

# S2424CD: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF AN INTERVENTION CALLED “ALGORITHM-ENABLED PATIENTS ACTIVATED IN CANCER CARE THROUGH TEAMS” (A-PACT) TO IMPROVE GOALS OF CARE COMMUNICATION FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER



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# Acknowledgements

## **SWOG Leadership:**

Dawn Hershman, MD

Veena Shankaran, MD

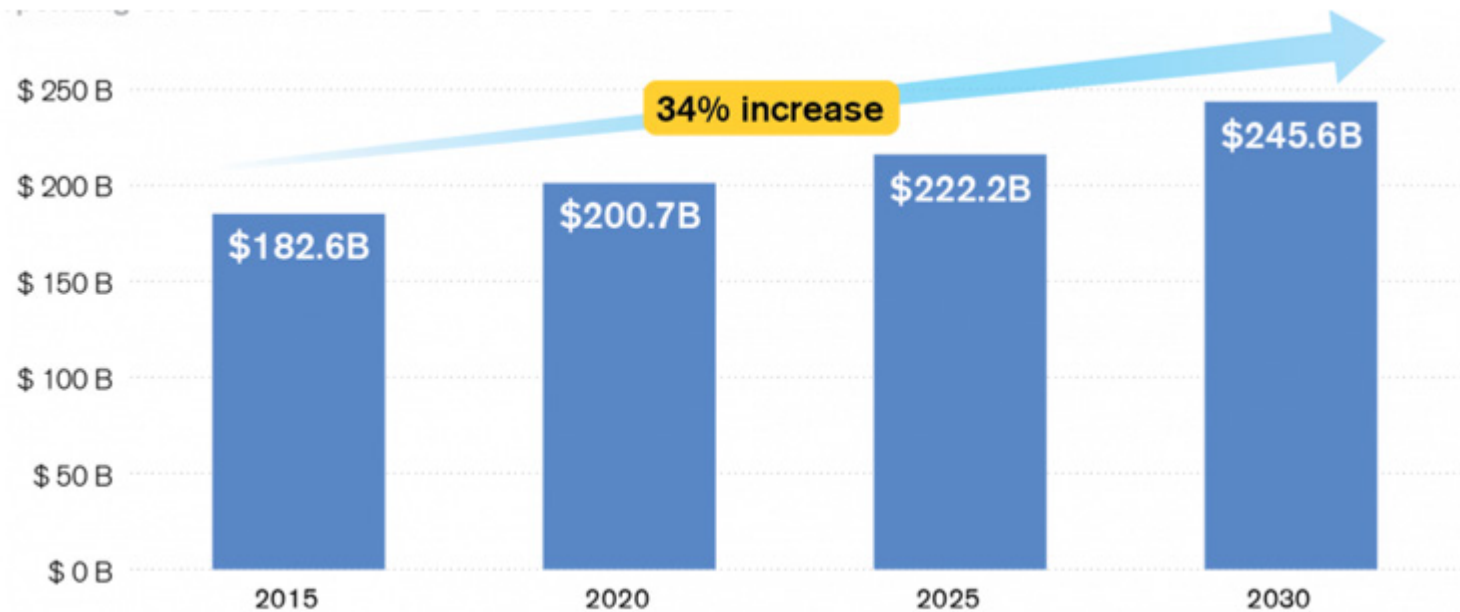
Scott Ramsey, PhD

## **Emory Project Manager:**

Ajla Pleho, MPH

# Rise in Cost ≠ Better Care

Spending on Cancer Care- in 2019 billions of US dollars



70% unaware of treatment goals<sup>1</sup>

90% undertreated symptoms<sup>1</sup>

Shift in care to hospitals<sup>2</sup>

Shortage of professional teams<sup>3</sup>

Persistent Disparities<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mariotto, AB. JNCI 2011; <sup>2</sup>NCI 2016; <sup>3</sup> Lupa D; American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Workforce Task Force.. Estimate of current hospice and palliative medicine physician workforce shortage. J Pain Symptom Manage 2010;40:899-911

# Cancer Care Delivery- End of Life Problems Across Interested Groups

Original Contribution | CARE DELIVERY

## Redesigning Cancer Care Delivery: Views From Patients and Caregivers

*Manali I. Patel, Vyjeyanthi S. Periyakoil, Douglas W. Blayney, David Moore, Andrea Nevedal, Steven Asch, Arnold Milstein, and Tumaini R. Coker*

Original Article

## Delivering End-of-Life Cancer Care: Perspectives of Providers

American Journal of Hospice  
& Palliative Medicine®  
2018, Vol. 35(3) 497-504  
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**Manali I. Patel, MD, MPH, MS<sup>1,2</sup>, Vyjeyanthi S. Periyakoil, MD<sup>2</sup>,  
David Moore, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Andrea Nevedal, PhD<sup>2</sup>, and Tumaini R. Coker, MD, MPH<sup>4</sup>**

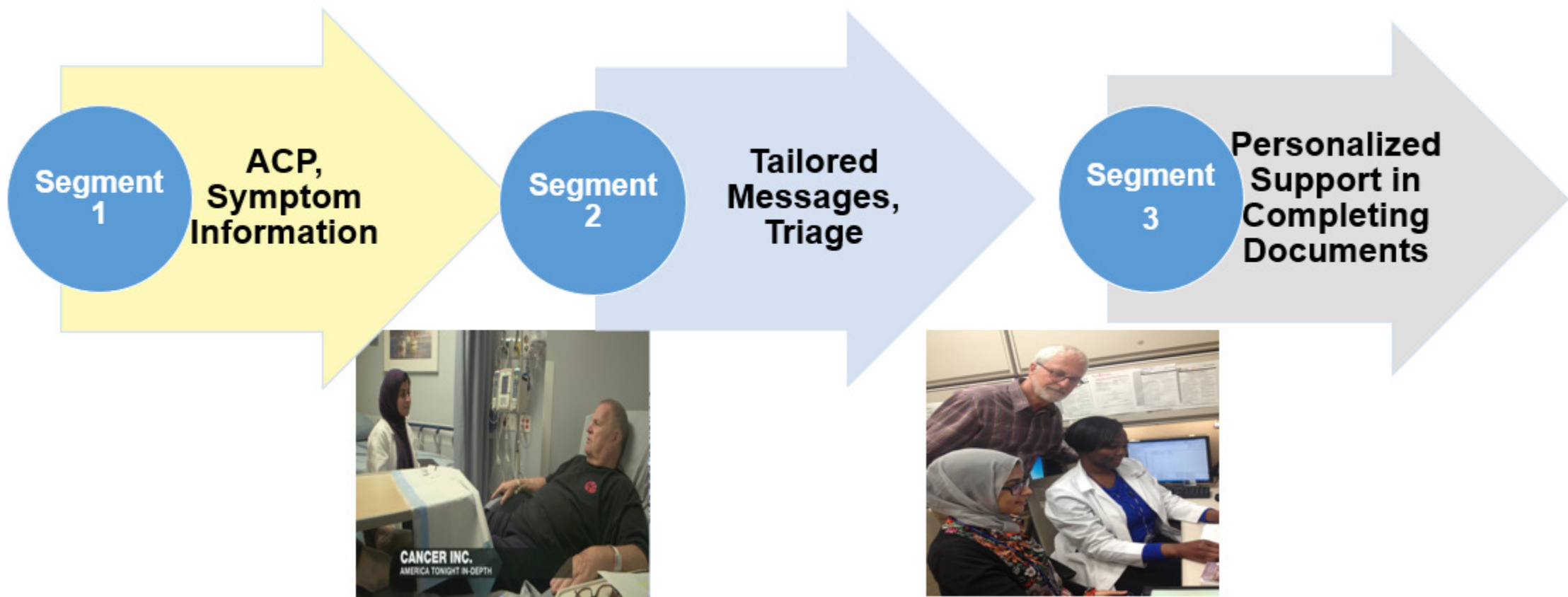
CARE DELIVERY

original contr

## Perspectives of Health Care Payer Organizations on Cancer Care Delivery Redesign: A National Study

**Manali I. Patel, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; David Moore, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Arnold Milstein, MD<sup>1</sup>; and Tumaini R. Coker, MD<sup>3</sup>**

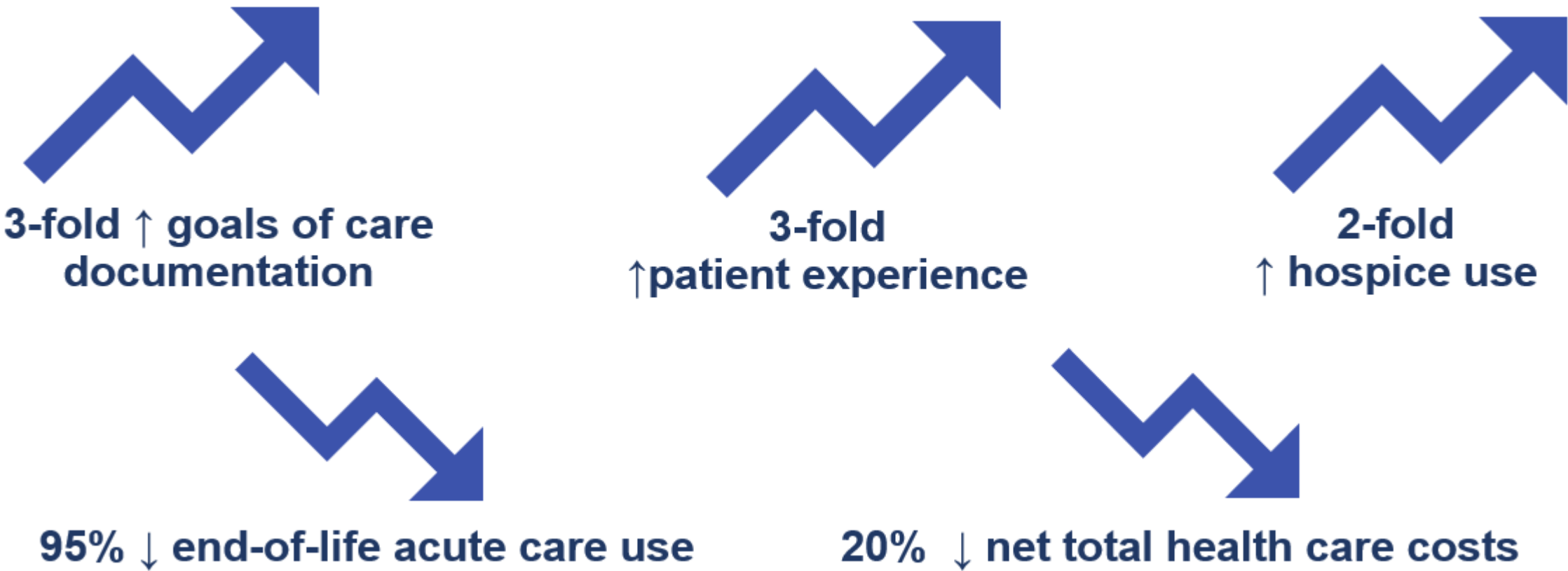
# Co-Developed Solutions



VA Office of Patient Centered Care & Cultural Transformation (Patel), California Health Care Foundation (Patel), NIH KL2 (Patel)  
Patel et al. JAMA Oncology 2018, Patel et al. JAMA 2024

# Primary Trial Results

At 6- and 15-months, intervention group as compared to the control group had:



Patel et al. JAMA Oncology 2018

# Critical evidence gaps remain. There is a need:

- For **automated tools** to identify patients with cancer who are the most appropriate for goals of care interventions
- To demonstrate that lay health worker-led goals of care interventions can improve cancer care near the end of life **in the community setting, for all patients**

# S2424 Trial Aims and Objectives

- Randomized clinical trial
- Uses algorithm-driven patient identification
- Evaluates the impact of remote, lay health worker-led goals of care intervention vs. usual cancer care
- **Primary Outcome:** % with any hospitalization withing 12 months of enrollment
- **Secondary Outcomes:**
  - Any emergency department visits within 12 months of enrollment
  - End-of-life care intensity
  - Patient-reported anxiety and depression
  - Goals of care communication
- **Implementation Outcomes:** assess patient, clinician, and organizational factors that shape implementation outcomes



# S2424 Trial Schema

## Key Patient\* Eligibility Criteria:

- Solid tumor malignancies
- Receipt or planned receipt of any systematic anti-cancer therapy
- Identified as high-risk (6-month mortality risk  $\geq 20\%$ ) by EHR eligibility algorithm
- English and/or Spanish-speaking
- Active telephone number

1:1  
N=1000

## **Group 1: Intervention: PACT plus Usual Care - Lay Health Worker (LHW) Navigation (n=500)**

- Introduction and Advance Care Planning (ACP) materials within 1 week
- LHW telephone call, at least monthly, for 6 months

## **Group 2: Control Group Usual Care (n=500)**

- ACP educational material

Follow-up: PROs through Month 6  
and CRFs through Month 12

## **Primary Outcome: Hospitalization**

## **Secondary Outcomes:**

- Intensive end-of-life care
  - Hospital or intensive care unit admission < 30 days before death
  - Systemic therapy < 14 days before death
  - Hospice referral < 3 days before death.
- Patient-reported anxiety and depression at 12 weeks

## Stratification Factors:

- Stage I-III vs Stage IV or metastatic disease
- Patients already receiving treatment

## **Implementation Analysis (Intervention group)**

- 40 Patient Interviews
- 20 Clinician Interviews

\* With consent, a subset of patients and clinicians in Group 1 will participate in process evaluation interviews.

# Site Eligibility and Set up

## Initial Steps:

- Interested NCORP sites complete preliminary intake survey
- Eligible sites meet with Dr. Parikh and Site IT Lead for consultation

## Algorithm Set up:

- Which NCOPR site does your site belong to?
- Does your site use an electronic health record (EHR)
- Does your site have an IT or data specialist who can obtain data from your EHR?
- Does your site have any ongoing advance care planning (ACP) or goals of care interventions?

## Funding Support:

- \$3,000 allocation for site IT implementation, per participating site
- Budget based on estimated resource hours

# Site Eligibility and Set up

## Initial Steps:

- Interested NCORP sites complete preliminary intake survey
- Eligible sites meet with Dr. Parikh and Site IT Lead for consultation



## Algorithm Set up:

- Weekly implementation meeting (3-4 weeks) for algorithm deployment
- Comprehensive IT requirements review and setup



## Funding Support:

- \$3,000 allocation for site IT implementation, per participating site
- Budget based on estimated resource hours

# Site Eligibility

## How to get involved?

Scan the QR code below to complete REDCap survey for eligibility status



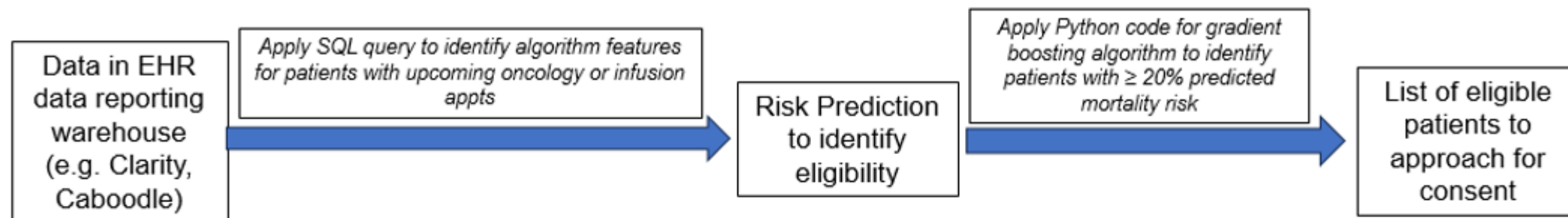
### *Preview of sample questions*

- Which NCOPR site does your site belong to?
- Does your site use an electronic health record (EHR)
- Does your site have an IT or data specialist who can obtain data from your EHR?
- Does your site have any ongoing advance care planning (ACP) or goals of care interventions?

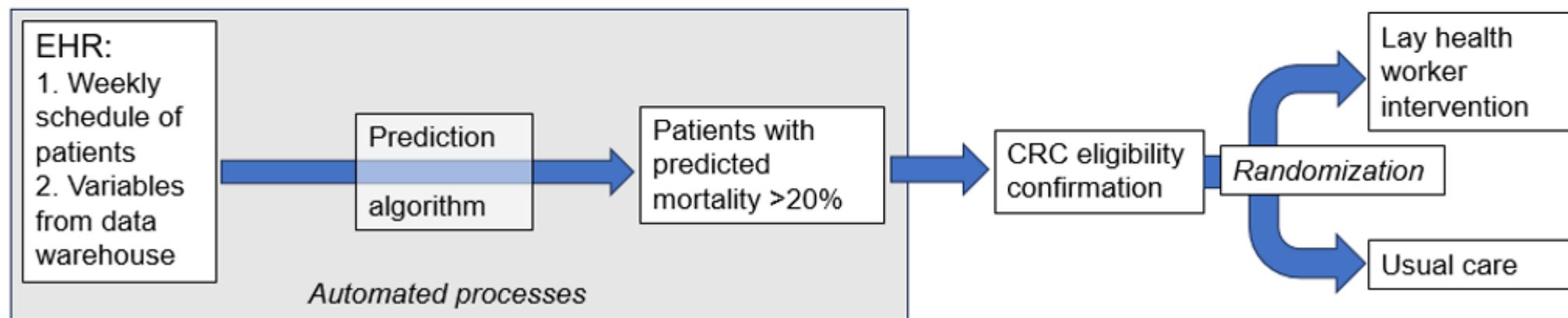
## Site Inclusion:

- Sites need to be on the same EHR system
- Site IT/Data specialist

# Algorithm Workflow



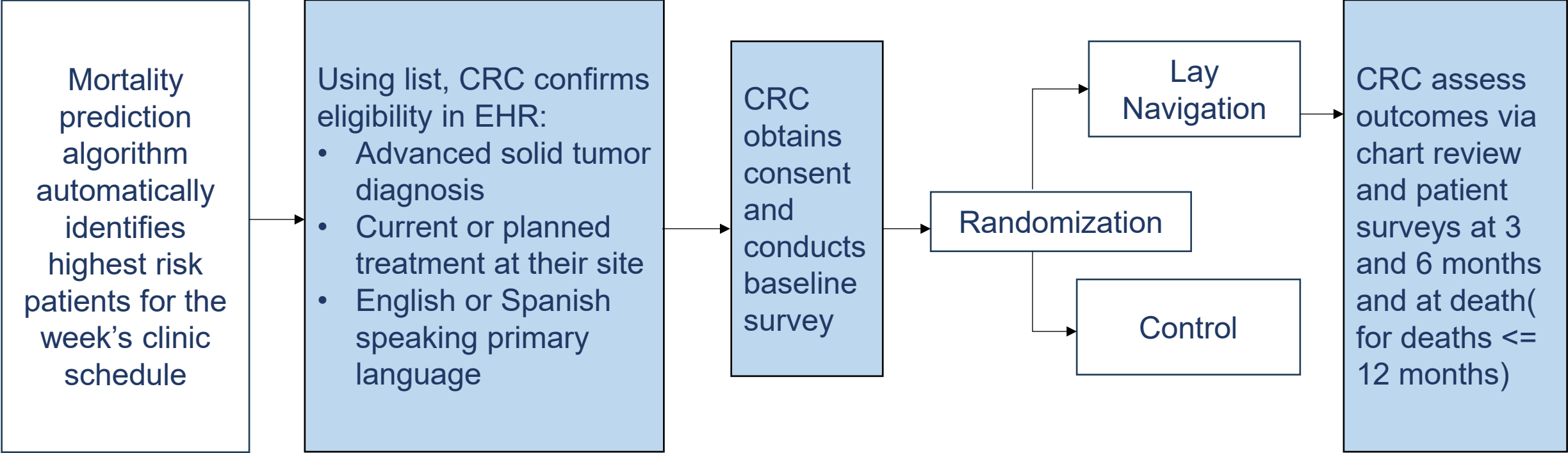
## B. Trial enrollment workflow with algorithm



# Algorithm Implementation

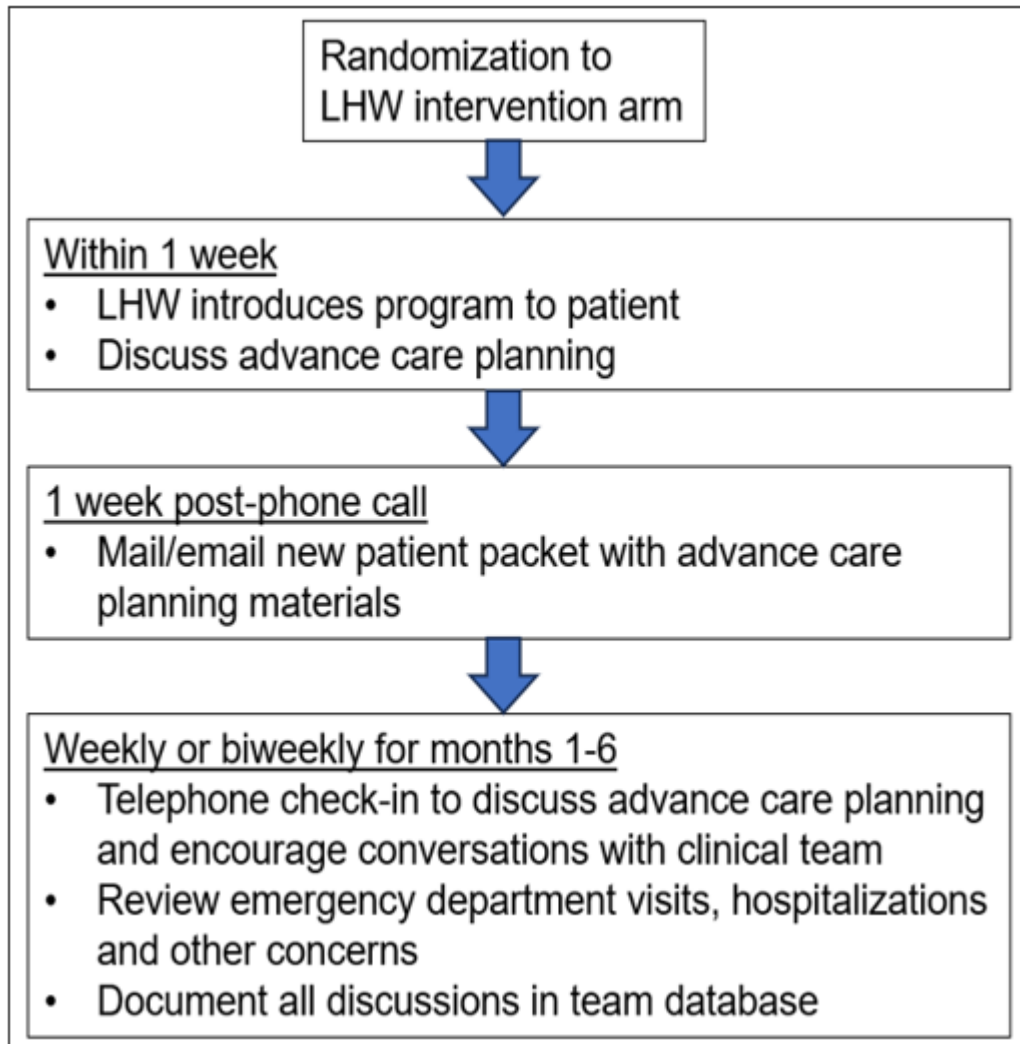
- Implementation Resources:
  - Comprehensive implementation guidebook available with:
    - Detail step-by step instructions for downloading data via SQL and applying the algorithm via Python
    - Environment setup requirements
- Code Access
  - All implementation code accessible via GitHub repository
  - Repository includes documentation, example datasets, and validation tools
  - Site IT staff will contact Dr. Parikh for repository access credentials

# CRC Workflow



Blue box: CRC tasks

# Lay Health Worker intervention



- Navigators will be centralized, based out of Dr. Patel's center at Stanford
- Will communicate with patients on behalf of clinical sites, via telephone

## Staffing

- 1.5 FTE Lay Health Workers (LHW)
- 0.50 FTE Supervisor



# Assessments: Patient reports

REQUIRED FORMS / TASKS	Pre- Registration	Participant Registration/ Randomization	Month 3 (+/- 30 days)	Month 6 (+/- 30 days)	Month 9 (+/-30 days)	Month 12 (+/- 30 days)	Off Protocol
<b>PATIENT QUESTIONNAIRES</b>							
<b><u>S2424CD</u></b> Prognostic Awareness and Treatment Preferences	X		X	X			
<b><u>S2424CD</u></b> PROMIS® Short Form v1.0 - Anxiety 4a	X		X	X			
<b><u>S2424CD</u></b> PROMIS® Short Form v1.0 – Depression 4a	X		X	X			
<b><u>S2424CD</u></b> Heard and Understood	X		X	X			
<b>PATIENT IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION SURVEYS</b>							
12-Item Acceptability of Intervention Measure				X			
15-Item Advance Care Planning Engagement				X			
3-Item Shared Decision Making				X			

# Assessments: EHR-based outcomes

REQUIRED FORMS / TASKS	Pre-Registration	Participant Registration/ Randomization	Month 3 (+/- 30 days)	Month 6 (+/- 30 days)	Month 9 (+/-30 days)	Month 12 (+/- 30 days)	Off Protocol
Recent Hospitalization			X	X	X	X	
Intensive End-of-Life Care							X
Goals of Care Documentation						X	
Advance Directive Documentation						X	
Physician Order for life Sustaining Treatment Documentation						X	

# Protocol Development Timeline

Item	Due Date	
SWOG Statistical Protocol Review Committee (PRC) call	3/26/2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integration of SWOG post-Protocol Review Committee edits	4/9/2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Submit patient-reported outcomes (PRO) forms/patient facing materials	5/1/2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Submit protocol to Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP)	5/15/2025	
Begin RAVE study build (approx. 14 weeks prior to activation)	8/15/2025	
Call with study chairs to go over care report forms (CRF) draft (3 weeks post start of study build)	9/5/2025	
Targeted Activation Date: Friday, November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	11/21/2025	
NCI Operational Efficiency Working Group (OEWG) activation deadline:	1/9/2025	

# Benefits of Participation

## Participating sites:

- Lay workers offload clinician need to initiate serious illness communication
- Ultimate decisions around care decisions remain with the clinician and patient/family
- Infrastructure to integrate lay worker into routine care, leading to downstream revenue opportunities (ACP conversations are billable by Medicare; LHW services reimbursed by Medicare starting October 2024)
- Increased but manageable palliative care volume
- Infrastructure for integrating machine learning algorithms for patient identification

## To patients:

- Improved understanding in cancer care trajectory and personal goals
- Improved communication between patient and clinician team
- Improved patient satisfaction
- Improved care delivery - more palliative care, less hospitalization

# Questions?

**Contact:**

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# Thank you