

# Avoidable Imaging Wave II

Working with Radiology to Reduce avoidable imaging: Misconceptions and Frustrations  
about Emergency Medicine and Radiology

# Presenters



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# Improving Value For Patients Through Collaboration Between Radiologists And Emergency Medicine Physicians April 20, 2017

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No Disclosures



# The Why

- Opportunity to improve patient care
- Opportunity to improve patient satisfaction
- Opportunity to improve ED Throughput
- Enhance narcotic avoidance
- Encouraging appropriate resource use
- Organizations will need to have started these initiatives in the coming months.



# Hackensack University Medical Center



Hackensack University Medical Center (HackensackUMC) , now a part of The Hackensack Meridian Health Network is an academic 900-bed Tertiary care facility in Hackensack, NJ. We are located about 11 miles from New York City.



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# Emergency & Trauma Center







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National Radiology Data Registry



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R-SCAN™

HOME

HOW-TO GUIDE

WHY R-SCAN?

RESOURCES

CW TOPICS

Recent Announcements

New Imaging 3.0® case study on R-SCAN results published



## What is R-SCAN?

R-SCAN™ is a collaborative action plan that brings radiologists and referring clinicians together to improve imaging appropriateness based upon a growing list of imaging Choosing Wisely (CW) topics. R-SCAN delivers immediate access to Web-based tools and clinical decision support (CDS) technology that help you optimize imaging care, reduce unnecessary imaging exams and lower the cost of care. There is no cost to participate.

Become part of this national quality movement to redefine and rebrand

**E-QUAL** | EMERGENCY QUALITY NETWORK



## Imaging for Low Back Pain

Don't do imaging for low back pain within the first six weeks, unless red flags are present.

*Recommended by the North American Spine Society (NASS), the American College of Physicians, and the American Academy of Family Physicians*

## CT for Adult Minor Head Trauma

Avoid computed tomography (CT) scans of the head in emergency department patients with minor head injury who are at low risk based on validated decision rules.

*Recommended by American College of Emergency Physicians*

## CTA for Pulmonary Embolism

Do not perform chest CT angiography to evaluate for possible pulmonary embolism in patients with a low clinical probability and negative results of a highly sensitive D-dimer assay.

*Recommended by the American College of Physicians, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, and the American College of Radiology*

## Reduce Ordering of CT for Renal Colic

Avoid ordering CT of the abdomen and pelvis in otherwise health emergency department (ED) patients (age <50) with known histories of kidney stones, or urolithiasis, presenting with symptoms consistent with acute uncomplicated renal colic.

*Recommended by the American College of Emergency Physicians*



# Reduce Avoidable Testing for low risk patients through implementation of Choosing Wisely Recommendations

## Reduce Avoidable Imaging Initiative

**Reducing Avoidable Imaging Goal:** To reduce testing and imaging with low risk patients through the implementation of Choosing Wisely Recommendations

**Aims for this initiative include:**

- Reduce use of high-cost imaging for **low back pain**
- Reduce head CT scan after **minor head injury**
- Reduce chest CT for **pulmonary embolism**
- Reduce abdominal CT for **renal colic**
- Head CT for **syncope**

### Why Participate in E-QUAL?

The Avoidable Imaging Initiative Wave II will have a learning period of 6-9 months with numerous benefits:

- Meet new CMS MIPS requirements for



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# How did we get here?



# Low Back Pain Protocol



## Physical Therapy



Claire Gibbons

## Neurosurgery



Patrick Roth, MD

## Radiology



Gregory Nicola, MD

## Patient Safety/ Quality



Portia Chinnery, BSN, RN

## Trauma



Sanjeev Kaul, MD

## Emergency Medicine



Joseph Feldman, MD



David Zodda, MD

## Orthopedics



Dante Implicito, MD



Randy Thomas, RN, BSN

## Information Technology



Emmanuel Roldan, RN, BSN



Alex White

## Case Management



Linda Davidson, RN

## Pharmacology



Gabrielle Procopio, PharmD

# “We Got Your Back”- Low back pain

## Adults with Back Pain Presenting to the Emergency Department

### Initial Assessment

- Conduct a Focused History & Physical Exam
- Perform a Risk Assessment for Red Flags
- Evaluate for Lumbar Radiculopathy /Stenosis

Initial assessment leads to one of 3 pathways

EM Physician or APP driven

**3 Patient Pathways:** (pathways / flowsheet / ED Preferences explained in depth following; based off of questions during ED MD history and physical)

**GREEN:** Non-specific; no radicular symptoms - treat pain; f/u PCP; D/C home

**AMBER:** Radicular - treat pain; schedule MRI prn and Spine surgeon appt; D/C home

**RED:** Red flags – treat pain; schedule prompt MRI; Spine surgeon consult; likely admission

Questions:

#	Question			
1.	Neck, back, or leg pain present?	Y	Y	Y
2.	Shooting radicular pain into arms or legs? - Any numbness or tingling into arms or legs?	N	Y	Y
3.	Weakness, loss of fine motor dexterity, or falls / gait abnormality?	N	N	Y
	Any of the following? T - Trauma Tuberculosis U - Unexplained loss of weight, Night sweats N - Neuroglial Deficits, bowel and bladder incontinence (saddle anesthesia; reduced anal tone) A - Age less than 20 greater than 55 F - Fever I - IVDA, intervertebral injection S - Steroid use or immunosuppressed H - History of Cancer, early morning stiffness, HIV	N	N	Y
5.	Is patient currently under treatment for back pain	N	Y	Y
	PATHWAY:	Green	Amber	Red

Physician Navigators

Charting

REVIEW

MSE Initiated

Provider in Room

Triage Summary

Chief Complaint

Outside Meds

External Patient Info

Home Medications

Allergies

History

Advance Directives

CHARTING

Clinical Impression

Provider Notes

ED Procedure Note

ED Notes

SIRS/Sepsis Risk

TIA Screening

Wells C/S for PE

Sedation Assess...

NIHSS

Halfway Candidate

Hip Fx Protocol

HEAR Score for...

Back Pain Protocol

Thrombo

Code

Disposition

Admitted Patients

Back Pain Protocol - Back Pain Protocol

Time taken: 1344 3/31/2016

Add Row Add Group Add LDA Values By Create Note

Adults w/Back Pain Presenting to the ETD

Neck and back pain present? Yes No

Shooting radicular pain into arms and legs or numbness/tingling into arms or legs? Yes No

Weakness, loss of fine motor dexterity or fall/gait abnormality? Yes No

Saddle anesthesia/loss of continence Yes No

Restore Close F9 Cancel

Manage Orders

Go to Manage Orders

Order Review

Pended Orders

4. There are three (3) different pathways (Green/Amber/Red) that can be generated (depending on how the physician answers the questions to the screening). Depending on what pathway is generated, an order set may be suggested for treatment of this patient:

Back Pain Protocol - Back Pain Protocol

Time taken: 1410 3/31/2016

Add Row Add Group Add LDA Values By

Adults w/Back Pain Presenting to the ETD

Neck and back pain present? Yes No

Shooting radicular pain into arms and legs or numbness/tingling into arms or legs? Yes No

Weakness, loss of fine motor dexterity or fall/gait abnormality? Yes No

Saddle anesthesia/loss of continence Yes No

Restore Close F9 Cancel

BestPractice Advisory - Asdf,Asdjfaskjf

Low Importance (Advisory: 1)

Non-Specific Back Pain (No Radicular Sx's, No Red Flags)

Reassessment

Improved	Not Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharge</li> <li>PCP Follow-up w/in 1-2 wk</li> <li>Non-Opioid Prescription</li> <li>D/C &amp; Return Instructions (remain active, superficial heat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-evaluate for Red Flags</li> <li>Re-evaluate for Radicular Sx</li> <li>Expand pharmacologic treatment. Consider Oxycodone 5-10mg PO or IV narcotic</li> <li>Consider imaging based upon shared decision with patient (MR,CT)</li> </ul>

Open Order Set Do Not Open HUMC ED BACK PAIN PROTOCOL (GREEN PATHWAY) preview

Accept Dismiss

5. Physicians may “preview” the order set and select the treatment desired for this patient:



# The Green Pathway

## Non-Specific Back Pain

- + No Radicular Symptoms
- + No Red Flags

### Management

#### Pharmacotherapy:

- + Acetaminophen 975mg PO; NSAIDS; steroids - prn

#### Adjuncts:

- + Superficial Heat  
*Large Gel Hot pack to go home with Patient*
- + Physical Therapy Evaluation and Education

### Reassessment

#### Improved:

- + Discharge
- + PCP Follow-up w/in 1-2 wk
- + Non-Opioid Prescription
- + D/C & Return Instructions (Remain Active, Superficial Heat)

#### Not Improved:

- + Re-evaluate for Red Flags
- + Re-evaluate for Radicular Sx
- + Expand pharmacologic treatment. Consider Oxycodone 5-10 mg PO or IV Narcotic
- + Consider imaging based upon a shared decision with patient (MRI; CT)

# The Amber Pathway

## **Radicular Back Pain**

- + History and/or Exam Suggests Stenosis / Nerve Impingement
  - + Pseudoclaudication
  - + SLR
  - + CSLR
- (No Myelopathy; No Cauda Equina Symptoms)

## **Management**

### Pharmacotherapy:

- + Mostly acetaminophen; steroids; possible p.o. “light” narcotic

### Adjuncts:

- + Superficial Heat
- Large Gel Hot pack to go home with patient*
- + Physical Therapy Evaluation and Education

## **Reassessment**

### Improved:

- + Discharge
- + MRI appointment made within few days
- + Spine surgeon follow-up within few days
- + Non-Opioid Prescription
- + D/C & Return Instructions (Remain Active, Superficial Heat)

### Not Improved:

- + Re-evaluate for Red Flags
- + Re-evaluate for Radicular Sx
- + Expand pharmacologic treatment. Consider Oxycodone 5-10 mg PO or IV Narcotic

**Note:** If pain uncontrolled, refer to Medicine for admission for pain control; consider CT/MRI as inpatient

# TUNA FISH- What's In A Name?

Any of the following? T - Trauma Tuberculosis U - Unexplained loss of weight, Night sweats N - Neuroglial Deficits, bowel and bladder incontinence (saddle anesthesia; reduced anal tone) A - Age less than 20 greater than 55 F - Fever I - IVDA, intervertebral injection S - Steroid use or immunosuppressed H - History of Cancer, early morning stiffness, HIV	N	N	Y
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# The Red Pathway

## History

- Symptoms > 6wk
- Trauma: Fracture / Dislocation
- Recent spine surgery
- Previous history of malignancy: Lytic spine lesions on X-ray
- Age <16 or >50 with new onset pain
- Cancer/ Unexplained weight loss
- Previous long standing steroid use
- Recent serious illness
- Recent significant infection/ IVDU
- History of IVDU
- Immunocompromised
- Syncope / Vascular origin suspected

## S/S:

- Abnormal Vital Signs
- Saddle anesthesia
- Reduced anal tone
- Arm or leg weakness
- Generalized neurological deficit
- Progressive spinal deformity
- Urinary retention/ Incontinence
- Non-mechanical pain (worse at rest)
- Fever/ rigors

## Management

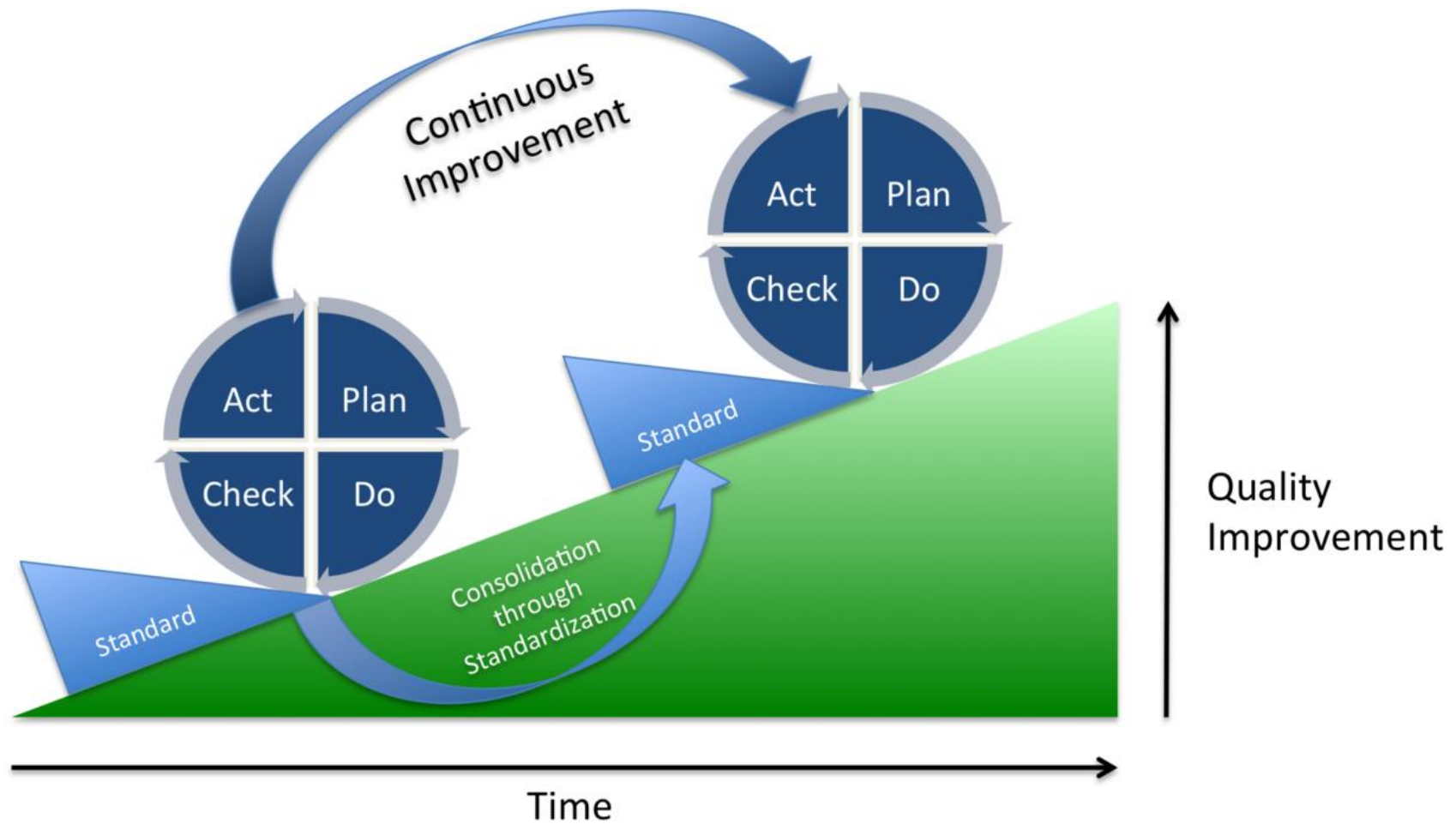
- + Stabilize Patient
- + Perform diagnostic studies to identify the cause – while in ED
- + Pain Management
- + Spine Surgeon Consultation
- + Plan admission





# Next Steps





# Technically Challenged?







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# What's Next?

- Activate your E-QUAL portal  
Portal invites will be sent out by Monday
- Register for the May Webinar  
[www.acep.org/equal](http://www.acep.org/equal)
- Questions? Contact the E-QUAL team at  
[equal@acep.org](mailto:equal@acep.org)