

Using Pathways to Improve Care Coordination

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Introduction

Pathways help clinicians to provide consistent and standardised care by outlining treatments for specific medical conditions and procedures, which in turn improve clinical outcomes. With the aim of standardising care and promoting continuity of care, Juronghealth started the Hip Fracture and Heart Failure Pathways in July 2015 using the new Electronic Medical Record (EMR). It comprises of steps, supported by standardised ordersets, which the clinician can order, document and edit. Prior to that, clinicians have been documenting each steps manually on papers.

Methodology

With the new EMR, each pathway step is defined more clearly with red/yellow/green traffic light indicators which provides clinicians a better overview of the patient's progress along the pathway.

Clinicians are able to tailor the pathway for individual patients by adding additional orders, education points and expected pathway outcomes to better manage the pathway and review patient's progress in a single step.

Diagram below shows the steps improved using Pathways

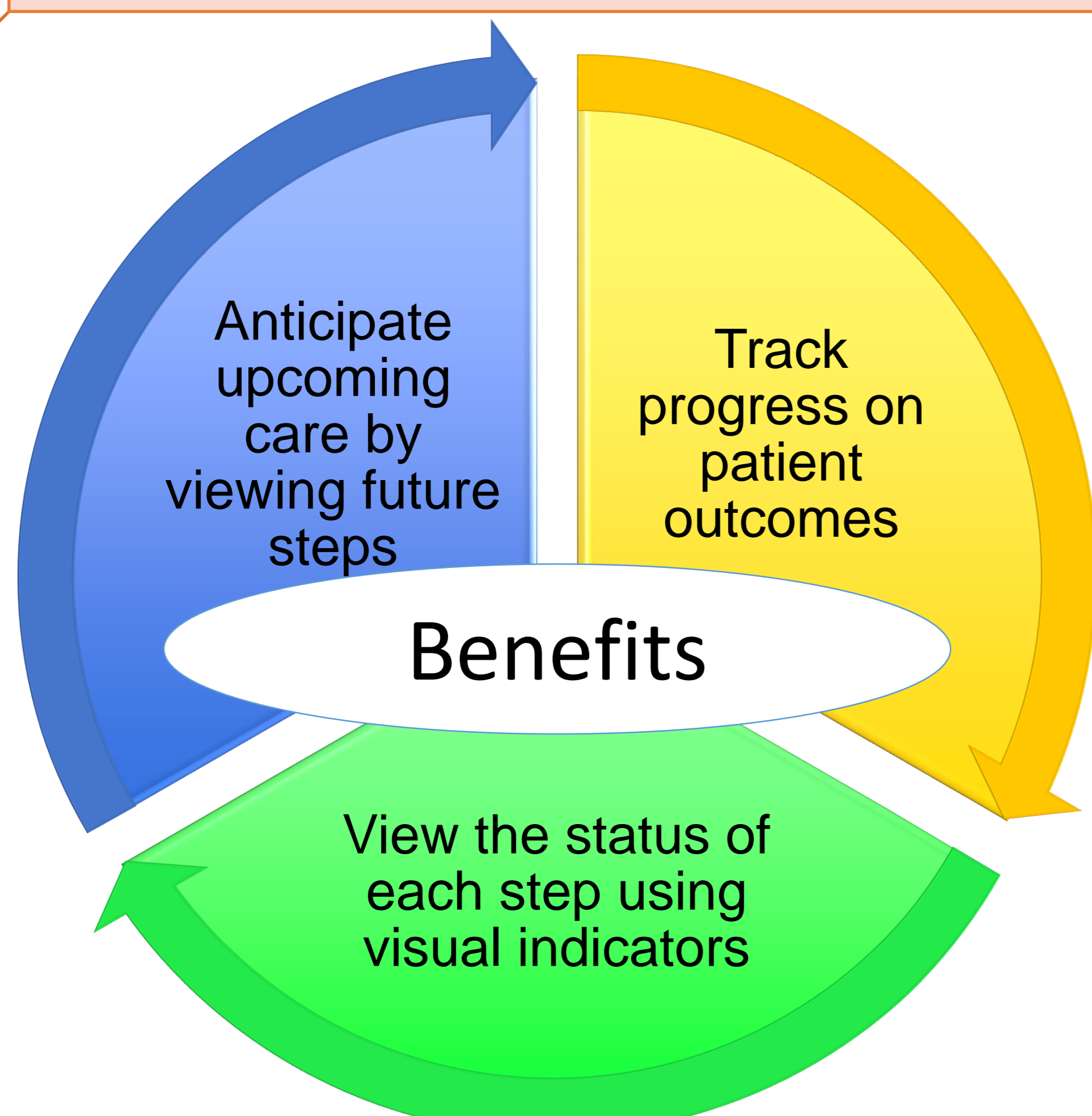
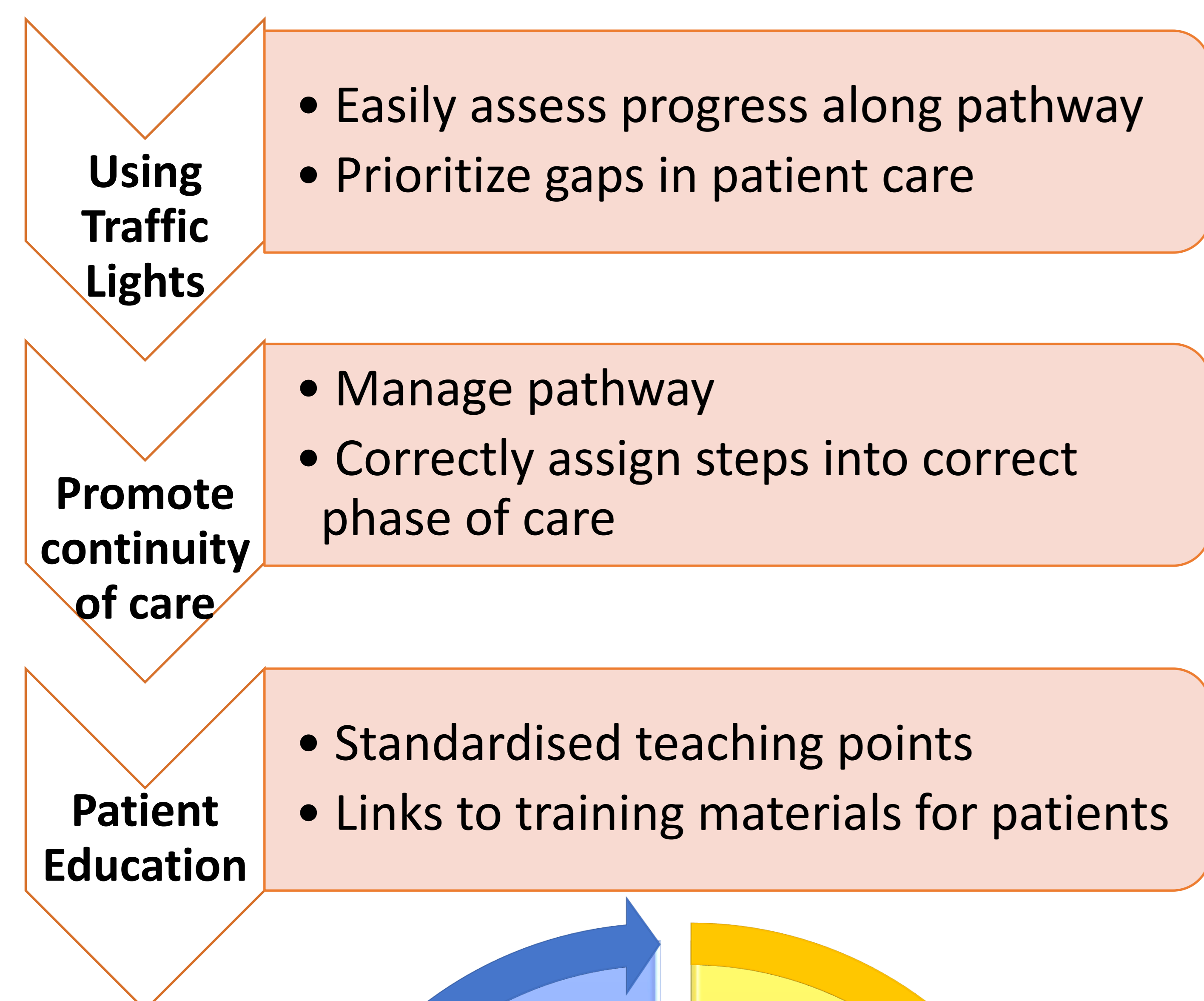


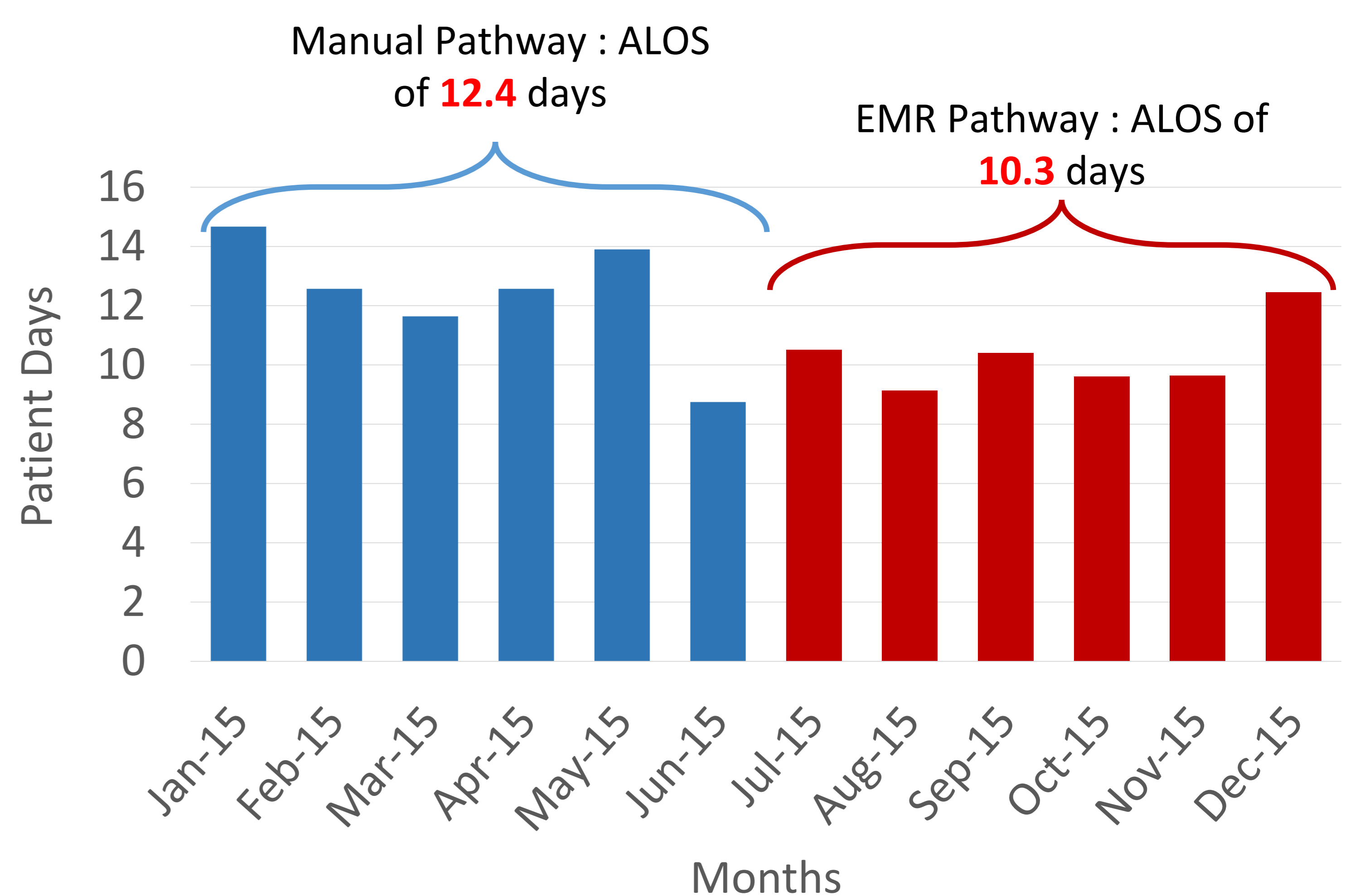
Diagram above shows benefits using Pathways

Consistent
Standardised
Pathways

Results

In our study for Hip Fracture Pathways, we compared the average length of stay (ALOS) before and after EMR Pathway was implemented. We compared 204 cases with past data. Our results showed that ALOS was reduced by **16.9%** (from **12.4** days to **10.3** days).

Diagram below shows Hip Fracture Pathways ALOS



With a total of 204 hip fracture cases, **428** bed days were saved.

This is approximately equivalent to bed turnover of **61** patients (assuming average length of stay 7 days each).

Conclusion

EMR based Pathways can improve efficiencies for clinicians whilst may contribute to a reduction in average length of stay for some patients.