

Changes That Last

Dr Jonny Taitz
Director, Patient Safety
Clinical Excellence Commission
Australia



What's the problem?

- Most Quality projects work well
- An improvement often results
- The gains are often short lived
- Very limited spread beyond ward level
- Rarely sustained

Lumbar Punctures in a children's ward

- LP is common procedure
- Increasing evidence of post LP complications in children
- Concerns about consent, parental information, technical performance
- Anxiety provoking in parents and doctors
- *See 1, do 1, teach 1* no longer acceptable

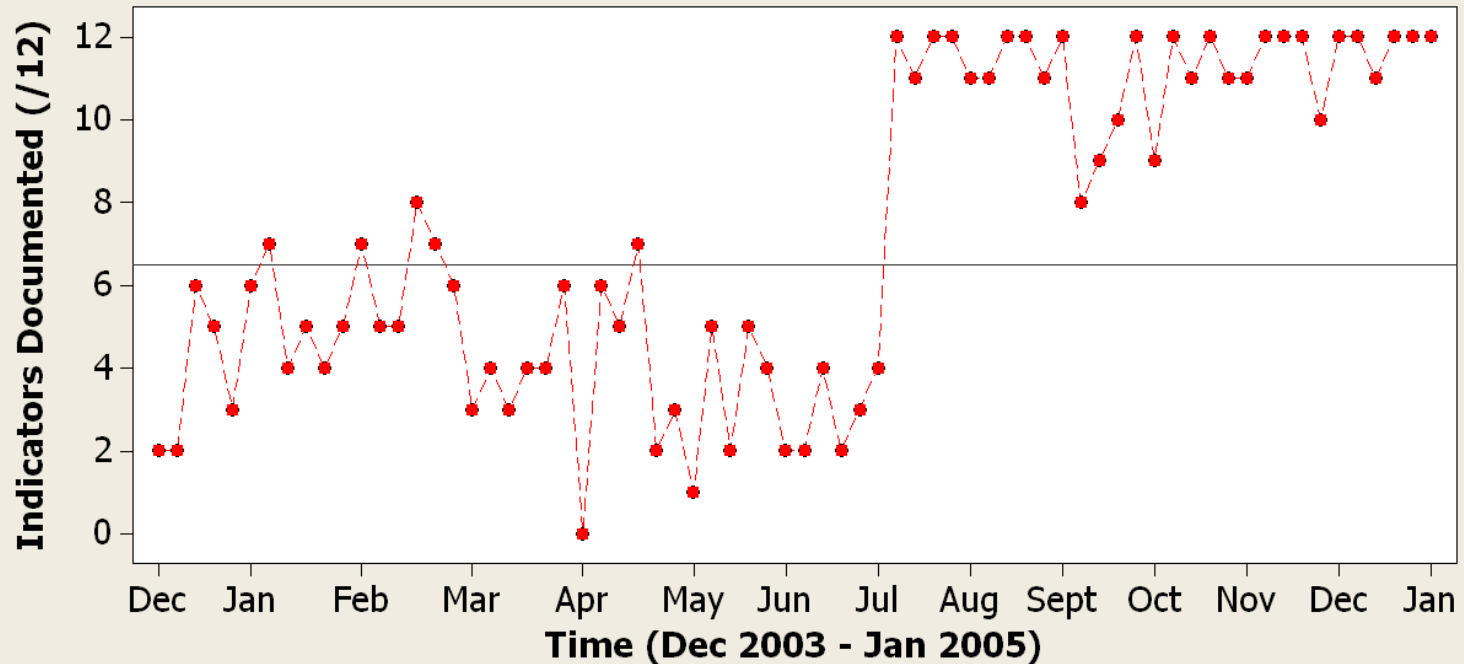


Interventions

- Teaching mannequins purchased “Baby Stap”
- Introduced teaching sessions at orientation
- JMS accredited prior to beginning term
- Sticker checklist and fact sheet for parents developed
- Significant improvement

LP improvement project

Run Chart - LP Audit Pre- and Post-Sticker



Number of runs about median:	10	Number of runs up or down:	49
Expected number of runs:	36.00000	Expected number of runs:	46.33333
Longest run about median:	13	Longest run up or down:	3
Approx P-Value for Clustering:	0.00000	Approx P-Value for Trends:	0.77814
Approx P-Value for Mixtures:	1.00000	Approx P-Value for Oscillation:	0.22186

What's the Challenge?

- What happened next??
- How do we get spread at scale ?
- Whole system improvement
- Sustained improvement over long period
- Local leadership vital
- Improvement requires change (in behaviour)

Deteriorating patients

Patients

- Sicker
- More complex

Staffing

- Shortages
- Skills mix

Suboptimal response to the deteriorating patient

Staff

- ↑ Inexperienced
- ↑ Transient

Response systems

- Poor Design
- Lack of Coordination

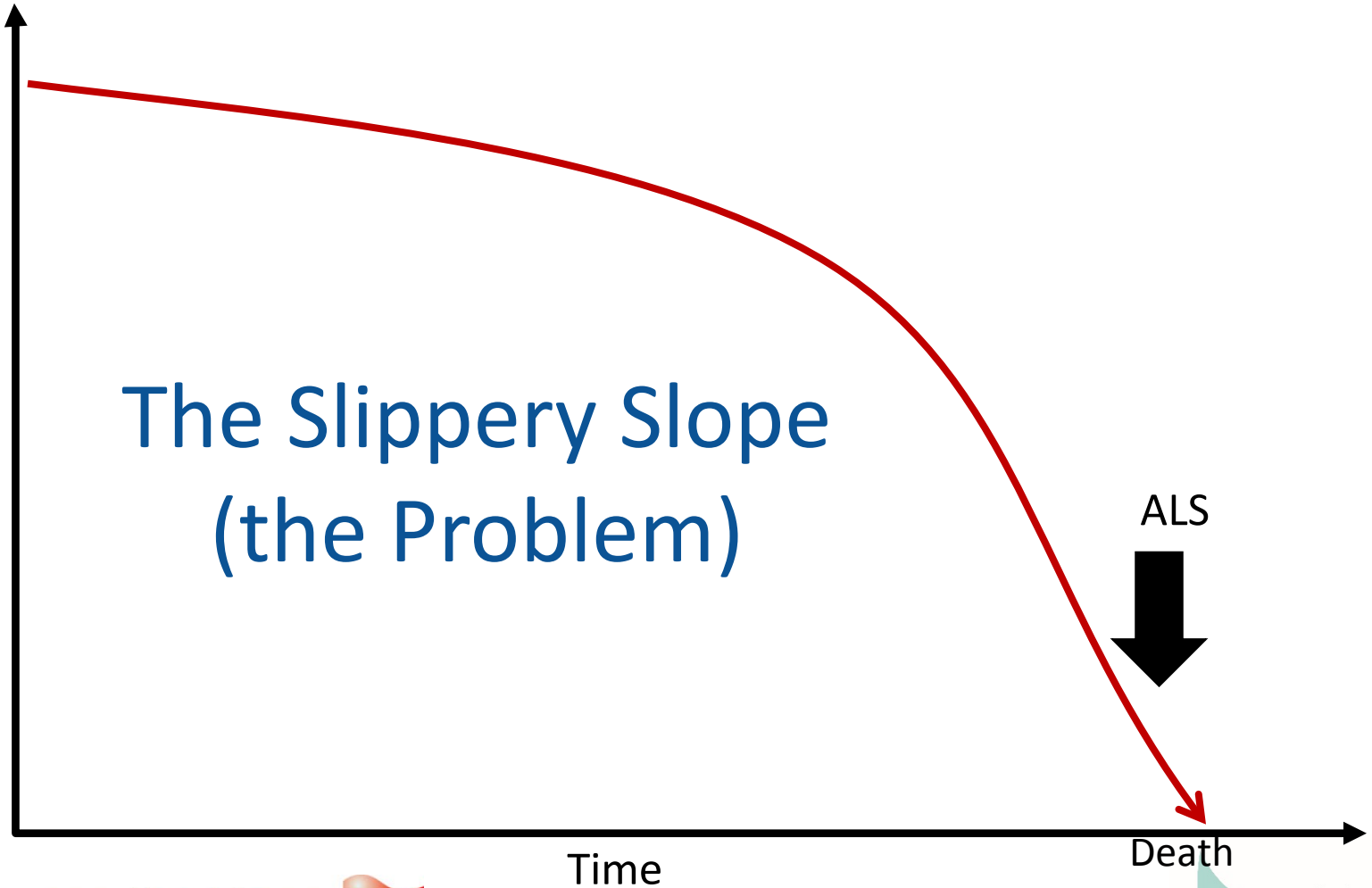
Keeping patients safe- Between the Flags



Clinical Excellence Commission

The Clinical Excellence Commission
is responsible for leading safety and quality
improvement in the NSW public health system

There's a problem...



What's the problem?

- Serious adverse events are common in hospitalized patients around the world ¹⁻⁴
- Documented warning signs in up to 80% ⁵⁻⁹
- Early recognition and intervention improves outcomes ¹⁰⁻¹³

1 - 4 Wilson et al MJA 1992, Davis et al NZ Med J 1998, Brennan / Leape 1984, Baker et al 2000

5 - 9 Schein et al, Chest 1990, Buist et al MJA 1999, Hodgets et al Resus 2002, Nurmi et al Act Anaes Scan 2005, Bell et al Resus 2006

10 - 13 GISSI Am Heart J 1999, Rivers NEJM 2001, Nardi Min. Anest 2002, NINDS NEJM 1995



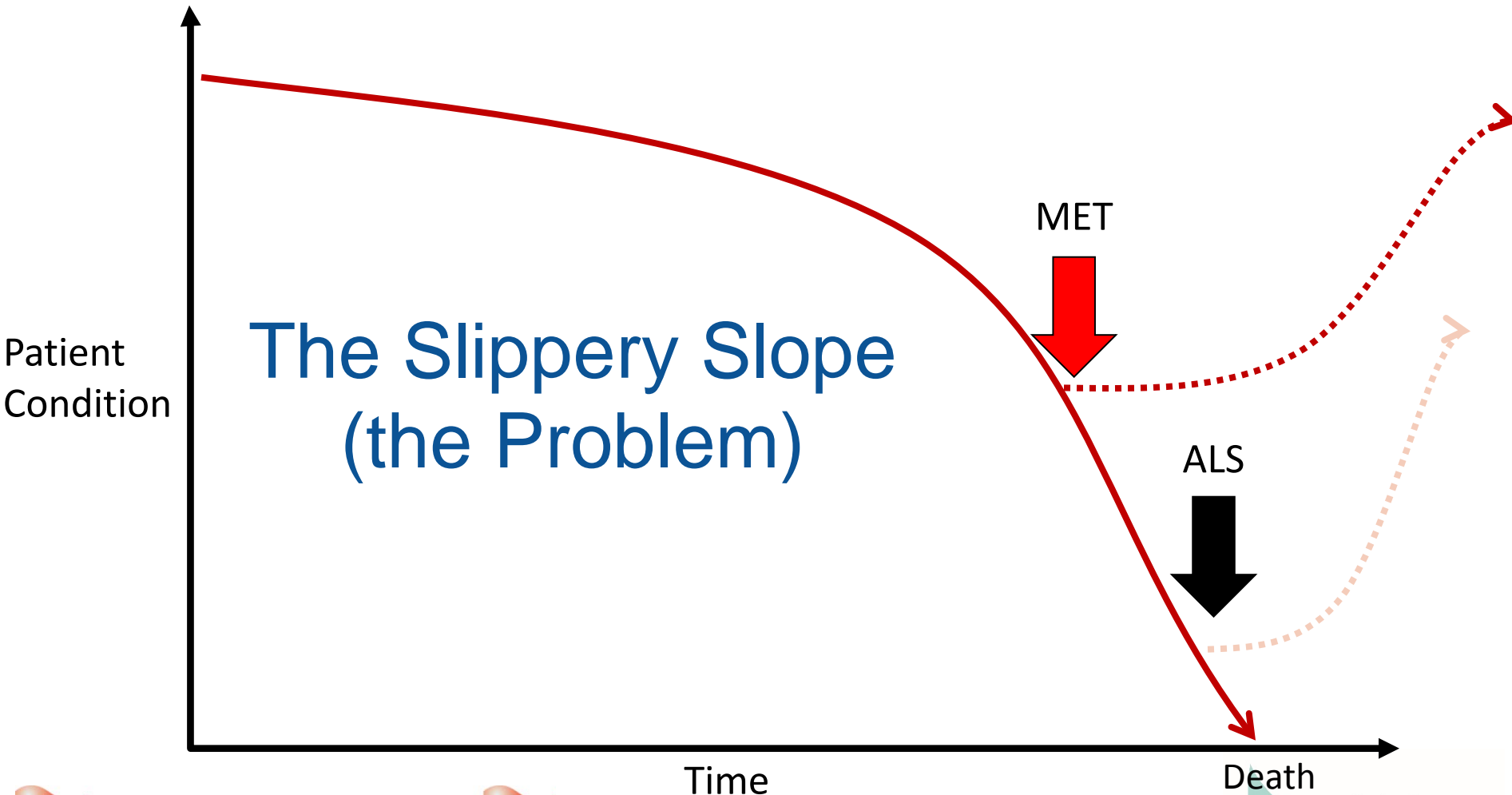
The solution

- Medical Emergency Team (MET) concept developed by Professor Ken Hillman ¹
- MET and Rapid Response Systems catch on across Australia, the US and the UK ²⁻⁴

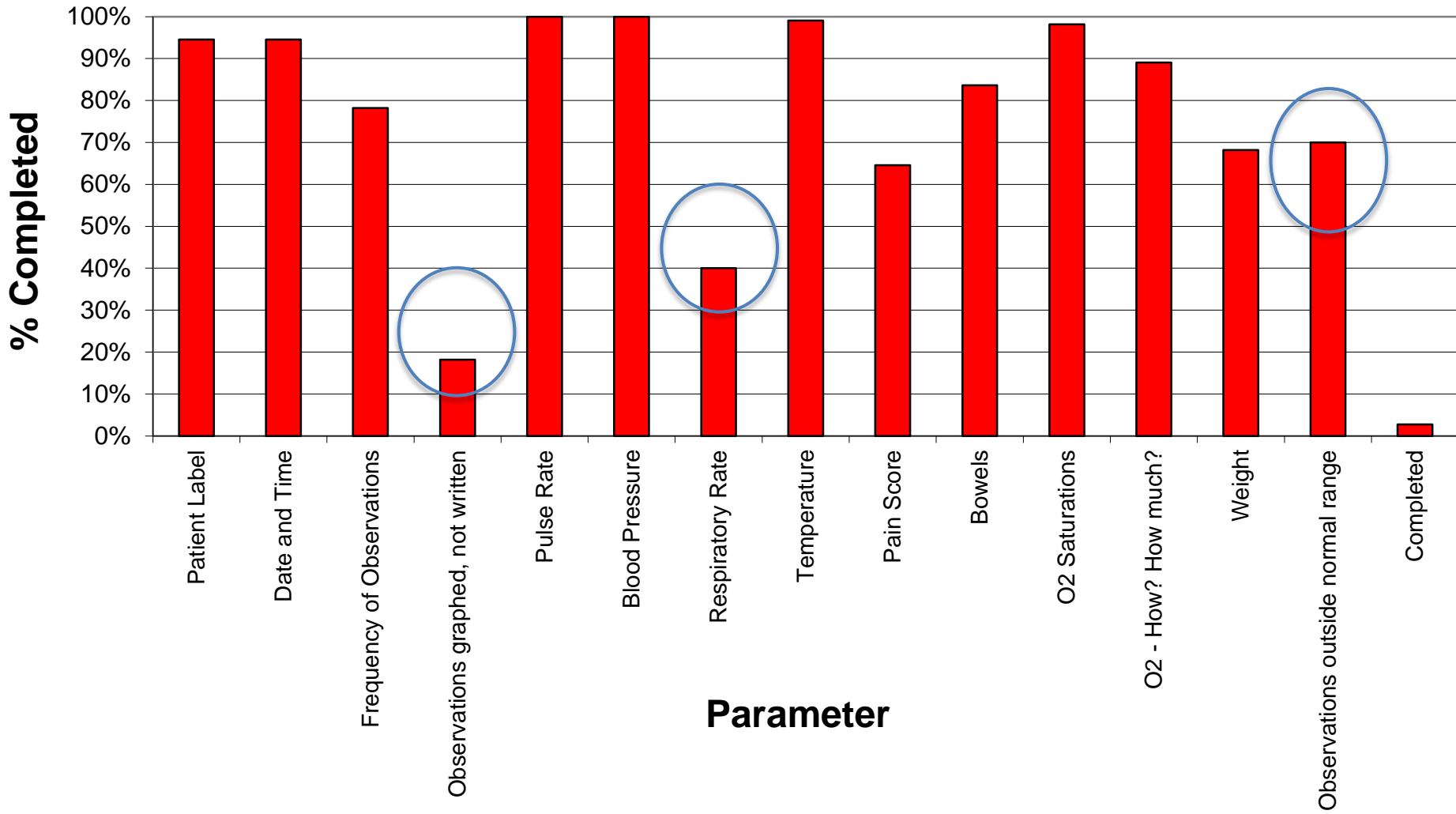
1. Lee et al, Anaesth Intensive Care 1995
2. Ball et al, BMJ 2003
3. England et al, Critical Care 2008
4. IHI, 100,1000 lives campaign 2006



The solution?



Completion of Observations



How system fatally failed Vanessa

January 24, 2008 - 1:27PM

Page 1 of 2 | [Single page](#)



NSW Premier Morris Iemma today announced a Special Commission of Inquiry into the NSW health system following an inquest into the death of a girl who was hit by a golf ball in 2005.

Deputy State Coroner Carl Milovanovich was scathing of the NSW Government in his findings into the death of Sydney teenager Vanessa Anderson at Royal North Shore Hospital.

She died from respiratory arrest due to the depressant effects of opiate medication after a doctor misread her chart.

The coroner said "almost every conceivable error or omission" had occurred in her treatment before her death and called for a wide-ranging inquiry into the NSW health system.

Mr Iemma stopped short of ordering a royal commission, instead announcing a statewide inquiry in the troubled health system.

"We will be establishing a special commission of inquiry to act on that recommendation of the coroner," Mr Iemma said.

He indicated he would seek to appoint a high-profile lawyer such as Bret Walker, SC, to oversee the inquiry and has told his Health Minister, Reba Meagher, and the Director-General of Premier and Cabinet, Robyn Kruk, to finalise details within the

“ I have never seen a case such as Vanessa's in which almost every conceivable error or omission was detected and those errors continued to build one on top of the other



Golf ball victim Vanessa Anderson.

Latest related coverage

- [Iemma orders special inquiry into health system](#)



Special Commission of Inquiry
Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals

Final Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals

Overview



Peter Garling SC
27 November 2008

Recommendation 91

A **system** to be put in place in NSW for the “detection of deteriorating patients”, with the following elements:

- **early identification** of an at-risk patient;
- **escalation protocols** to manage deteriorating patients, which would include a rapid response system;
- detailed **education** and training programs, aimed at recognising and managing the deteriorating patient;
- **appropriate data** to monitor the implementation and progress of the program;
- **high level support** from management and clinicians;
- and ongoing **evaluation**.



The NSW solution

Design a system to improve:

- prevention
- recognition
- escalation
- response



A Safety Net

Between the Flags

Keeping patients safe



Introduced in January 2010

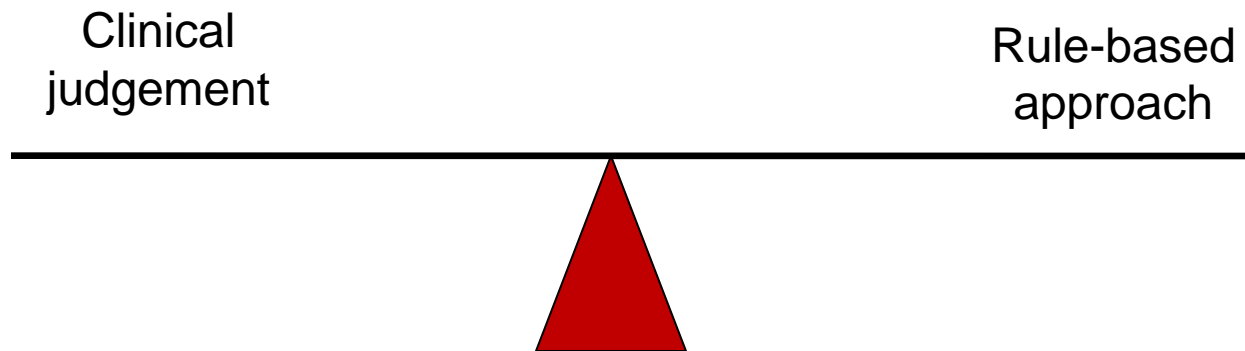


CLINICAL
EXCELLENCE
COMMISSION

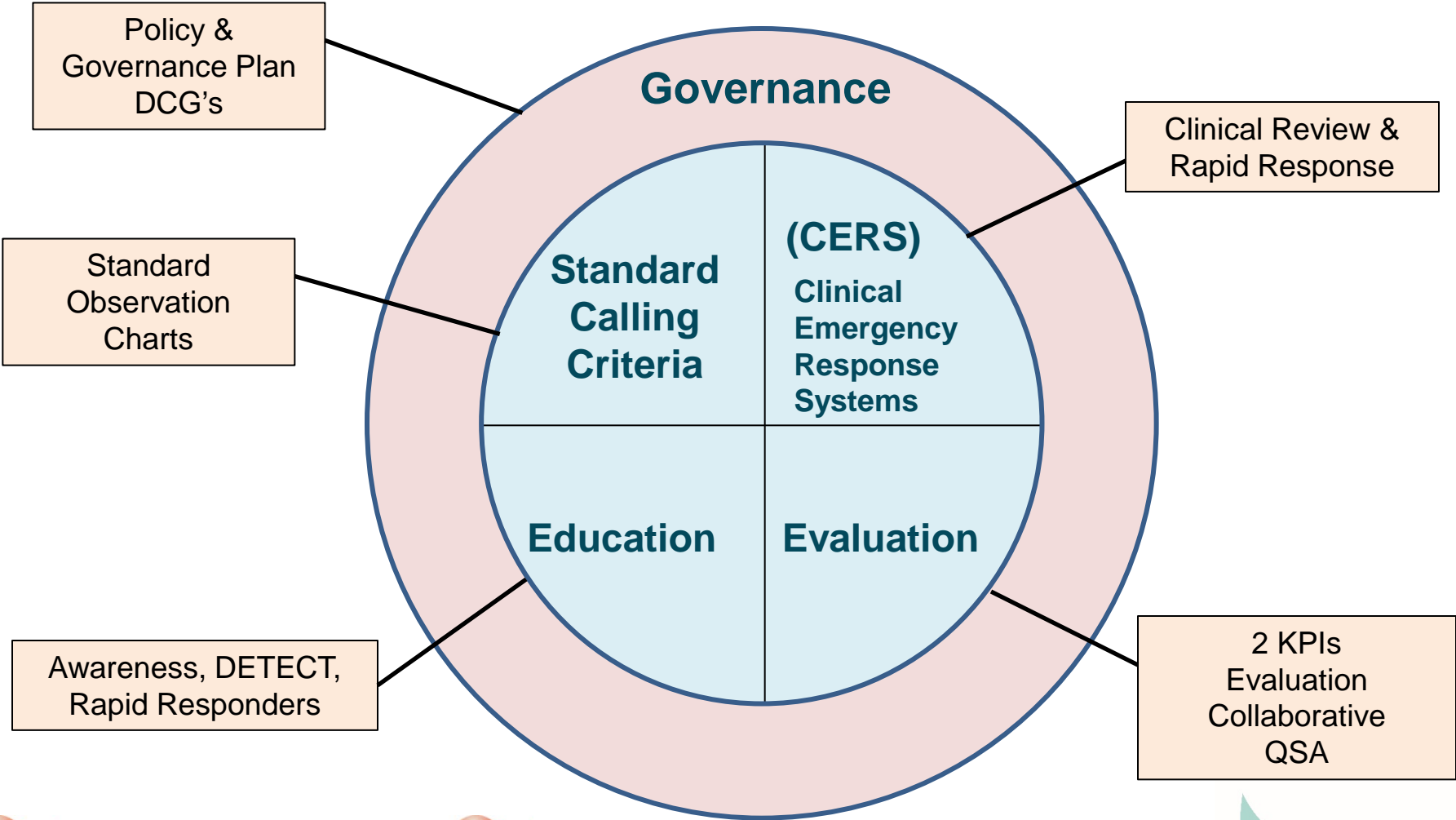
CEC approach

- Broad clinician engagement and consultation
- Keep it simple
- Standardisation across NSW
- Leadership and support centrally, BUT
- Allow facilities to customise their response
- Promote and support local clinical judgement

Striking the right balance



The 5 Elements



Standard Adult General Observation Chart



NSW Health

FAMILY NAME: _____ MRN: _____
 GIVEN NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE
 D.O.B. ____/____/____ M.O. _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 LOCATION: _____

STANDARD ADULT GENERAL OBSERVATION CHART

Altered Calling Criteria

ALL OBSERVATIONS MUST BE GRAPHED COMPLETE ALL DETAILS OR AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

Date Time	Respiratory Rate	SpO ₂ %	O ₂ Lpm	SBP (mmHg)	Heart Rate	Neurological	Disability
35	35	95	100	230	100	A	A
30	30	95	100	220	90	V	V
25	25	95	100	210	80	P	P
20	20	95	100	200	70	U	U
15	15	95	100	190	60		
10	10	95	100	180	50		
5	5	95	100	170	40		

Key: NP = Nasal Prongs, FM = Simple facemask, NRB = Non Re-breather

Enter appropriate letter. A= Alert, V= Rousable by voice (conduct GCS), P= Rousable only by pain (conduct GCS), U=Unresponsive

Yellow Zone
Early warning signs

Red Zone
Late warning signs

NSW Health

FAMILY NAME: _____ MRN: _____
 GIVEN NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE
 D.O.B. ____/____/____ M.O. _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 LOCATION: _____

STANDARD ADULT GENERAL OBSERVATION CHART

Altered Calling Criteria

ALL OBSERVATIONS MUST BE GRAPHED COMPLETE ALL DETAILS OR AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

Date Time	Respiratory Rate	SpO ₂ %	O ₂ Lpm	SBP (mmHg)	Heart Rate	Neurological	Disability
41	41	95	100	230	100	A	A
40.5	40.5	95	100	220	90	V	V
40	40	95	100	210	80	P	P
39.5	39.5	95	100	200	70	U	U
39	39	95	100	190	60		
38.5	38.5	95	100	180	50		
38	38	95	100	170	40		
37.5	37.5	95	100	160	30		
37	37	95	100	150	20		
36.5	36.5	95	100	140	10		
36	36	95	100	130	0		
35.5	35.5	95	100	120			
35	35	95	100	110			
34.5	34.5	95	100	100			
34	34	95	100	90			

Assess pain level at rest and with movement. Enter R for at rest, M for movement

Severe (7-10)					
Moderate (4-6)					
Mild (1-3)					
No pain					

Initials: _____ Date: _____

Blood Glucose

Date: _____ Time: _____ BGL: _____

Bowels

Date: _____

Weight

Daily Date: _____

Urinanalysis

Date: _____ Time: _____ SG: _____ pH: _____ Leuk: _____ Blood: _____ Nitrite: _____ Ketones: _____ Bilirubin: _____ U/Bil: _____ Protein: _____ Glucose: _____

Standard Paediatric Observation Chart

NSW Health
 FAMILY NAME: _____ MRN: _____
 GIVEN NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE
 D.O.B. ____/____/____ M.O. ____ years
 ADDRESS: _____
 LOCATION: _____
STANDARD PAEDIATRIC OBSERVATION CHART (SPOC) 1-4 Years
 Altered Calling Criteria COMPLETE ALL DETAILS OR AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

AIRWAY / BREATHING	Respiratory rate (beats per minute)	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5		
	Respiratory Distress	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Normal	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Normal	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Normal	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Normal		
	SpO ₂ (in any amount of O ₂)	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25		
	Probe Position	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe	Probe		
	Oxygen Device	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min	U/min		
	CIRCULATION	Heart Rate (beats per minute)	220	210	200	190	180	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60
		Capillary Refill	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds	
		Blood Pressure (mmHg) Systolic blood Pressure is the trigger	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10		
		Initials																	

Blue Zone
 Increased vigilance

NSW Health
 FAMILY NAME: _____ MRN: _____
 GIVEN NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE
 D.O.B. ____/____/____ M.O. ____ years
 ADDRESS: _____
 LOCATION: _____
STANDARD PAEDIATRIC OBSERVATION CHART (SPOC) 1-4 Years
 Altered Calling Criteria COMPLETE ALL DETAILS OR AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

SABILITY	Level of Consciousness	Alert	Verbal	Pain	Unresponsive	Alert	Verbal	Pain	Unresponsive	Alert	Verbal	Pain	Unresponsive					
	Enter appropriate letter, A= Alert, V= Rousable only by voice (consider GCS), P= Rousable only by central pain (conduct GCS), U= Unresponsive																	
	Severe (7-10)	Moderate (4-6)	Mild (1-3)	Severe (7-10)	Moderate (4-6)	Mild (1-3)	Severe (7-10)	Moderate (4-6)	Mild (1-3)	Severe (7-10)	Moderate (4-6)	Mild (1-3)						
	41	40.5	40	39.5	39	38.5	38	37.5	37	36.5	36	35.5	35	34.5	34			
	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	BGL	
	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight	
	Initials																	

- CONSIDER EARLIER ESCALATION OF PATIENTS WITH**
- Chronic or complex conditions
 - Post-operative
 - Pre-Existing cardiac or respiratory conditions
 - Opioid Infusions

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ESCALATION ON BACK PAGE

ASSESSMENT OF RESPIRATORY DISTRESS			
	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE
Airway	• Stridor on exertion	• Stridor at rest • Partial airway obstruction	• New onset of stridor • Imminent airway obstruction
Behaviour & Feeding	• Normal • Talks in sentences	• Some / Intermittent irritability • Difficulty talking or crying • Difficulty feeding or eating	• Agitated / Confused • Drowsy • Unable to talk or cry • Unable to feed or eat
Respiratory Rate	• Mildly increased	• Respiratory rate in the yellow zone	• Respiratory rate in the red zone • Decreasing (exhaustion)
Accessory Muscle Use	• None / Minimal	• Moderate recession • Tracheal tug • Nasal flaring	• Severe recession • Gasping • Grunting • Extreme pallor • Cyanosis • Absent breath sounds
Apnoeic Episodes	• None	• Abnormal pauses in breathing	• Apnoeic episodes
Oxygen	• No oxygen requirement	• Mild Hypoxaemia, corrected by oxygen • Increasing oxygen requirement	• Hypoxaemia, may not be corrected by oxygen

Observation Charts

- 5 Paediatric Charts
- Neonatal
- Maternity
- Emergency Dept.

The image displays five NSW Health observation charts, each with a header for patient information (Family Name, Given Name, M.O., Address, Location) and a grid for recording observations. The charts are:

- Maternity Observation Chart:** Includes a section for 'Advanced Calling Criteria'.
- 1-4 Years Standard Paediatric Observation Chart (SPOC):** Includes a section for 'Advanced Calling Criteria'.
- 5-11 Years Standard Paediatric Observation Chart (SPOC):** Includes a section for 'Advanced Calling Criteria'.
- 12 Years and over Standard Paediatric Observation Chart (SPOC):** Includes a section for 'Advanced Calling Criteria' and an 'ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ESCALATION ON BACK PAGE' section.
- Neonatal Observation Chart:** Includes a section for 'Advanced Calling Criteria'.

Each chart features a grid with columns for 'Observation' and 'Response'. The legend at the bottom of each chart defines the response types:

- Increase Frequency of Observations:** Represented by a blue box.
- Clinical Review:** Represented by a yellow box.
- Rapid Response:** Represented by an orange box.

The 'ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ESCALATION ON BACK PAGE' section for the 12 Years and over chart includes:

CONSIDER EARLIER ESCALATION OF PATIENTS WITH

- Chronic or complex conditions
- Post-operative
- Pre-Existing cardiac or respiratory conditions
- Opioid infusions

ASSESSMENT OF RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE
Awake	• Awake on awaken	• Awake at rest	• Non-awake or drowsy
Behavior & Feeding	• Normal	• Some / intermittent irritability	• Agitated / Confused
Respiratory Rate	• Mildly increased	• Respiratory rate in the yellow zone	• Respiratory rate in the red zone
Accessory Muscle Use	• None / Minimal	• Moderate recession	• Severe recession
Apnoea / Epnoea	• None	• Abnormal pauses in breathing	• Apnoea / apnoea
Oxygen	• No oxygen requirement	• Mild hypoxemia, corrected by oxygen	• Hypoxemia, may not be corrected by oxygen

Page 2 of 4

Standard Paediatric Observation Chart

NSW Health
 FAMILY NAME: _____ MRN: _____
 GIVEN NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE
 Facility: _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____ M.O. ____ years
 ADDRESS: _____
 LOCATION: _____
STANDARD PAEDIATRIC OBSERVATION CHART (SPOC) 1-4 Years
 Altered Calling Criteria COMPLETE ALL DETAILS OR AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

AIRWAY / BREATHING	Respiratory rate (breaths per minute)	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5		
	Respiratory Distress	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Normal														
	SpO ₂ (in any amount of O ₂)	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25		
	Oxygen	U/min	Probe																
	CIRCULATION	Heart Rate (beats per minute)	220	210	200	190	180	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60
		Capillary Refill	≥3 Seconds	<3 Seconds															
		Blood Pressure (mmHg)	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10		
		Initials																	

Blue Zone Increased vigilance

NSW Health
 FAMILY NAME: _____ MRN: _____
 GIVEN NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE
 Facility: _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____ M.O. ____ years
 ADDRESS: _____
 LOCATION: _____
STANDARD PAEDIATRIC OBSERVATION CHART (SPOC) 1-4 Years
 Altered Calling Criteria COMPLETE ALL DETAILS OR AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE

SABILITY	Level of consciousness	Alert	Verbal	Pain	Unresponsive												
	Enter appropriate letter, A= Alert, V= Rousable only by voice (consider GCS), P= Rousable only by central pain (conduct GCS), U= Unresponsive																
	Severe (7-10)	Moderate (4-6)	Mild (1-3)														
	41	40.5	40	39.5	39	38.5	38	37.5	37	36.5	36	35.5	35	34.5	34		
	BGL																
	Weight																
	Initials																

- CONSIDER EARLIER ESCALATION OF PATIENTS WITH
- Chronic or complex conditions
 - Post-operative
 - Pre-Existing cardiac or respiratory conditions
 - Opioid Infusions

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ESCALATION ON BACK PAGE

	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE
Airway	• Stridor on exertion	• Stridor at rest • Partial airway obstruction	• New onset of stridor • Imminent airway obstruction
Behaviour & Feeding	• Normal • Talks in sentences	• Some / Intermittent irritability • Difficulty talking or crying • Difficulty feeding or eating	• Agitated / Confused • Drowsy • Unable to talk or cry • Unable to feed or eat
Respiratory Rate	• Mildly increased	• Respiratory rate in the yellow zone	• Respiratory rate in the red zone • Decreasing (exhaustion)
Accessory Muscle Use	• None / Minimal	• Moderate recession • Tracheal tug • Nasal flaring	• Severe recession • Gasping • Grunting • Extreme pallor • Cyanosis • Absent breath sounds
Apnoeic Episodes	• None	• Abnormal pauses in breathing	• Apnoeic episodes
Oxygen	• No oxygen requirement	• Mild Hypoxaemia, corrected by oxygen • Increasing oxygen requirement	• Hypoxaemia, may not be corrected by oxygen

Blue Zone Response

IF A CHILD HAS ANY ONE BLUE ZONE OBSERVATIONS YOU **MUST**

1. Initiate appropriate clinical care
2. Increase the frequency of observations as indicated by your patient's clinical condition
3. Manage anxiety, pain and review oxygenation in consultation with the **NURSE IN CHARGE**
4. You may call for a Clinical Review or Rapid Response at any time if worried about a patient or are unsure whether to call

Consider the following:

1. What is the usual for your patient or if there are any documented 'ALTERATIONS TO CALLING CRITERIA'?
2. Does the abnormal observation reflect deterioration in your patient?
3. Is there an adverse trend in observations?

Clinical Review Criteria

- Any Observation in the Yellow Zone
- Increasing oxygen requirement
- Poor peripheral circulation
- Excess or increasing blood loss
- Decrease in level of consciousness or new onset of confusion
- Low urine output <100ml over 4 hours or less than 0.5mL/kg/hr (via IDC) for 4 hours
- Polyuria, urine output >200mL /hr for 2 hours (in the absence of diuretics)
- Greater than expected fluid loss from a drain
- New, increasing or uncontrolled pain (including chest pain)
- Blood Glucose Level <4mmol/L or >20mmol/L with no decrease in Level of Consciousness
- Ketonaemia >1.5mmol/L or Ketonuria 2+ or more
- Concern by patient or family member
- Concern by any staff member

IF A PATIENT HAS ANY ONE (1) OR MORE CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA PRESENT, YOU MUST CONSULT PROMPTLY WITH THE NURSE IN CHARGE AND ASSESS WHETHER A CLINICAL REVIEW IS NEEDED AND

1. You must initiate appropriate clinical care
2. Increase the frequency of observations as indicated by the patient's condition, but at a minimum repeat within 30 minutes.
3. If Clinical Review is not attended within 30 minutes, escalate to Rapid Response
4. Inform the Attending Medical Officer as soon as practicable
5. Document A-G assessment, treatment, escalation process and outcome in the clinical record

To determine if a Clinical Review is required you should consider:

- Do you continue to be worried about your patient
- What is usual for the patient and whether there are altered calling criteria or an Advance Care Directive
- Whether there is an adverse trend in observations

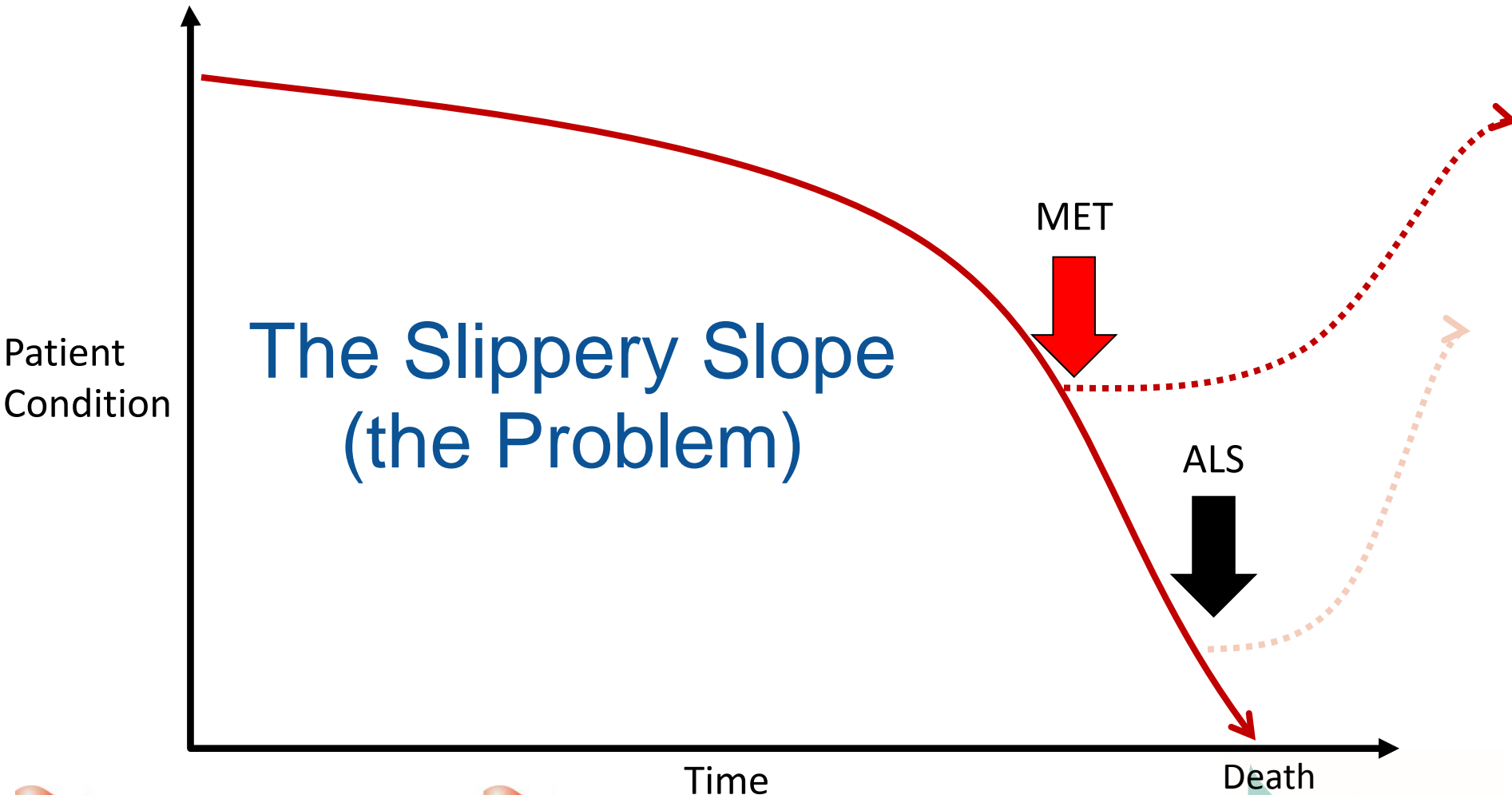
Rapid Response Criteria

- All cardiac or respiratory arrests
- Airway obstruction or stridor
- Unresponsive
- Any observation in the Red Zone
- Deterioration not reversed within one hour of Clinical Review
- Increasing oxygen requirement to maintain oxygen saturations greater than 90%
- Patient deteriorates further before, during or after Clinical Review
- Arterial Blood Gas: $P_aO_2 < 60$ or $P_aCO_2 > 60$ or pH < 7.2 or BE < -5
- Venous Blood Gas: $P_vCO_2 > 65$ or pH < 7.2
- Only responds to Pain (P) or sudden decrease in Level of Consciousness on the GCS of 2 or more points
- Seizures
- Low urine output $< 200\text{mL}$ over 8 hours or $< 0.5\text{mL/kg/hr}$ (via IDC) persisting for 8 hours
- Blood Glucose level less than 4 mmol/L or $> 20\text{mmol/L}$ with a decreased level of consciousness
- Lactate ≥ 4 mmol/L
- Serious concern by any patient or family member
- Serious concern by any staff member

IF A PATIENT HAS ANY ONE (1) RAPID RESPONSE CRITERION PRESENT, CALL FOR A RAPID RESPONSE AND YOU MUST

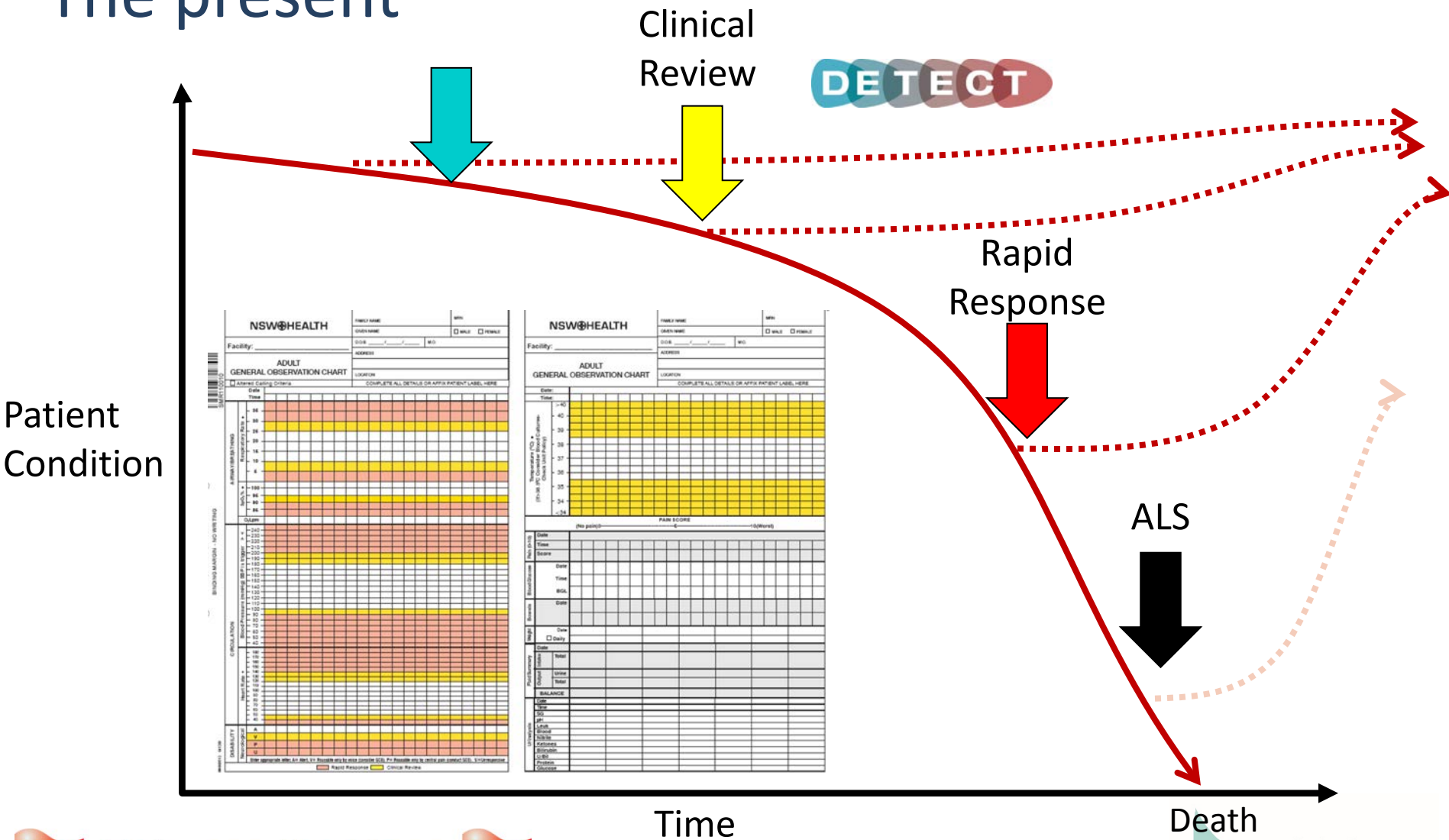
1. Initiate appropriate clinical care
2. Inform the Nurse in Charge
3. Repeat and increase the frequency of observations as per local CERS protocol
4. Inform the Attending Medical Officer as soon as practicable
5. Document A-G assessment, treatment, escalation process and outcome in the clinical record

The past



The Slippery Slope
(the Problem)

The present



The future



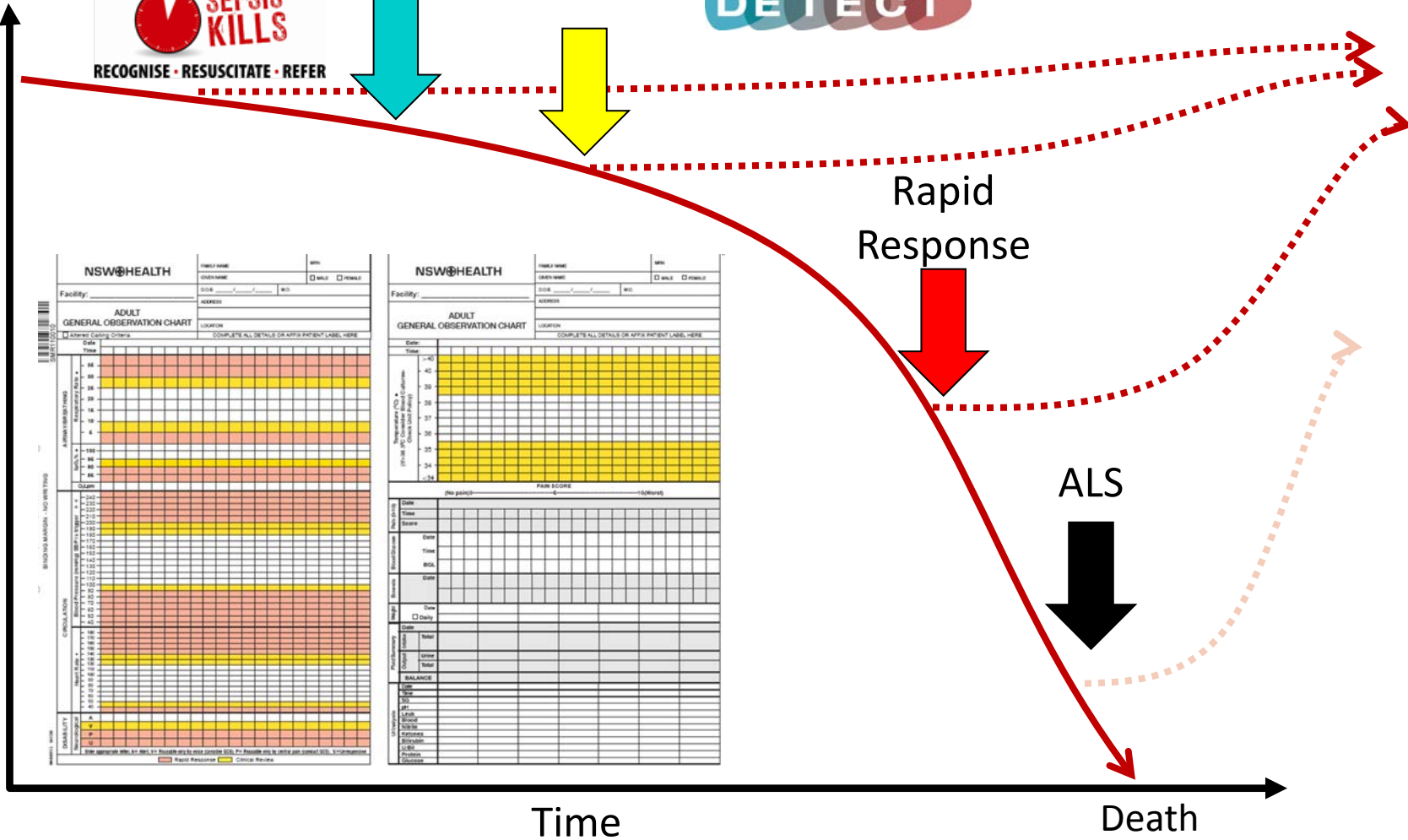
Clinical Review

DETECT

Rapid Response

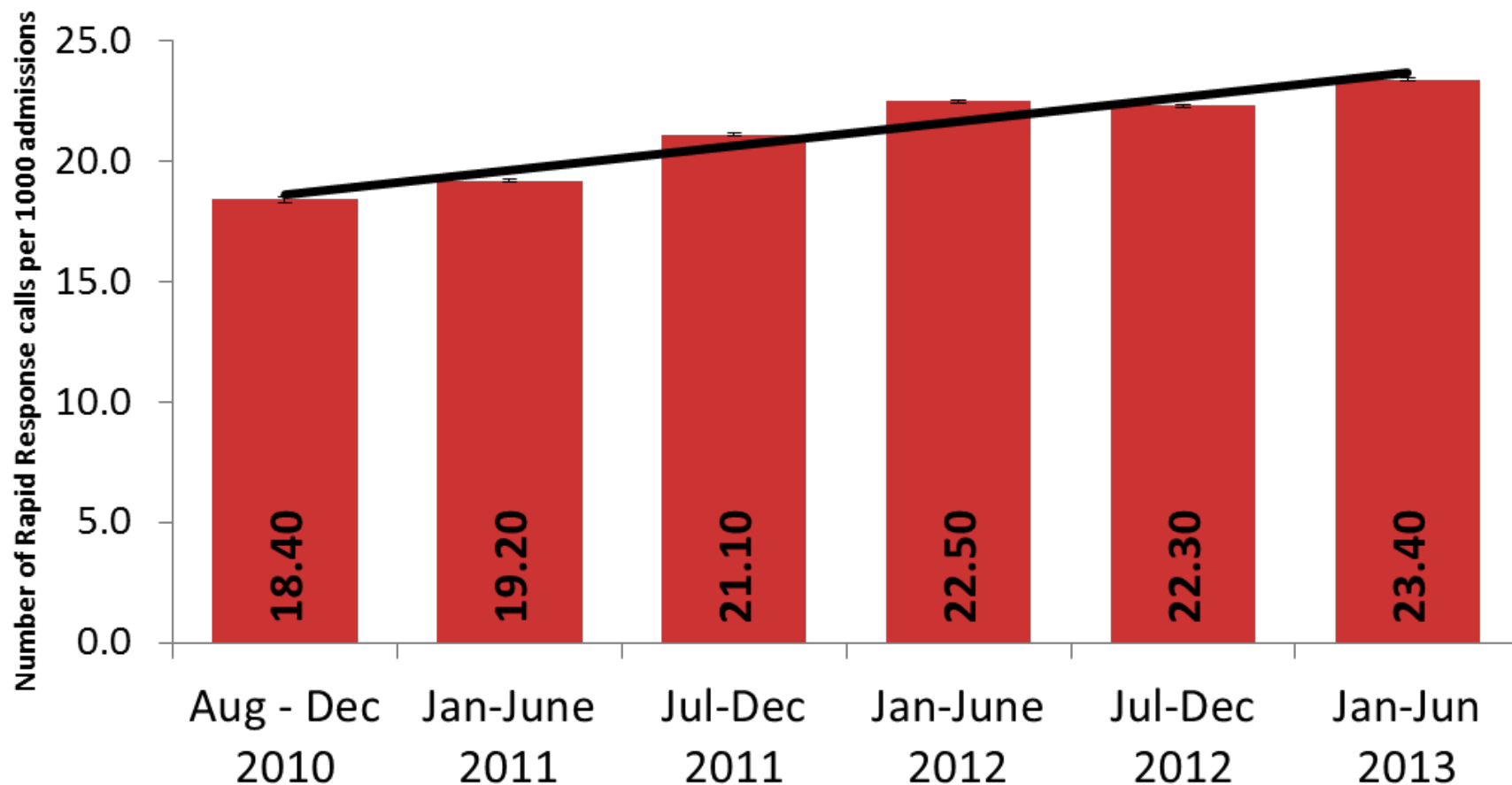
ALS

Patient Condition



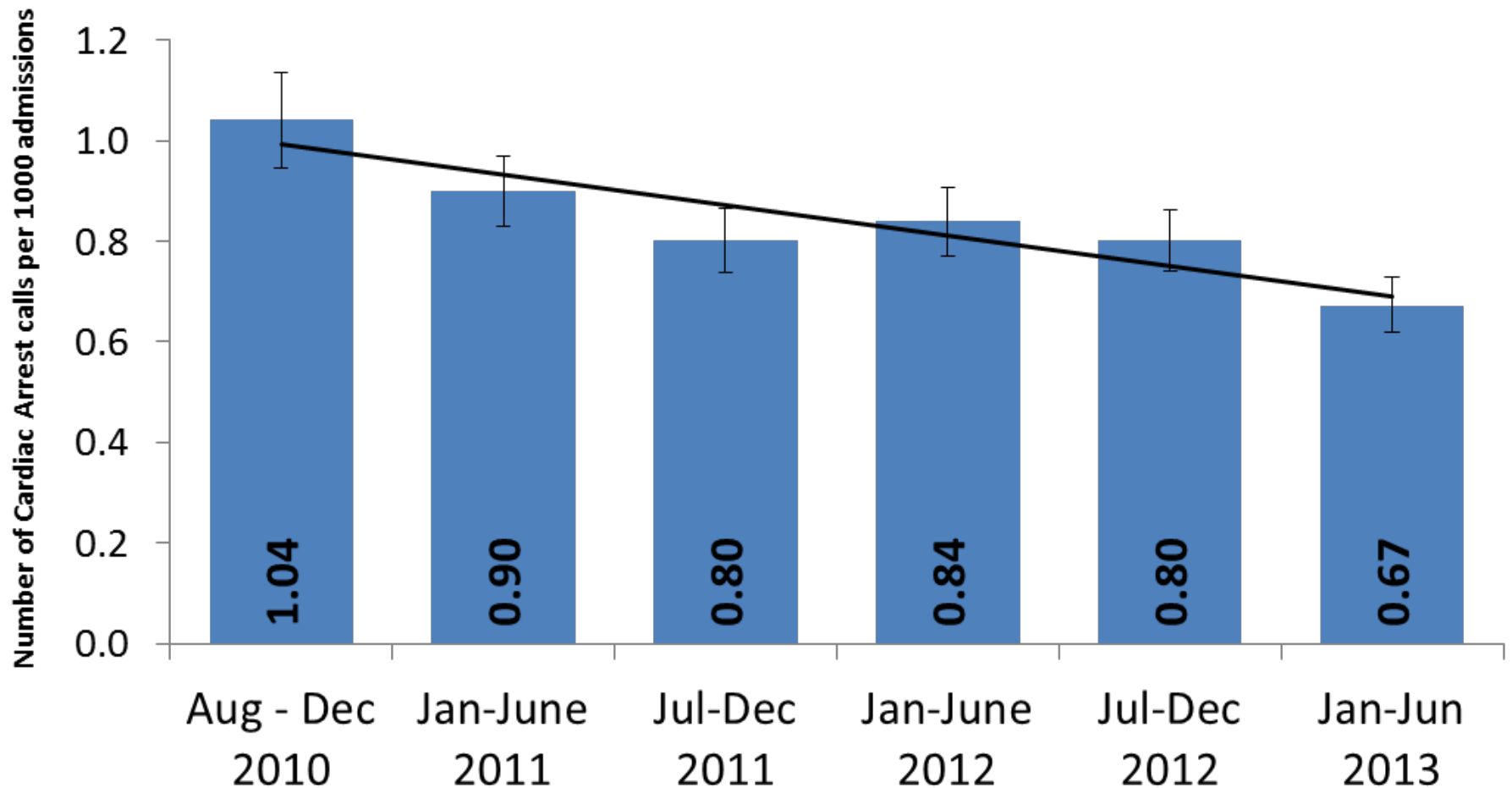
Source: Dr Charles Pain

New South Wales - Public Health Facilities Rapid Response calls per 1000 admissions



For every 1000 patients that are admitted to hospital there are (number within columns on graph) Rapid Response calls to late signs of deterioration

New South Wales - Public Health Facilities Cardiac Arrest calls per 1000 admissions

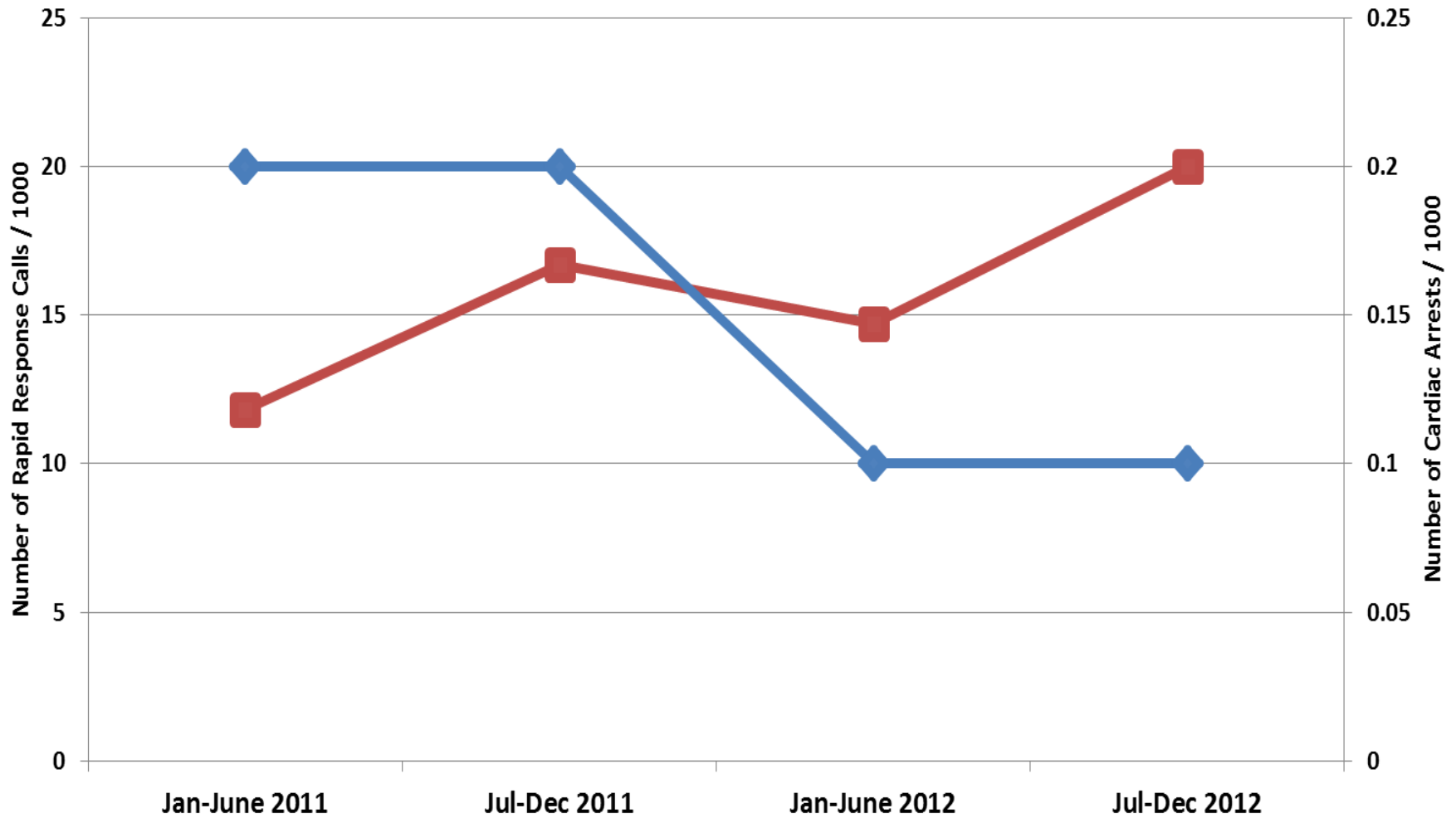


*For every 1000 patients that are admitted to hospital there are (number within columns on graph) **Cardiac Arrest calls***

Sydney Children's Hospital Network

Rapid Response and Cardiac Arrest Calls per 1000 admissions

Rapid Response Cardiac Arrests



Lessons learned

- Even in large campaigns local leadership is key to success
- Build a guiding coalition of clinicians, managers and administrators
- Large scale transformation starts at the front line
- Governance framework is key
- Engage, consult, collaborate
- Standardize what you can
- Staged implementation- Start small and pilot
- Strike the right balance between clinical judgement and rules

Questions

