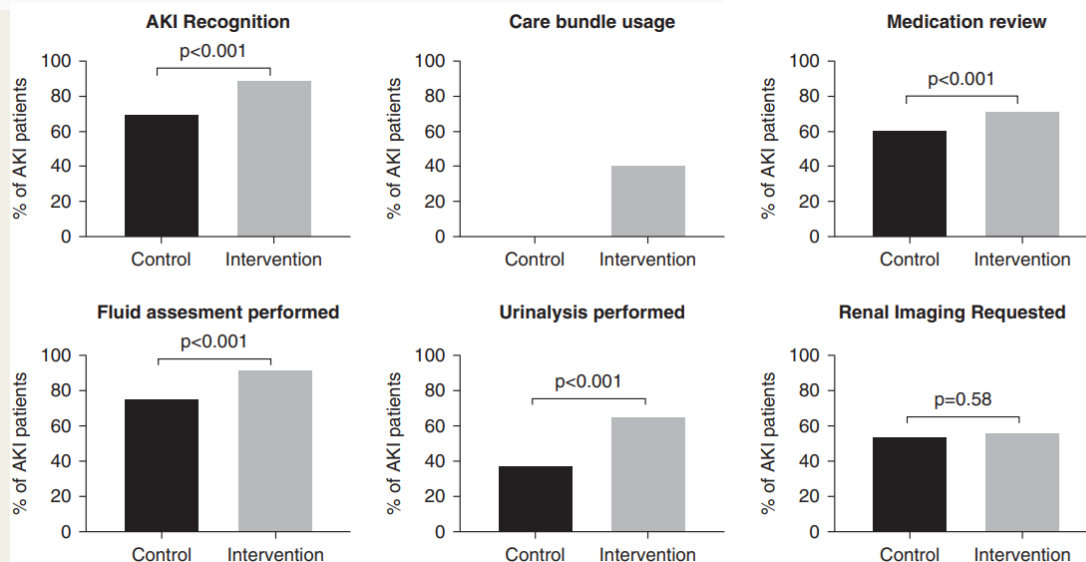
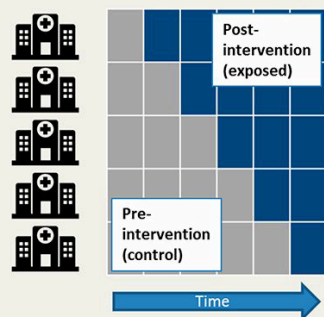
Tackling AKI Study: Organisational Level Interventions for Acute Kidney Injury

METHODS:






Multicentre stepped-wedge cluster randomised trial.

Intervention: hospital-wide AKI e-alerts, care bundle and education.

24,059 AKI episodes
5 hospitals



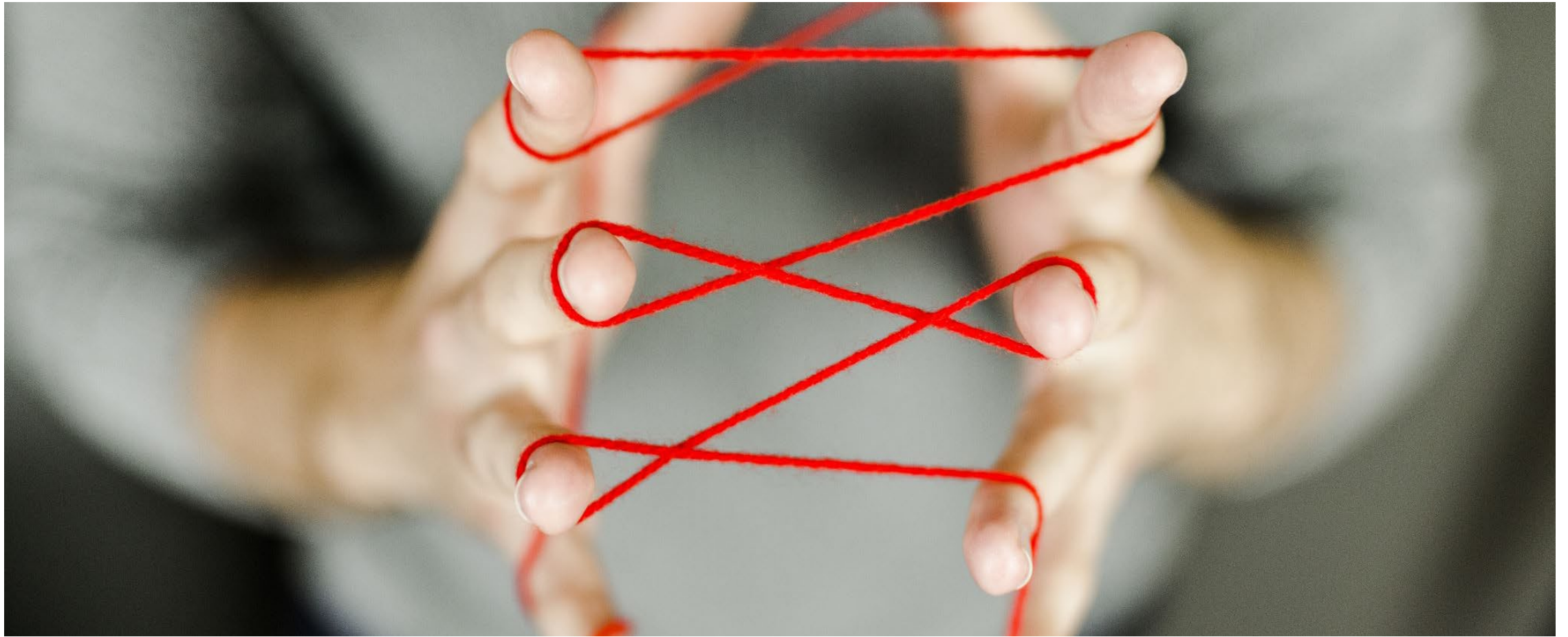
OUTCOMES:

- 30-day mortality (Primary outcome) 
- AKI progression 
- Hospital length of stay (in those with longer LoS) 
- AKI incidence (improved detection) 
- Delivery of AKI care 

CONCLUSION: A complex, hospital-wide intervention for AKI did not alter mortality but reduced hospital length of stay, whilst improving quality of care and AKI recognition.



Hypothesis: Alerts Should Be Tied To Actions



ELAIA-2: Drug-Targeted AKI Alerts

Medication Alerts (1)

⚠️ AKI Alert - Consider Clinical Indication for the Following Medications!

Most recent creatinine: **1.5 mg/dl**
Lowest creatinine in past 7 days: **0.62 mg/dl**
Highest creatinine in past 7 days: **1.51 mg/dl**

ACEI/ARB/RAAS - These medications decrease pressure in the glomerulus, decreasing GFR. If you stop this agent, please consider an alternative anti-hypertensive agent and closely monitor blood pressure. (1h ago, onward)


	Start
lisinopril (PRINIVIL,ZESTRIL) tablet 2.5 mg Daily	07/01/20 0900

PPI - These medications have been linked to acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease. (1h ago, onward)

	Start
pantoprazole (PROTONIX) 40 mg in sodium chloride 0.9% PF 10 mL (4 mg/mL) Every 12 Hours Scheduled	06/26/20 2100

This patient is part of a randomized trial. This alert does not fire for all patients with AKI and may not display all relevant medications. Please review all medications on your patient's list for potential discontinuation or dose adjustment. For more information click here: www.akistudy.org/elaia2. For AKI best practices, click here: www.akistudy.org/aki-best-practices.

To review and assess patient medications, click below to enter the medication order entry screen.

 [CLICK HERE TO OPEN MEDICATION ORDER ENTRY](#)

Acknowledge Reason _____

Selection of Medications of Interest

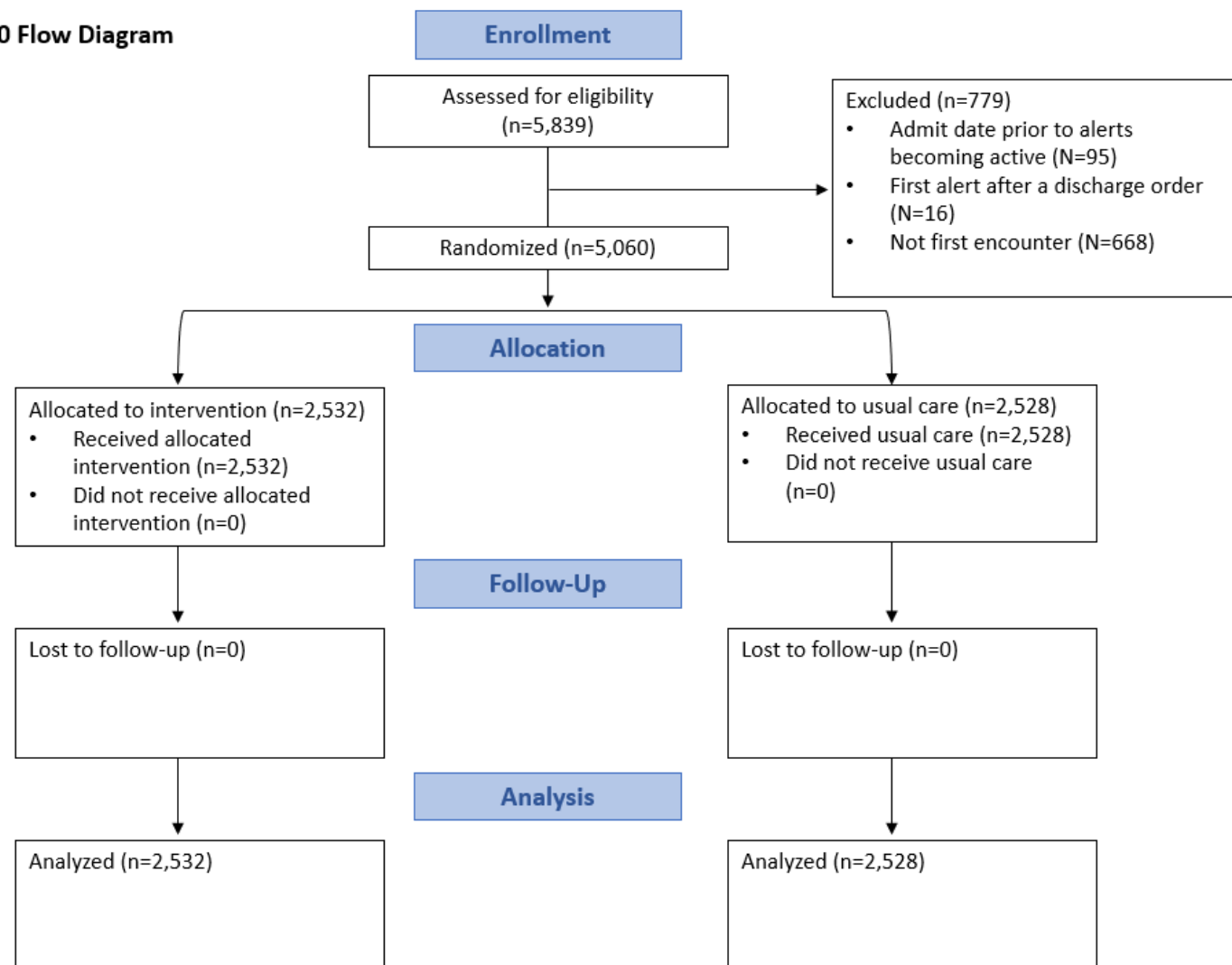
	NSAID	RAASi	PPI
Mechanism	Decreased kidney perfusion	Decreased kidney perfusion	Interstitial inflammation
Guideline Recommendation	Discontinue in appropriate clinical scenario		
Empiric evidence	Frequently discontinued	Sometimes discontinued	Rarely discontinued



Design

- Open-label, parallel group randomized controlled trial

CONSORT 2010 Flow Diagram



Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion

- Adults ≥ 18 years of age
- Inpatient
- KDIGO Stage 1 AKI
- Active order for medication of interest

Exclusion

- Initial hospital creatinine ≥ 4.0 mg/dL
- Dialysis within a year prior to AKI
- Hospice or “comfort measures only”
- ICD-10 with ESKD
- Kidney transplant
- Previously enrolled

Primary and Secondary Outcomes

Primary:

- Process Outcome: Cessation of at least one medication of interest within 24 hours
- Clinical Outcome: Progression of AKI, dialysis, or death within 14 days of randomization or until discharge (whichever came first)

Secondary outcomes:

- Individual components of primary
- Duration of AKI
- 30-day readmission

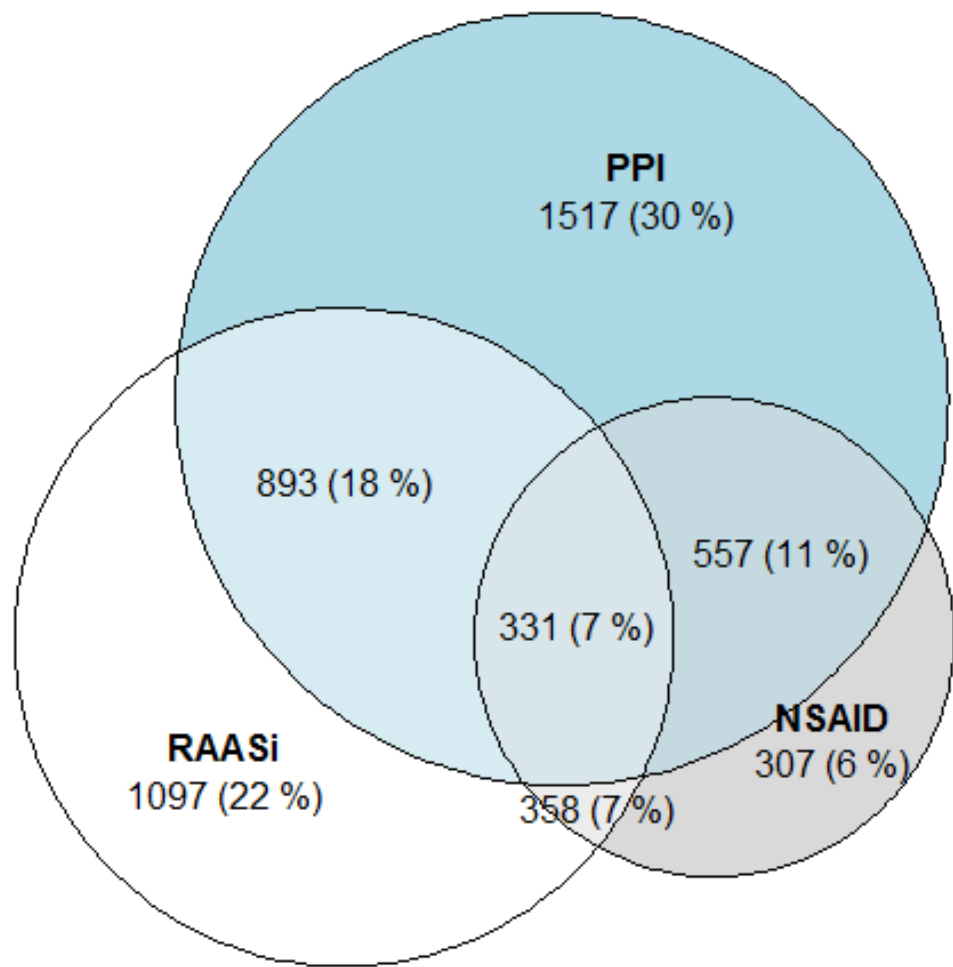
Safety outcomes:

- NSAIDs: Pain scores, opioid use
- RAASi: Hypertension, mechanical ventilation
- PPI: Pain scores, hemoglobin levels, blood transfusion

Participant Characteristics

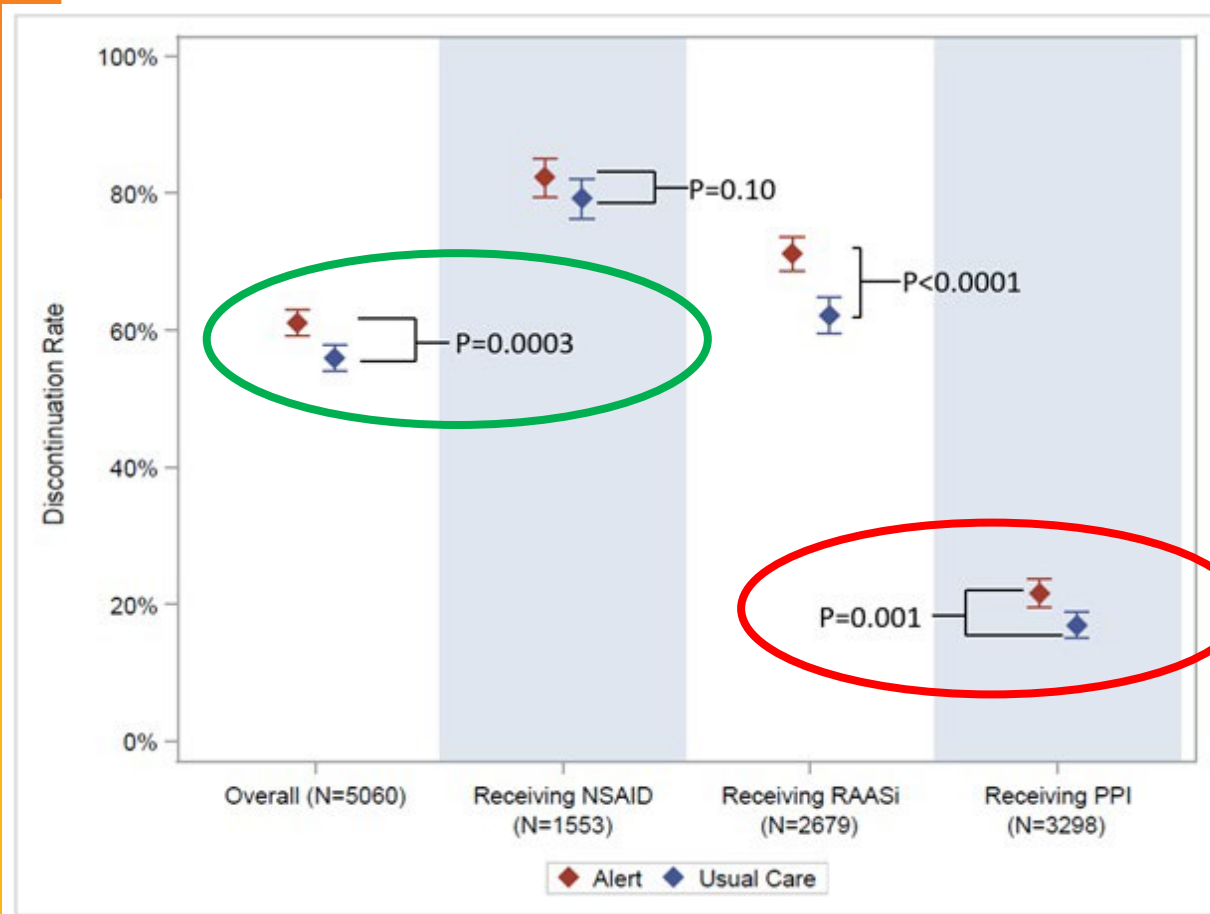
	Alert (N=2,532)	Usual Care (n=2,528)
Age	70 (59, 81)	70 (59, 80)
Female	1231 (49%)	1222 (48%)
Black	498 (20%)	470 (19%)
Medical admission	1937 (77%)	1924 (76%)
ICU at randomization	560 (22%)	598 (24%)
CHF	827 (33%)	784 (31%)
Diabetes mellitus	967 (38%)	928 (37%)
Creatinine (admission), mg/dL	1.2 (0.9, 1.7)	1.2 (0.8, 1.6)
Creatinine (randomization), mg/dL	1.5 (1.2, 2.0)	1.5 (1.1, 2.0)
Modified SOFA	2 (1 ,4)	3 (1, 5)

Medications of Interest

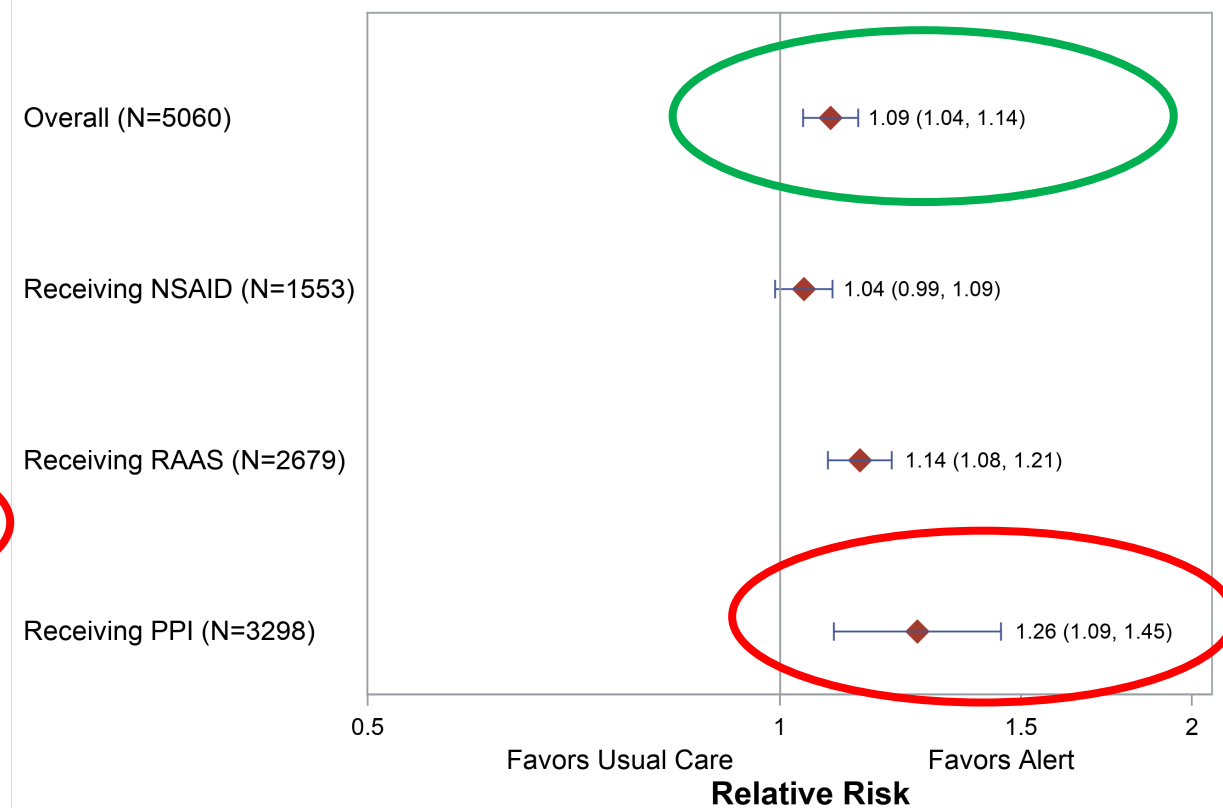


	Alert (N=2,532)	Usual Care (N=2,528)
NSAID	748 (30%)	805 (32%)
RAASi	1350 (53%)	1329 (53%)
PPI	1654 (65%)	1644 (65%)
1 MOI	1470 (58%)	1451 (57%)
2 MOIs	904 (36%)	904 (36%)
3 MOIs	158 (6%)	173 (7%)

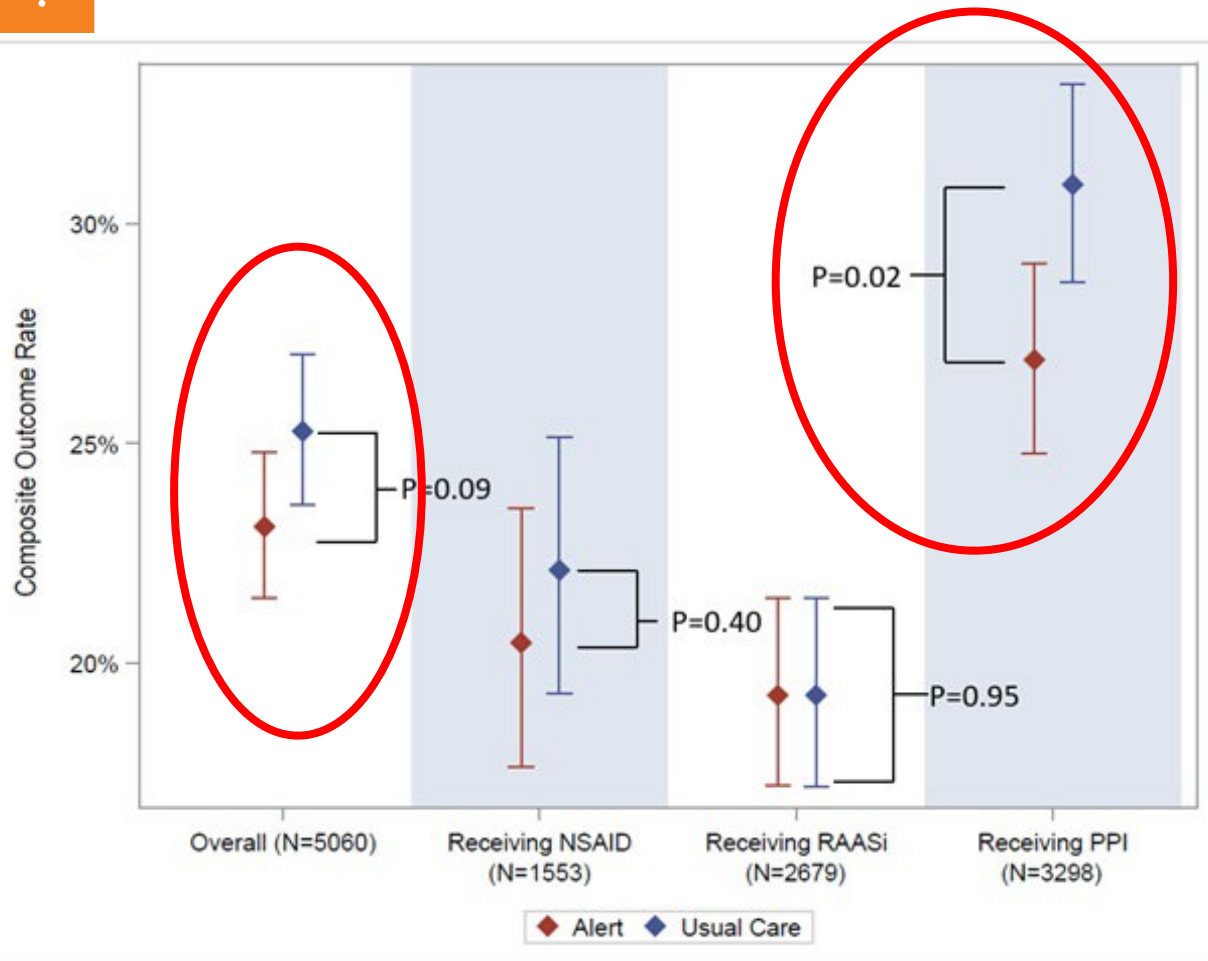
Process Outcome



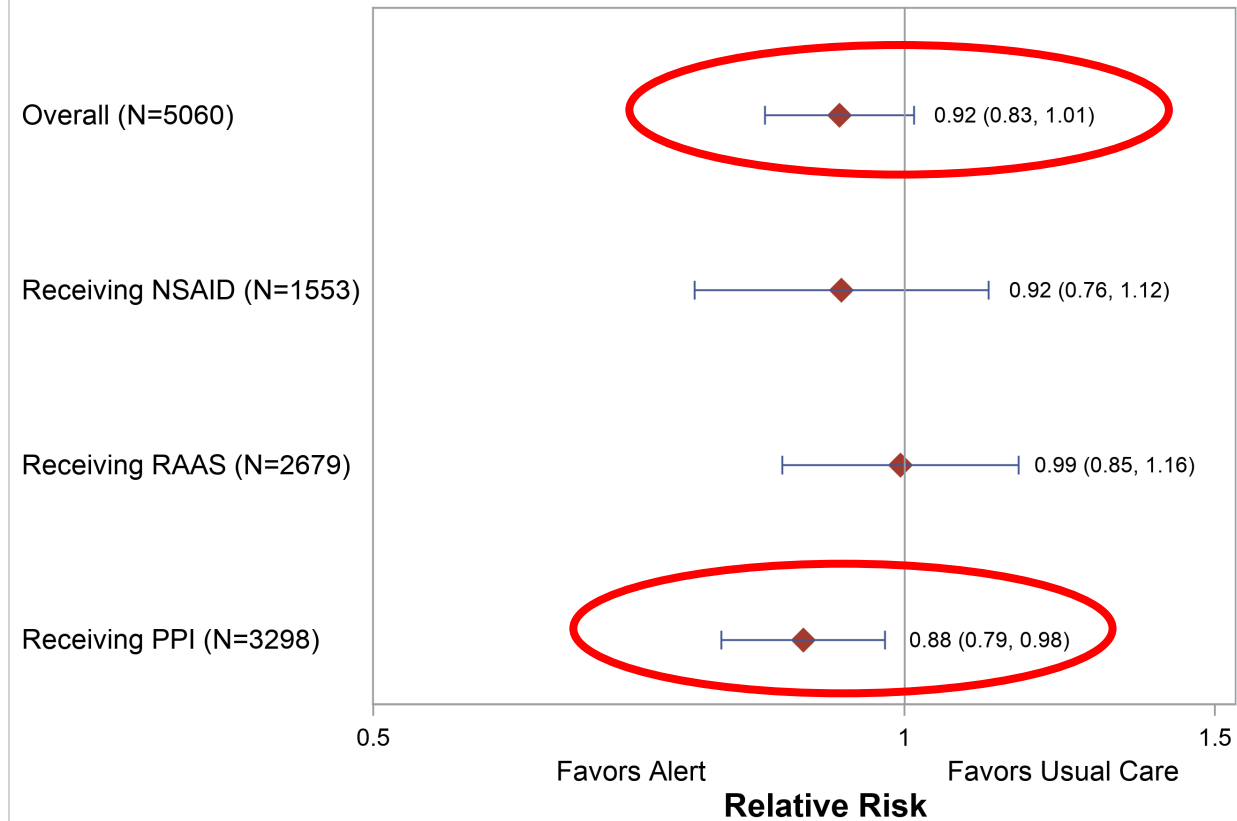
Medication discontinued



Clinical Outcome



Composite Outcome



Key Secondary Outcomes

Outcome	Alert (N=2,532)	Usual Care (N=2,528)	Relative Risk (95% CI)
Progression of AKI	475 (18.8%)	505 (20.0%)	0.95 (0.85 to 1.06)
Dialysis	123 (4.9%)	127 (5.0%)	0.98 (0.77 to 1.25)
Death	253 (10.0%)	282 (11.2%)	0.90 (0.77 to 1.06)
Progression to stage 2 AKI	242 (9.6%)	248 (9.8%)	0.98 (0.83 to 1.16)
Progression to stage 3 AKI	231 (9.1%)	256 (10.1%)	0.91 (0.77 to 1.08)
30-day readmission	322 (12.7%)	354 (14.0%)	0.91 (0.79 to 1.05)
Inpatient kidney consult	367 (14.5%)	366 (14.5%)	1.01 (0.88 to 1.15)
Duration of AKI (median days, IQR)	1 (0.8,2.1)	1.1 (0.8,2.2)	0.14
Length of stay (post randomization) (median days, IQR)	5.3 (2.3 – 11.8)	5.2 (2.2 – 11.2)	0.38

Safety Outcomes

Outcome	Alert	Usual Care	Difference, 95% CI
NSAID Subgroup	N=748	N=805	
Opioid prescription	509 (68.0%)	557 (69.2%)	0.6 (-4 - 5.2)
Max pain score	8 (5,10)	8 (5,10)	0 (-0.1,0.1)
RAASi Subgroup	N=1350	N=1329	
Max SBP	162 (145,179)	161 (145,179)	1 (-1.2,3.2)
Max DBP	89 (80,99)	89 (81,100)	0.5 (-1.1,2.1)
Mechanical Ventilation	181 (13.4%)	177 (13.3%)	0 (-2.5, 2.6)
PPI Subgroup	N=1654	N=1644	
PRBC transfusion	433 (26.2%)	448 (27.3%)	0.5 (-2.5, 3.5)
Minimum hemoglobin	8.6 (7.2,10.5)	8.6 (7.1,10.4)	0 (-0.2,0.2)
Max pain score	7 (4,9)	7 (3,9)	0 (-0.5,0.5)

Why Might Alerts Benefit Those on PPI?

- Effect of alert on discontinuation was highest with PPI
- PPIs an under-recognized contributor to AKI in hospitalized patients
- Possibility of alpha error
- Patients receiving PPI have unique characteristics / phenotype



PPI-users are different

	PPI (N=3,298)	No PPI (N=1,762)	P-value
Age	70 (59 , 80)	70 (58, 80)	0.04
Female	1575 (48%)	878 (50%)	0.29
Black	574 (17%)	394 (22%)	<0.0001
Medical admission	2568 (78%)	1293 (73%)	<0.0001
ICU at randomization	908 (28%)	250 (14%)	<0.0001
CHF	1104 (33%)	507 (29%)	0.0002
Diabetes mellitus	1197 (36%)	698 (40%)	0.03
Creatinine (admission), mg/dL	1.2 (0.9, 1.7)	1.1 (0.8, 1.5)	<0.0001
Creatinine (randomization), mg/dL	1.5 (1.2, 2.0)	1.4 (1.1, 1.8)	<0.0001
Modified SOFA	3 (1 , 4)	2 (1, 3)	<0.0001

ELAIA-2 TAKE HOME POINTS



Automated alerts for AKI can increase the rate of cessation of potentially nephrotoxic medications without endangering patients



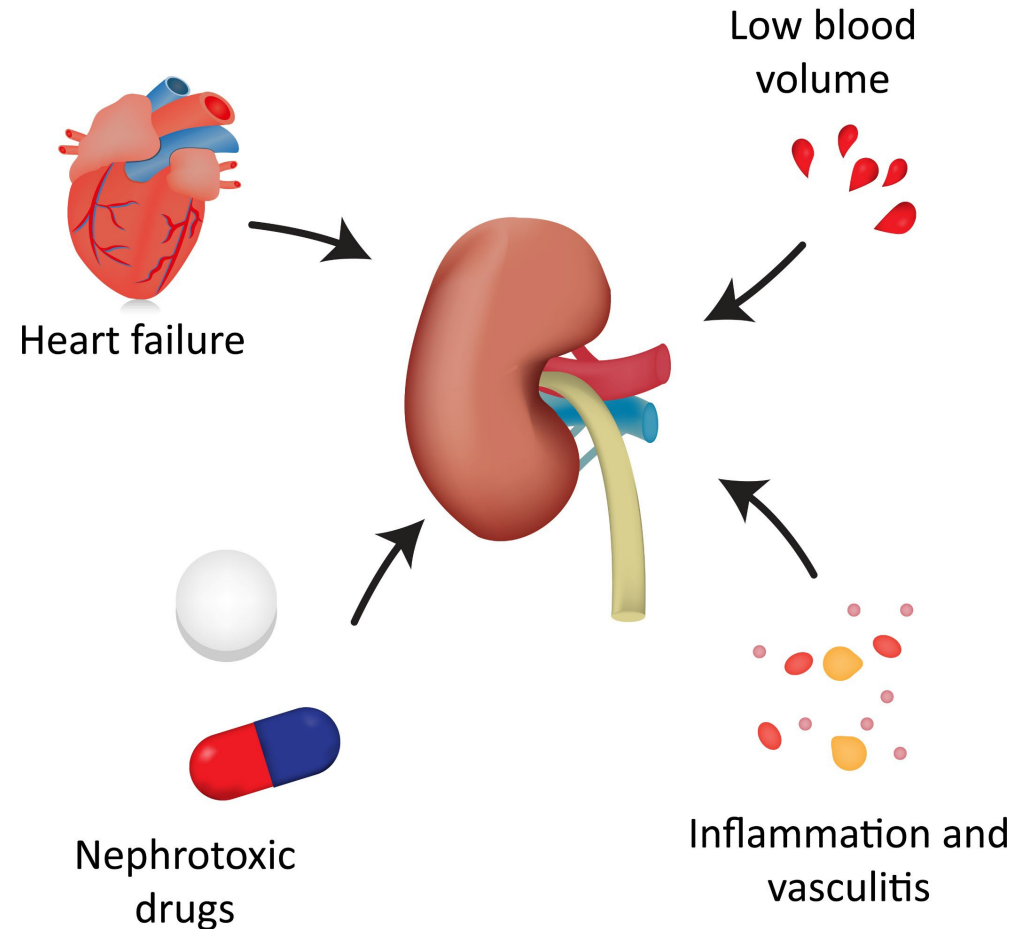
There is limited evidence that these alerts change clinical outcomes

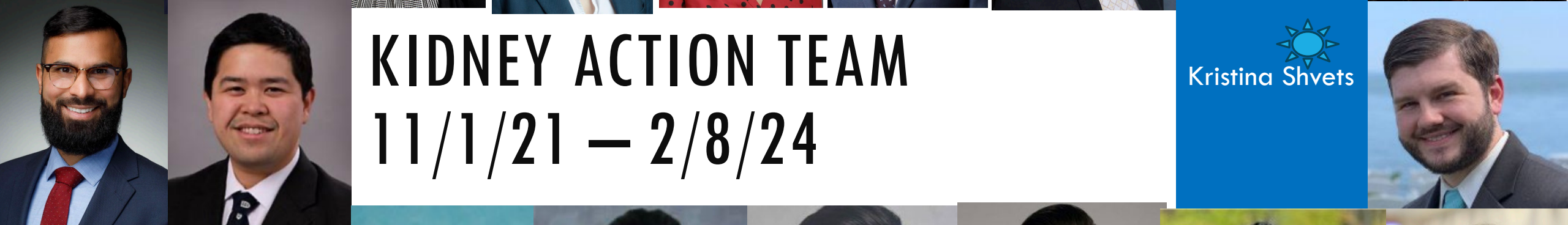


There may be clinical benefit of alerts among patients who are receiving PPIs

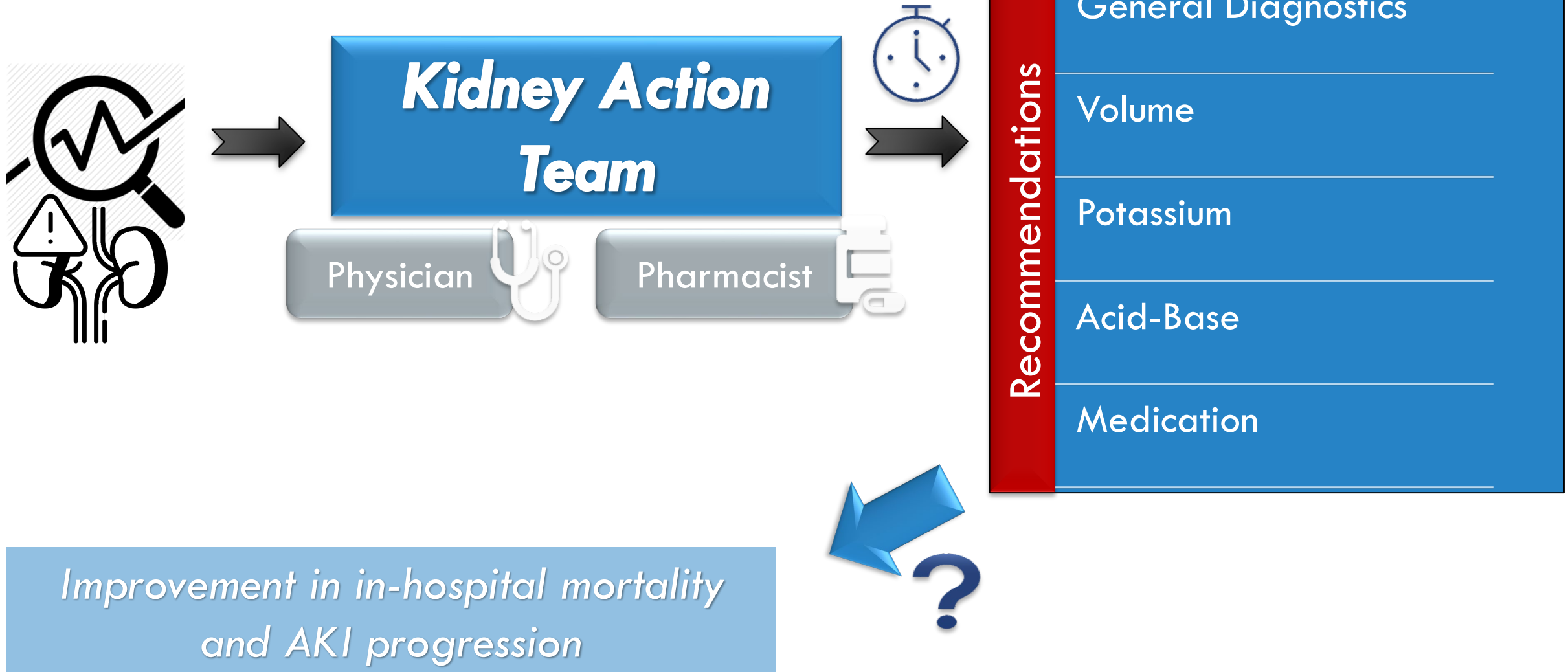


NEW HYPOTHESIS: AKI IS HETEROGENOUS. WE NEED TO CUSTOMIZE ACTIONS





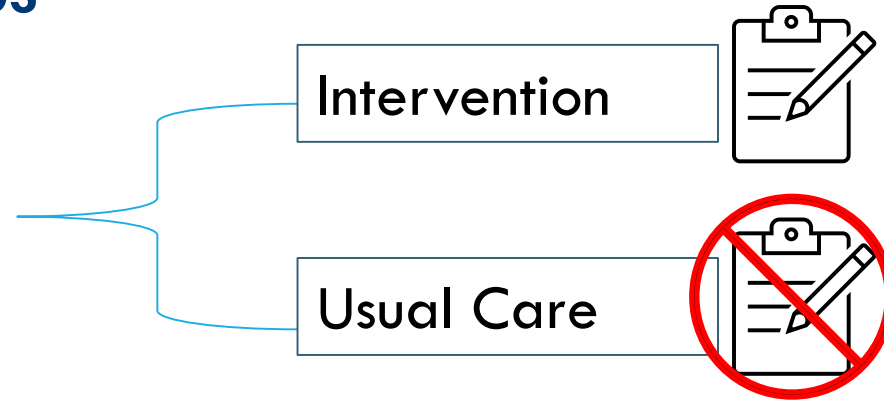
KAT-AKI: TRIAL OBJECTIVE



KAT-AKI TRIAL DESIGN

Multicenter RCT, n = 4003

1:1 randomized

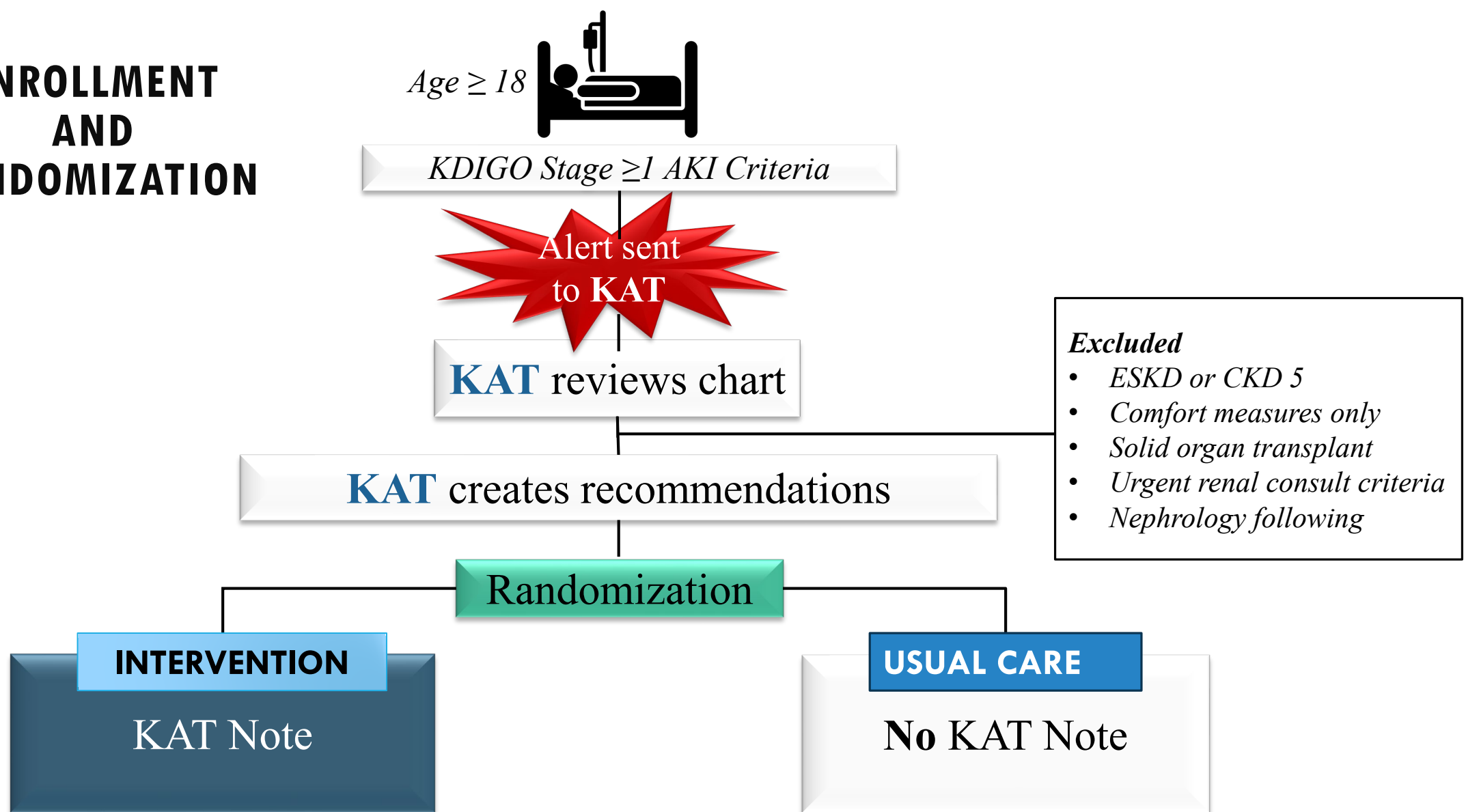


Two hospital systems: Yale & Johns Hopkins

- 7 hospitals in the US (Connecticut, Maryland, Rhode Island)

10/2021 – 2/2024

ENROLLMENT AND RANDOMIZATION



Goal time from AKI to randomization: 1-2 h

A NOVEL RAPID RECOMMENDATION ENTRY SYSTEM

General Diagnostics

Volume

Potassium

Acid-Base

Renal consult

Medication

Diagnostic recommendations
Any diagnostic recommendation? <small>* must provide value</small>
Volume
Any volume recommendation? <small>* must provide value</small>
Potassium Recs
Do you have any potassium recommendations? <small>* must provide value</small>
Acid / Base Recs
Do you have any recommendations related to metabolic acidosis? <small>* must provide value</small>
Critical
Nephrology consult
Form Completion
Are your recommendations complete? (This will send recommendations into the alert system). <small>* must provide value</small>
Time of completion <small>* must provide value</small>
Form Status
Complete?
Lock this instrument? <small>If locked, no user will be able to modify this instrument for this record. Instrument Level Lock/Unlock privileges unlocks it.</small>

Kidney Action Team Recommendation Alert

MRN: _____

Date: __/__/__ Time: __/__/__

THIS IS NOT A CONSULT

The Kidney Action Team is a group of physicians and pharmacists designed to provide personalized recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with Acute Kidney Injury (AKI).

We have received an alert within the past hour that this patient has developed AKI. We have reviewed the patient's chart and based on the patient's current status and medical history, make the specific recommendations listed below.

KIDNEY ACTION TEAM PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR PATIENT WITH AKI:

1. Diagnostic Recommendations:

- ☐ Check a spot urinalysis
- ☐ Ensure strict INs and OUTs are being recorded
- ☐ Consider a bladder scan/post-void residual measurement
- ☐ Check orthostatic vitals

2. Volume Recommendations

- ☐ Daily Weights (standing if able)
- ☐ Consider volume challenge if evidence of volume depletion
- ☐ Reassess volume status prior to volume rechallenge

3. Potassium Management Recommendations:

- ☐ There are no specific recommendations regarding potassium for this patient

4. Acid/Base Management Recommendations:

- ☐ There are no specific recommendations regarding Acid/Base management for this patient.

5. Please Consider Discontinuing the Following Medications:

- ☐ Discontinue ibuprofen
- ☐ Discontinue enoxaparin and consider switching to subQ Heparin for DVT prophylaxis

6. Medication Dose Adjustment Recommendations:

- ☐ Recommend dose adjustment of piperacillin-tazobactam to 3.375 grams every 6 hours

For all patients with AKI, we recommend continued follow-up of serum creatinine and avoiding nephrotoxic exposures.

Covering Provider: please click [here](#) to help us track the time it takes for this note to be seen by a provider and for any feedback. Thank you!

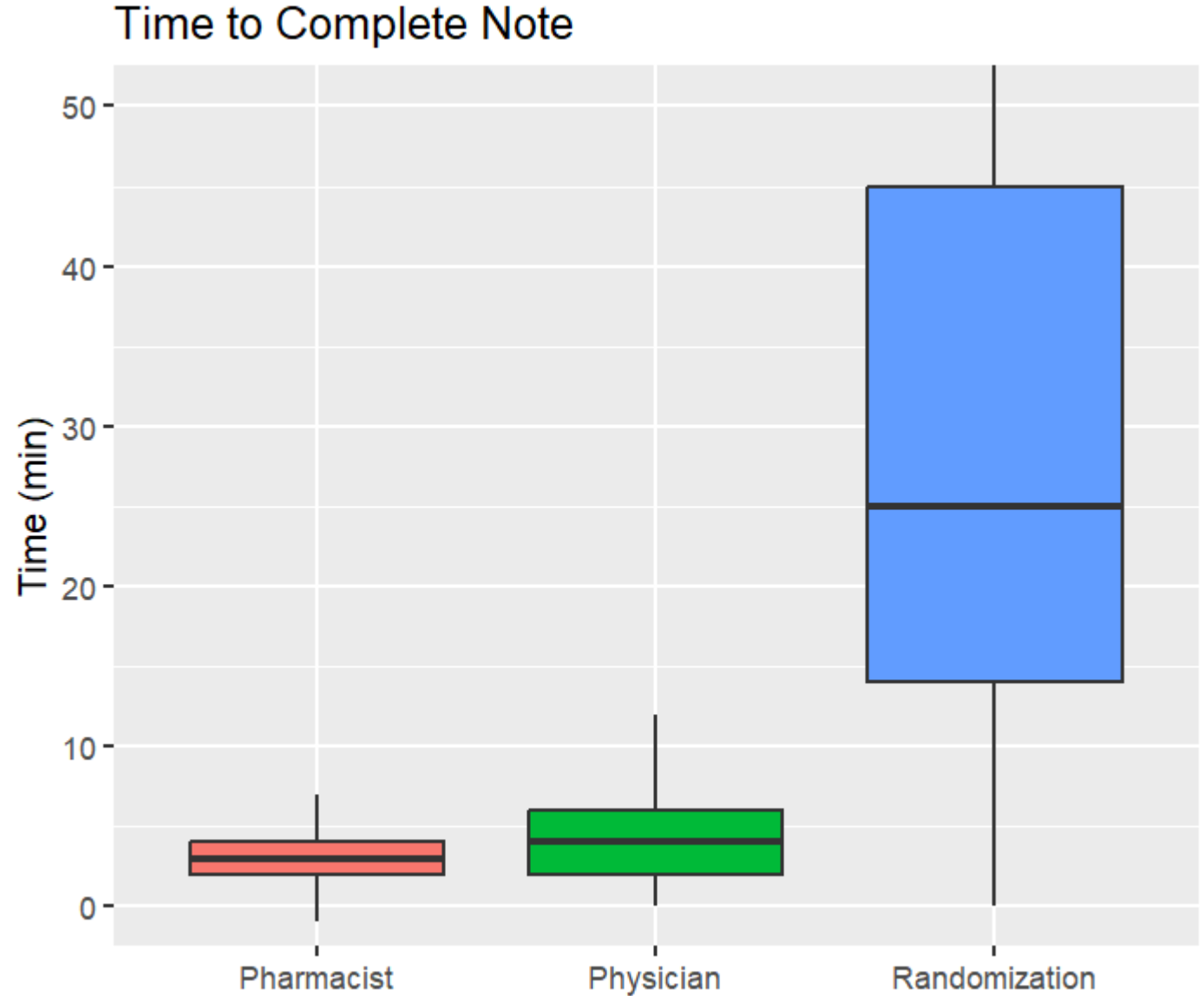
Please note: This patient is part of a randomized clinical trial designed to test the efficacy of personalized recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of Acute Kidney Injury. You will NOT receive this recommendation note for all patients who develop AKI.

The Kidney Action Team has not seen or examined this patient. Our recommendations are based on chart review only. It is your choice to follow these recommendations using your own clinical judgement and your examination of the patient and his/her medical history. Note, the Kidney Action Team will not follow up on further test results or provide any further recommendations. If you need assistance with AKI management, please consider a formal kidney consult. Medication recommendations are based on currently prescribed medications. Please reach out to your floor pharmacist if any further questions about starting renally cleared medications.

Covering Provider - Please cosign to acknowledge receipt of the recommendations.

Time to KAT action

- Note completion
 - Physician: 4 (2 – 6) min
 - Pharmacist: 3 (2 – 4) min
- Time to randomization
 - 25 (14 – 45) min



OUTCOMES

Primary clinical outcome

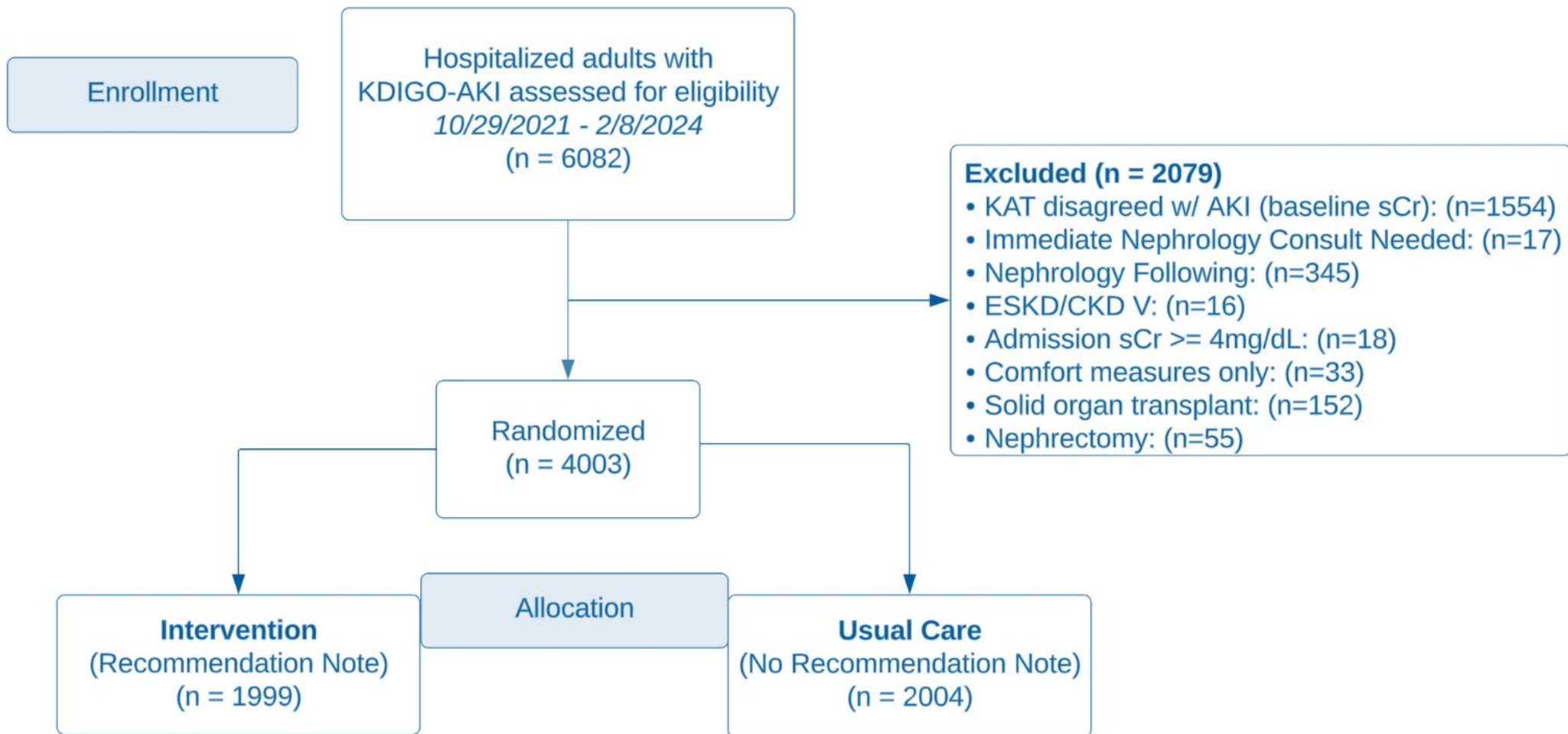
- Composite (in 14 days)
 - Death
 - Dialysis
 - AKI progression

Process outcome

- Proportion of recommendations implemented in 24 hours

• Pre-Specified Secondary outcomes

- AKI progression (14 d)
- Dialysis (14 d)
- Death (14 d)
- Nephrology consult (14 d)



BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	ENROLLED n = 4003
Age, median (IQR), years	72 [61, 81]
Female sex	47%
Hypertension	81%
Diabetes mellitus	46%
Heart failure	44%
Chronic kidney disease	42%
Cirrhosis	7%
Elix comorbidity score	7 [4, 12]
sCr, median (IQR), mg/dL *	1.5 [1.2, 2.0]
Hospital	
Yale	80%
Hopkins	20%

Hospital service*	
General medical floor	50%
Hospitalist	36 %
Teaching team	14 %
ICU/SDU units	20 %
Surgical floor	17%
Specialist medical floor	14%

*at randomization

Recommendation count, median (IQR)	Time AKI to recommendations, median (IQR)
3 (2, 5)	56 (34-83) min

Broad Recommendation Categories	
General (<i>diagnosis & monitoring</i>)	96 %
Volume	80 %
Potassium	16 %
Acid-base	10 %
Renal consult	2 %
Medication	55 %

e.g., UA, renal US, pigment
nephropathy, proteinuria,
...

*MOST PATIENTS HAD AT
LEAST ONE
RECOMMENDATION*

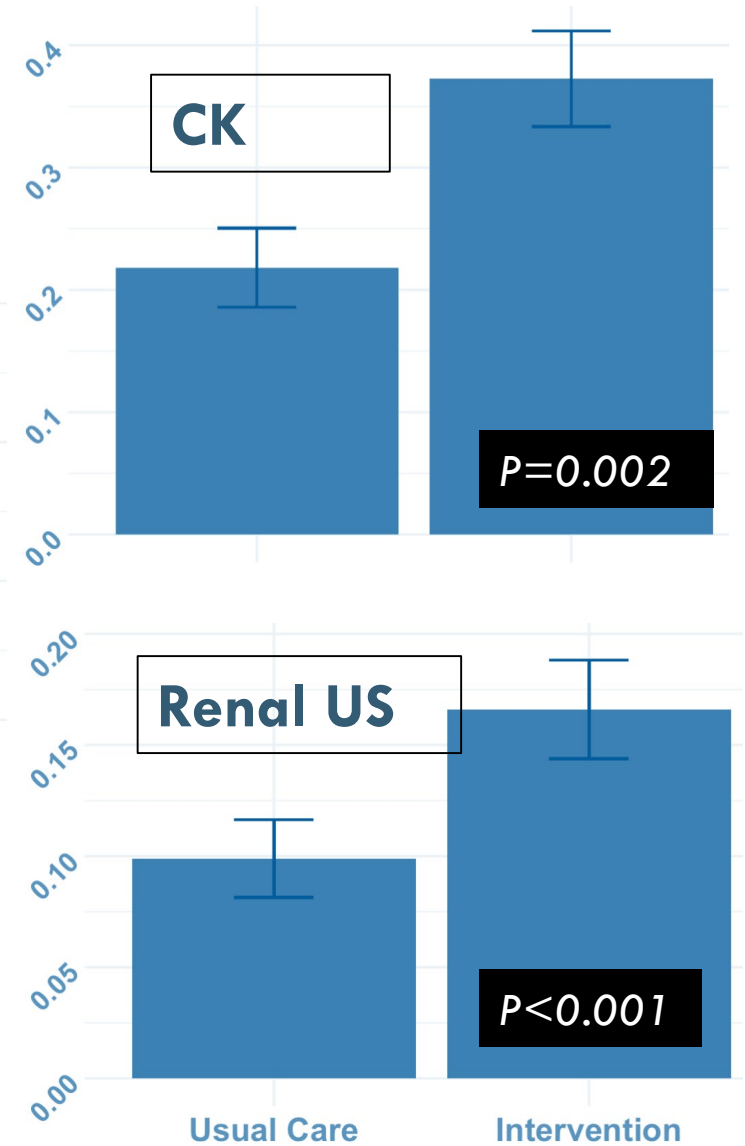
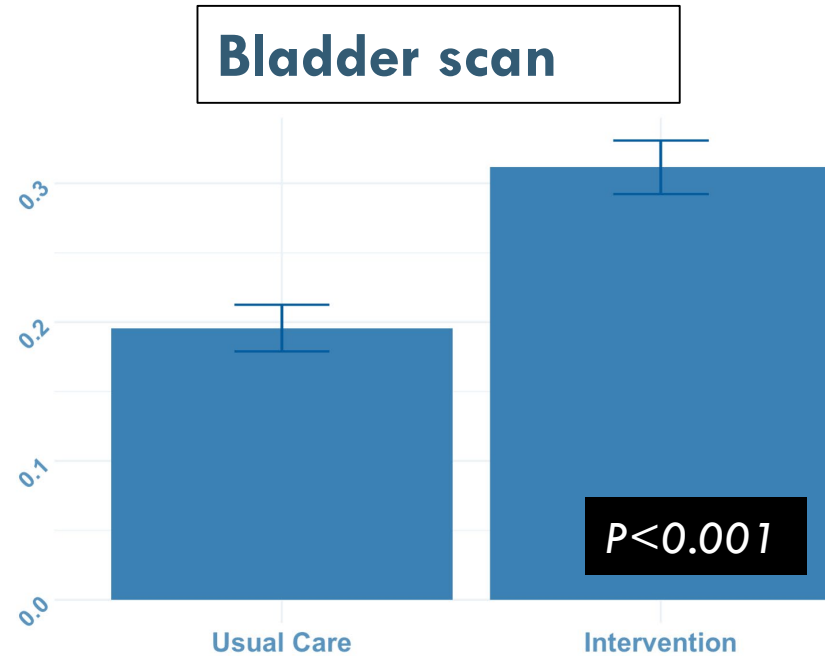
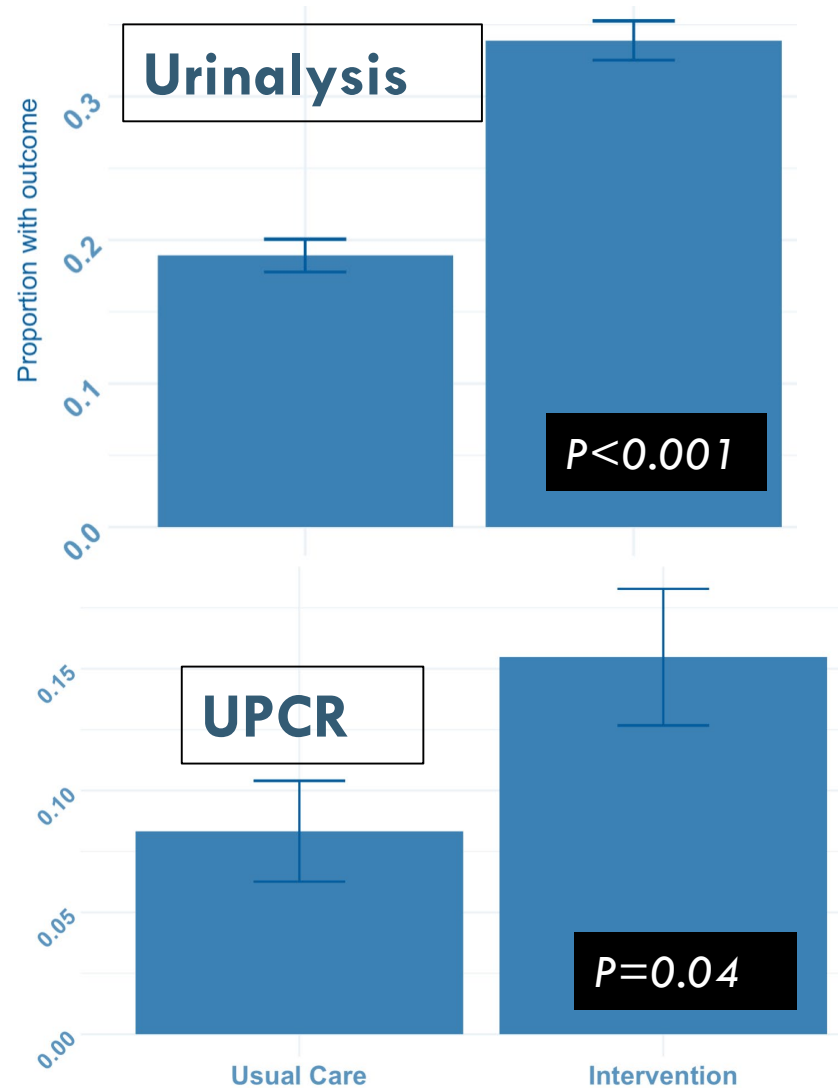
14539
recommendations
made

PROCESS OUTCOMES

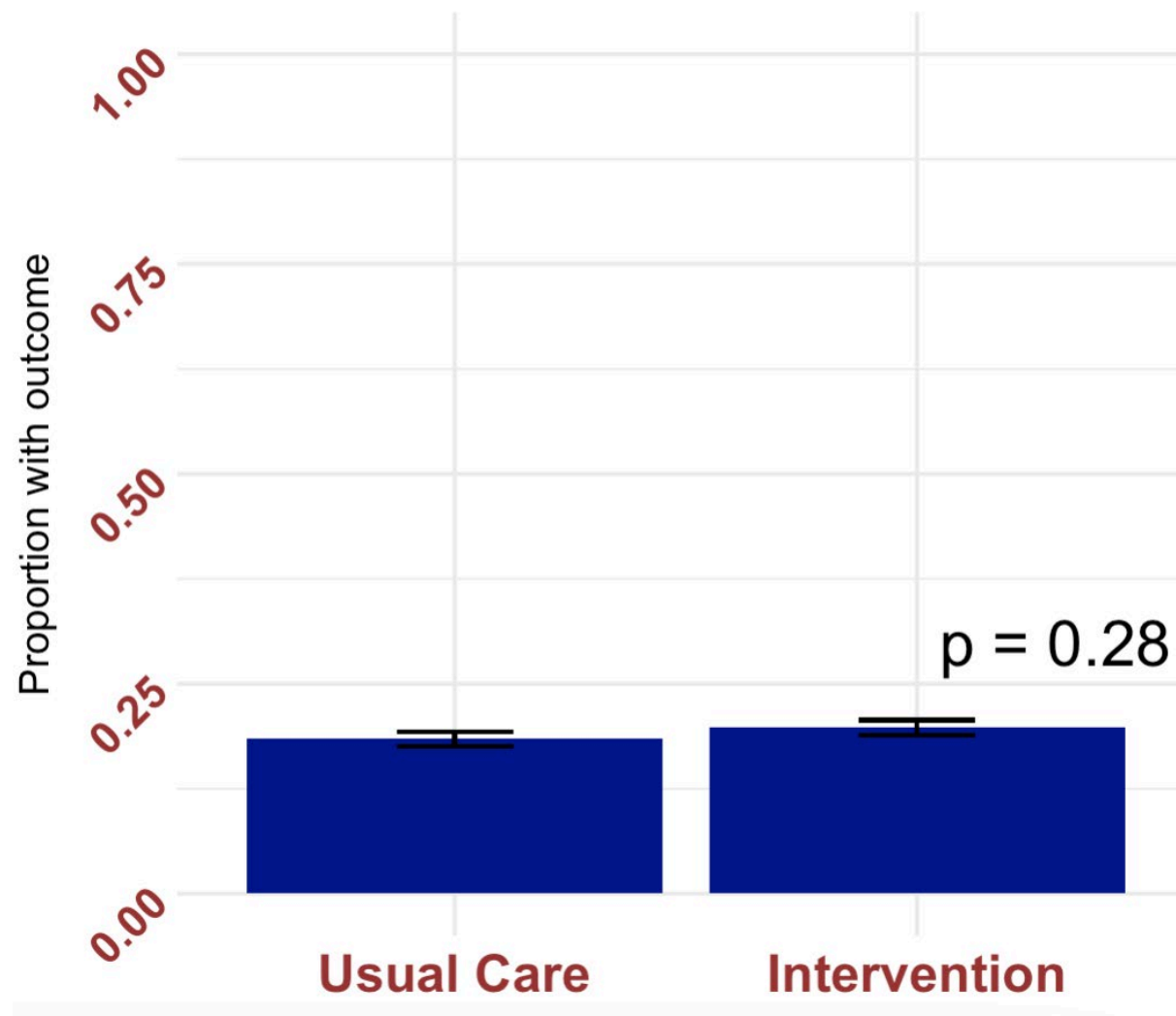
(KAT RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETED WITHIN 24 HOURS)

	INTERVENTION <i>n</i> = 1999	USUAL CARE <i>n</i> = 2004	Mean difference (95% CI)	p-value
KAT recommendations completed in 24h				
General diagnosis & monitoring				
Volume				
Potassium				
Acid-base				
Medications				

24-HOUR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS



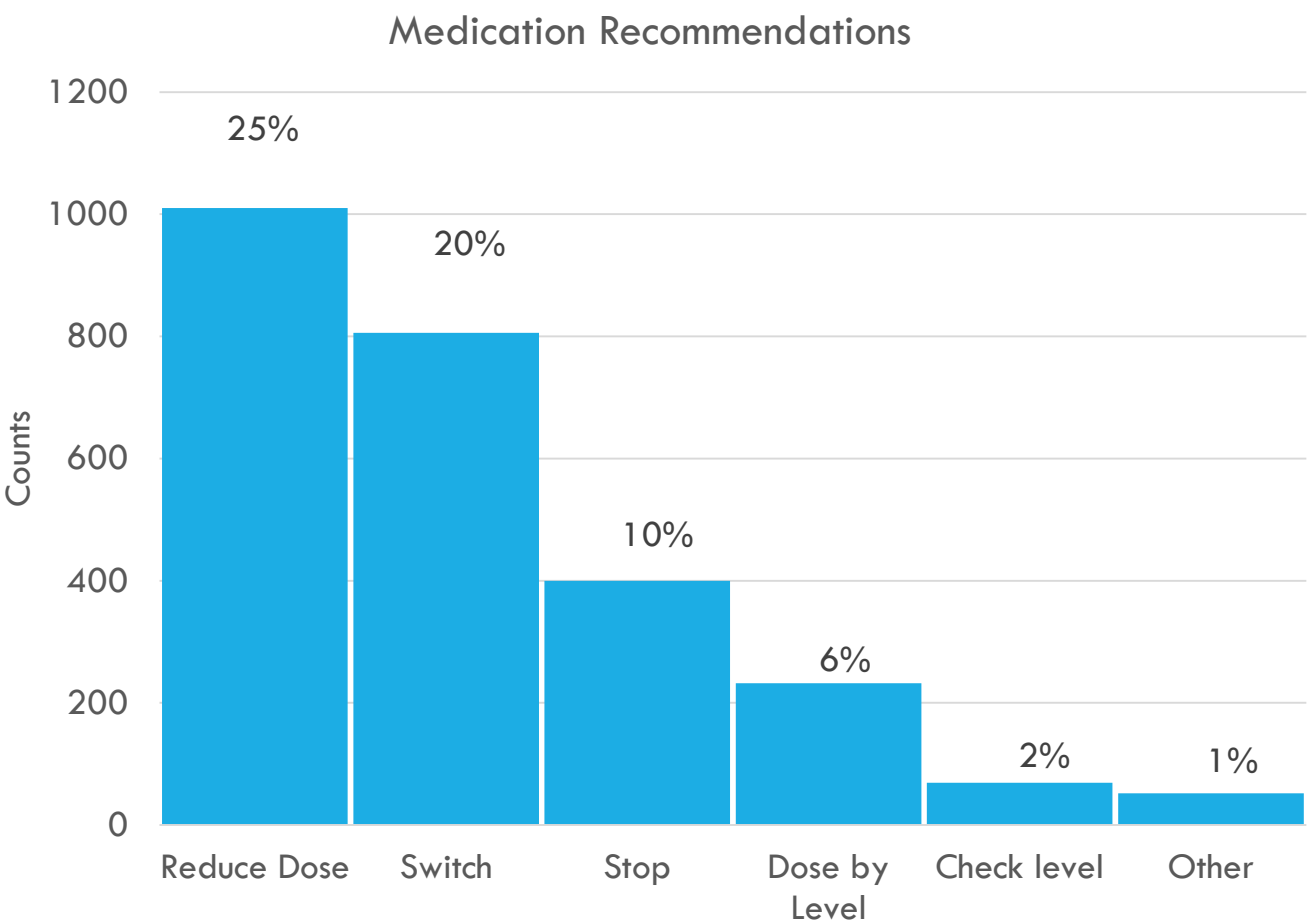
AKI progression, dialysis, death in 14 days



SECONDARY OUTCOMES

Outcome	INTERVENTION <i>n</i> = 1999	USUAL CARE <i>n</i> = 2004	% Difference (95% CI)	p-value
AKI progression	13.5%	13.0%	0.5 (-1.6, 2.6)	0.65
Mortality	9.6%	9.2%	0.4 (-1.5, 2.1)	0.72
Dialysis	1.6 %	1.5%	0.1 (-0.7, 0.8)	0.89
Nephrology consult	16.1 %	14.2%	1.9 (-0.3, 4.1)	0.09

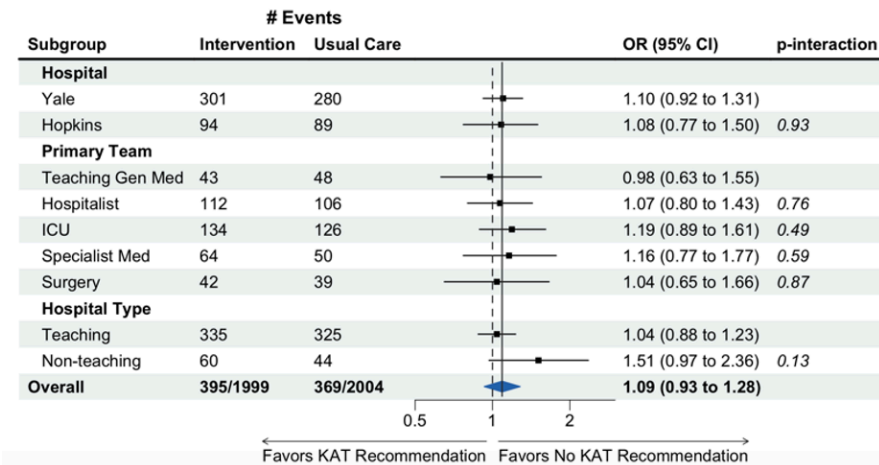
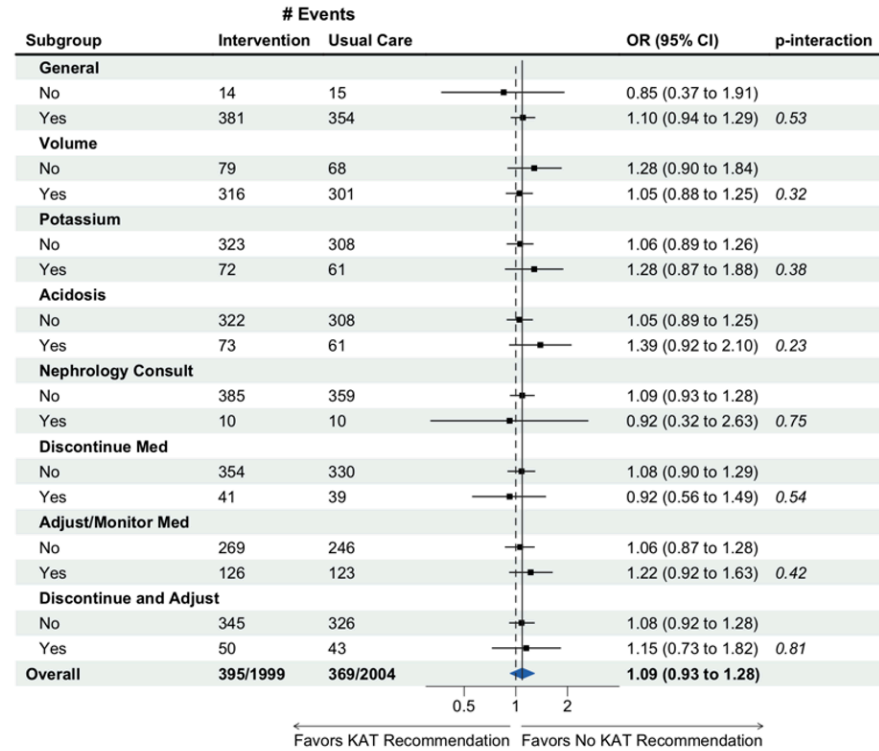
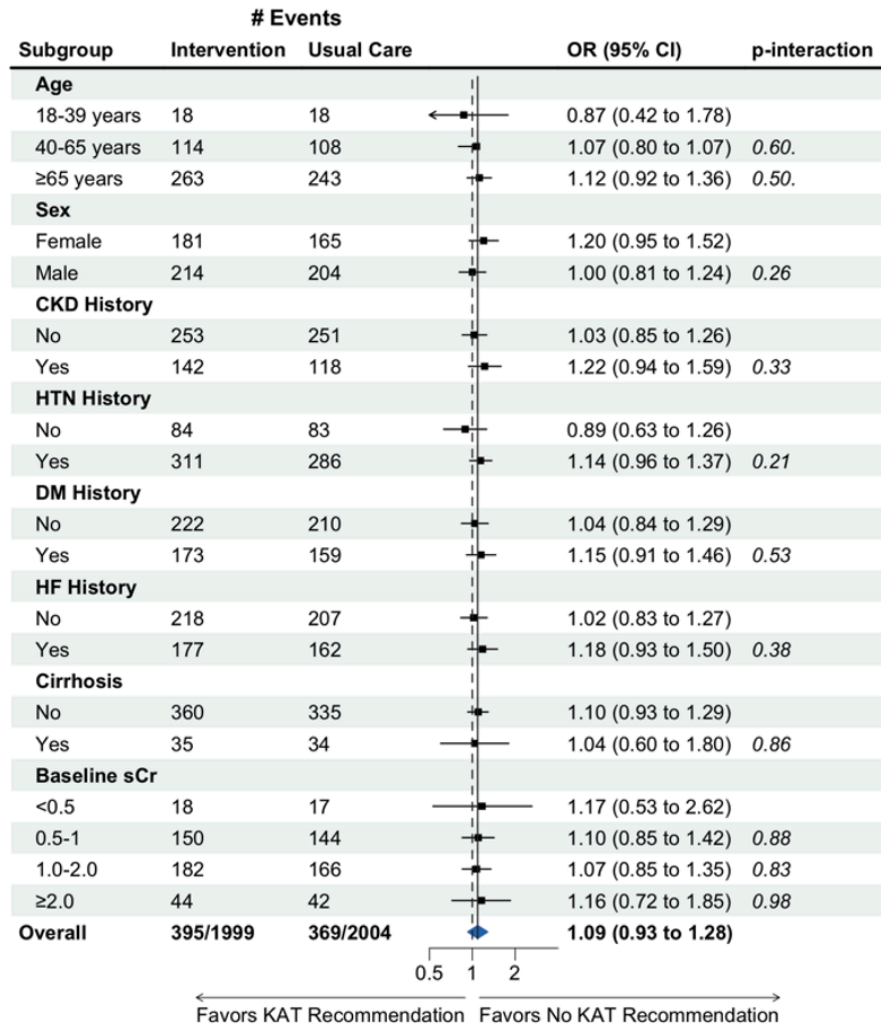
SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS



	Intervention n = 1999	Usual Care n = 2004
Potential nephrotoxin*	26.1%	26.0%
Other medications	27.6%	29.6%

*NSAIDs, antimicrobials, antihypertensives, diuretics, PPI, MTX, CNI, lithium.

SUBGROUP ANALYSES

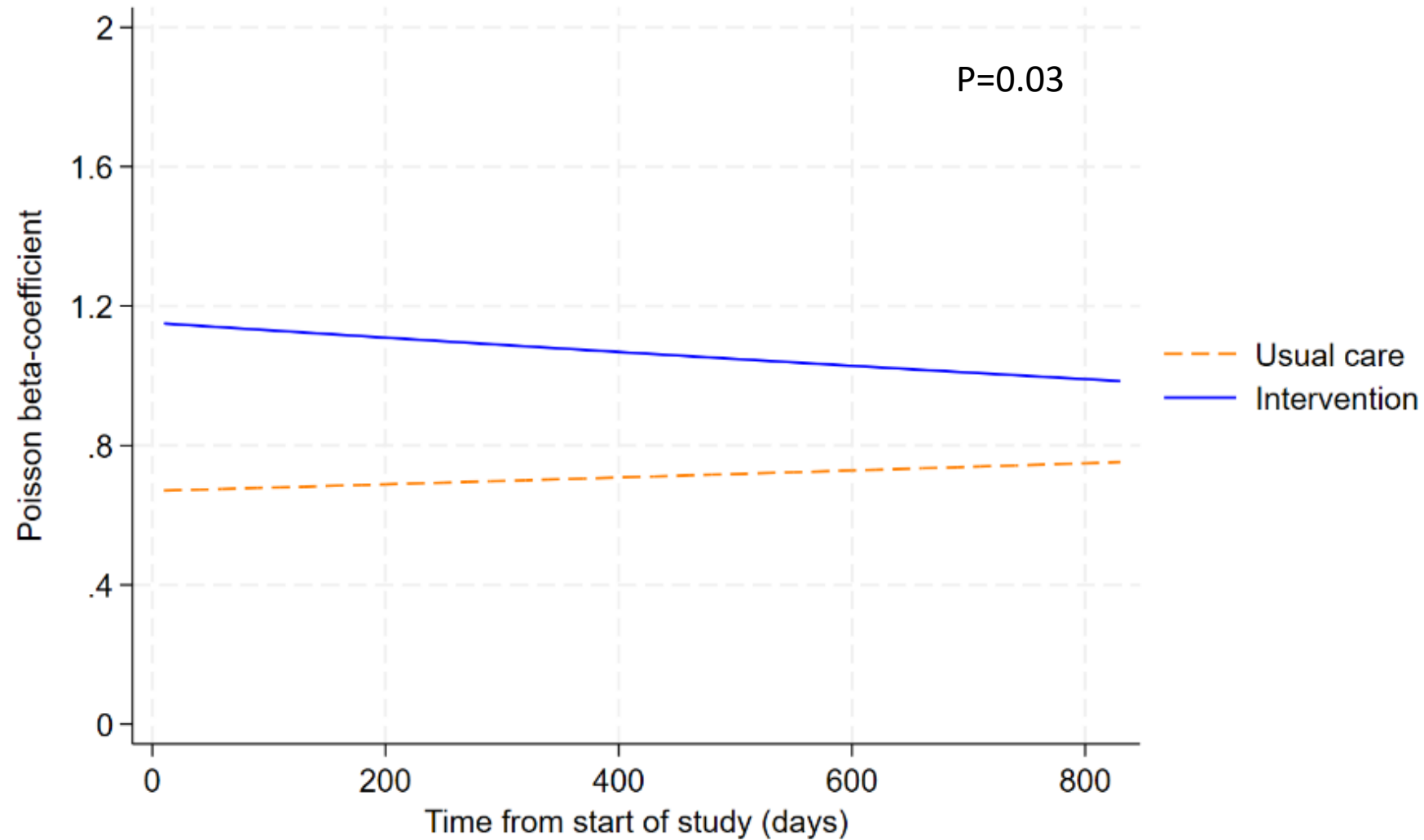


Survey results

Question	Response	Count (%)
Did you find the recommendation helpful?	Yes	147 (77.8)
	No	37 (19.6)
	No response	4 (2.1)
What did you find helpful?	Helped me recognize AKI early.	48 (25)
	Helpful medication recommendations.	42 (22)
	Helpful diagnostic recommendations.	41 (22)
	Saved me time.	33 (17)
	Helpful volume recommendations.	19 (10)
	Other	6 (3)
Why did you not find the recommendations helpful?	Already aware/thought of doing this.	15 (7.9)
	Other - Saw it late.	12 (6.3)
	I do not agree with AKI diagnosis.	9 (4.8)
	Disruptive.	4 (2.1)
	I do not like the format	1 (0.5)

n = 188

Contamination?



Can a computer do this?

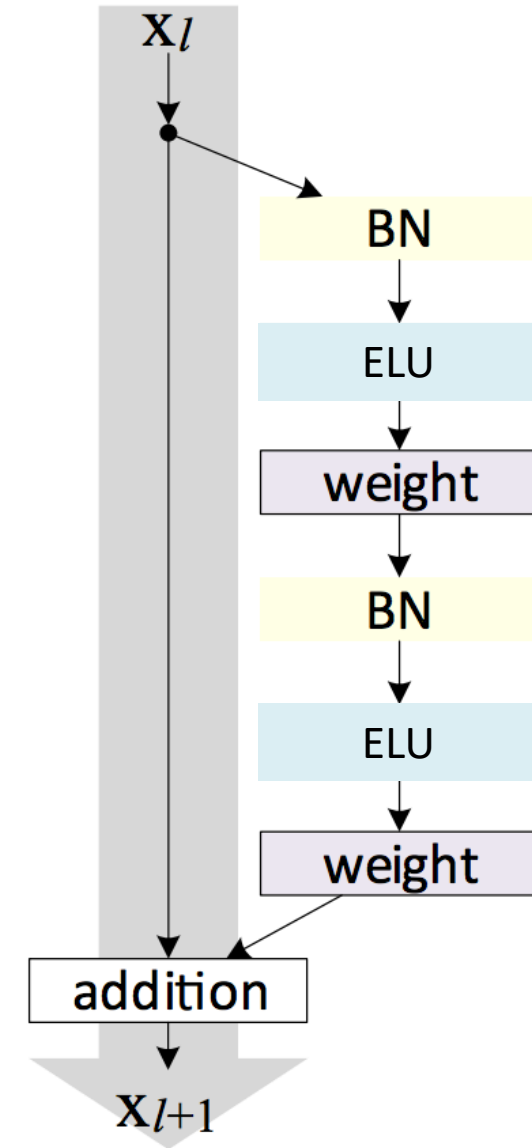
With 1/2 of the data, trained a neural network to predict all 43 possible recommendations

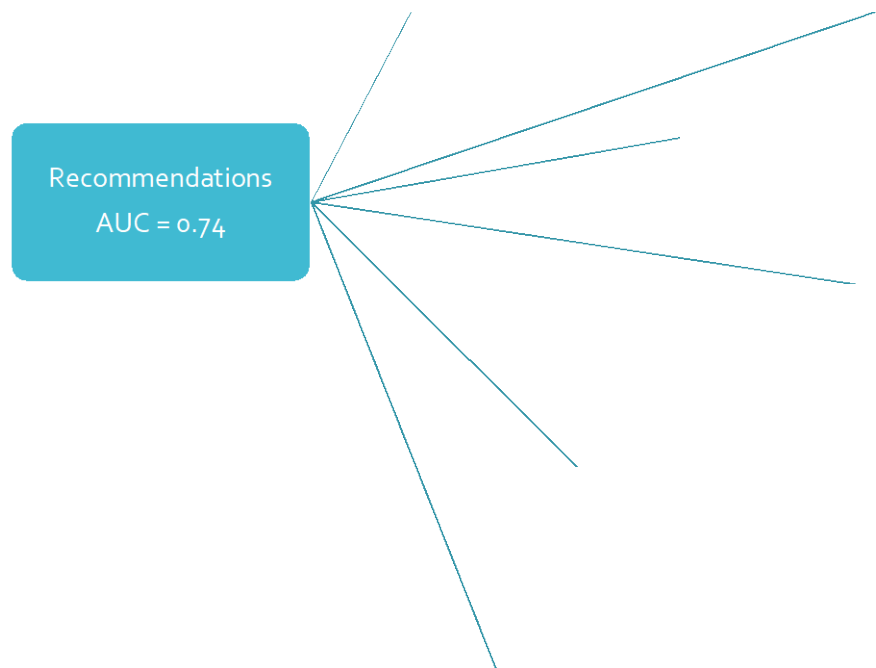
Architecture:

- Network width of 12 neurons
- Two Fully-Connected Residual Layers

Controlling overfitting:

- Joint training across recommendations
- Batch Normalization without trainable parameters paired with L2 regularization of weights
- Early Stopping using 1/6 of data as a validation set





Kidney Action Team: Summary

- Rapid evaluation of new-onset AKI is feasible
- There are diagnostic or therapeutic interventions possible for virtually all patients
 - Whether they would be done in the absence of a notification is a key question of this trial
 - Marginal differences in action rates across study arms might allow us to identify high-yield interventions (instrumental variable analysis)
- Next step: Automating recommendations using a neural network-based approach





Conclusions

- AKI alerts, like all alerts, have to pass the know, care, act, matter test to work
- Many providers do not know their patient has AKI
- Most providers care their patient has AKI
- The big barriers appear to be in the “act” and “matter” domains
- Perhaps greater personalization can lead to better outcomes



Dedicated to facilitating clinical research at Yale through novel methodologies, robust data infrastructure, collaboration, and support

Leadership

F. Perry Wilson, MD MSCE – Director

Monique Hinchcliff, MD MS – Assistant Director

Dennis Moledina, MD PhD – Director of Biobanking



Faculty and Team Members

Tariq Ahmad, MD MPH

Jameel Alausa

Tanima Arora, MBBS

Aditya Biswas

Christine Bakhoun

Frida Calderon

Nihar Desai, MD MPH

Lama Ghazi, MD PHD

Jason Greenberg, MD

Deborah Kearns

Sherry Mansour, MD

Melissa Martin, MS

Jim Nugent

Christina Price, MD

Ishan Saran

Melissa Shaw

Labeebah Subair

Yu Yamamoto, MS

William Zhang

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External Collaborators

- ❑ Chirag Parikh
- ❑ Amit Garg
- ❑ Paul Palevsky
- ❑ Christopher Laing

Yale New Haven Health System

- ❑ Allen Hsiao
- ❑ Nitu Kashyap
- ❑ Prem Thomas
- ❑ Richard Hintz
- ❑ Erica Moreira
- ❑ Caitlyn Partridge

Cheshire, CT

- ❑ Niamey Wilson