

**HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS  
PROCESS IMPROVEMENT  
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**SOCIETY FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
LEADING HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT

# **Simulating Access and Patient Flow for a Cardiovascular ICU**

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# CHEPS

**M** | CHEPS

**Rx**

A prescription  
to address  
system  
complexity  
in healthcare

INNOVATING  
HEALTHCARE  
DELIVERY

FOSTERING  
LEARNING

BUILDING  
COMMUNITY



**POSITIVE IMPACT THROUGH...**

**Research**  
**Education**  
**Implementation**  
**Outreach**  
**Dissemination**

# **OUTLINE**

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**Research Motivation**

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**Introduction**

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**Problem Statement**

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**Simulation Framework**

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**Analyses**

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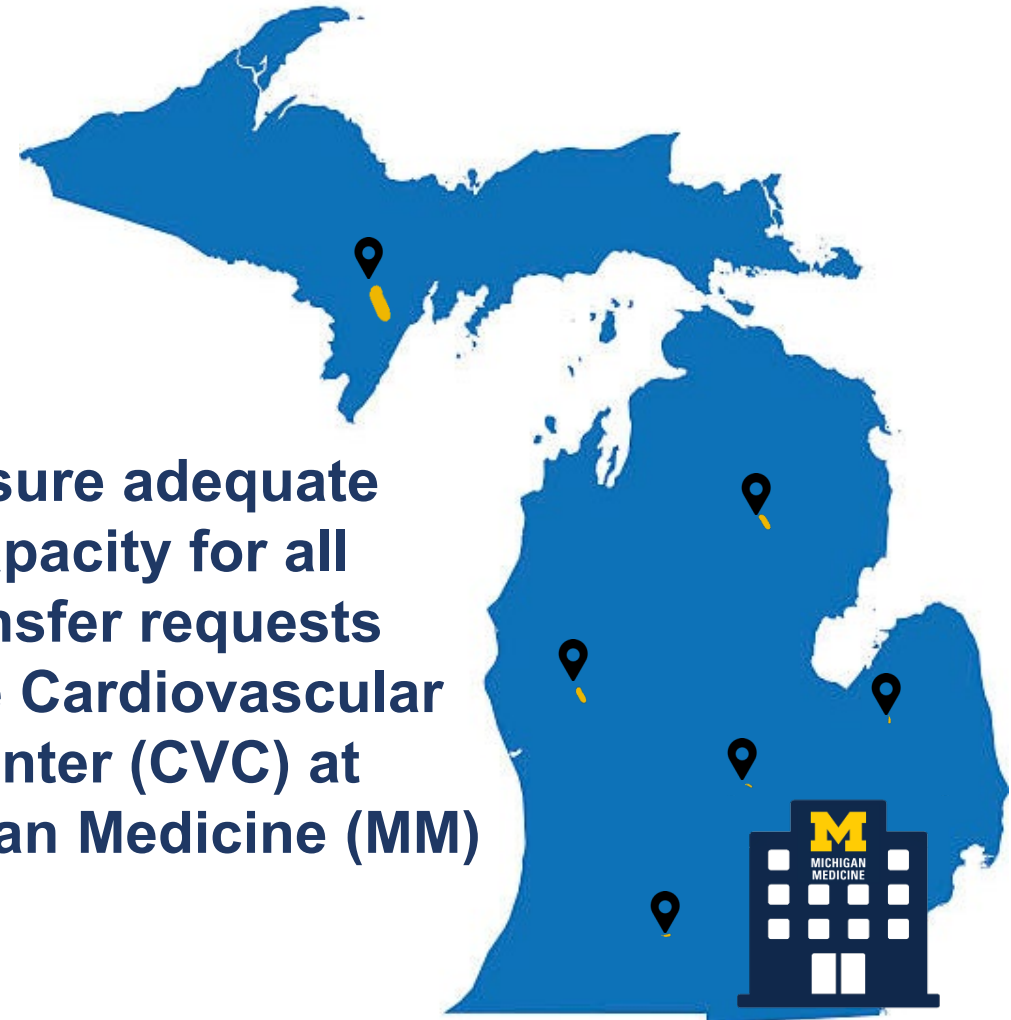
**Future Research**

# RESEARCH MOTIVATION

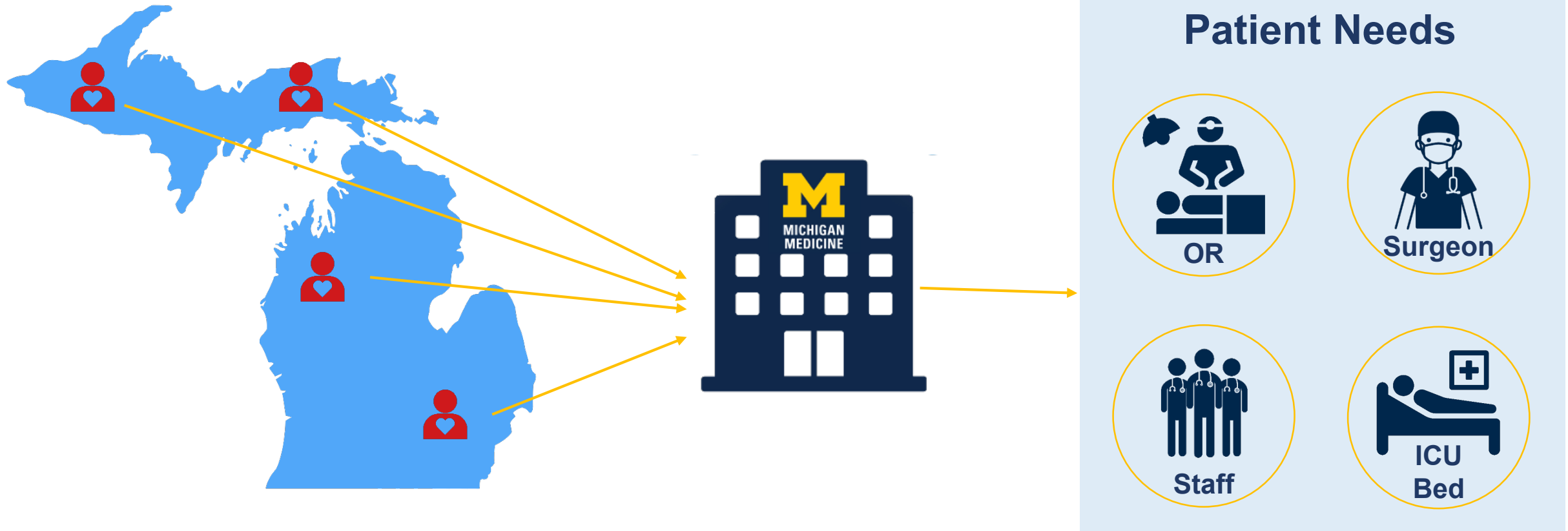
What is the  
aortic dissection  
(AD) patient  
experience?



Ensure adequate  
capacity for all  
transfer requests  
to the Cardiovascular  
Center (CVC) at  
Michigan Medicine (MM)



# INITIAL RESEARCH QUESTION



 = Aortic Dissection Patients

# INITIAL RESEARCH QUESTION

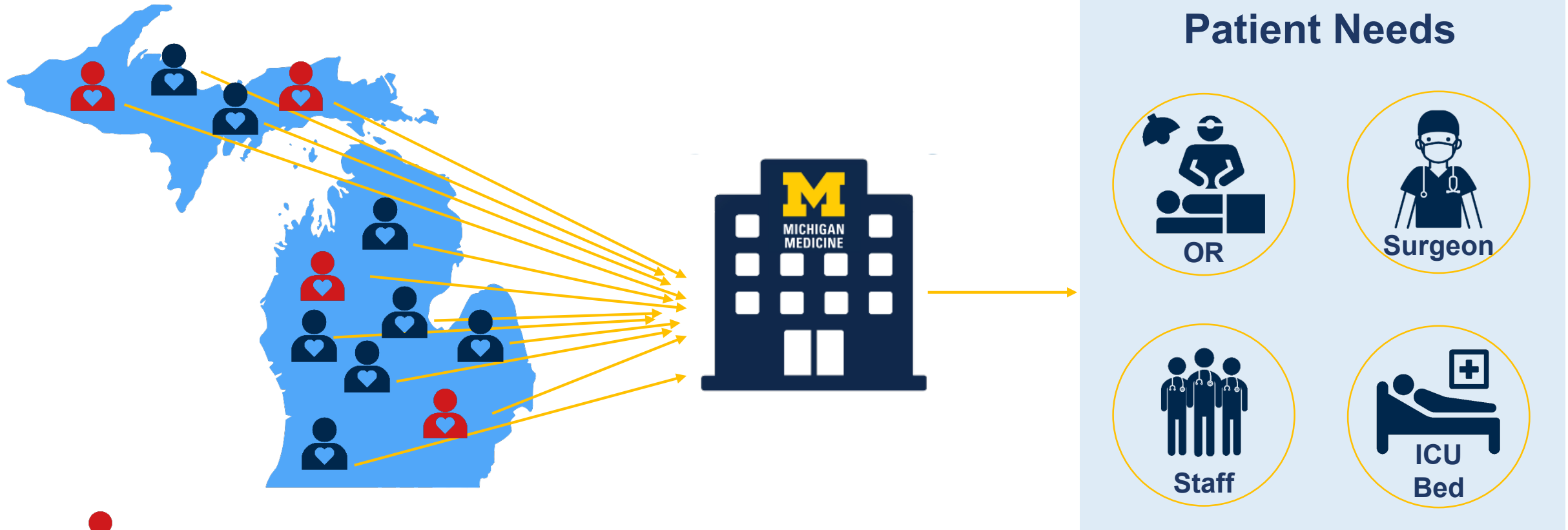




It's a lot more complicated than that...



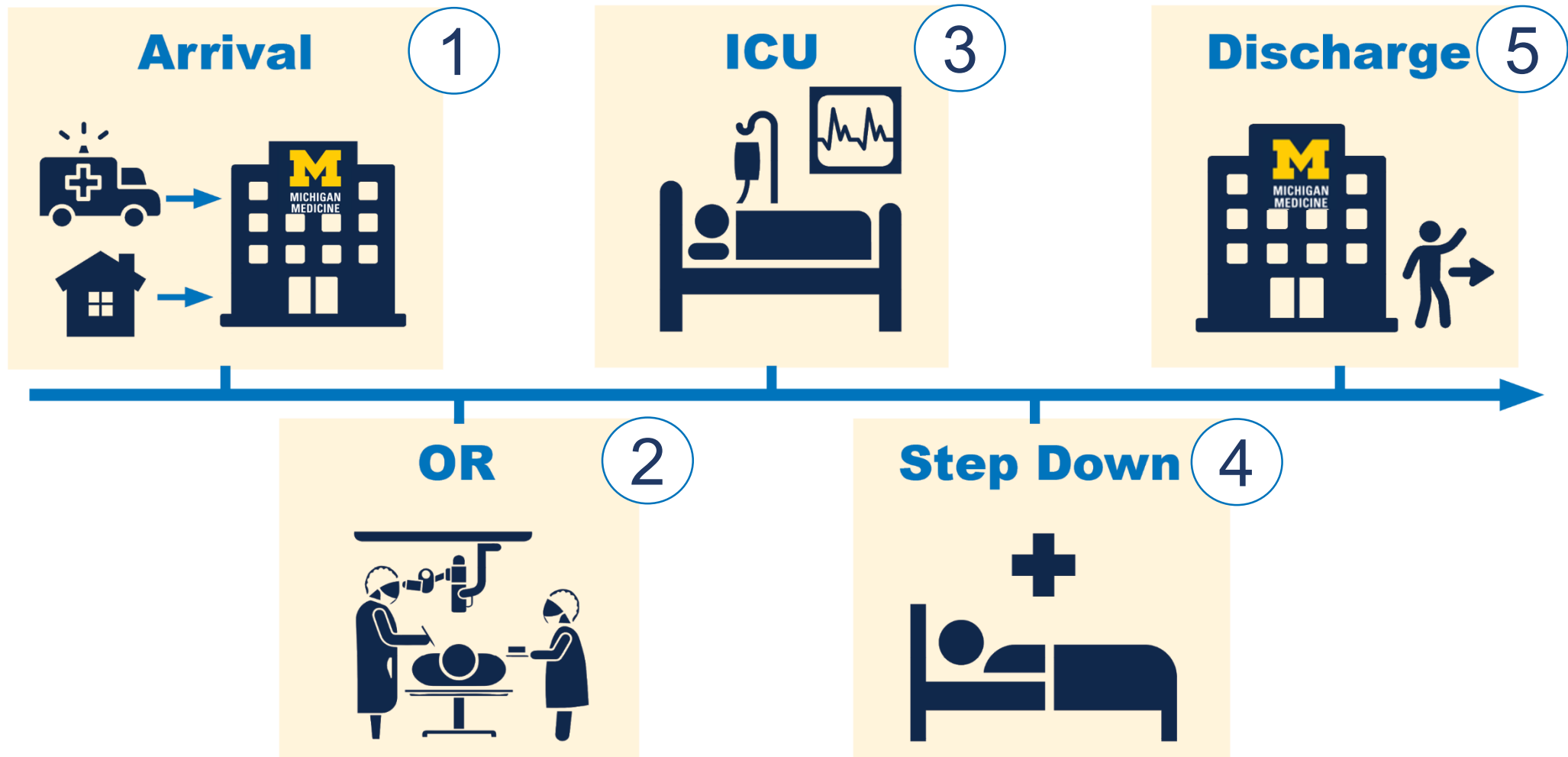
 = Aortic Dissection Patients

# THE BIGGER PICTURE



-  = Aortic Dissection Patients
-  = All Other Cardiac Patient Types

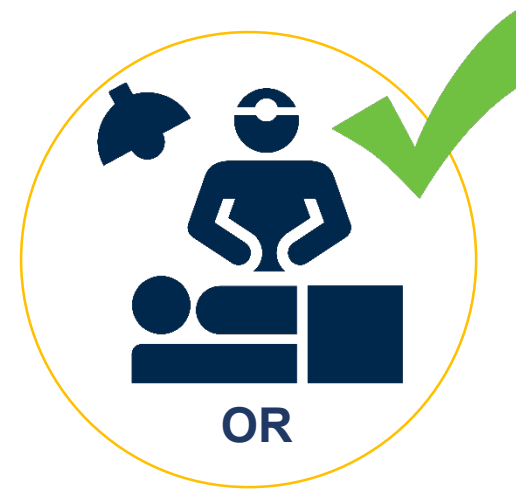
# PATIENT FLOW IN CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY



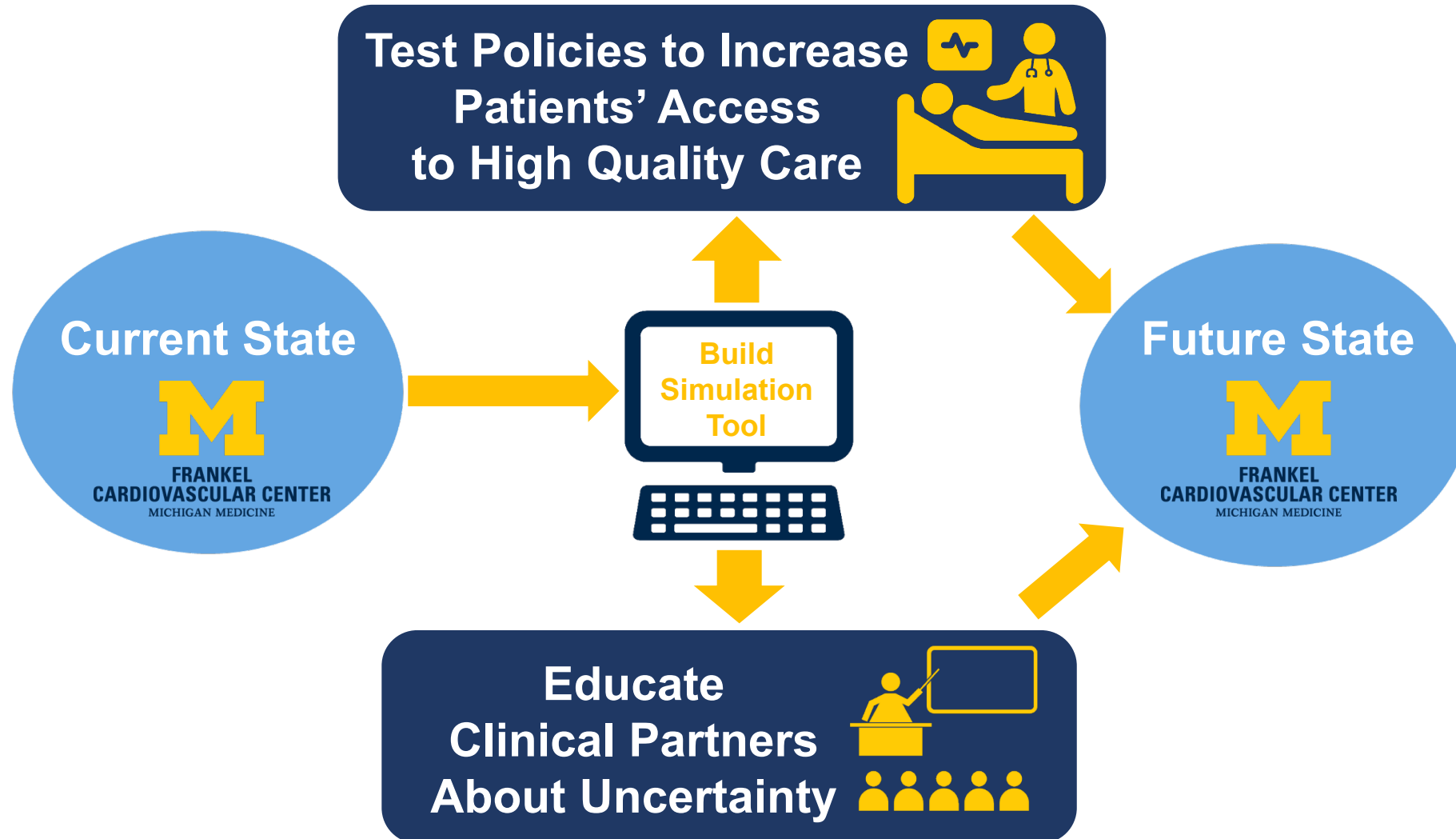


# TRANSFER REQUESTS

Preliminary analysis conducted by the CVC staff showed that the most common reason for patient deferral when requesting transfer to Michigan Medicine is attributed to unavailable ICU beds.



# APPROACH TO IMPROVING ICU UTILIZATION



# SIMULATION FRAMEWORK

## FIXED INPUTS

- Bed Count per Unit
- Time Horizon
- Number of Replications

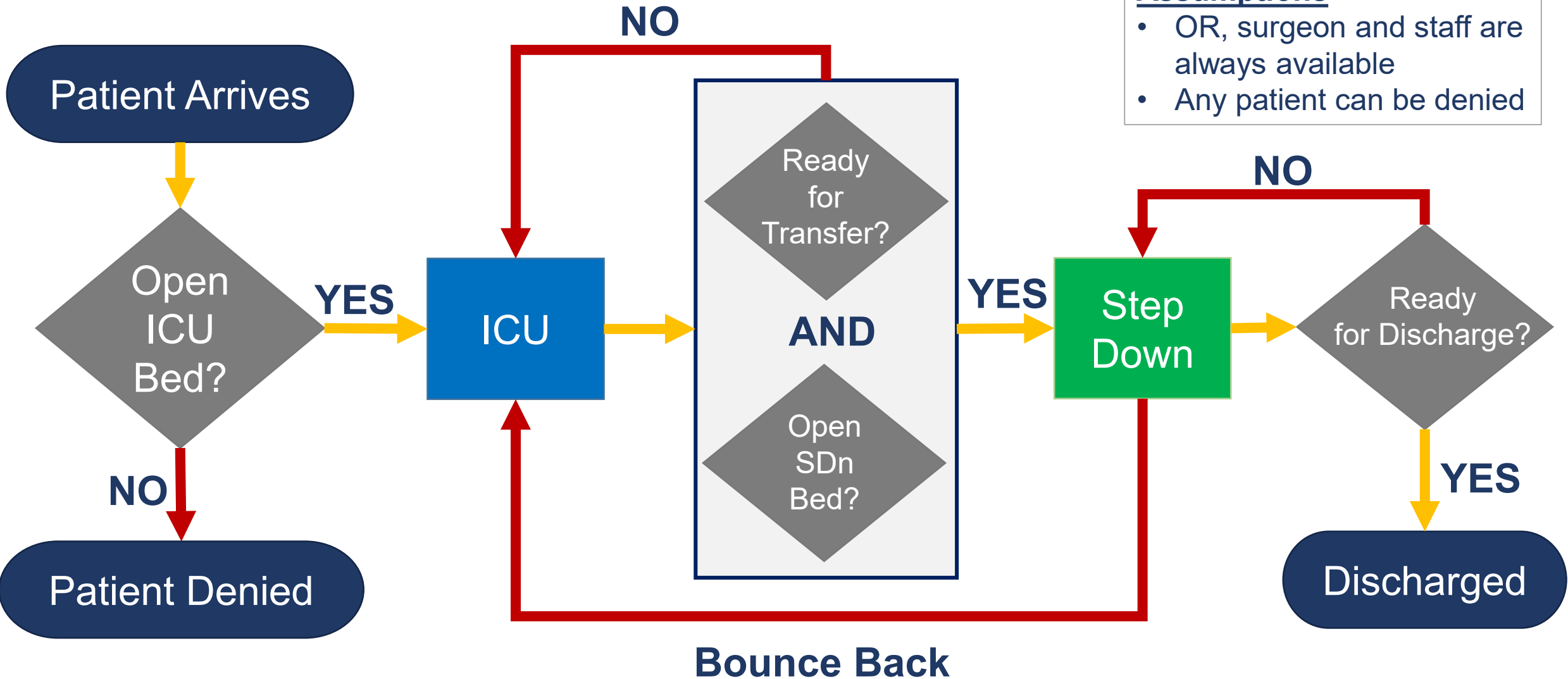
## VARIABLE INPUTS

- Patient Arrival Rate
- Length of Stay in ICU and Step Down (SDn) units
- Bounce Back Probability

# SIMULATION FRAMEWORK

## Assumptions

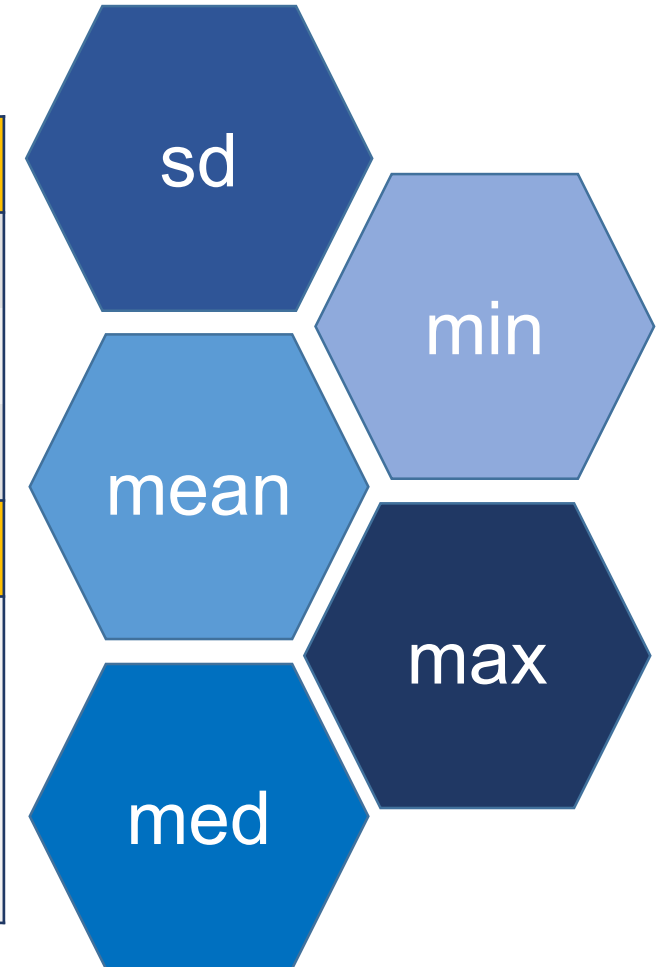
- OR, surgeon and staff are always available
- Any patient can be denied



# SIMULATION FRAMEWORK

## METRICS

Number of...	
Patient Arrivals	
Accepted Patients	
Denied Patients	
ICU	Step Down (SDn)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patient LOS</li><li>• Unnecessary days in an ICU bed (SDn status)</li><li>• Bed Utilization</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patient LOS</li><li>• Unnecessary days in a SDn bed (ICU status)</li><li>• Bed Utilization</li></ul>





# ANALYSES

1

## SDn Variation

- Change number of shared SDn beds

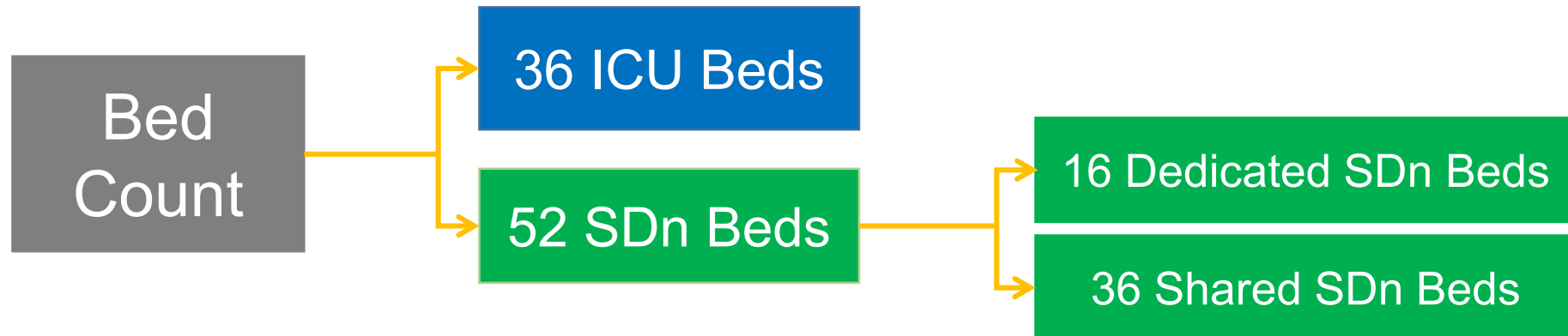
2

## Bounce Back Rate

- Change the rate of bounce back incrementally

# BASE CASE PARAMETERS

- 1 Patient Type
  - Arrival Rate = 0.33 patient/hr
  - Time Horizon = 1 Year
  - Replications = 1,000
- Bernoulli trial for transfer and discharge from respective units
    - $P_{\text{ICU Transfer}} = 0.25$
    - $P_{\text{SDn Discharge}} = 0.25$



# ANALYSIS 1: SDN VARIATION

Allocated Step Down Beds	28	32	36	40
Annual Patient Arrival	2879	2875	2878	2877
<b>Patients Denied</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
ICU Average LOS ICU Status	3.45 days	3.44 days	3.44 days	3.44 days
<b>ICU Average LOS SDn Status</b>	<b>0.34 days</b>	<b>0.14 days</b>	<b>0.04 days</b>	<b>0.01 days</b>
SDn Average LOS	3.70 days	3.78 days	3.82 days	3.83 days
SDn Bed Utilization	94.23%	88.98%	82.06%	74.73 %

- Time Horizon = 1 Year
- Replications = 1,000
- 36 ICU Beds
- 16 Dedicated SDn Beds

INTRODUCTION | PROBLEM STATEMENT | SIMULATION | **ANALYSIS** | FUTURE RESEARCH

# ANALYSIS 2: BOUNCE BACK

## Bounce Back Rate Increments

Bounce Back Rate	0%	5%	10%	15%
Annual Patient Arrival	2875	2871	2873	2872
<b>Patients Denied</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>31%</b>
ICU Average LOS ICU Status	3.44 days	3.85 days	4.09 days	4.39 days
<b>ICU Average LOS SDn Status</b>	<b>0.14 days</b>	<b>0.31 days</b>	<b>0.68 days</b>	<b>1.15 days</b>
SDn Average LOS	3.78 days	4.19 days	4.43 days	4.45 days
<b>SDn Average LOS ICU Status</b>	<b>0 days</b>	<b>0.15 days</b>	<b>0.45 days</b>	<b>0.76 days</b>
ICU Bed Utilization	78.88%	85.95%	89.53%	92.02%

- Time Horizon = 1 Year
- Replications = 1,000
- 36 ICU Beds
- 32 SDn Beds

INTRODUCTION | PROBLEM STATEMENT | SIMULATION | **ANALYSIS** | FUTURE RESEARCH

# ANALYSES TAKEAWAYS

## Analysis 1: SDn Variation

- The unnecessary ICU bed days decreases as SDn beds are added to a certain point
- Trade-offs will be necessary

## Analysis 2: Bounce Back

- Small rates of bounce back impact utilization and flow
- Patient information would allow us to more accurately predict bounce back rates



# FUTURE RESEARCH

- Expanding the tool
  - Adding more patient types
  - Adding patient predictors of bounce back
- Conducting Analysis
  - More data!
  - Explore smoothing elective surgery

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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PRECISION HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE  
ENGINEERING & PATIENT SAFETY



FRANKEL  
CARDIOVASCULAR CENTER  
MICHIGAN MEDICINE

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# Questions?

# LITERATURE REVIEW

First Author	Reference	Year	Objective/Purpose
Levin, S.	[5]	2011	To test policies to reduce patient's length of stay (LOS) and increase patient throughput.
Marmor, Y.	[6]	2013	To predict minimum bed needs to achieve the high patient service level demanded for the cardiovascular ICU.
Levin, S.	[7]	2015	To estimate patients' wait time while integrating the effect of the transition process (i.e. wait time for a bed to become available) with queuing using embedded regression models.
Kolker, A.	[8]	2009	To establish a quantitative link between the daily load leveling of elective surgeries (i.e. elective schedule smoothing) and ICU diversion of multiple ICU units including cardio ICU.

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- [1] Criado, Frank J. "Aortic Dissection: A 250-Year Perspective." Ed. Joseph S. Coselli. Texas Heart Institute Journal 38.6 (2011): 694–700.
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- [3] Birkmeyer JD, Siewers AE, Finlayson EV, Stukel TA, Lucas FL, Batista I, Welch HG, Wennberg DE (2002) Hospital volume and surgical mortality in the United States. N Engl J Med 346(15): 1128–1137
- [4] Heidenreich, Paul A., et al. "Forecasting the future of cardiovascular disease in the United States: a policy statement from the American Heart Association." Circulation 123.8 (2011): 933-944
- [5] Levin, Scott, et al. "Evaluating the effects of increasing surgical volume on emergency department patient access." BMJ quality & safety 20.2 (2011): 146-152.
- [6] Marmor, Yariv N., et al. "Recovery bed planning in cardiovascular surgery: a simulation case study." Health care management science 16.4 (2013): 314-327.
- [7] Levin, Scott, and Maxim Garifullin. "Simulating wait time in healthcare: accounting for transition process variability using survival analyses." 2015 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC). IEEE, 2015.
- [8] Kolker, Alexander. "Process modeling of ICU patient flow: effect of daily load leveling of elective surgeries on ICU diversion." Journal of medical systems 33.1 (2009): 27.
- [9] Halpern, Neil A., et al. "Trends in critical care beds and use among population groups and medicare and medicaid beneficiaries in the United States: 2000–2010." Critical care medicine 44.8 (2016): 1490.