

# IMPROVING PATIENT FLOW IN AN OUTPATIENT CHEMOTHERAPY INFUSION CENTER

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# The Team

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# The Team

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Nursing Graduate

Associate Supervisor, Department of Pathology

Nursing Graduate

Nurse Manager, Infusion

Operations Manager, Infusion

Medical Director, UMCCC

Pre-Medical Student



- Second leading cause of death in the United States
- In 2015, there will be an estimated 1,658,370 new cancer cases diagnosed and 589,430 cancer deaths in the US.

Source:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2015) <http://www.cdc.gov>

American Cancer Society (2015) <http://www.cancer.org>

- In 2014, over 50% of outpatient visits in the UMCCC resulted in chemotherapy infusion treatments:
  - 97,147 outpatient visits
  - 58,419 infusion treatments
- Variable infusion treatment times (30 min – 8 hr)

Source:

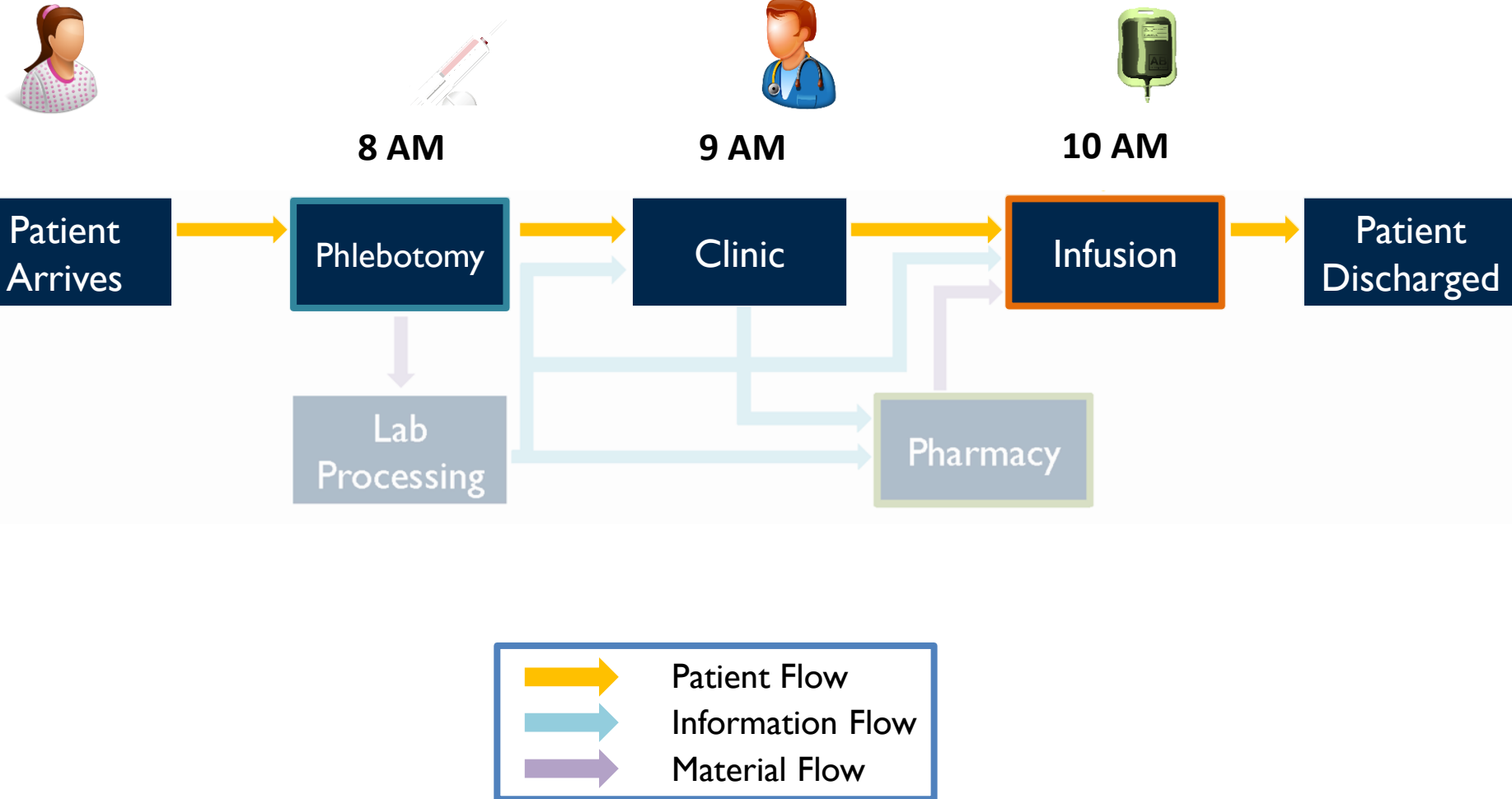
U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center (2015)

<http://www.mcancer.org>



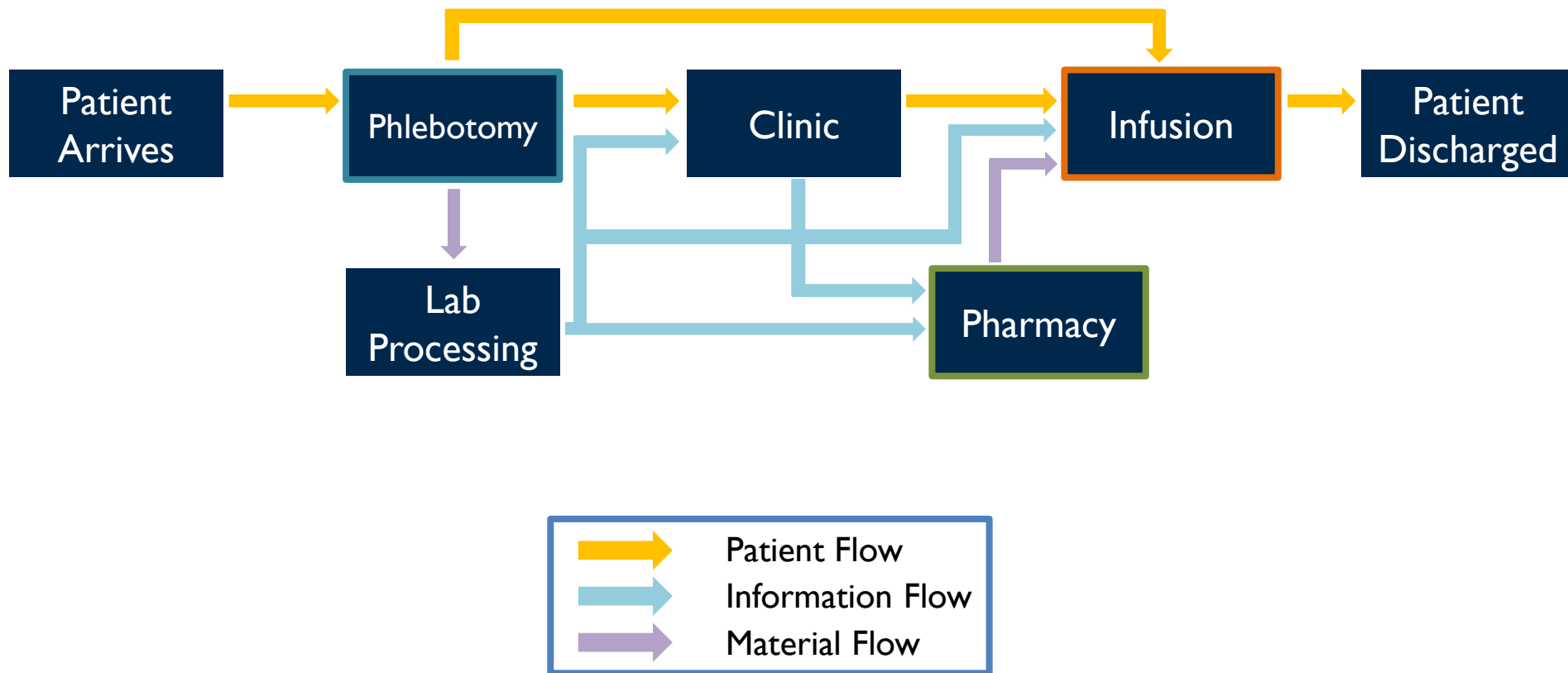
Reduce patient waiting times  
and improve their full-day experience

# Infusion Overview



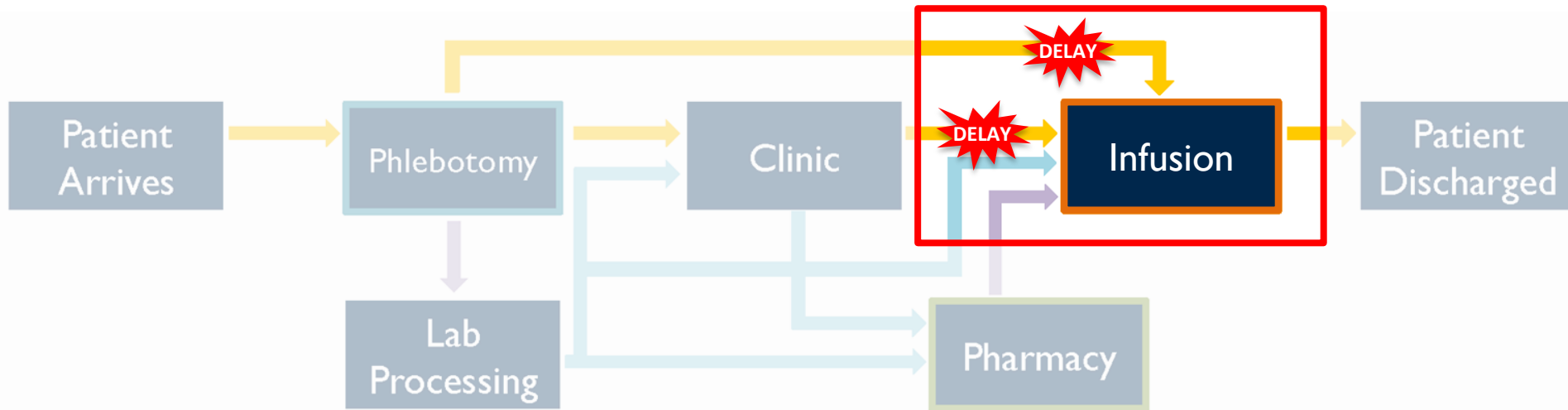


# Infusion Overview



# Chemotherapy Infusion

On average, patients wait **~45 minutes** after arrival at infusion until they are seated in a chair



Project Initiative:  
Improved Scheduling of Infusion Patients

## Improved Scheduling of Infusion Patients:

### I) Stochastic Optimization

*Castaing, J., Cohn, A., & Denton, B. (2015). Stochastic Programming Approach to Reduce Patient Wait Times and Overtime in an Outpatient Infusion Center (Working Paper)*

- Allow extra time for highly variable treatments
- Increase appointment lengths in the middle of the day

## Improved Scheduling of Infusion Patients:

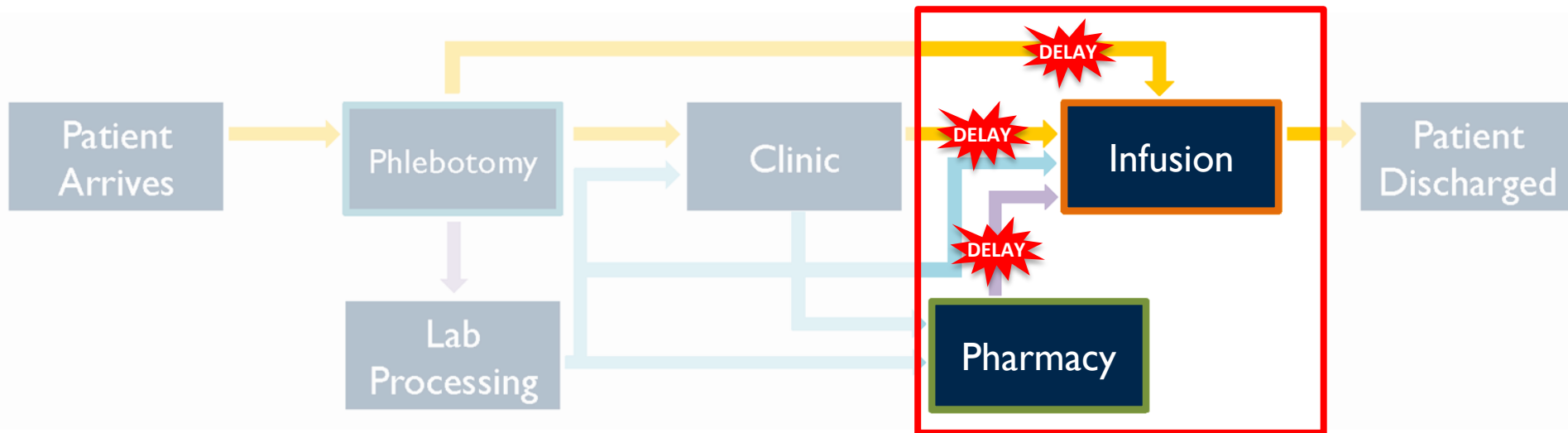
### 2) Patient Acuity Model

- Reduce variability in patient appointment lengths

### 3) Appointment Templating

- Schedule appointments more effectively using templates for different care cycles

Drugs not being ready could delay a patient's appointment



Project Initiative:  
**Pre-Mixing Drugs**

## Pre-mixing Drugs:

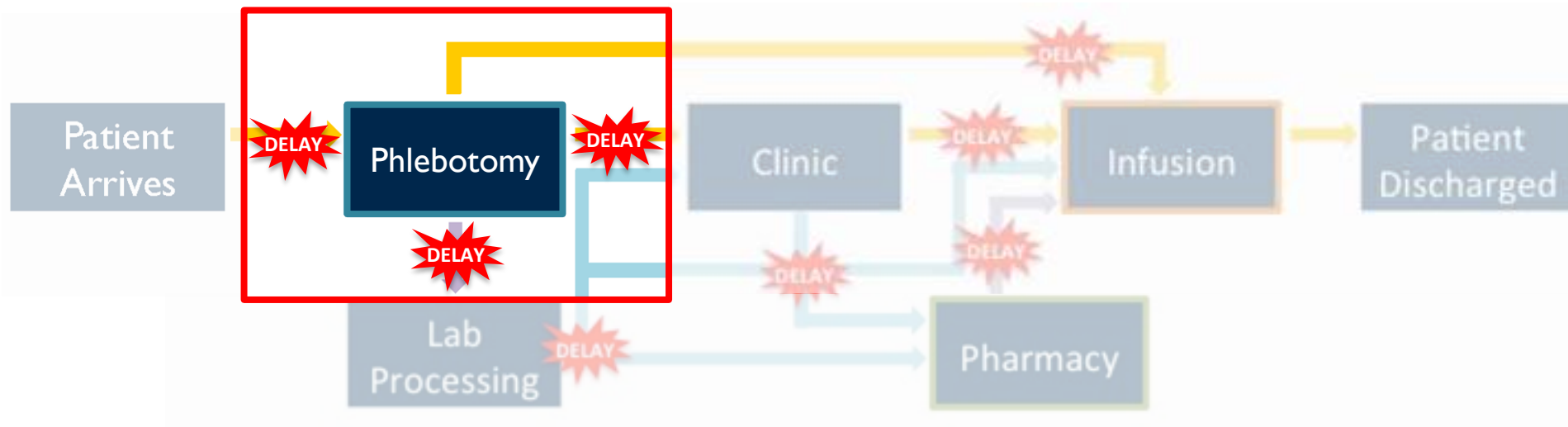
- Pharmacy prepares drugs for infusion
  - Some are very expensive
  - Risk of waste
- Drugs prepared once patient arrives at infusion

## Pre-mixing Drugs:

- “Pre-mixing” may help improve patient waiting times/workload balance
- Evaluate trade-offs of improved wait/workload vs. risk of drug waste
- *Optimizing which Chemotherapy Drugs to Pre-Mix and When*
  - Donald Richardson
  - **FA08** - Friday, 8:00-9:30 AM session, Student Research Projects in Healthcare Operations

Lab results needed:

- by **provider** before clinic appointment to assess patient
- by **pharmacy** to initiate drug preparation



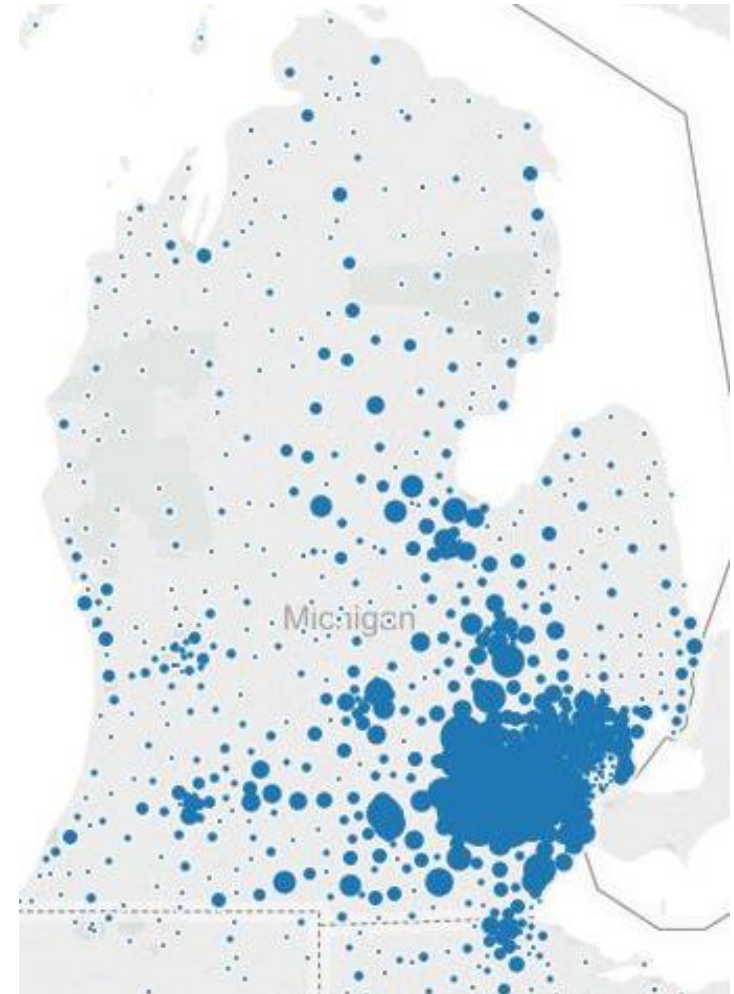
Project Initiative:  
**Uncoupling Appointments**



## Uncoupling Appointments

- Option to have labs done at least one day prior to clinic appointment at any MLab facility

Driving Duration	% of Patients to Closest Lab Facility
Less than 15 min	32%
15 – 30 min	20%
30 – 60 min	23%
1 – 2 hours	15%
2 – 4 hours	7%
Over 4 hours	3%



Where do UMCCC patients live?

## Project Initiatives: **Discrete Event Simulation**

Phlebotomy goal is to consistently have lab results in a **one-hour turnaround** window (from patient arrival to phlebotomy and their next appointment)

## Discrete Event Simulation

Pre-Examination Blood Draw	
Patient waits to be checked-in	13 min
Check-In	2.55 min
Patient waits to be called to the back	16 min
Blood Draw	3.52 min
Batch	20 min
Prepare and send capsule	1.43 min
7.5 min (Value Added)	
49 min (Non-Value Added)	

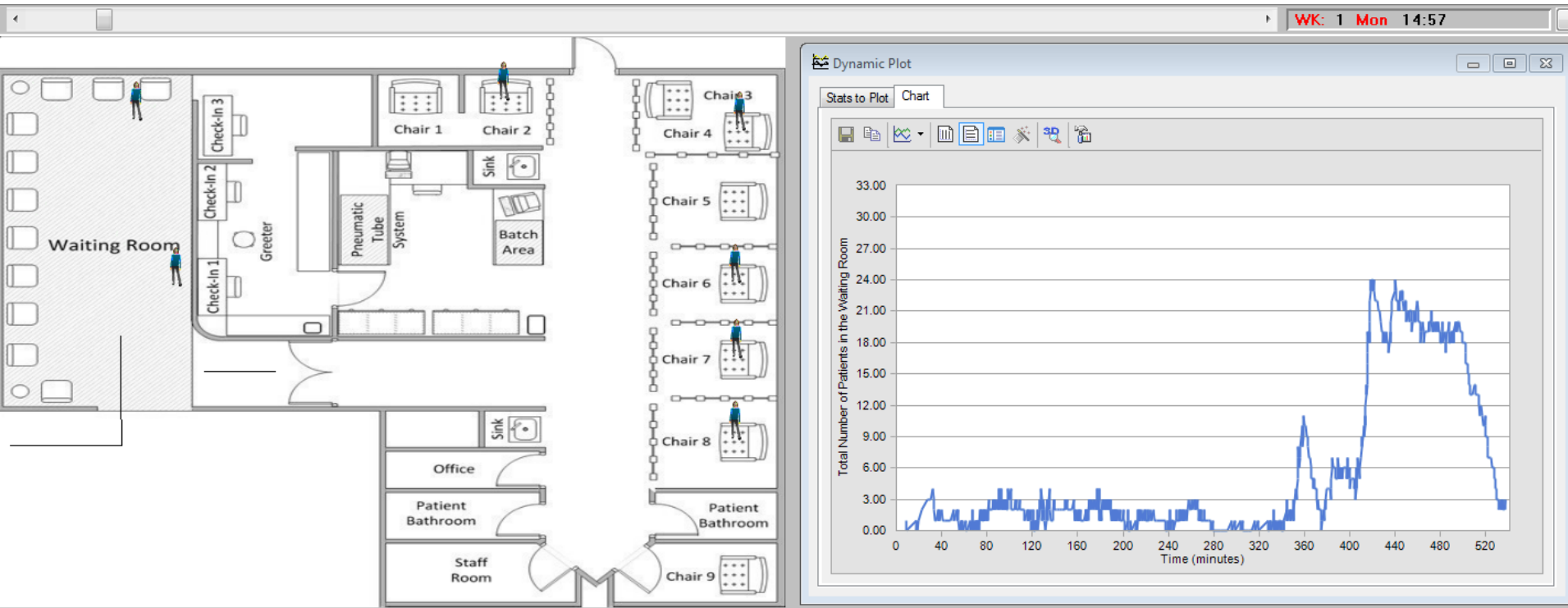
- 2014 PHLEBOTOMY TIME STUDIES

## Discrete Event Simulation

### I) Computer Simulation Tool:

- Can help visualize and analyze current operations
- Test and measure the impact of different “what if” scenarios without having to carry them out
  - What if patients were able to check themselves in?
  - What if we add a permanent medical assistant to the staff?

## Phlebotomy Layout and ProModel Simulation



## Discrete Event Simulation

### 2) Table-Top Simulation:

- Hands-on activity
- Engage the whole team
- Educational component
- Brainstorm ideas



## Improved Scheduling of Infusion Patients:

- Incorporate acuity and improve scheduling templates and protocols

## Pre-mixing Drugs Tool:

- Assist in deciding which drugs to prepare and when

## Discrete Event Simulation:

- Simulate different “what if” scenarios to test and measure their impact in the process

# Thank you!

# QUESTIONS?

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## Value Stream Map for Processing of CBCD STAT Specimens from the Cancer Center

Last Updated: 9/5/2014

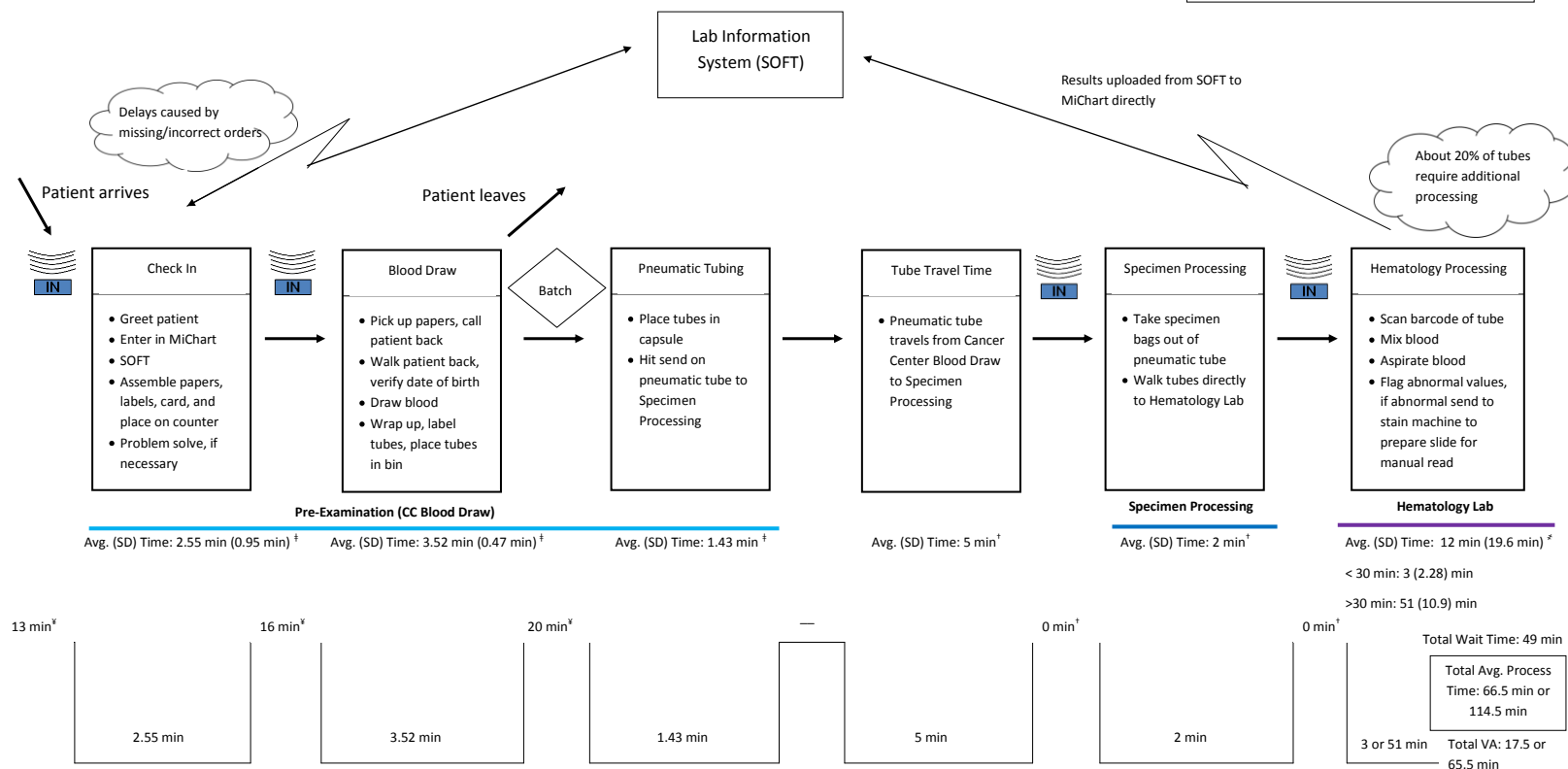
Data Sources:

‡: Time study performed by Corrie Pennington-Block

†: Time study performed by Sarah Bach

×: Hematology TAT data (Aug 2014)

¥: Cancer Center Blood Draw TAT Data (July 2014)



Pre-Examination Blood Draw	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Mean (Standard Deviation)</i>
Patient waits to be checked-in	--
Check-In	3.12 min (2.10 min)
Patient waits to be called to the back	--
Blood Draw	<b>Vein:</b> 4.99 min (2.38 min) <b>Port:</b> 13.60 min (4.44 min)
Batch	<b>17.63 min (3.92 min)</b>
Prepare and send capsule	--
<b>(Value Added)</b>	
<b>(Non-Value Added)</b>	

- 2015 PHLEBOTOMY TIME STUDIES

- Phlebotomy – 253 patients per day
- Clinic (7 Total) – 311 patients per day
- Infusion – 123 patients per day
  - 20% of infusion appointments are coupled

- Staff Schedule

		630	700	730	800	830	900	930	1000	1030	1100
Totals do not include the Associate Supervisor		2	10	12	13	13	13	17	17	17	16
	Front Desk	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2
	Greeter		-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	
	Clinic Sweep				-1				-1		
	Breaks/Lunches					-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3
	Part Time/Day Off		-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
	<b>Available to Draw</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

1130	1200	1230	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	1600	1630	1700	1730
16	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	7	5	4	4	4
-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1
	-1				-1				-1			
-3	-3	-2	-3	-4	-2	-2	-2	-2				
-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1						
<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>