



# IMPLEMENTING AUDIT AND FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE COORDINATION IN PRIMARY CARE TEAMS

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HSR&D CYBERSEMINAR SERIES

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**VA**  
**HEALTH CARE** | Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

# Acknowledgements

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*\* Also PI of CIN 13-413, the IQuEST center grant.*

# Overview

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- Effective team coordination and its drivers
- Audit and feedback to improve coordination in primary care teams (*Hysong et al., 2015*)
- Methodological challenges in coordination and teams research

# Poll Question #1

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- What brought you to today's Cyberseminar?
  - Implementing PACT interventions
  - Learning about coordination
  - Doing research with healthcare teams
  - Are you kidding? I never miss a Cyberseminar!
  - Something else



# Effective Team Coordination and its Drivers

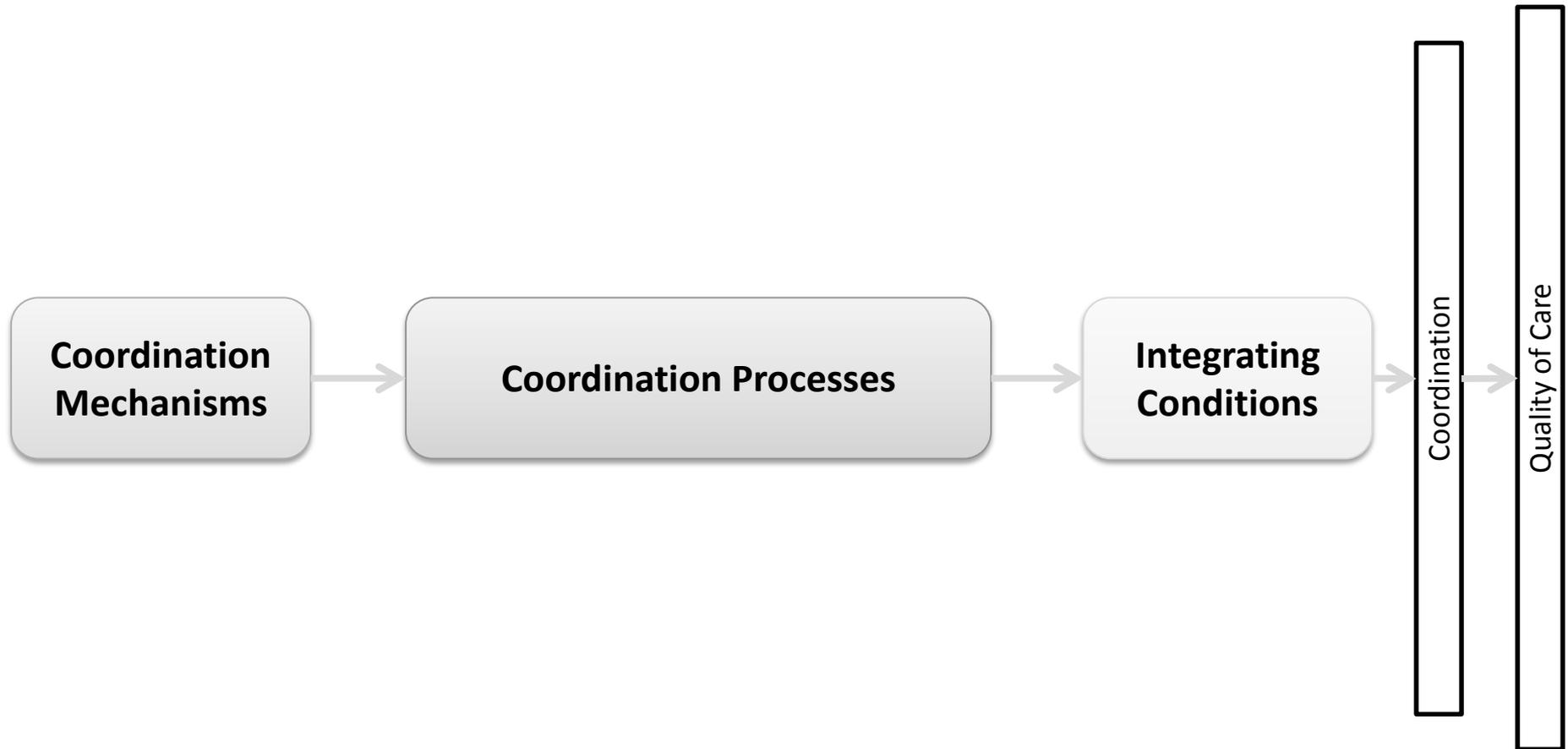


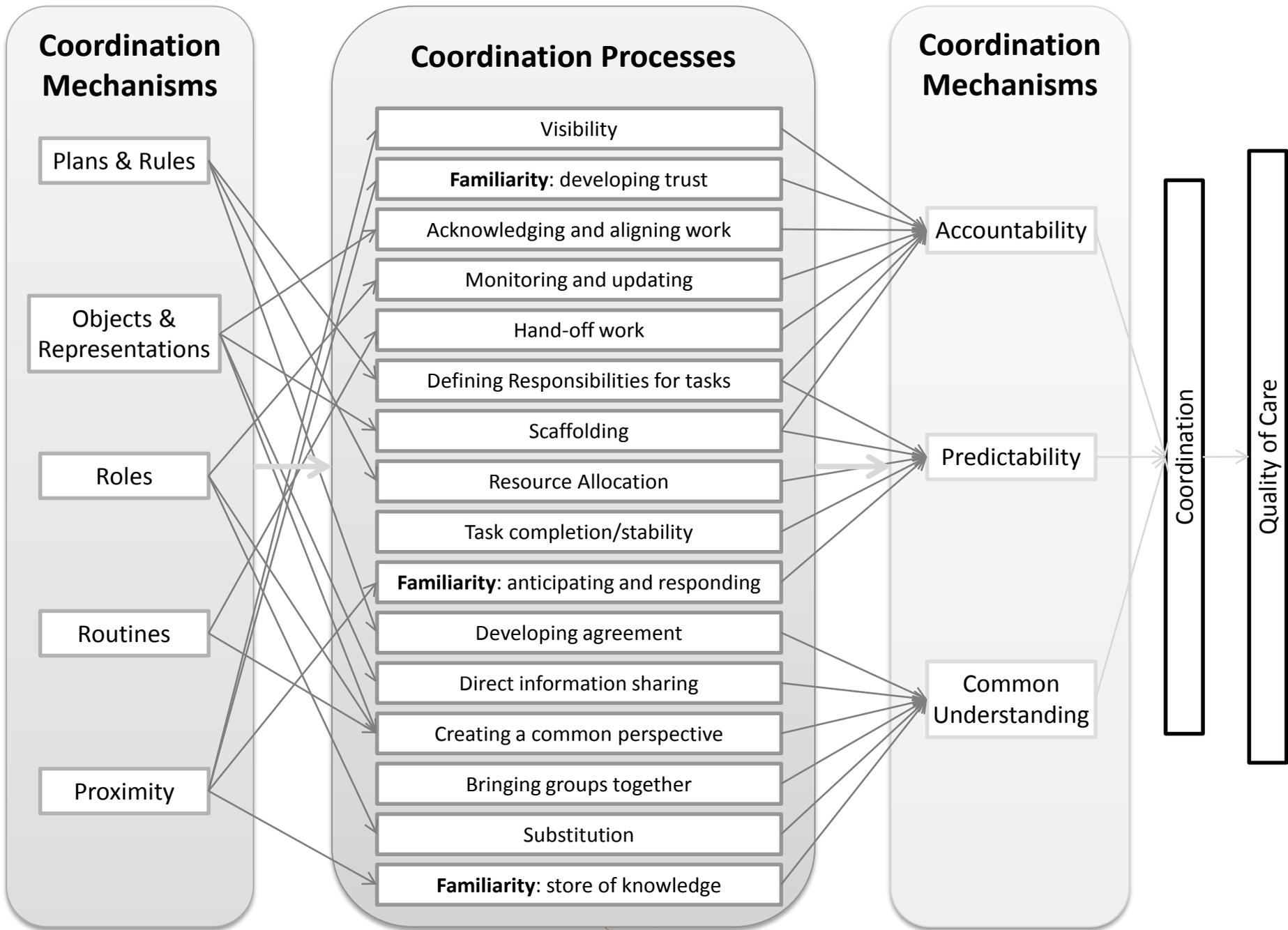
# Team Coordination is Critical to Care Coordination

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- Care coordination is *essential* for higher quality, more effective care
- In order to *coordinate care* well, teams must be able to *coordinate well as a team*.
- Effective team coordination has been shown to...
  - Reduce accident rates (Harris, Treanor & Salisbury, 2006)
  - Increase satisfaction (Pearsall & Ellis, 2006)
  - Save patient lives (Neily et al., 2010)
- **Problem:**
  - Confusion in PACTs over what it means to coordinate
  - Few available forward-looking measures of communication and coordination at point of care

# Okhuysen & Bechky's (2009) Coordination Framework





# Coordination in Multi-Team Systems

Within Teams

Context and Setting	Coordination Mechanisms (Inputs)	Emergent Integrating Conditions (Mediators)	Coordinating Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Composition</li> <li>• Experience and History</li> <li>• Power Distribution</li> <li>• Resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans, rules, tools</li> <li>• Objects, representations, artifacts, and IS</li> <li>• Roles</li> <li>• Routines</li> <li>• Proximity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Predictability</li> <li>• Common Understanding</li> <li>• Trust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situation monitoring</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Backup behavior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proximal Health Outcomes</li> <li>• Proximal Care costs</li> <li>• Satisfaction</li> </ul>

Between Teams

Context and Setting	Coordination Mechanisms (Inputs)	Emergent Integrating Conditions (Mediators)	Coordinating Actions	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiteam system composition</li> <li>• Linkages between teams</li> <li>• Alignment of Organizational cultures / climates</li> <li>• Governance and payment structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans, rules, tools</li> <li>• Objects, representations, artifacts, and IS</li> <li>• Roles</li> <li>• Routines</li> <li>• Proximity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Predictability</li> <li>• Common Understanding</li> <li>• Trust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boundary spanning</li> <li>• Information exchange</li> <li>• Collective problem-solving and decision-making</li> <li>• Negotiation</li> <li>• Mutual adjustment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distal health outcomes for individual patients</li> <li>• Public health outcomes</li> <li>• Lifetime care costs and value</li> <li>• Satisfaction</li> <li>• Timeliness of care</li> </ul>



Source: Weaver, Che, Petersen, & Hysong, 2018

# Studying Care Coordination



# Improving Coordination in Primary Care Teams: The PACT CREATE Project

Hysong et al. *Implementation Science* (2015) 10:145  
DOI 10.1186/s13012-015-0335-9



STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access

## Study protocol: identifying and delivering point-of-care information to improve care coordination



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### Abstract

**Background:** The need for deliberately coordinated care is noted by many national-level organizations. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently transitioned primary care clinics nationwide into Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs) to provide more accessible, coordinated, comprehensive, and patient-centered care. To better serve this purpose, PACTs must be able to successfully sequence and route interdependent tasks to appropriate team members while also maintaining collective situational awareness (coordination).

Although conceptual frameworks of care coordination exist, few explicitly articulate core behavioral markers of coordination or the related information needs of team members attempting to synchronize complex care processes across time for a shared patient population. Given this gap, we partnered with a group of frontline primary care personnel at ambulatory care sites to identify the specific information needs of PACT members that will enable them to coordinate their efforts to provide effective, coordinated care. The study has three objectives: (1) development of measurable, prioritized point-of-care criteria for effective PACT coordination; (2) identifying the specific information needed at the point of care to optimize coordination; and (3) assessing the effect of adopting the aforementioned coordination standards on PACT clinicians' coordination behaviors.



# Current Challenges in Audit and Feedback

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- Performance measure proliferation
- Feedback systems not grounded in theory
- Little time for reflection and self-correction
- Despite shift toward team-based care, most performance measures not designed with teams in mind.

# Project Aims

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1. Develop measurable criteria for effective coordination in PACTs, prioritized and weighted by contribution to overall quality of care.
2. Assess the effect of adopting the aforementioned coordination criteria and feedback on PACT clinicians' coordination behaviors.

# Methods Overview



57 Team  
Members



34 Teams



4 Health  
Care  
Facilities

- **Design:** 7-month case-control trial comparing 34 primary care teams selected from four VA healthcare facilities to 34 matched administrative control teams.
- **Intervention:** Monthly audit and feedback reports about key coordination behaviors combined with structured, facilitated team debriefings
- **Outcome Measures:** appointments starting on time, timely recall scheduling, ER utilization, electronic patient portal utilization, patient education, clinical reminders, patient satisfaction and overall coordination.
- **Predictors:** time, study condition (control vs. experimental), amount of exposure to intervention, and extent of assignment to multiple teams

Aim 1

**DEVELOPING MEASURABLE  
COORDINATION CRITERIA**



# The Productivity Measurement and Enhancement System (ProMES)

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- Methodology from industrial/organizational psychology (Pritchard, Weaver & Ashwood, 2011)
  - Structured focus group approach to develop focused performance metrics
  - Periodic and adaptive feedback of current and historical performance on developed metrics
- Based on motivational theory (Naylor, Pritchard, & Ilgen, 1980)
- Addresses integrating conditions of team-based coordination: common understanding, predictability, and accountability
- Has been shown to successfully improve performance in health care settings ( $d = .78$ ) (Pritchard et al. 2009)

# Overview of the ProMES Process

1. Design and Advisory Teams

2. Objectives

3. Indicators

4. Contingencies

5. Feedback Reports

6. Feedback Meetings

7. Periodically Review Systems



# Coordination Objectives and Indicators

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## **Obj. 1 - Support and foster veteran engagement in their wellness by being patient-centered**

- Rate at which recall reminders are completed within 7-day window of the desired date
- Percent of current PACT patients using ER for primary care issues
- Percent of patients enrolled in secure messaging
- Utilization rate for patient education offerings

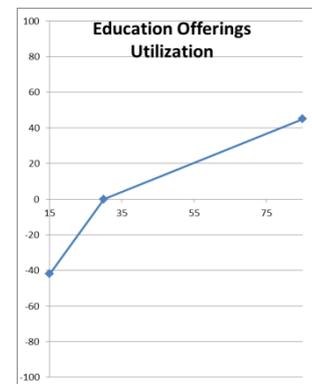
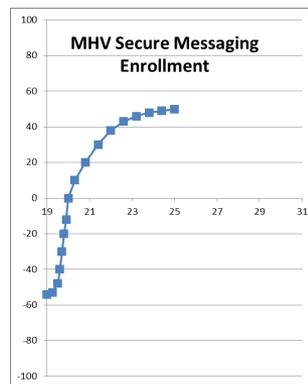
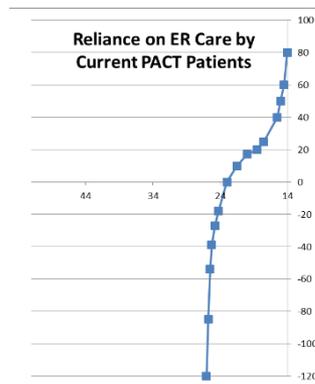
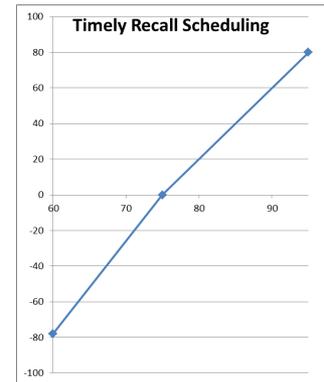
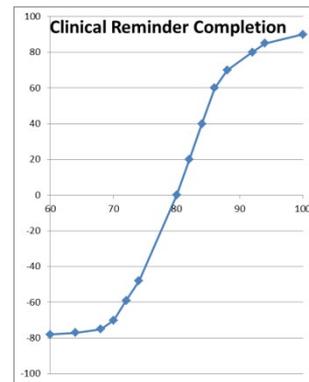
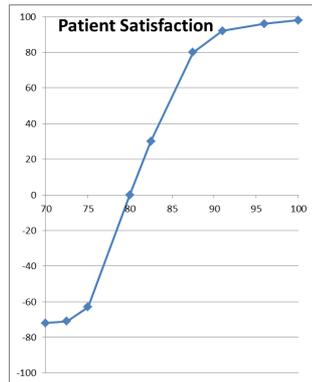
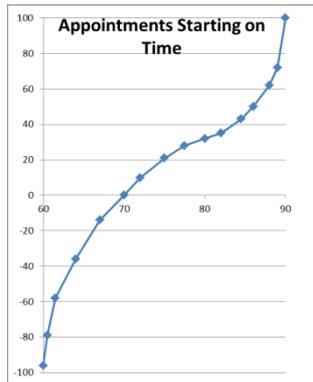
## **Obj. 2 - Ensure Quality and Efficient Care is Provided to the Veteran**

- Percent of appointments starting on time
- Average overall patient satisfaction score
- Percent of “Due Now” clinical reminders completed on time



# Focusing on the right priorities

Steeper slope and higher maximum effectiveness score indicate the top priorities



Aim 2

**AUDIT AND FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE  
COORDINATION**



# Methods

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- **Participants:** 68 primary care teams at four VA outpatient healthcare facilities (34 in experimental group, 34 administrative controls)
- **Primary outcome measure:** Performance on coordination indicators created by design team
- **Procedure:** experimental group teams received monthly feedback reports of coordination indicators, followed by monthly 15-20 minute structured debriefs; control groups followed passively.
- **Data analysis:** Growth curve modeling

# Theory and Evidence-Based Design of Audit and Feedback Interventions

- Followed best practices on audit and feedback intervention design based on Feedback Intervention Theory (Kluger & DeNisi, 1996)
- Consistent with current advances in theory and evidence of feedback design



Goal Setting



Nature of Task & Available Data

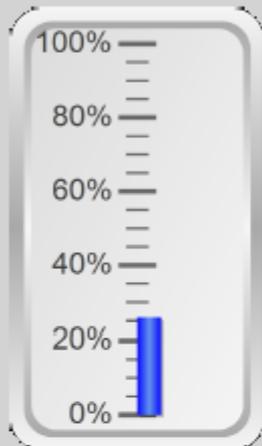


Feedback Display



Feedback Delivery

### Bird's Eye View



Coordination overall this period: 26%

### Help Me Improve

Ideas from last Meeting

Ideas for Next Period

Coordination Resources

### Show Me More

Overview for this Period

Indicator Detail

History

Priorities for Next Period

### How Are We Doing?



Reliance on ER Care by Current PACT Patients



Appointments Starting on Time



Education Offerings Utilization



New Patient Orientation Utilization

# PACT Coordination Debriefs

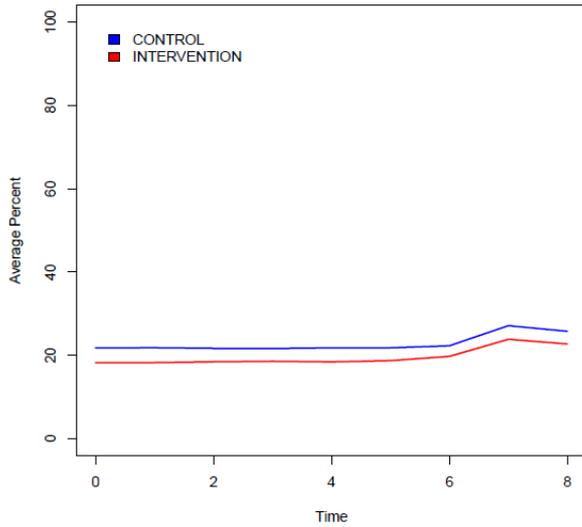
<p>1. What 1-2 things can we commit to START doing over the next month?</p> 	<p>Responsible Party _____</p>	<p>Responsible Party: _____</p>
<p>2. What 2 things can we commit to STOP doing over the next month?</p> 	<p>Responsible Party: _____</p>	<p>Responsible Party: _____</p>
<p>3. What 2 things can we commit to CONTINUE doing over the next month?</p> 	<p>Responsible Party: _____</p>	<p>Responsible Party: _____</p>

Huddle Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Team ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Facilitator name: \_\_\_\_\_

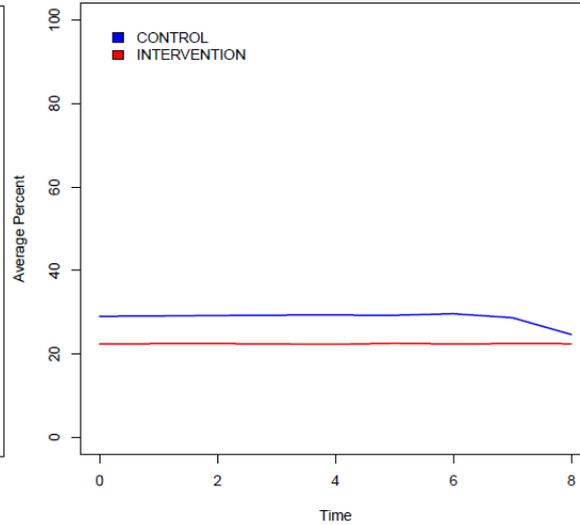


# Results...

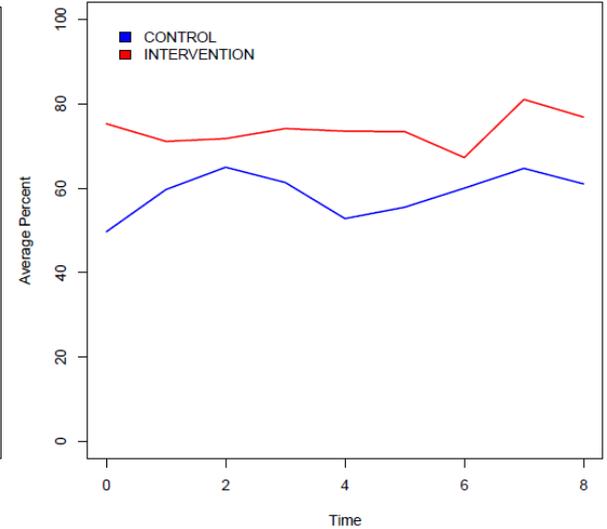
ER Utilization



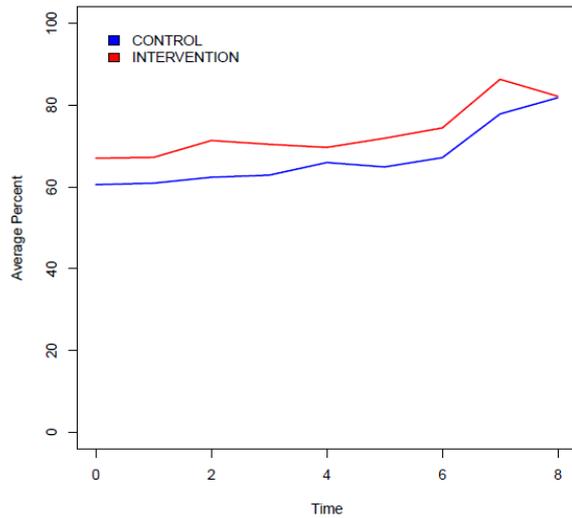
MyHealthE-Vet Enrollment



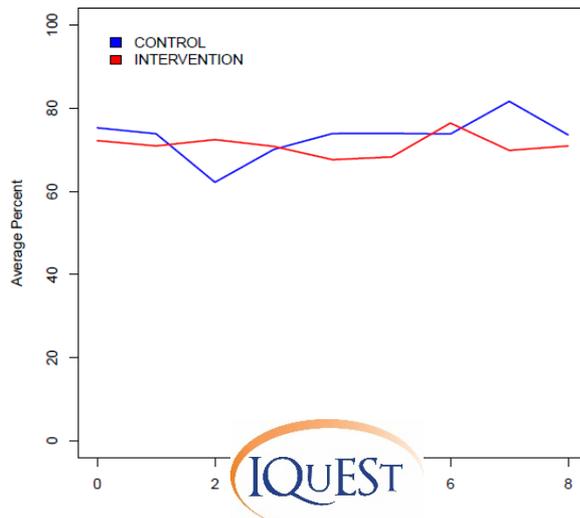
Patient Education



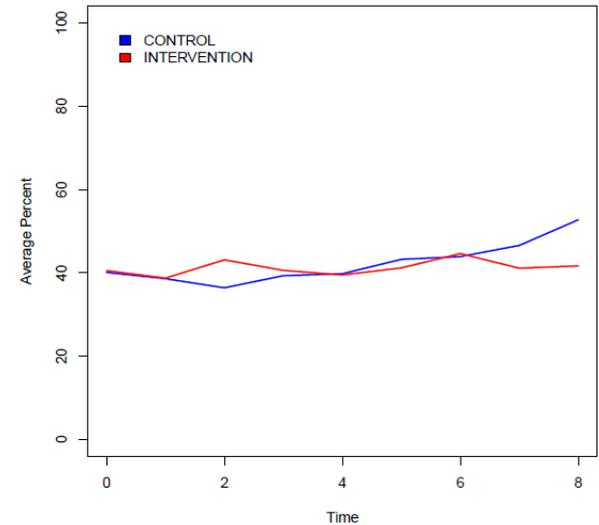
Appointments Starting on Time



Timely Recall Scheduling



Overall Coordination



# A Matter of Degree

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- “Degree” of Intervention
  - Great variability across PACTs in number of facilitations attended (i.e. 1-7)
  - 50% of PACTs in intervention group attended 3 or fewer facilitations
  - ProMES recommends a minimum of 12 “doses” before improvement is observed
- Degree as a configural property of PACTs
  - Degree: the number of PACTs to which a member of a given PACT is assigned
  - Average PACT degree:
    - Intervention: 5.20 (1.24)
    - Control: 4.16 (0.58)
  - Yet some PACTs did not perform as their degree might predict... why?

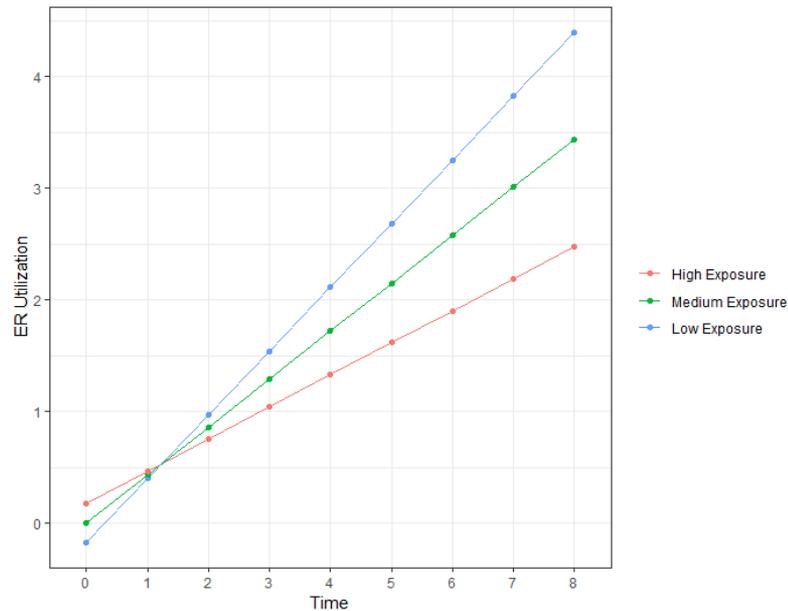
# Subgroup analyses of intervention sites

Predictor/Moderator	Outcome	b (SE)	p
<b>Predictor #1: Total Exposure</b>			
Total Exposure	ER Utilization	0.11 (0.06)	0.09
Time	ER Utilization	0.43 (0.10)	<0.0001
Total Exposure x Time	ER Utilization	-.09(0.03)	0.002
<b>Predictor #2: Rate of Exposure</b>			
Total Exposure	Clinical Reminders	-0.16 (0.10)	0.11
Time	Clinical Reminders	-0.14 (0.18)	0.46
Total Exposure x Time	Clinical Reminders	.14(.006)	0.01
<b>Predictor #2: Rate of Exposure</b>			
Exposure Rate	Coordination Composite	0.00 (0.00)	0.8
Time	Coordination Composite	-0.01 (0.01)	0.17
Exposure Rate x Time	Coordination Composite	0.01 (0.00)	0.016
<b>Predictor #4: Multiple team membership</b>			
Multiple Team Membership	My Health E Vet	-0.05 (0.05)	0.39
Time	My Health E Vet	-0.64 (0.12)	<0.0001
Multiple team membership x Time	My Health E Vet	0.13 (0.02)	<0.0001

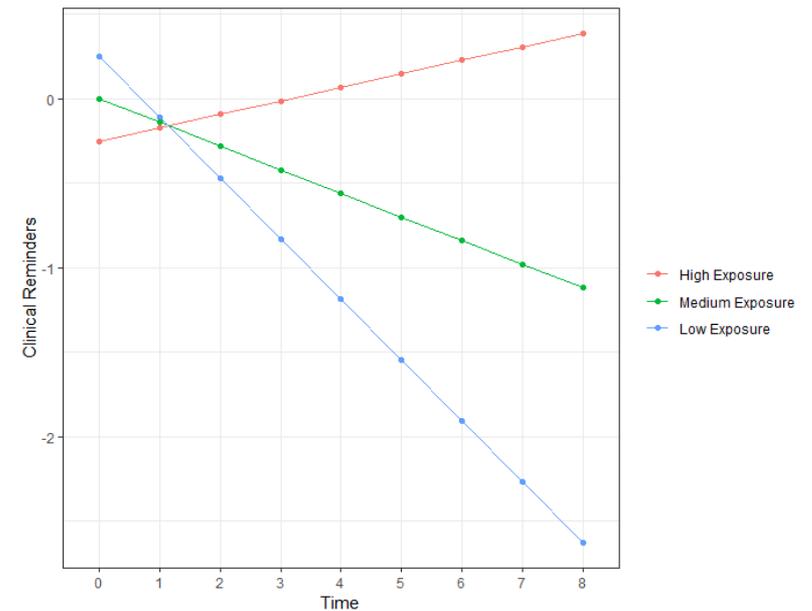


# Groups improved on key outcomes, given sufficient exposure to the intervention

## ER Utilization

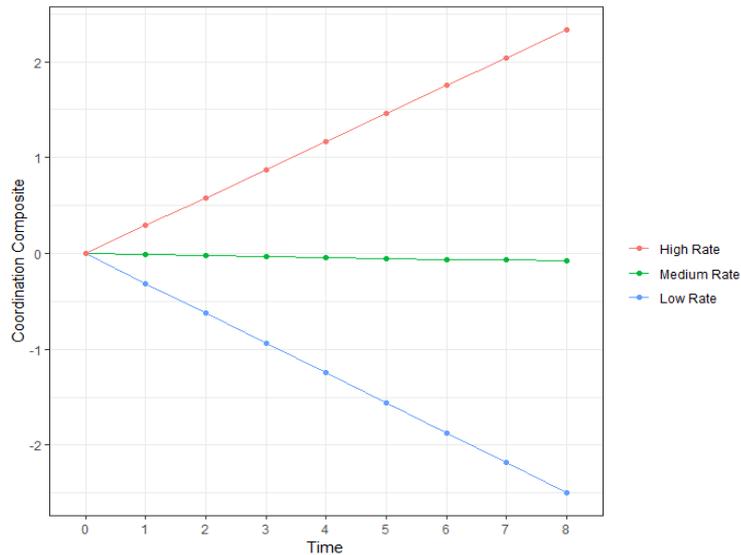


## Clinical Reminders

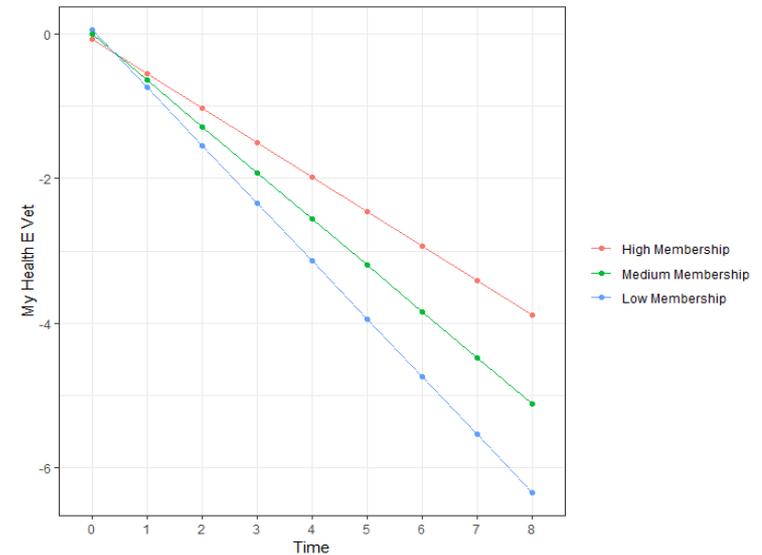


# Multiple team membership was detrimental to improvement

## Coordination Composite



## My Health-E Vet Utilization



# Poll Question #2

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- When researching or implementing interventions in teams, what is your biggest barrier?
  - Onboarding enough participants
  - Keeping participants engaged
  - Losing people along the way
  - Maintaining the intervention (sustainability)
  - Something else

# Methodological Challenges in Coordination and Teams Research



## Team Recruitment

- Recruiting enough of the team
- Recruiting the right subset of the team



## Team Attrition

- Losing the entire team
- How much of the team do you need to lose?



## Team Member Turnover

- Losing members altogether
- Replacing members
- Members moving to another team



## Intervention Dose Strength

- Dosing enough of the team
- Dosing consistency over time



## Measurement of Coordination Constructs

- Gaps in measure availability
- Quality of available measures



## Other Challenges

- Coercion potential
- Confounding potential

# Challenges and Solutions

Challenge	Solution
Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inclusion criteria: at least 2 members, each from a different role</li></ul>
Attrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adapted delivery of intervention to fit into clinic workflow</li><li>• Continued contact with participants</li><li>• Attendance tracking</li></ul>
Dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adapted delivery of intervention to fit into clinic workflow</li><li>• Included attendance as covariate in analyses</li></ul>
Multi-team Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivered intervention at the clinic, rather than team level</li><li>• Included average degree as covariate in analyses</li></ul>

# Lessons from the Field

## Disconnect between design team and debriefing PACTs

- DT concerned with time commitment of debriefing phase, thus did not participate
- Debriefing PACTs not involved in development, thus:
  - Difficult to understand indicator relationships to coordination
  - Desire for PACTs to select their own indicators

## Lack of expertise and/or time to generate feedback reports

- 5 of 7 indicators not available in current VSSC or similar reports
- Generating the CREATE to Coordinate feedback report requires SAS and SQL-level programming skill
- Sites lacked the personnel with the requisite skill set and time availability for generating feedback report

## Portions of the report were confusing

- Contingency curves were hard to understand and therefore time-consuming to use
- Relationships between individual indicators and overall composite not clear

# So What Have We Learned... Overall?

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- Many of O&B's constructs are present in health care settings, and all are necessary for good coordination to happen
- Feedback to teams must be designed with teams in mind: PACTs need time and space in their work to process and reflect on the feedback
- Coordination interventions need to be adapted to the individual context, and reach their intended recipients consistently.
- More research is needed to solve the methodological challenges of team-based and coordination research.

Implementing ProMES in PACT Settings:

# **THE REFLECT PROJECT**



# Implementation Supplement

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- 2-years, competitively awarded by HSR&D
- Aims:
  - Conduct handoff activities to VISN 12 and 16 partners for generating feedback reports.
  - Provide “train-the-trainer” training to sites interested in implementing CRE 12-035’s audit-and-feedback intervention past the end of the research study
  - Conduct a formative and summative evaluation of the implementation of this intervention at each site

# Contact Information



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# For Further Reading (Coordination)

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# BACKUP SLIDES

Intervention

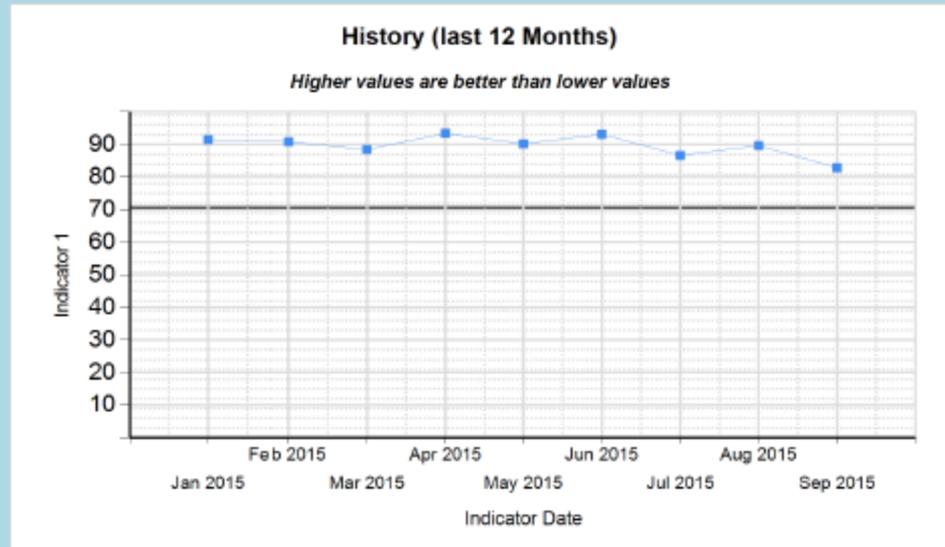
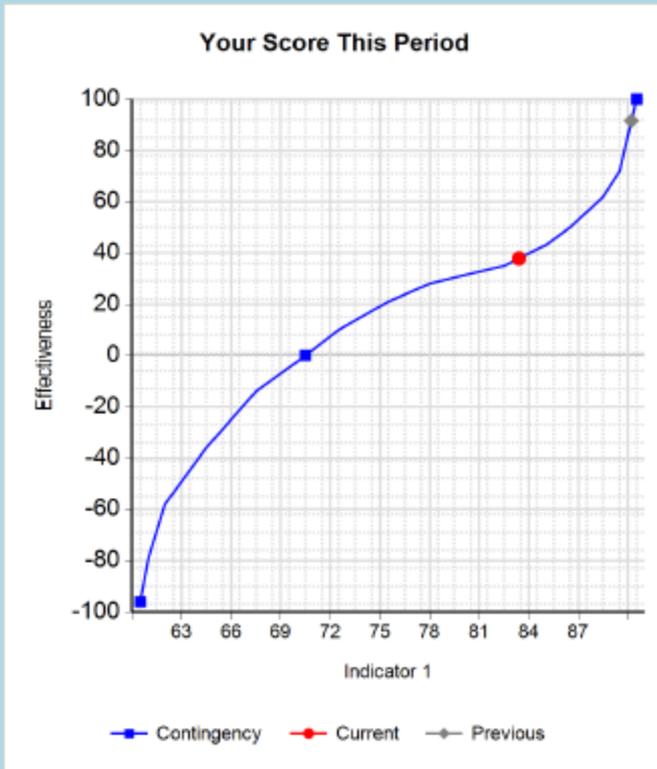
# **FEEDBACK REPORT SCREENSHOTS**



# Indicator 1 Detail

Appointments Starting on Time

September, 2015

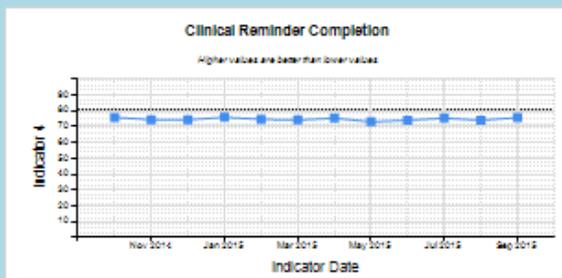
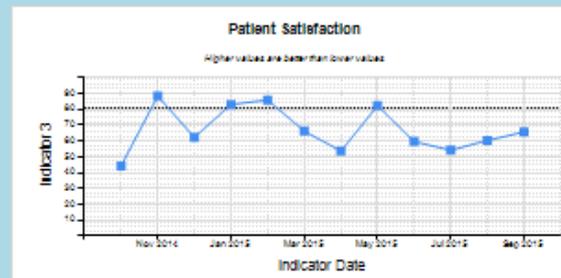
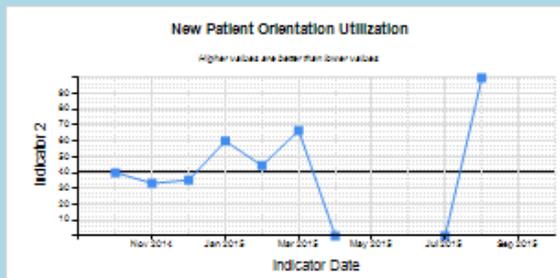


Previous

Next

### Show Me More

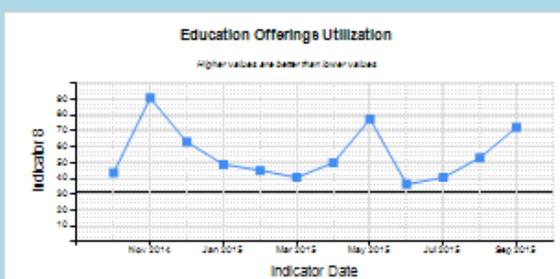
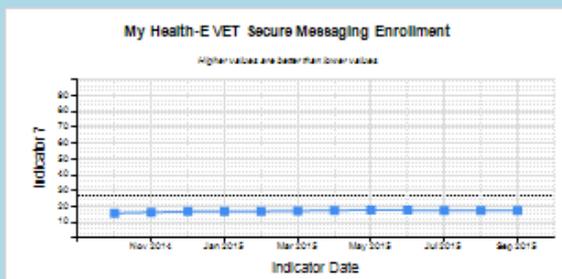
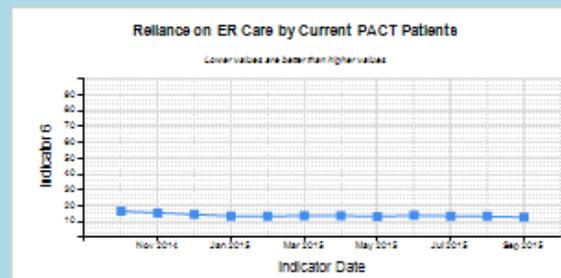
Coordination Console	Overview for this Period
History	Priorities for Next Period



### Timely Recall Scheduling

Higher values are better than lower values

No Data Available



Coordination Console

Indicator Overview

Indicator Detail

Priorities for Next Period



# Coordination Indicator Overview

PACT UG 01\*WH\*

September, 2015

Indicator Name	Previous Period		Current Period		Change from Previous Period	
	Indicator Value	Effectiveness	Indicator Value	Effectiveness	Indicator	Effectiveness
Reliance on ER Care by Current PACT Patients	20.3	80.0	20.9	80.0	0.6	0.0
Appointments Starting on Time	89.7	91.6	82.9	37.9	-6.8	-53.7
Education Offerings Utilization	24.0	-16.8	58.3	23.2	34.3	40.0
New Patient Orientation Utilization	10.0	-90.0	42.9	4.7	32.9	94.7
My Health-E VET Secure Messaging Enrollment	19.2	-54.0	18.9	-54.0	-0.3	0.0
Clinical Reminder Completion			72.8	-54.6		
Patient Satisfaction	60.4	-72.0	65.7	-72.0	5.3	0.0

Coordination  
Console

History Detail

Indicator Detail

Priorities for Next  
Period

