


Using Data to Improve Safety and Quality  
in Radiation Oncology  
*A Systems Approach*

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Conflict of Interest Statement

- Consulting - Varian
- Grants - Varian, ViewRay, Siemens
- Licensing – Varian, ViewRay, Modus, MedLever
- Ownership – Radiologica, TreatSafely



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Outline

- Systems approach?
- Data in management of safety and quality
- Examples
- Sources of data



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Systems Approach




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Systems Engineering 

**A strategy, philosophy, process and leadership approach for operating in a superior way, coupled with a belief that individual components of an organization are dependent on each other.**

- Applicable to systems with the following attributes:
  - Complex
  - Engineered
  - Advanced technology
  - High risk
  - High cost

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Systems Engineering 

- Systems Design
  - Quality systems
  - Human factors
  - FMEA
- Systems Analysis
  - Modeling and simulation
  - Enterprise management
  - Financial engineering and risk analysis
  - Knowledge discovery
- Systems Control
  - SPC
  - Scheduling

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### Systems Engineering in Health Care

- An outline for use of Systems Engineering for improvement of national health care system

*"We often call this arrangement a "health care system" even though it was never created as a system and has never performed as a system."*



National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine, 2005



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### Data in management of safety and quality



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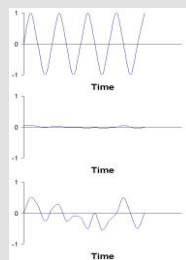
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### System Performance

- a) The demands on our operations continually change
  - Patient numbers
  - Available staff
  - Available machines
  - Expertise/apptitude
- b) Well designed systems maintain constant performance
- c) Poorly designed systems cannot cope with these changes



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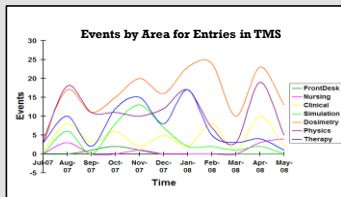
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### Early analysis of ILS data



- WashU electronic ILS
  - Launched July 2007
  - ~18,500 events though July 2019




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### Data Collection



- Error, near-miss, and **corrective action data**
- Individual equipment performance data and trends
- Individual process performance data
- Clinical area performance data
- Individual staff performance data
- Clinically supportable
  - User independent
  - Minimally intrusive
  - Demonstrable Value

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### Outcomes of the Big Data Workshop



- Opportunities
  - Detection
  - Diagnosis/staging
  - Imaging
  - Treatment
  - Safety/quality
  - Outcome response
  - Efficiencies
- Obstacles
  - Access to data

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### Big Data Use



Fig. 1. A paradigm for quality and safety research that requires big data.

Potters et al, Int J Radiation Oncol Biol Phys, Vol. 95, No. 3, pp. 889e889, 2016

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### Examples



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### DMAIC Cycle – Continuous Improvement



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### DMAIC Cycle – Continuous Improvement



Define	Step 0	Select a Project
	Step 1 Step 2	Establish Performance Parameters Validate Measurement System for 'Y'
Measure	Step 3	Establish Process Baseline
	Step 4 Step 5	Define Performance Goals Identify Variation Sources
	Step 6	Explore Potential Causes
Analyze	Step 7 Step 8	Establish Variable Relationship Design Operating Limits
	Step 9	Validate Measurement System for 'X'
Improve	Step 10 Step 11	Verify Process Improvement Implement Process Controls

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### MD Simulation/Treatment Planning Orders



- During 19 months - ~500 Events submitted through ILS for MD Simulation/Treatment Planning Orders
- ~70% of reported events related directly to the order entry process (MS Word template in MOSAIO)
  - 28% Incorrect/incomplete simulation instructions
  - 33% Incorrect/incomplete treatment planning orders
  - 8% Scheduling issues
- Solution – Web-based order entry system with business logic and error checking
- Designed to specifically address the data contained in the 500 events

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### MD Simulation/Treatment Planning Orders

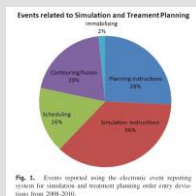


Fig. 1. Events reported using the electronic event reporting system for simulation and treatment planning order entry devices from 2008-2010.

Santanam et al Eliminating inconsistencies in simulation and treatment planning orders in radiation therapy. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2013 Feb 1;88(2):484-91.

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### MD Simulation/Treatment Planning Orders



- Development team (physicians, dosimetrists, therapists, IT, physics, nursing)
- Design based on:
  - ILS Data
  - Standardization
  - Automation
  - Compliance (performance and ACR)
  - Future data mining (control)

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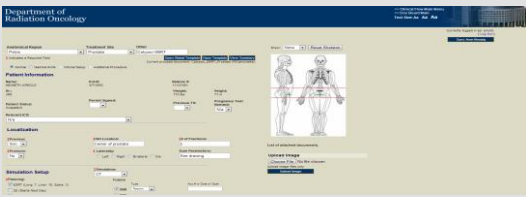
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### MD Simulation/Treatment Planning Orders




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### MD Simulation/Treatment Planning Orders



- 4 Physicians in the pilot group (clinical validation)
  - 203 events in 19 months with the old system
  - New system
    - 22 events in 4 months
    - 3 events in month 4
- Significant and sustainable reduction in incomplete/incorrect orders
- Automation allowed order entry in minutes
- Next gen system being deployed in 2020

WashU Rad Onc ILS database - 18,500 events since July 2007

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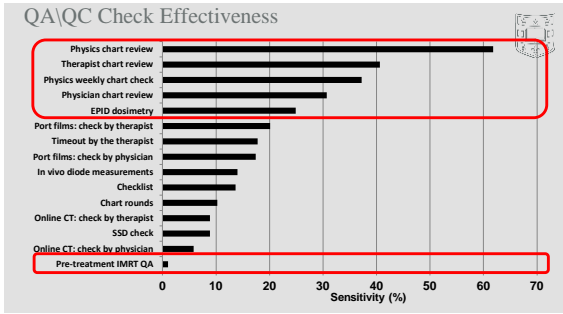
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### Literature Search

- pubmed.org search on:
  - (Quality Assurance) AND (Radiation Therapy) AND
    - (IMRT) Results: **463 (2013); 808 (2018)**
    - (Chart Checks) Results: **7 (2013); 7 (2018)**
    - (Chart Review) - Results: **34 (2013); 49 (2018)**
- An order of magnitude difference
- 2013 to 2018
  - IMRT QA - 345 manuscripts
  - Chart Checks - 0 manuscripts
  - Chart Review - 15 manuscripts

**Improving patient safety and workflow efficiency with standardized pretreatment radiation therapist chart reviews**

Kelly Conner Young PhD<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Catherine Wick Halsey PhD<sup>1</sup>, Joel Wilkinson PhD<sup>1</sup>, Joannea DeMaack MS<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Covington PhD<sup>1</sup>, Bonnie Durbin BS RT(T)<sup>1</sup>, Eric Nelson BS RT(T)<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Filipowicz BS RT(T)<sup>1</sup>, Jean M. Moran PhD<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan, Radiation Therapy and Quality Research Group  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan, Biophysics, Jackson

Received 17 December 2016; revised 22 January 2017; accepted 30 January 2017

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### Sources of Data

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Is there a benefit in every size facility?



Single Machine Facility

- Relatively good communications
- Streamlined processes
- Great collective memory
- Perhaps a limited benefit

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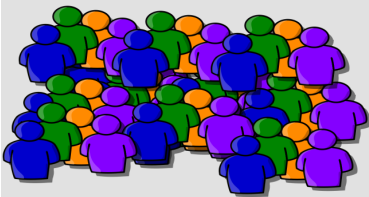
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Is there a benefit in every size facility?



Large Facilities  
WashU – 350 Faculty and Staff

- Non-uniform communications
- Complex processes
- Pockets of reliable memory
- Potentially significant benefits

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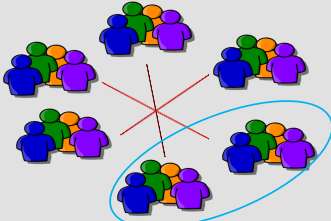
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Is there a benefit in every size facility?



Networks

- Still silos
- Non-uniform processes
- Unawareness
- Potentially significant benefits

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RO-ILS




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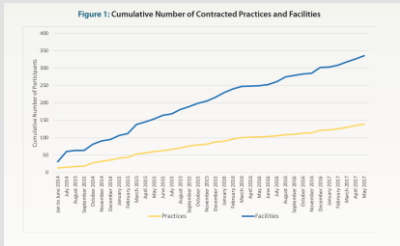
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RO-ILS




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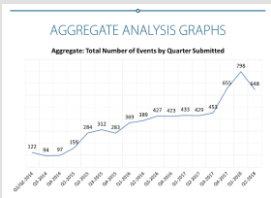
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RO-ILS




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RO-ILS: Participant Education



Figure 11: 2016-2017 Tips of the Month

June 2016	Reporting Unsafe Conditions
July 2016	New Data Elements
August 2016	HHS Guidance on Patient Safety Work Product
September 2016	Document Upload Within the Portal
October 2016	Standard Prescription White Paper
November 2016	Debriefing After a Safety Event
December 2016	Contributing Factors
January 2017	MIPS Improvement Activity
February 2017	Report All Safety Events to the PSO
March 2017	CME Credit Available for Quarterly Reports
April 2017	Portal Bookmarking and Desktop Shortcuts
May 2017	Save Between "Reviewer" Tabs

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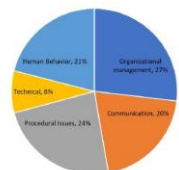
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RO-ILS



#231. Contributing Factors (Categories) for Treatment Planning Events



#208. Occurrent\_Worflow  
+ Treatment Planning  
Q3 2016\* to Q3 2018  
Select all that apply.  
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\*RO-ILS Data Elements were updated August 2016

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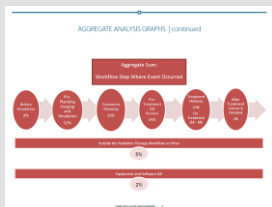
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RO-ILS



AGGREGATE ANALYSIS GRAPH | continued




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# RO-ILS




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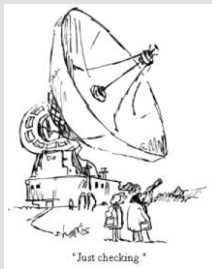
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Thank you!




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