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# GO WITH THE FLOW: Using HL7 Messaging and Diagnosis-Related Groups to Characterize Inpatient Flow

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Using HL7 Messaging and  
Diagnosis-Related Groups to  
Characterize Inpatient Flow

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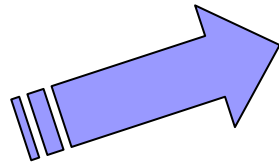
RCHE Brown Bag Series, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008



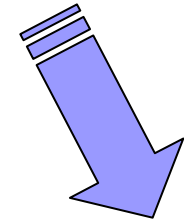
# Overview

- Context- Resource Allocation in Hospitals
- Problem Statement -Modeling Patient Flow
- Methodology
- Preliminary Results
- Impact

# Decision Making & Resource Allocation



Decisions at the organization level



Decisions at the unit level



**...can have a serious implications**

# Virtual Hospital

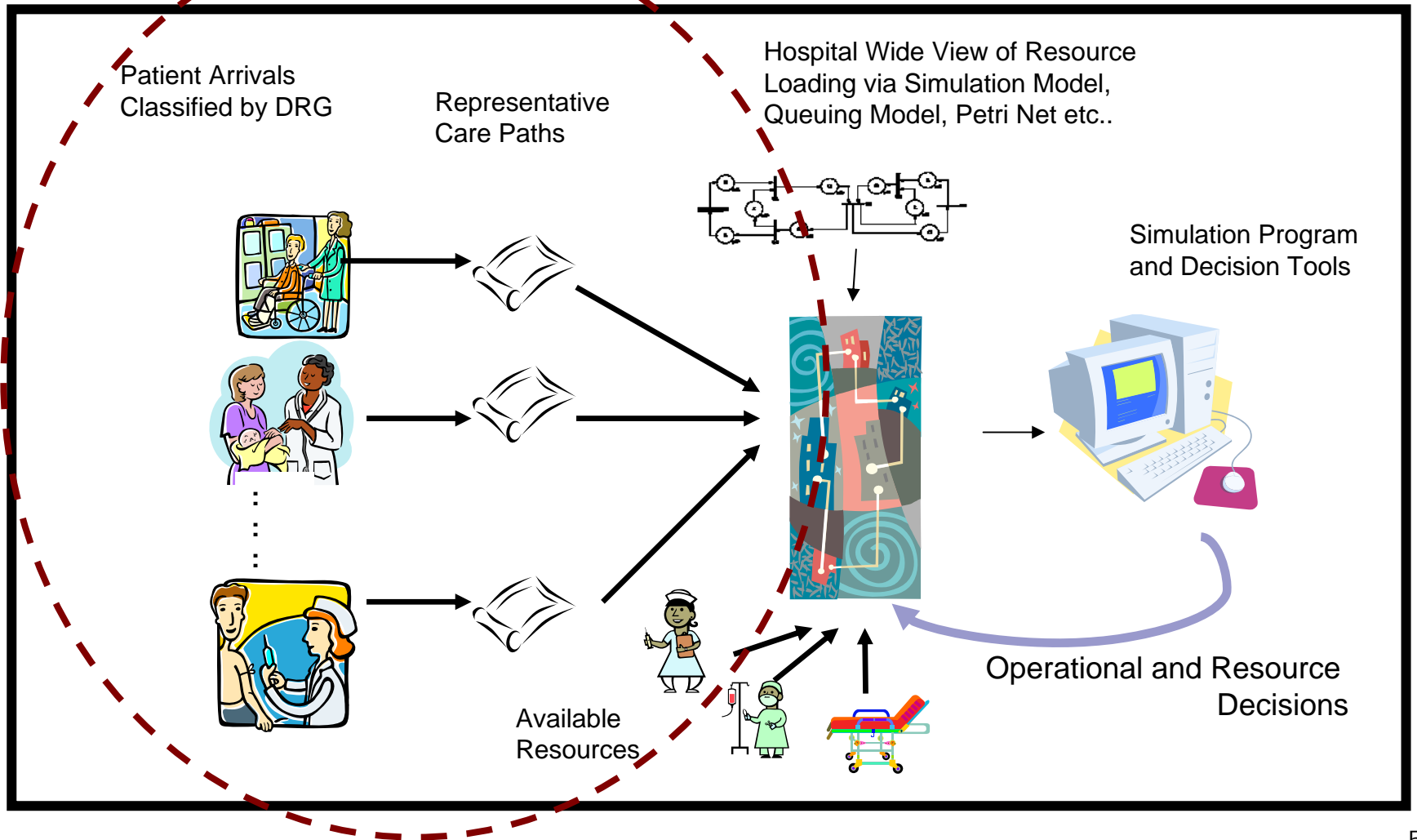
The question shouldn't be  
'How do we take a department and optimize it?',  
but  
'How do we support the optimization of a  
whole system?'

Dr. Peter Woodbridge- VA Indianapolis

It is the little things that we are  
missing. [It] isn't a black box!

Dr. Imtiaz Munshi- VA Indianapolis

# Focus





# Objective

1. Make explicit the expected resource requirements a patient presents upon admission
2. Devise a method of incorporating these flow requirements into decision support models



# Challenge: the Underlying Data Basis

## Necessary Condition for this work:

*Large quantities of real time admission, diagnosis and flow data for different patient types*

- Much of what happens to the patient occurs as a result of information system *message passing*
- Each patient *generates a set* of such messages during their hospital stay
- These patient specific message sets can be *mined* for flow data (including resources used and timing information)
- These message sets can be archived and rapidly *accessed* electronically

# Challenge: Developing a Data Construct

*Can I represent patient flow potential as a function of patient type from the workload perspective?*

- Possible to classify patient events according to resources needed
- Sequence Analysis methods can be used to examine a succession of expected resources

# Methodology

1. Data Preparation

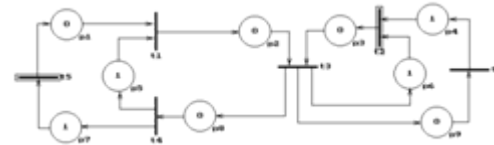
2. Data Synthesis

3. Data Modeling

4. Model Validation

```
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MSG00001|P|2.3|
EVN|A01|198808181123||
PID|||PATID1234^5^M11||JONES^WILLIAM^A^I||19610615|M||C|1200
N ELM STREET^^GREENSBORO^NC^27401-1020|GL|(919)379-
1212|(919)271-3434||S||
PATID12345001^2^M10|123456789|987654^NC|
NK1|JONES^BARBARA^K|WIFE||||NK^NEXT OF KIN
PV1|1||2000^2012^01|||004777^LEBAUER^SIDNEY^J.||SUR||ADM|
A01
```

Patient	Sequence
6	*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*0*1*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*6*6*6*7*1
7	*1*14*6*6*6*14*6*6*6*7*6*6*14*CLC*6*6*7*7*1
8	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*1*0*1*6*6*6*6*7*1



# Methodology 1: Data Preparation

## 5 DRGs

1. DRG 544: Major Joint Replacement Or Reattachment Of Lower Extremity
2. DRG 558: Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without major complications
3. DRG 14: Intracranial Hemorrhage Or Cerebral Infarction
4. DRG 182: Esophagitis, gastroenteritis and miscellaneous digestive disorders with complications
5. DRG 183: Esophagitis, gastroenteritis and miscellaneous digestive disorders without complications

```
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EVN|A01|198808181123||
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STREET^^GREENSBORO^NC^27401-1020|GL|(919)379-1212|(919)271-3434||S||
PATID12345001^2^M10|123456789|987654^NC|
NK1|JONES^BARBARA^K|WIFE||||NK^NEXT OF KIN
PV1|1|||2000^2012^01||||004777^LEBAUER^SIDNEY^J.||||SUR||||ADM|A0|
```

Health Information Systems messages in HL7 format

# Individual Care Paths

Patient	Segment	Message	Time	Event	Order Number	Location
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	0.50	Culture, MRSA Screen	36404009	MIC^
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	1.95	OXYGEN	36404147	MIC^
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	2.90	PX CHEST 1V	36403812	
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	7.75	Prothrombin Time	36407750	MIC^
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	7.88	CL ORDER CODE HEART CATH, LEFT	36407986	
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	13.17	CK TOTAL W/REFLEX MB FRACTION	36413114	SR5M
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	13.17	TROPONIN	36413116	SR5M
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	13.17	12 LEAD EKG - 5 MAIN	36413118	SR5M
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	13.17	CK w/Refex CKMB	36413114	S5M^
DRG558_6	ORM	O01	13.18	BASIC METABOLIC PROFILE	36413135	SR5M

Each patient has a list of all orders which includes the description of the order, the time since admission, the status of the order (e.g. Scheduled, Completed) and location

# Idea of 'Resource Bundles'

Visit Event	Event Key	Required Resource						Procedure
		RN	Tech	Lab	Clerk	MD	RAD	
Arterial Blood Gas	ABG		1			1		
Admit	ADT				1			
Basic Metabolic Panel	BMP	1		1				
UREA NITROGEN, BLOOD (BUN)	BUN	1		1				
Complete Blood Count, Auto w/Diff	CBC	1		1				
CK TOTAL W/REFLEX MB FRACTION	CKT	1		1				
CL HEART CATH, LEFT	CLC	1	1			1		1
COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PROFILE	CMP	1		1				

Snapshot of Resource Bundles for DRG 558- Percutaneous Cardiovascular Procedure with Drug-Eluting Stent without Major complication

# Patient Paths with Resources..

Patient Num	Time since admission	Event	Resources	
DRG558_6	0.00	Admit	Clerk	1
DRG558_6	0.63	Culture, MRSA Screen	RN, Lab	6
DRG558_6	5.70	Troponin I	RN, Lab	6
DRG558_6	10.57	Transfer	Bed	14
DRG558_6	13.17	12 LEAD EKG - 5 MAIN	Tech, MD	7
D		ORDER CODE HEART CATH, LEFT	RN, Tech, MD	15
D		AD EKG - E/D TEAM HEALTH	Tech, MD	7
D		PX CHEST 1V	Radiology, MD	10
D		Basic Metabolic Panel	RN, Lab	6

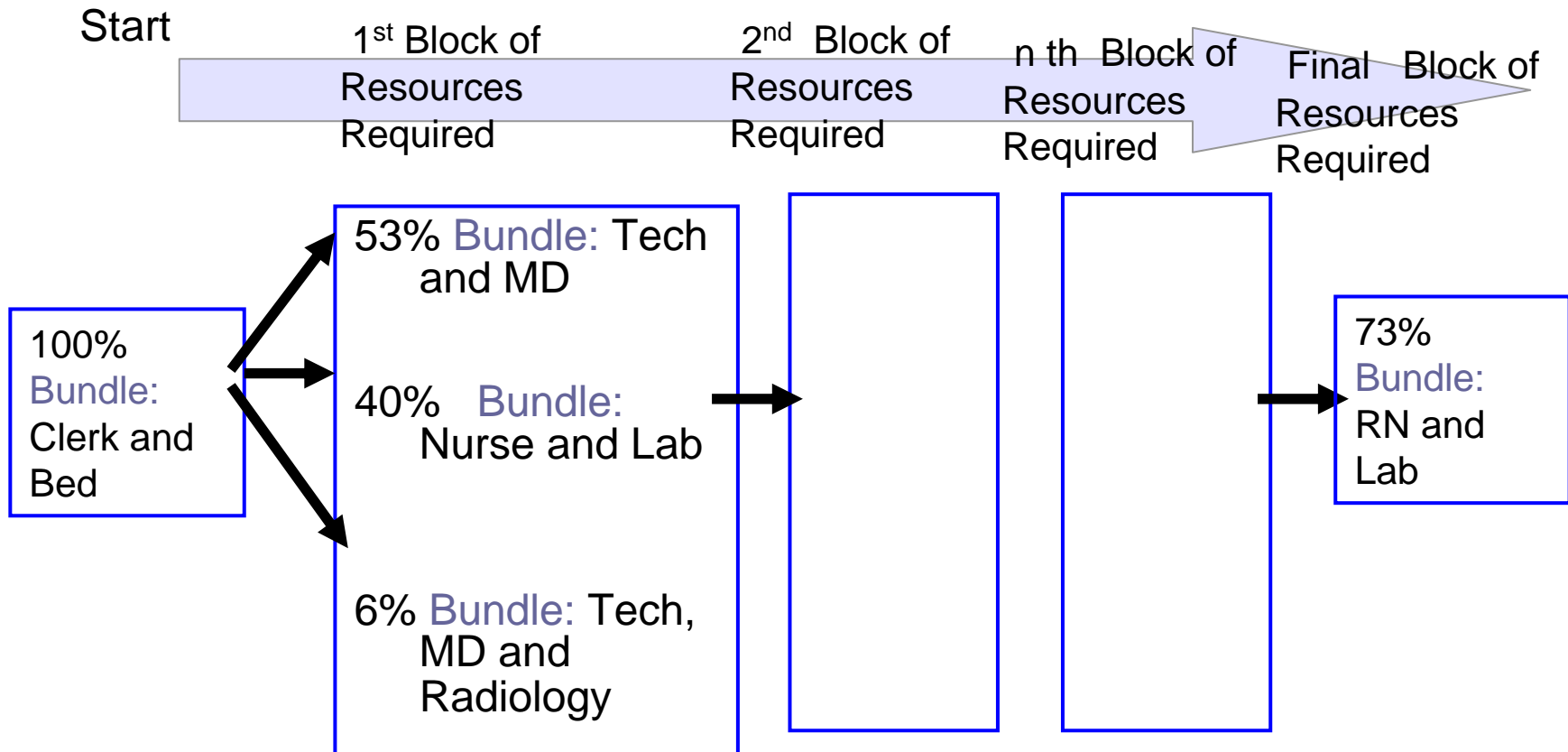
Summarized patient paths with resources required, events, time of occurrence

# Paths for DRG 558

Patient_ID	agppath
1	*1*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*10*6*14*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*7*PFT*10*CLC*14*7**6*6*6*7*1
2	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*CLC*0*6*PTA*6*6*7*7*6*6*6*6*6*1
3	*1*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*6*6*7*14*6*7*CLC*0*6*6*6*7*1
4	*1*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*6*6*10*14*10*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*14*0*6*0*0*7*6*6*6*6*6*6*PTA*6*6*6*1
5	*1*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*10*0*6*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*PTA*6*6*7*14*6*1
6	*1*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*6*0*6*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*6*6*6*7*1
7	*1*1*14*6*6*6*14*6*6*6*7*6*6*14*CLC*6*6*7*7*1
8	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*6*6*6*6*7*1
9	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*6*CLC*7*6*6*6*6*1
10	1*14*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*14*CLC*14*6*7*6*6*7*1*
11	1*14*7*CLC*0*7*6*6*1*6*6*6*6*1*
12	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*7*0*7*6*6*6*6*6*1
13	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*0*CLC*7*6*6*6*6*6*6*1
14	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*PTA*7*6*6*1
15	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*CLC*7*7*6*6*1



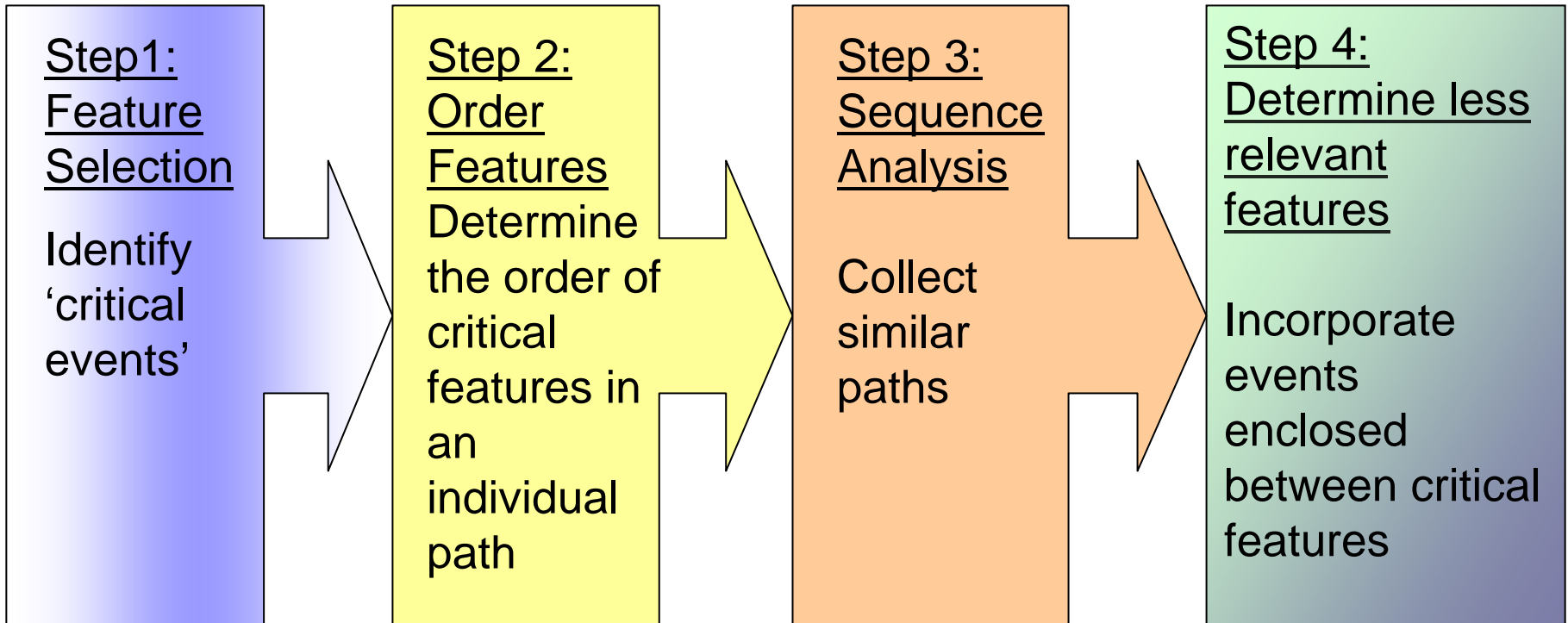
# Methodology 2: Data Synthesis



# Looking at the skeleton of a path....

Patient_ID	agppath
1	*1*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*10*6*14*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*7*PFT*10*CLC*14*7**6*6*6*7*1
2	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*CLC*0*6*PTA*6*6*7*7*6*6*6*6*6*1
3	*1*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*6*6*7*14*6*7*CLC*0*6*6*6*7*1
4	*1*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*6*6*10*14*10*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*14*0*6*0*0*7*6*6*6*6*6*6*PTA*6*6*6*1
5	*1*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*10*0*6*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*PTA*6*6*7*14*6*1
6	*1*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*6*0*6*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*6*6*6*7*1
7	*1*1*14*6*6*6*14*6*6*6*7*6*6*14*CLC*6*6*7*7*1
8	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*6*6*6*6*7*1
9	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*6*CLC*7*6*6*6*6*1
10	1*14*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*6*14*CLC*14*6*7*6*6*7*1*
11	1*14*7*CLC*0*7*6*6*1*6*6*6*6*1*
12	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*7*0*7*6*6*6*6*6*1
13	*1*14*6*6*6*6*0*CLC*7*6*6*6*6*6*6*1
14	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*PTA*7*6*6*1
15	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*CLC*7*7*6*6*1

# Data Synthesis Algorithm



## Example

Bundles

7, 10, PTA

Pat 1: 7, 10

Pat 2: 7,10, PTA

Pat3: 10, PTA

[7 10] xxxx [10 PTA]xx [PTA]

# Preliminary Results using Index of Similarity (Delesie & Croes)

Patient	LOS (hrs)	Admit	Paths
4	135	ED	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*6*10*14*10*6*6*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*14*6*7*6*6*6*6*6*PTA*6*6*6*1
5	61	ED	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*10*6*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*PTA*6*6*7*14*6*1

Similarity Score 1.00

Patient	LOS (hrs)	Admit	Paths
2	32	Direct Admit	*1*14*7*6*6*6*6*CLC*0*6*PTA*6*6*7*7*6*6*6*6*6*1
3	50	Direct Admit	*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*6*6*7*14*6*7*CLC*0*6*6*6*7*1

Similarity Score 0.491

# Preliminary Results using SAM

Patient	LOS (hrs)	Admit	Paths
4	135	ED	7 10 14 CLC PTA
5	61	ED	7 10 14 CLC PTA

Patient

	DRG558_1	DRG558_4	DRG558_5	DRG558_6
DRG558_1	-	1	1	0
DRG558_4	-	-	0	1
DRG558_5	-	-	-	1
DRG558_6	-	-	-	-

# Preliminary Results using SAM

Patient	LOS (hrs)	Admit	Paths
2	32	Direct Admit	*1*14* <b>7</b> *6*6*6*6* <b>CLC</b> *6*PTA*6*7*7*6*6*6*6*1
3	50	Direct Admit	*1*14* <b>7</b> <b>10</b> *6*6*6*6*7 <b>14</b> *6*7* <b>CLC</b> *6*6*6*7*1

		Patient			
		DRG558_2	DRG558_3	DRG558_7	DRG558_8
Patient	DRG558_2	-	4	3	3
	DRG558_3	-	-	1	2
	DRG558_7	-	-	-	1
	DRG558_8	-	-	-	-

# Recap: The Big Picture

```
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01|P|2.3|
EVN|A01|198808181123||
PID||PATID1234^5^M11||JONES^WILLIAM^A^||||19610615|M|C|1200 N ELM
STREET^GREENSBORO^NC^27401-1020|GL|(919)379-1212|(919)271-
3434|S||PATID12345001^2^M10|123456789|987654^NC|
NK1|JONES^BARBARA^K|WIFE|||||INK^NEXT OF KIN
PV1|1||2000^2012^01||||004777^LEBAUER^SIDNEY^J.||||SUR||||ADM|A0|
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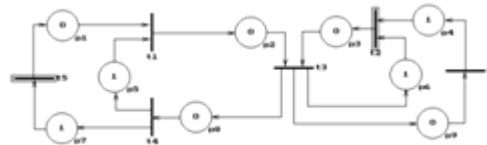
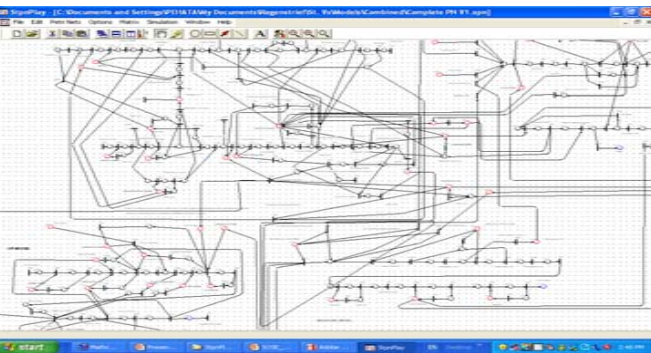
## 2. Sequences of Resources an Individual Patient Uses

Patient	Sequence
6	*1*14*7*10*6*6*6*0*1*6*6*6*14*7*CLC*6*6*7*1
7	*1*14*6*6*6*14*6*6*6*7*6*6*14*CLC*6*6*7*7*1
8	*1*14*6*6*6*6*7*CLC*1*0*1*6*6*6*6*7*1

## 1. Health Information Systems Data.....

[7 10] xxxx [10 PTA]xx [PTA]

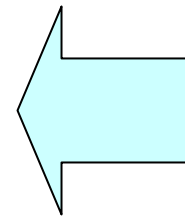
## 3. Synthesized Representation of Resources by DRG



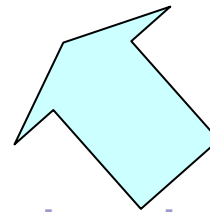
## 4. "Submodels" of Patient Flow

## 5. Organization Decision Support

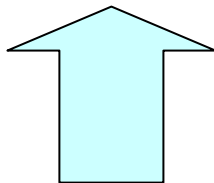
# Potential Impact



Refined  
Decision  
Support



Variation in Clinical Practice



Flow Optimization





# Intellectual Content

- Develop Data Sources
- Develop methodologies and data sources to capture flow patterns
- Create healthcare models able to represent resources required for patient flow by patient type
- Wide- reaching applicability



Thank You



# EXTRA SLIDES

# Index of Similarity

	Column k				Sum of K columns
Row i	$p_{ik}$				1
Row j	$p_{jk}$				1
Average of pair of rows	$P_{i+j,k}$				1

Where  $p_{ik}$  and  $p_{jk}$  are the proportion of row quantities  $i$  and  $j$  in column  $k$  and

$$SP_{ij} = 1/2 \sum_k \left( p_{ik} \log_2 \frac{p_{ik}}{P_{i+j,k}} + p_{jk} \log_2 \frac{p_{jk}}{P_{i+j,k}} \right)$$

and

$$P_{i+j,k} = \frac{p_{ik} + p_{jk}}{2}$$

# Previous Approaches

## ■ Queueing

- Majority access capacity requirements or outpatient scheduling (Preater, Green)

**Most Relevant:** Koizumi et al (2005) show effects of *bed obstruction*

## ■ Markov

- Capture movement between units

**Most Relevant:** Lin et al (2005) - Hidden Markov Models used to discover clinical pathways for Delivery patients

## ■ Simulation

- Majority focus on reducing length of stay within a single unit (Jun et al)

**Most Relevant:** Cohen et al (1980)- modeled blocked transfers through the entire hospital

## ■ Petri nets

- Hospital wide

**Most Relevant:** Maruster et al (2002)- proposed algorithm to create acyclic workflow nets from hospital data

# Definition of Flow

The word “Flow” encompasses:

1. The **number** of events during a patient’s stay
2. The **precedence/sequence** of events
3. The **timing** of events
4. **Resources** required to execute these event



# Petri Nets

- Graphical and mathematical tool for describing systems **characterized** as: concurrent, asynchronous, distributed, parallel, nondeterministic
- The major strength of Petri nets is their support for analysis of many properties and problems associated with concurrent systems
  - **Behavioural Properties** (depend on initial marking)  
Reachability, Boundedness, Liveness, Fairness, etc.
  - **Structural Properties** (depend on the topological structure)  
Structural Liveness, Controllability, Structural Boundedness
- Analysis Methods:  
Covertability trees, incidence matrix, decomposition
- Petri Nets have a rich literature