



Director of Observation Services

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- Unique Perspective
 - Will always be an 'ER Doc', but...
 - New insight into the world 'upstairs'
- ED Observation Units (EDOU) increasing rapidly
 - >35% w/ dedicated EDOU, 66% of academic programs
 - >50% administered by E.D. & growing
 - 10% required rotation/25% electives
 - Quasi floor experience-leads to better knowledge and decisions
- Type 1 Units
 - 23% 38% decreased LOS
 - 17% 44% decreased admit rate
 - Lower rates of missed MI's (4.5% vs o.4%)
 - 5.5 8.5 billion savings/year (27-42%)
 - Better outcomes/satisfaction/resource utilization
 - Cost generally not greater to patient (denied admit expensive!)
 - Watch unnecessary meds
 - 30 day re-admits/ACO's

Table 1
Settings for Observation Services*

Type 1

Type 2

Dedicated OU; protocol-driven care
Dedicated OU; discretionary care
Type 3

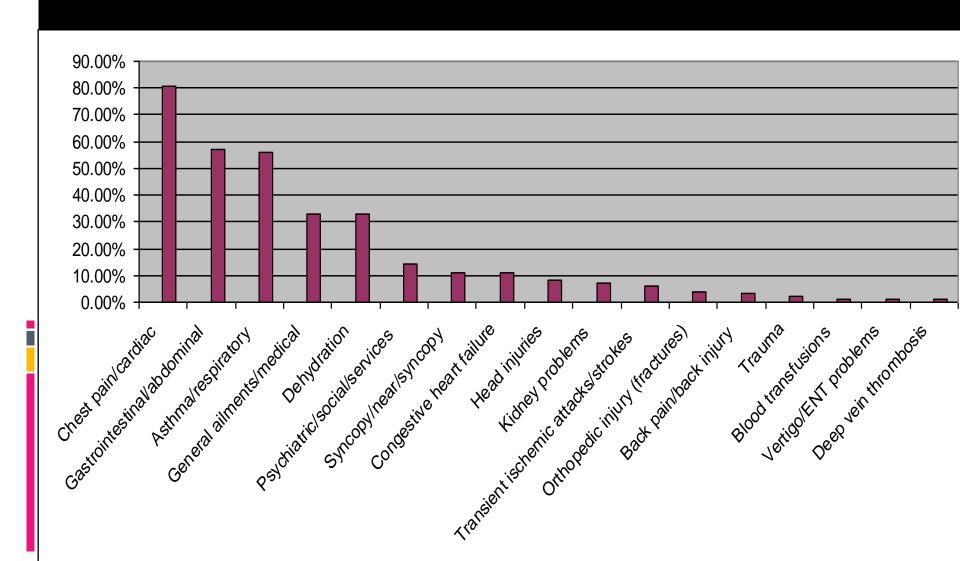
Bed in any location; protocol-driven care
Bed in any location; discretionary care

OU= observation unit. *Source: Ross et al. 13

- Goal: LOS >8 hrs but <24 (15?) (>8hrs in 1 calendar day)
- Open versus Closed (3T vs CDU)
- Provider Staffing
 - Physician/MLP
- Protocols
 - Order Sets
- Typical Workload
 - H&P (FH)
 - Progress Note
 - Discharge Summary
- Accurate Times

- Nursing 'buy in' to rapid turn around
 Nurses very happy to have physicians readily availableNursing now integrated between 3T,CDU and the E.D.
- Resource Commitment from Hospital (gaming the system)
 - Transport

 - Radiology Ancillary Tests
 - Expedited test results and consults



ED Model: Original Harper CDU

Abd. Pain, AICD, Allergic Rx, Anemia, Asthma, A fibrillation, Cellulitis, Chest Pain, CHF, COPD, DVT, Dehydration, Dilantin toxicity., Electrolyte Abnormalities, GI Bleed, Headache, Hyperemesis, Hyperglycemia, Hypertensive Urgency, Hypoglycemia, Missed Dialysis, PEG tube replacement, PID, Pharyngitis/Peri-tonsillar Abscess, Pneumonia, Pyelonephritis, Renal Colic, Seizures, SVT, Syncope, TIA, Vertigo

Everything Model: DRH 3T (and now CDU)

- Previous 32 diagnoses, plus everything else that doesn't meet Interqual/Admit criteria & many potential 30 day readmits; plus social issues (DRH)
- (Thank God for internists in 3T)
- E.D. physicians bring trauma experience and 'ER Mentality" to the table
- 2nd & 3rd year elective opportunity

- CDU-2016
 - 3,211 Patients
 - 16 Beds/Staffing
 - Discharges: 18 hrs 28'
 - Upgrades: 16 hrs 47'
 - Upgrade Rate: 25.9%
 - LOS>24hrs 20%
 - LOS>48hrs 1%
 - % of all Observation Patients: 95%

- 3T-2016
 - 4,997 Patients
 - 24++beds/Staffing
 - Discharges: 23 hrs 47' *
 - Upgrades: 24hrs *
 - Upgrade Rate: 23.4%
 - LOS>24hrs 38.3%
 - LOS>48hrs 5.5%
 - * Despite huge 'social admit' issues

Consult the Wiki



- ASTHMA
- Condition-Specific Guidelines
- Transfer Criteria
- Intermediate response to therapy in ED
- Acceptable VS
- PEFR (peak flow) 40–70% predicted (or personal best) after nebulized treatments
- Nebulized treatments plus steroids given in ED
- Unremarkable chest x-ray
- ED management for ≥ 2 hours

Exclusion Criteria

- Unstable VS (RR > 40)
- Poor response to initial ED therapy
- o Impending respiratory fatigue persistent accessory muscle use, poor air exchange
- o Depressed mental status
- o O2 Sat < 92% on RA (unless chronic hypoxia)
- o PEFR < 40% predicted or personal best
- o Elevated pCO2 > 50, decreased pH < 7.30 (if ABG done)
- Suspicion of ACS or ECG changes (if done)
- Abnormal chest x-ray pneumonia, new onset CHF
- Toxic theophylline level
- Bronchospasm due to epiglottitis, aspiration, or foreign body

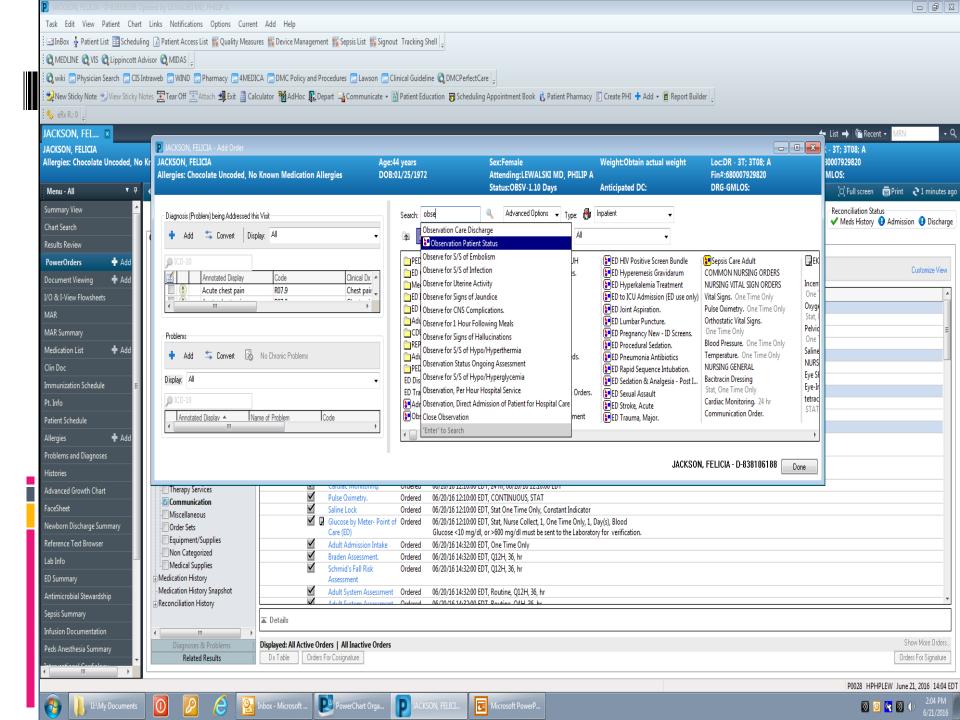
More and more like the floor Things I've learned

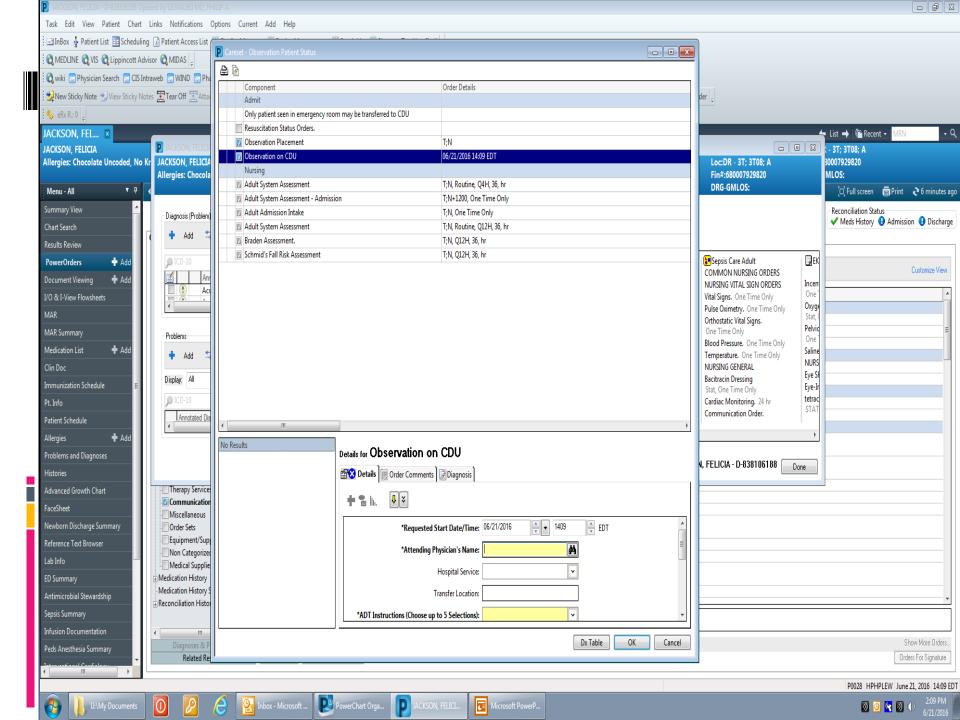
- Timely ED Dictations
- Sign Out
- Critical Orders on Boarded Patients
 - Diabetic PEER Cases
- Everyone's Busy!
 - (But not necessarily on time...)
- Medication Reconciliation/Medication Lists!!

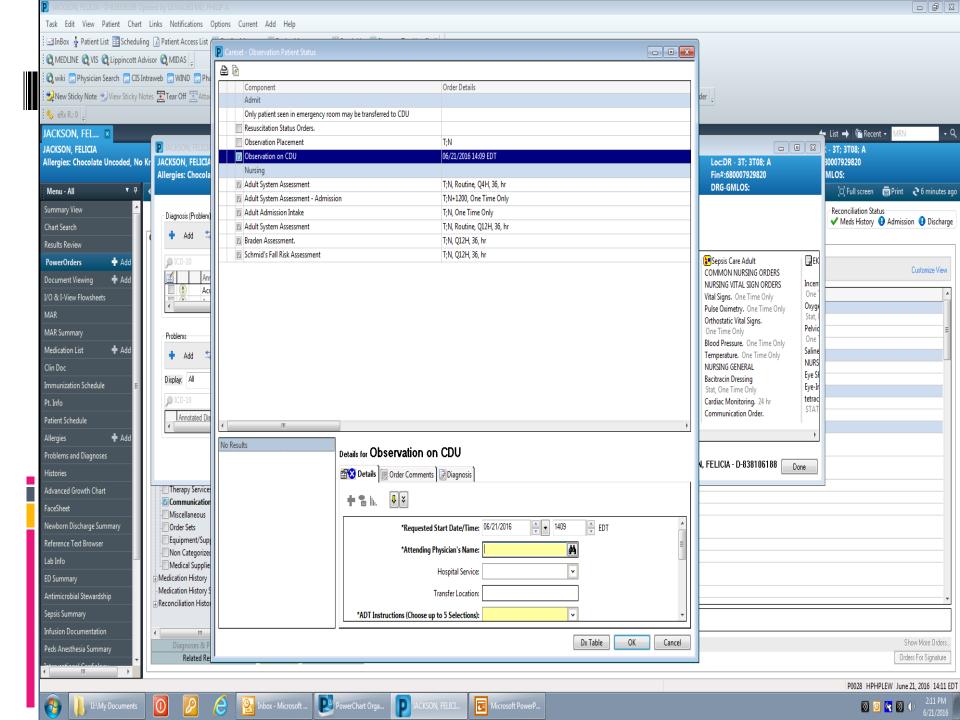
Things I' ve learned

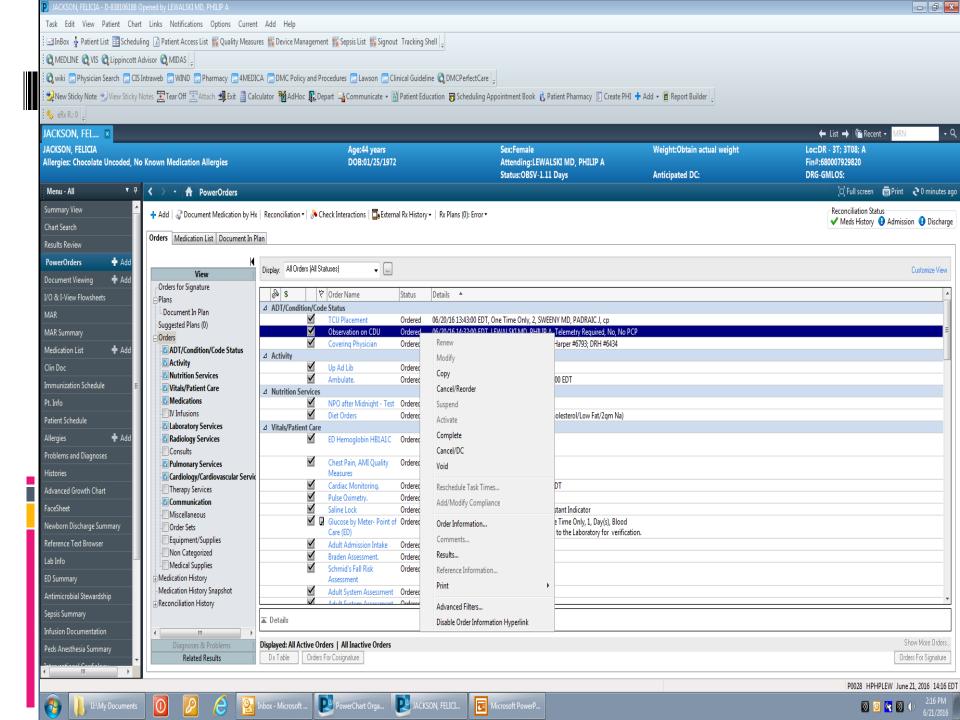
- Careful what you tell patients
 - Leads to unrealistic expectations
- Social Work/Case Managers more blunt than us!
 - And many times do not have what the patient wants/demands
- Don't be a Triage Doctor (my pet peeve)
 - Can't always have diagnosis, but try not to be too robotic

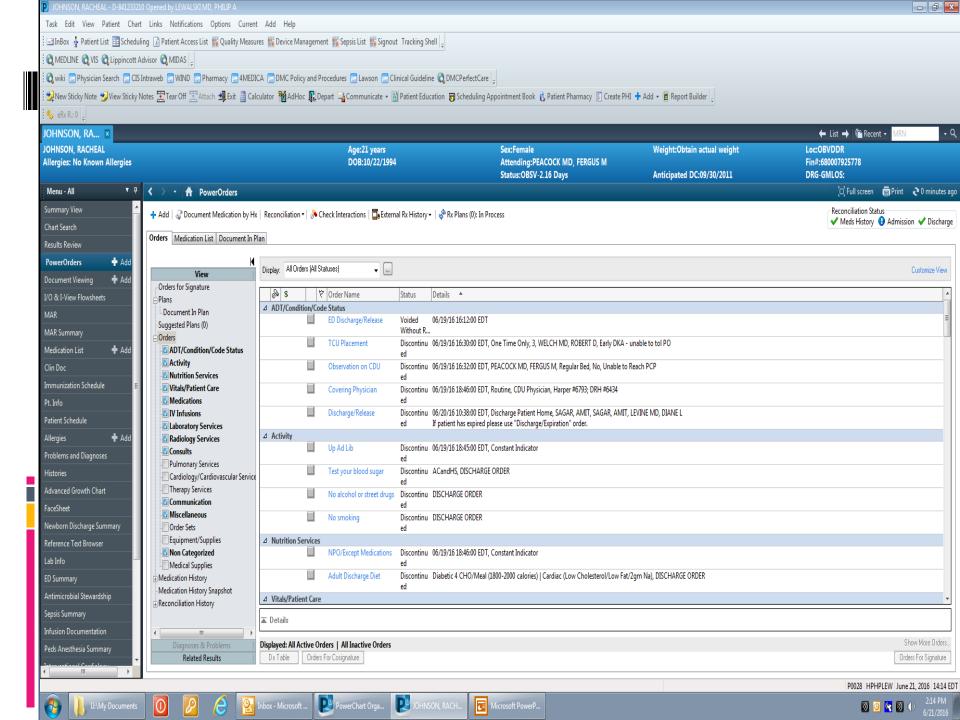
- And now...the bad news:
 - Tenet/DMC new direction
 - Mid November??
 - Observation Admission Orders and Cancellations
 - Still important for the time being
 - Or-check the wiki or call the observation physician











The Future

Observation Units are a high growth area

Elective—still??

Follow Up emails/lectures from 3T—yes

ED "safety net" of Health Care
EDOU "safety net" of ED

Dissection..x 2