

# Palliative Care Clinical Decision Support Tool

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# Disclosures

- The following speaker(s) of this accredited CE activity have no relevant financial relationships to disclose:
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  - Mark Durbin, RN

## HONORS



#3

**Best  
Medical Schools  
for Research**



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**Investigators**

Howard Hughes Medical  
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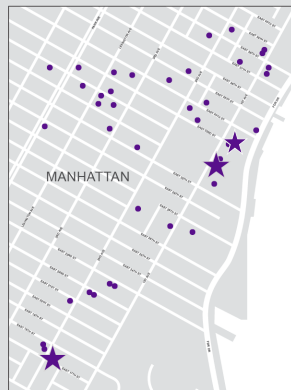
National Academy  
of Sciences

## OUR EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

● NYU Langone locations

★ Inpatient Locations

Tisch Hospital  
Rusk Rehabilitation  
Kimmel Pavilion  
Hassenfeld Children's Hospital  
NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital  
NYU Langone Hospital – Brooklyn  
NYU Winthrop (affiliate)



**230+** Locations  
in the New York Area

**3,633+** Physicians  
with Privileges

as of March 2018



# Why do we need palliative care in the ED?

# Background



Increasing number of ED visits by older adults with serious illness



Most prefer to receive care at home and to minimize life-sustaining procedures



Palliative care improves quality of life and decreases health care use



## Default Approach

## Benefits of palliative care in the ED



Improve quality of life



Decrease in ICU admissions



Decrease in hospital LOS



Decrease cost



## Primary Palliative Care for Emergency Medicine (PRIM-ER)

- Pragmatic, cluster-randomized stepped wedge design to test the effectiveness of primary palliative care education, training, and technical support in 35 EDs
- Measure the effect using Medicare claims data on:
  - ED disposition to an acute care setting
  - Healthcare utilization 6 months following the index ED visit
  - Survival following the index ED visit

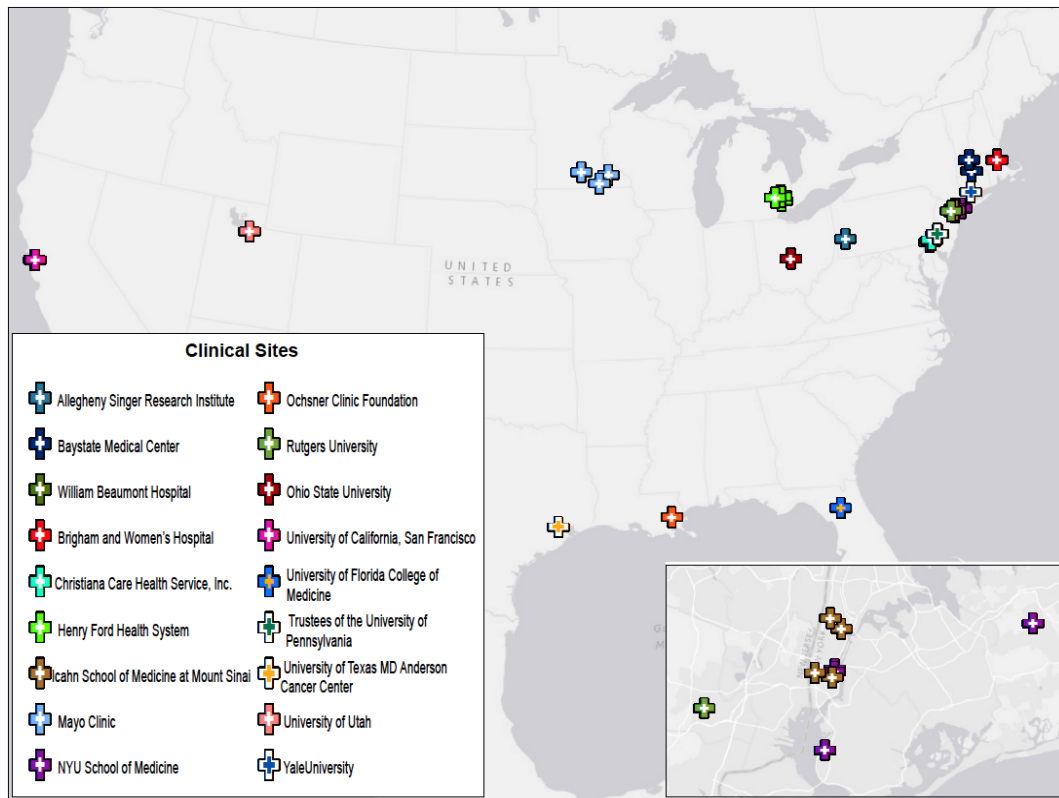
# PRIM-ER Intervention Components

1. Evidence-based, multidisciplinary primary palliative care education (EPEC-EM, ELNEC);
2. Simulation-based workshops on communication in serious illness (EM Talk);
3. Clinical decision support; and
4. Provider audit and feedback.



**EPEC®**  
Education in Palliative and End-of-life Care

# 18 Health Systems



# Project Team & Design

## Correlation with current NYU initiatives

- **Value-Based Management Supportive Care Initiative**
  - Mission: improve quality of life for end-of-life patients and achieve better alignment of clinical practice with these patients and families' goals of care
- **Advance Care Planning Initiative**
  - Mission: improve infrastructure and resources dedicated to advance care planning
  - Utilization of MOLSTs (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments)

## Workgroup members

Emergency and  
palliative care  
physicians

Clinical  
operations

Informatics

Nursing

Care  
management

Social work

# Creation of Algorithm

**How do we identify these patients in the ED?**



# How did we previously identify these patients?

1. Does the Patient Have A Life-Limiting Illness? (Check All Items that Apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Advanced Dementia or CNS Disease</b> (e.g. history of Stroke, ALS, Parkinson's): Assistance needed for most self-care (e.g. ambulation, toileting) <u>and/or</u> Minimally verbal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Advanced Cancer:</b> Metastatic <u>or</u> locally aggressive disease.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>End Stage Renal Disease:</b> On dialysis <u>or</u> Creatinine > 6.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Advanced COPD:</b> Continuous home O2 <u>or</u> chronic dyspnea at rest.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Advanced Heart Failure:</b> Chronic dyspnea, chest pain <u>or</u> fatigue with minimal activity or rest.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>End Stage Liver Disease:</b> History of recurrent ascites, GI bleeding, <u>or</u> hepatic encephalopathy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Septic Shock</b> (i.e. signs of organ failure due to infection): Requires ICU admission <u>and</u> has significant pre-existing comorbid illness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Provider Discretion - High chance of Accelerated Death:</b> <i>Examples: Hip fracture &gt; age 80; Major trauma in the elderly (multiple rib fractures, intracranial bleed), Advanced AIDS, etc</i>
<b>No Checked Items?</b> STOP! Screening is Complete	<b>ONE or More Checked Items?</b> CONTINUE screening!

Bowman J, George N, Barrett N, Anderson K, Dove-Maguire K, Baird J. Acceptability and Reliability of a Novel Palliative Care Screening Tool Among Emergency Department Providers. *Acad Emerg Med*. 2016;23(6):694-702.

# Palliative care clinical decision support tool



## Leverage clinical decision support alerts to:

Identify patients most likely to benefit from primary palliative care

Provide point-of-care clinical recommendations



## Benefits:

Rapid

Sensitive

Improves adherence to guidelines

## A. Screening criteria

Historical data elements	Current encounter data elements
Mandatory surprise question: “Would you be surprised if this patient died within the previous 6 months?” (No)	Code narrator start
Previous palliative care consult	Active order for mechanical ventilation
Previous order for “Do Not Resuscitate”	Active order for non-invasive ventilation
Last hospital disposition to a long-term acute care facility or nursing facility	GFR < 15 ml/min/m <sup>2</sup>
Previous scanned document of Consent to Withhold or Withdraw Life Sustaining Treatments	Albumin < 2 g/dL
Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) Score 3 or 4	Bicarbonate < 10 mEq/L
Previous discharge to hospice	pCO <sub>2</sub> < 70 mmHg
Previous MOLST documentation	

## B. Referral



PALLIATIVE CARE  
INPATIENT CONSULT  
SERVICE



SOCIAL WORK

## C. Design specifications

### Interruptive vs non-interruptive alerts

- ED providers
- Social work and case management

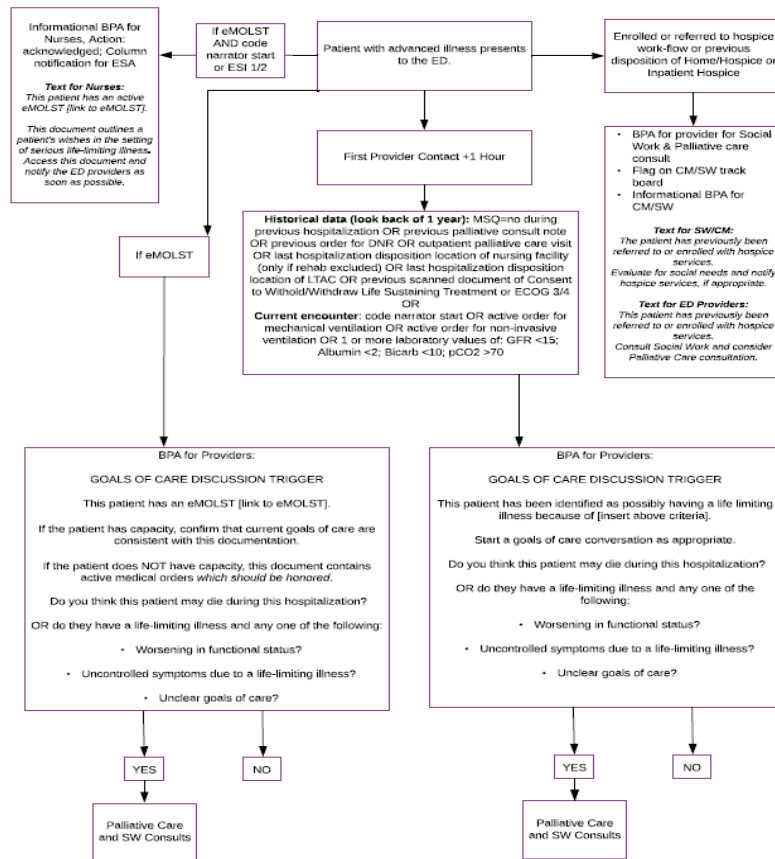
### Alert timing

- One hour after provider assignment

### Alert audience

- ED providers, nurses, social workers, care managers

# The Algorithm



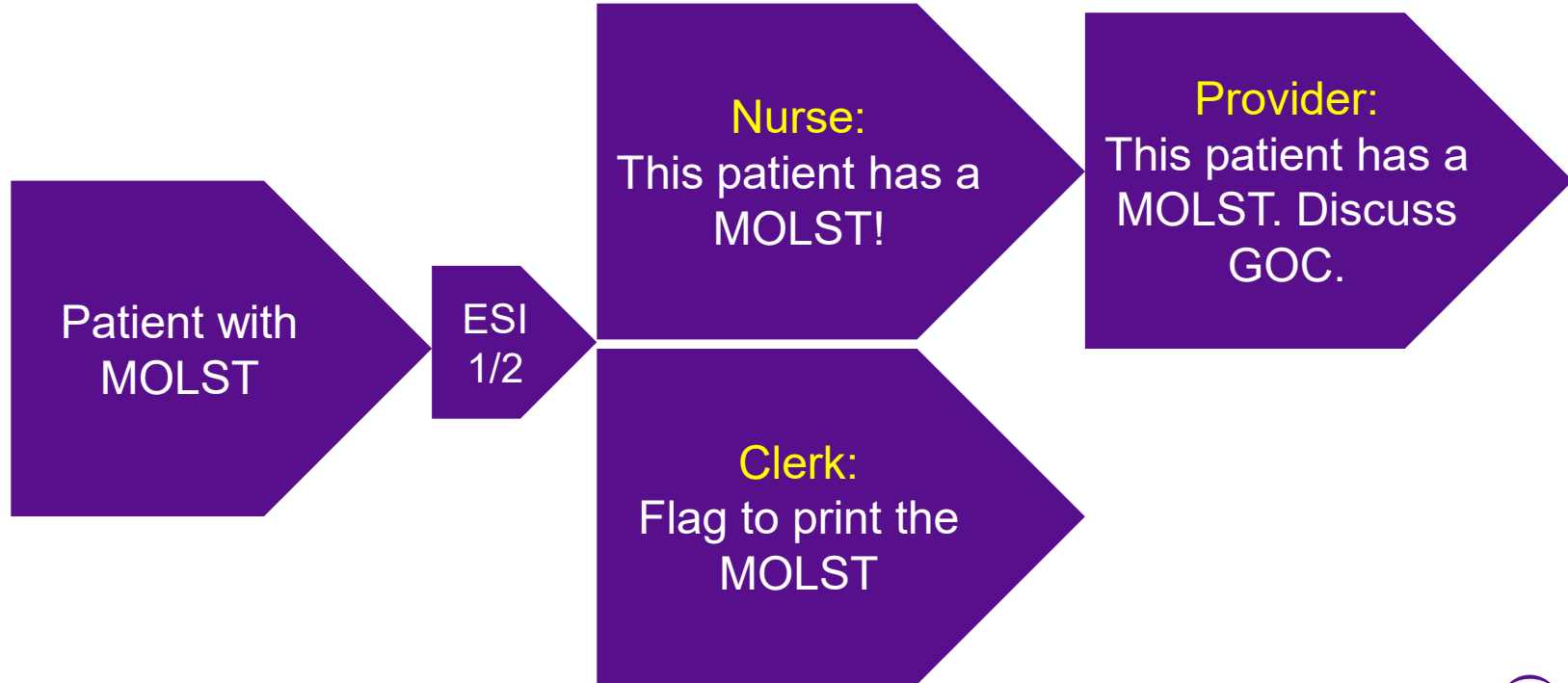
# The Algorithm: Hospice

Patient previously  
enrolled with  
home or inpatient  
hospice

**Provider:**  
Pall care  
consult?  
SW consult?

**SW/CM:**  
Alert and flag

## The Algorithm: (+) MOLST





## The Algorithm: No MOLST



# The Solution / The Build

# Translating the Algorithm into Electronic CDS

- Decision for Active Interruptive BPA's
- Positive eMOLST
  - BPA for RN
  - Column for Unit Clerks
  - BPA for Providers
- Positive Hospice (Enrolled or Referred)
  - BPA for Social Workers and Care Managers
  - Column for Social Workers and Care Managers
  - BPA for Providers
- Identified patients as possibly having life limiting illness based on numerous criteria
  - BPA for Providers

# Clinical Decision Support @ NYU Langone Health

Identify seriously ill patients with advance care planning documents: BPA for RN's

**BestPractice Advisory - SupportiveCare,TestOne**

**ⓘ Active eMOLST**

Patient has an active eMOLST. This document outlines a patient's wishes in the setting of serious life-limiting illness. Please access this document to learn more about the patient's wishes for care.

Acknowledge Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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# Clinical Decision Support @ NYU Langone Health

Identify seriously ill patients with advance care planning documents: BPA for Providers

BestPractice Advisory - SupportiveCare,TestOne

**① Patient has an active eMOLST - Goals of Care Discussion Trigger**

This patient has an eMOLST.

- If the patient has capacity, confirm that current goals of care are consistent with this document.
- If the patient does NOT have capacity, this document contains active medical orders which should be honored.

Do you think this patient may die during this hospitalization?

OR

Do they have any one of the following?

- Worsening in functional status?
- Uncontrolled symptoms due to a life-limiting illness?
- Unclear goals of care?

If yes, then order a Social Work and Palliative Care Consult.  
If no, then dismiss BPA.

[IP CONSULT TO SOCIAL WORK](#)

[IP CONSULT TO PALLIATIVE CARE](#)

Acknowledge Reason

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## Clinical Decision Support @ NYU Langone Health: BPA for Social Workers and Care Managers to identify hospice patients

**BestPractice Advisory - SupportiveCare,TestTwo**

**! Active Hospice**

This patient has previously been referred to or enrolled with hospice services. Evaluate for social needs and notify hospice services, if appropriate.

Acknowledge Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged

✓ Accept

Dismiss

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## Clinical Decision Support @ NYU Langone Health: BPA for Providers to identify hospice patients

**BestPractice Advisory - SupportiveCare,TestThree**

**⚠ Active Hospice**

This patient has previously been referred to or enrolled with hospice services. Consult Social Work and consider Palliative Care consultation.

<b>Order</b>	Do Not Order	🗨 IP CONSULT TO SOCIAL WORK
<b>Order</b>	Do Not Order	🗨 IP CONSULT TO PALLIATIVE CARE

Acknowledge Reason \_\_\_\_\_

SW and Palliative Care Consults Ordered	No Order at this time
---	-----------------------

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**Accept**

**Dismiss**

# Clinical Decision Support @ NYU Langone Health:

## Initiate goals of care conversation: BPA for Providers

BestPractice Advisory - SupportiveCare\_TestSixteen

 **Goals of Care Discussion Trigger (No eMOLST on file)**

This patient **does not** have an eMOLST on file but does possibly have a serious life-limiting illness based on criteria met (see criteria in [blue](#) below).

Start a goals of care conversation.

Do you think this patient may die during this hospitalization?

OR

Do they have any one of the following?

- Worsening in functional status?
- Uncontrolled symptoms due to a life-limiting illness?
- Unclear goals of care?


If yes, then order a Social Work and Palliative Care Consult.  
If no, then dismiss BPA.

**Criteria met:**

[ECOG=4, Poor functional status](#)


Order

Do Not Order

 IP CONSULT TO SOCIAL WORK

Order

Do Not Order


 IP CONSULT TO PALLIATIVE CARE


Acknowledge Reason \_\_\_\_\_

SW and/or Palliative Care Consults O...

No Order at this time

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 Accept

 Dismiss



**TEST**

# Education and Roll-out

## Usability Testing

- Test group of 10 ED staff including nurses, physicians, physician assistance and clinical operations leadership
- Tested multiple clinical scenarios
- Open forum for discussion/questions
- System Usability Scale (SUS) questionnaire
- Score of 92.5 (minimum threshold of 85 was considered “excellent”)

## System Usability Scale

### Clinical Decision Support (CDS) System Primary Palliative Care for Emergency Medicine (PRIM-ER)

Please check the box that reflects your immediate response to each statement. Don't think too long about each statement. Make sure you respond to every statement. If you don't know how to respond, simply check box "3."

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
1. I think that I would like to use this product frequently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I found the product unnecessarily complex.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I thought the product was easy to use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use this product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I found the various functions in the product were well integrated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I thought there was too much inconsistency in this product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I imagine that most people would learn to use this product very quickly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I found the product very awkward to use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I felt very confident using the product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with this product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Education

- Clinical rounds
- Email notifications
- Tip sheets
- Education at faculty meetings
- Champions from various disciplines including physicians, nursing, social work, care managers and unit clerks

# Dissemination of CDS

# Tailoring Clinical Decision Support to Each Site

CRITERIA 1: Patient with Advanced Illness Presents to ED (no advance care planning documentation)							
One of the below positive from specified time interval to present							
MSQ=no during any previous hospitalization	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Previous palliative care consult order in _____ months	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Previous order for DNR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Outpatient Palliative Care visit in past _____ months	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last hospitalization disposition location of nursing facility in _____ months	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ECOG 3 or 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Last hospitalization disposition location of LTAC in _____ months	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Previous scanned document of consent to withhold/withdraw life sustaining treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Previous dispo to outpatient or inpatient hospice in _____ months	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						

OR

CRITERIA 2: Patient with Advanced Illness Presents to ED (no advance care planning documentation)							
Current ED encounter							
Code narrator start	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	GFR<15	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Albumin <2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Bicarb<10	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
PCO <sub>2</sub> >70	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Active order for mechanical ventilation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Active order for non-invasive ventilation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

OR

CRITERIA 3: Patient with advanced illness presents to the ED with advance care planning documentation							
eMOLST	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	MOLST	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	POLST	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
DNR/DNI	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Five Wishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ACP note under "CODE" tab in EPIC	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

OR

CRITERIA 4: Enrolled or referred to hospice work-flow or previous disposition of Home/Hospice or Inpatient Hospice	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	



REFERRAL TO SERVICES							
Social Work Consult	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Palliative Care Consult	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hospice	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Care Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Chaplaincy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Clerks	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

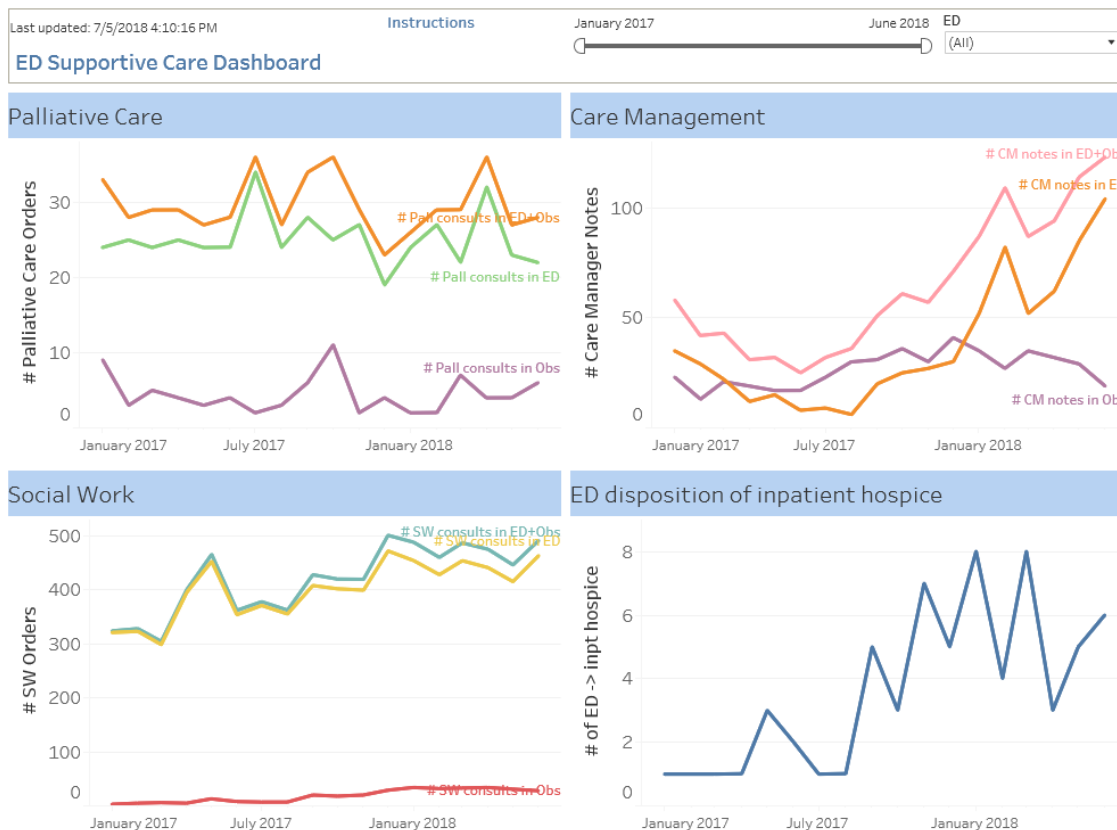
## Dissemination

- Sharing the build – swim lanes
- Sharing of EPIC build
- Tech support



# Measuring Success

# Audit and Feedback Dashboard

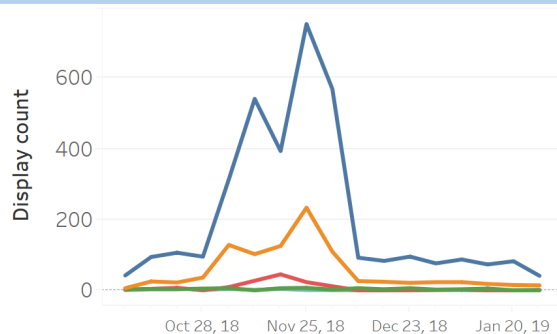


# CDS Dashboard

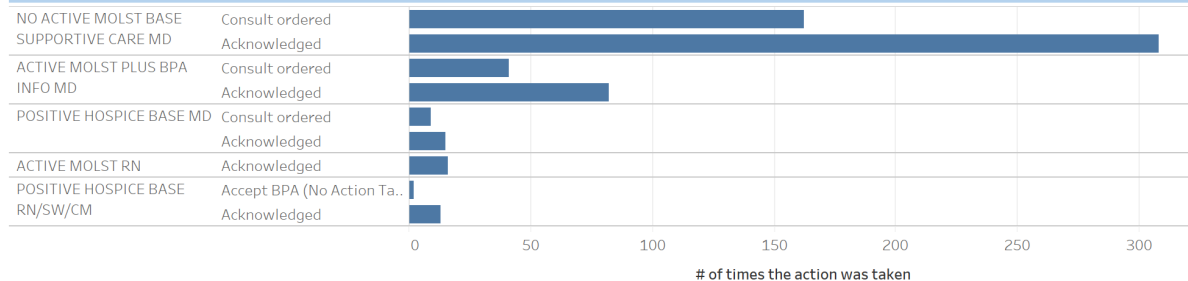
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## ED Supportive Care BPA Dashboard

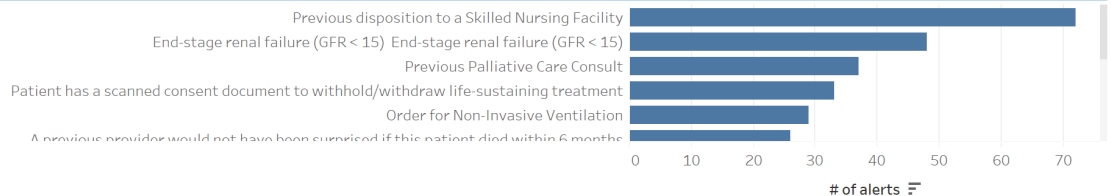
### BPA display count by week



### Actions



### Trigger Criteria

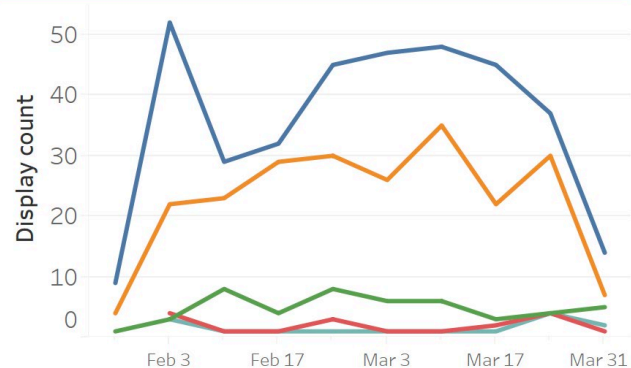


# Modifications

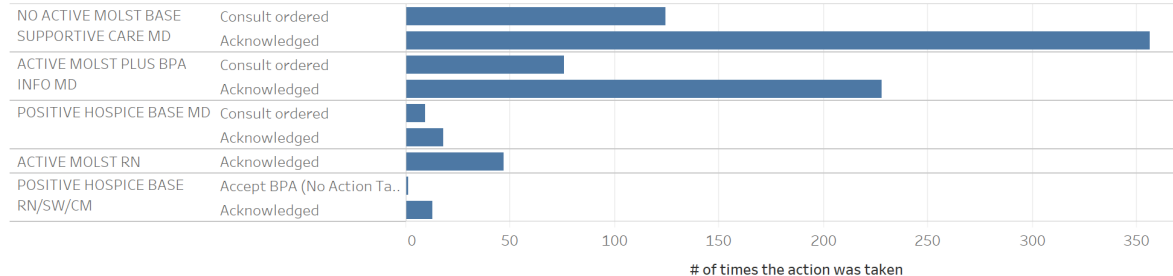
- 11/7/2018
  - Alerts fire for all providers (attending, resident, PA) not just to the initial provider
- 12/9/2018
  - Discontinued alert firing for non-ED providers
  - Amended alert to fire only once for each ED provider
- 1/30/2019
  - Firing of No MOLST alert changed to T+60 min changed to T+90 min
  - Modification of criteria – removed nursing home disposition and  $GFR < 15 \text{ ml/min/m}^2$
- 4/10/2019
  - No MOLST BPA held

# CDS Dashboard

BPA display count by week

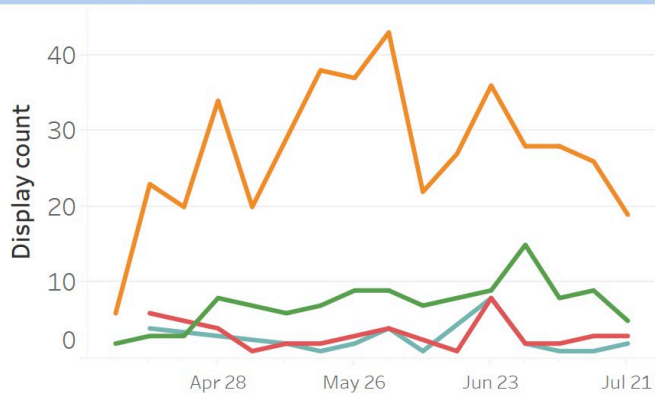


Actions

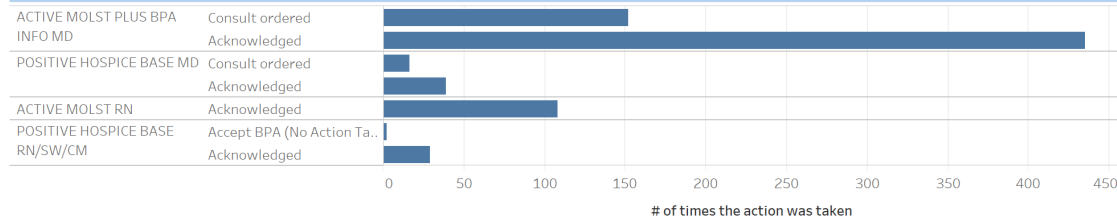


# CDS Dashboard

BPA display count by week



Actions



# Next steps

# Lessons Learned

- Be weary of alert fatigue
- Buy in is key
- Changing the culture of care in the ED



# Questions

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