

# Addressing EHR-related Burnout at CAMH

25 January 2021

camh



## AGENDA

---

1

About CAMH &  
The I-CARE Journey

2

Practical  
Recommendations  
for Reducing EHR-  
Related Burnout

3

Physician  
Engagement  
Strategy

# 1

## About CAMH

Dr. Gillian Strudwick

Chief Nurse Executive (Interim) & Independent Scientist  
Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute &  
Information Management Group

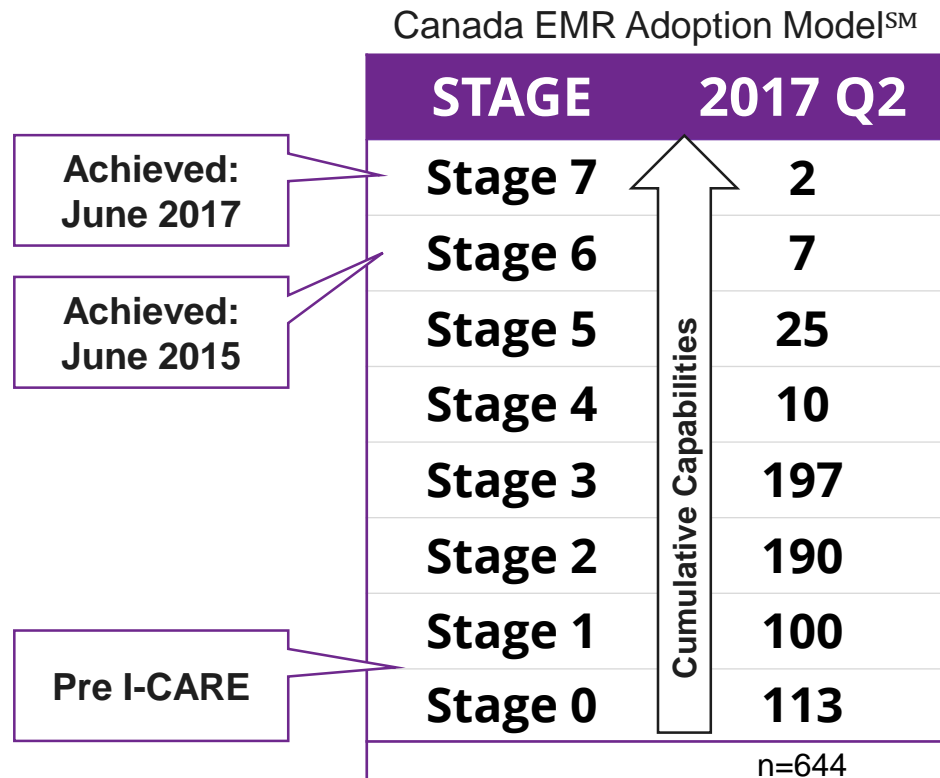
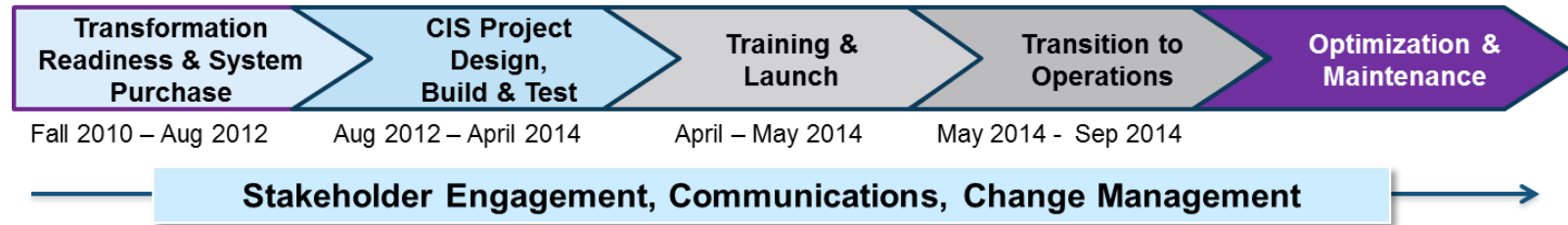
camh

# CAMH - Health redefined.



- Largest mental health and addictions hospital in Canada
- University of Toronto - affiliated teaching hospital
- World leader in brain science
- 3 main sites with 30+ locations
- 90 distinct services between an emergency department, inpatient, outpatient, day treatment and partial hospitalization models

# I-CARE Journey



## Key (Difficult) Requirements:

- Paperless clinical environment (<1% documentation created on paper)
- **Closed Loop Medication Administration and CPOE rates sustained above 95% and 90% respectively**
- **Demonstrated use of clinical data to improve quality of care and patient safety over a 1 year period**
- Demonstrated use of data to achieve financial savings
- Advanced clinical decision support
- All external documentation scanned within 24h

# 2

## Practical Recommendations for Reducing EHR-Related Burnout

Brian Lo

Research Analyst & Doctoral Student  
Information Management Group & Office of the  
CMIO

Dr. Gillian Strudwick

Chief Nurse Executive (Interim) & Independent Scientist  
Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute &  
Information Management Group

camh



# Background

## Electronic health records contributing to physician burnout

Roger Collier

CMAJ November 13, 2017 189 (45) E1405-E1406; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.109-5522>



Original Investigation | Health Informatics

### Association of Electronic Health Record Design and Use Factors With Clinician Stress and Burnout

Multicenter Study

> [Mayo Clin Proc.](#) 2019 May;94(5):793-802. doi: 10.1016/j.mayocp.2018.08.036.

Harry Veres, MD; Stewart Babbott, MD; Sara Poplau, BA; Fares Qeadan, PhD; Carolyn Parshall, MPH;

Epub 2019 Feb 26.

### Optimization Sprints: Improving Clinician Satisfaction and Teamwork by Rapidly Reducing Electronic Health Record Burden

Amber Sieja<sup>1</sup>, Katie Markley<sup>2</sup>, Jonathan Pell<sup>1</sup>, Christine Gonzalez<sup>3</sup>, Brian Redig<sup>3</sup>,  
Patrick Kneeland<sup>1</sup>, Chen-Tan Lin<sup>4</sup>

# Methods

Objective: Review the **current initiatives and strategies** aimed at combatting EHR-related burnout and achieving the quadruple aim among multiple clinician groups, and what **recommendations** may be derived for the Canadian context.

## Search Strategy

- Articles related to burnout and EHR usage
- Indexed in Embase, Medline, PsycInfo
- Published from 2014-2019



## Screening

- 286 articles identified for title/abstract screening (Inter-rater kappa = 0.95)
- 63 articles identified for full-text screening



## Data Extraction

- Demographics Information
- Statistics on burnout and EHR usage
- Interventions and outcomes
- Notable points of discussion



## Results: Demographics of Included Articles

**50** articles included for analysis

**84%** of articles published between 2017 – 2019

**24%** of articles were editorials or commentaries

**98%** of articles were published in the **US (n = 47), Canada (n = 2)**

Only **2 articles** were conducted in **psychiatric settings**

**62%** of articles (n = 34) examined EHR usage and burnout in **medical doctors**

# Results: Measuring EHR-Related Burden and Burnout

## Methodologies Employed



Surveys  
(n = 22)



Interviews  
(n = 4)



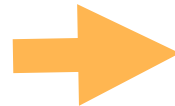
Usage Logs  
(n = 7)

## Statistics on Burnout and EHR Usage

Cross-section of

**24**

articles  
reporting  
current state



**25%**

of respondents reported  
symptoms of burnout

**70%**

of those reporting burnout  
attributed it to using health  
information technology,  
such as EHRs

Those who had  
symptoms of burnout  
often disagreed with  
others about the  
efficiency of EHR systems

## Results: Potential Interventions to Identify and Reduce Burnout



Education and  
Training  
(n = 3)



Additional  
Support  
(n = 5)



Interface  
Improvement  
(n = 6)

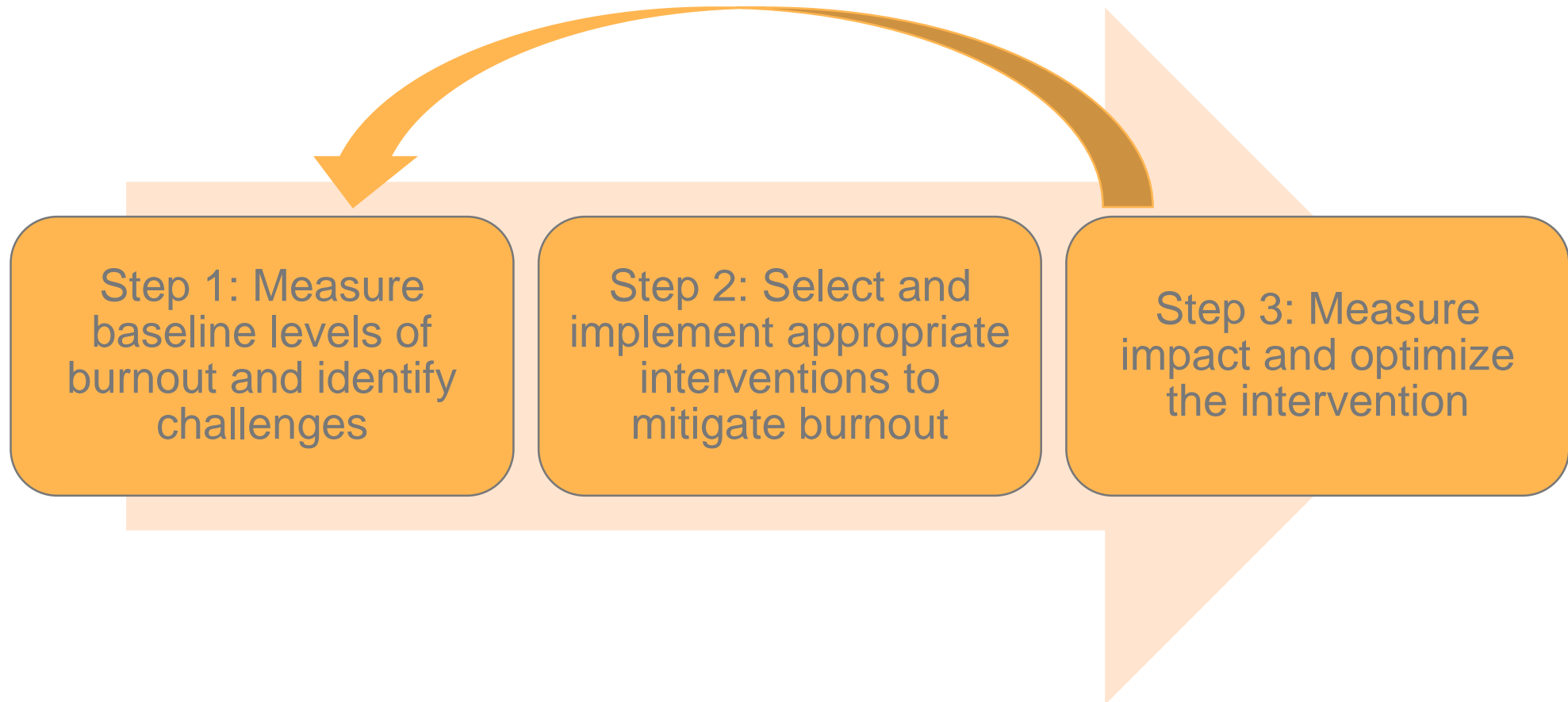


Communication  
Improvement  
(n = 1)

## Discussion

- The global adoption of EHR systems highlights the need to **examine burnout and EHR usage outside of the American context**
- Only **2 articles have focused on a mental health setting**, with one examining psychiatric residents and faculty<sup>2</sup>
  - The unique documentation demands of psychiatry warrants **further exploration** of using EHR systems in this domain
- Most of the literature has **focused on physician usage** of EHR systems, however, **other healthcare professionals** critical to mental health care delivery (e.g., nurses, social workers) should also be **supported in EHR usage**<sup>4</sup>
- There is a **paucity of evidence** surrounding effective techniques to identify and reduce burnout; identifying which **techniques** are **efficient** and **cost-effective** is critical to developing a toolkit **to support the increasingly advanced digital healthcare environment**<sup>4</sup>

## Recommendations



# 3

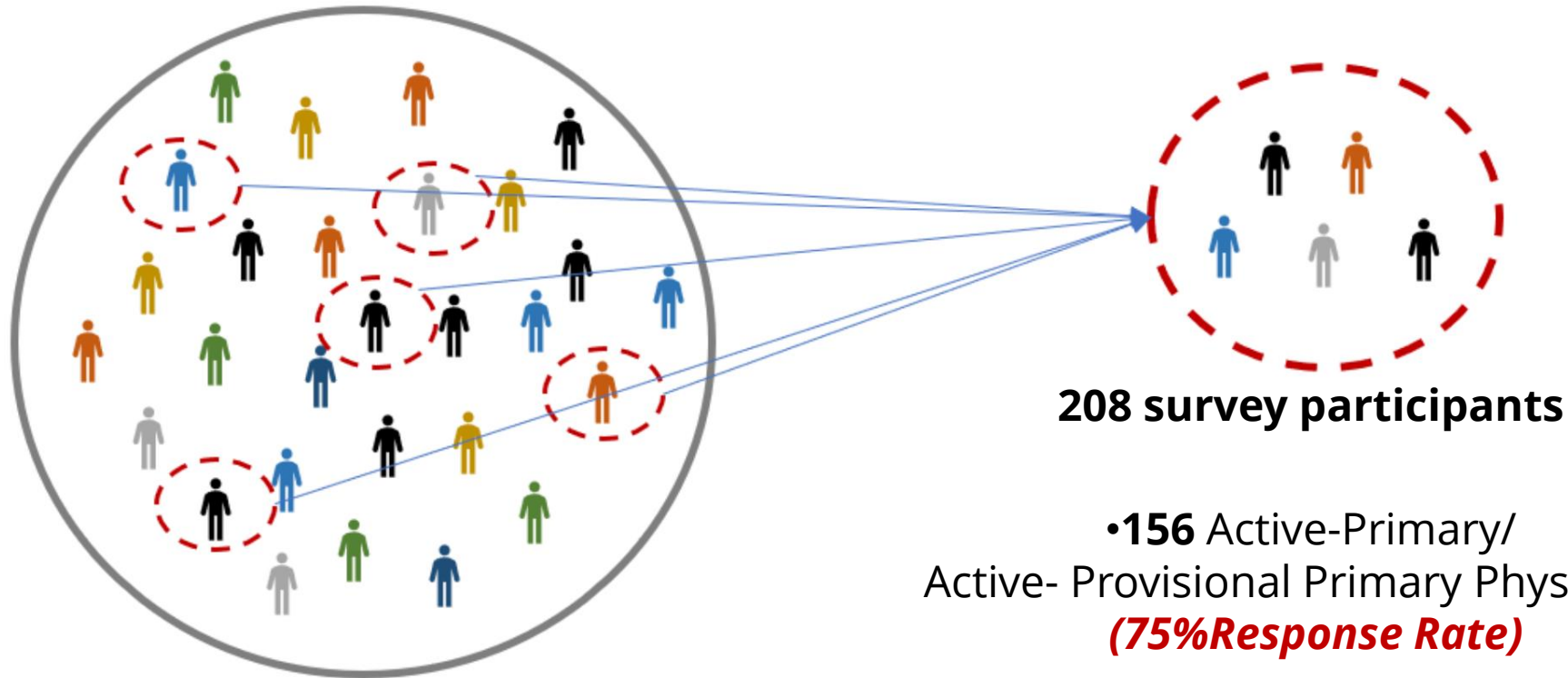
## CAMH Physician Engagement Strategy

Dr. Tania Tajirian

Chief Medical Information Officer  
Chief Medicine in Psychiatry Division

camh

## Benchmark Survey: Target population & sample



### 474 CAMH physicians and learners

- **208** Full-time physicians\*
- **199** Part-time physicians\*\*
- **67** Learners (53 residents, 14 fellows)

### 208 survey participants

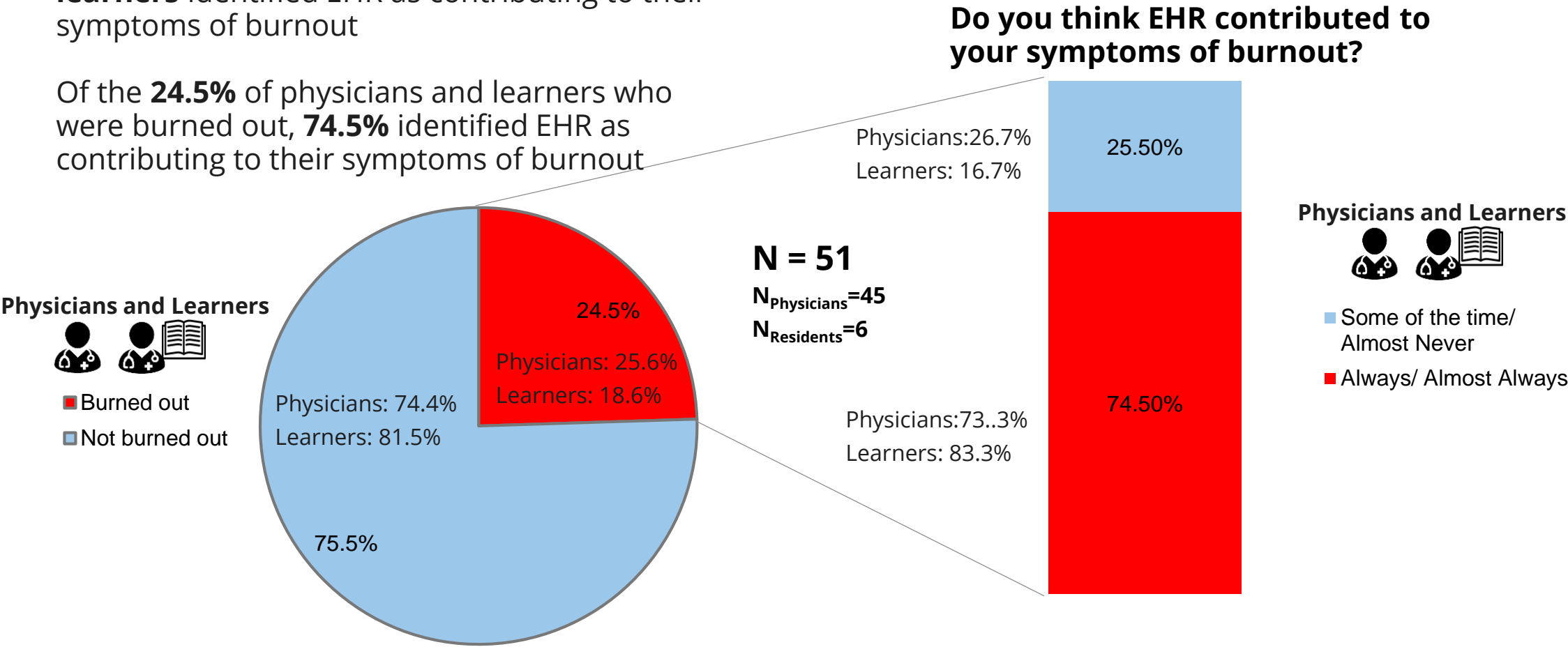
- **156** Active-Primary/  
Active- Provisional Primary Physicians\*  
**(75% Response Rate)**
- **20** Active- Primary Secondary/  
Active- Secondary/ Clinical Associate/  
Consultants/Courtesy\*\*  
**(10% Response Rate)**
- **32** Learners (Residents/ Fellows)  
**(47.8% Response Rate)**



# Benchmark Survey: Contribution of EHR to physician burnout

In total, **69.7% of physicians** and **68.8% of learners** identified EHR as contributing to their symptoms of burnout

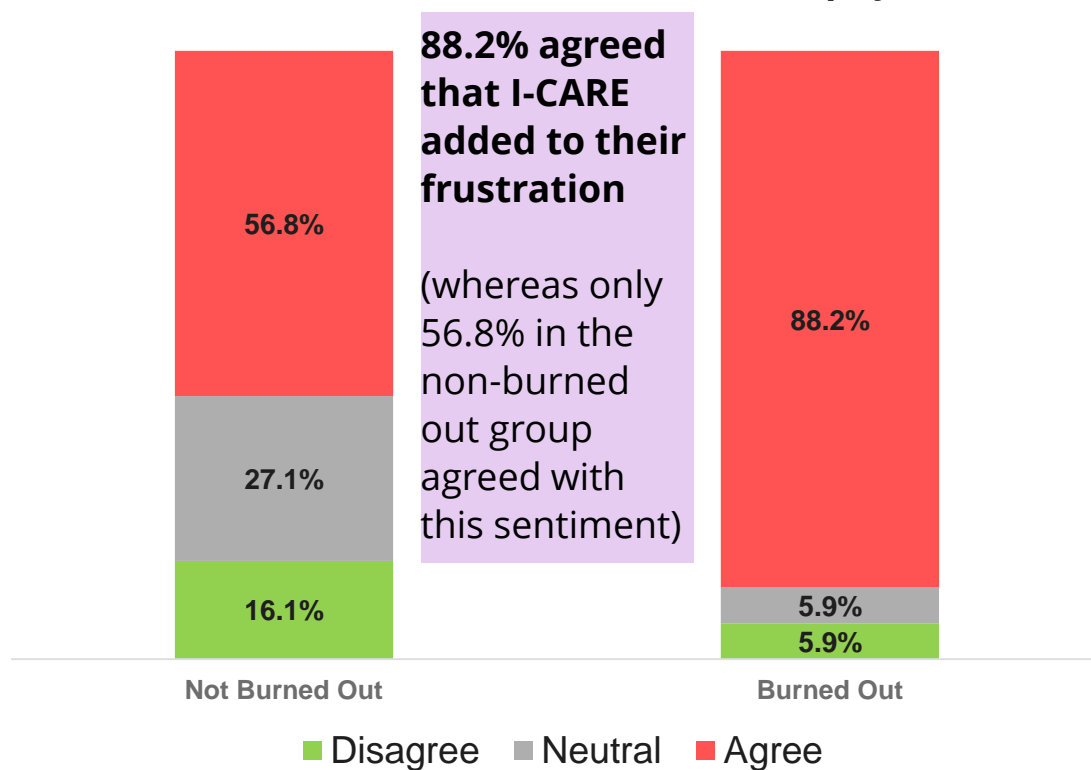
Of the **24.5%** of physicians and learners who were burned out, **74.5%** identified EHR as contributing to their symptoms of burnout



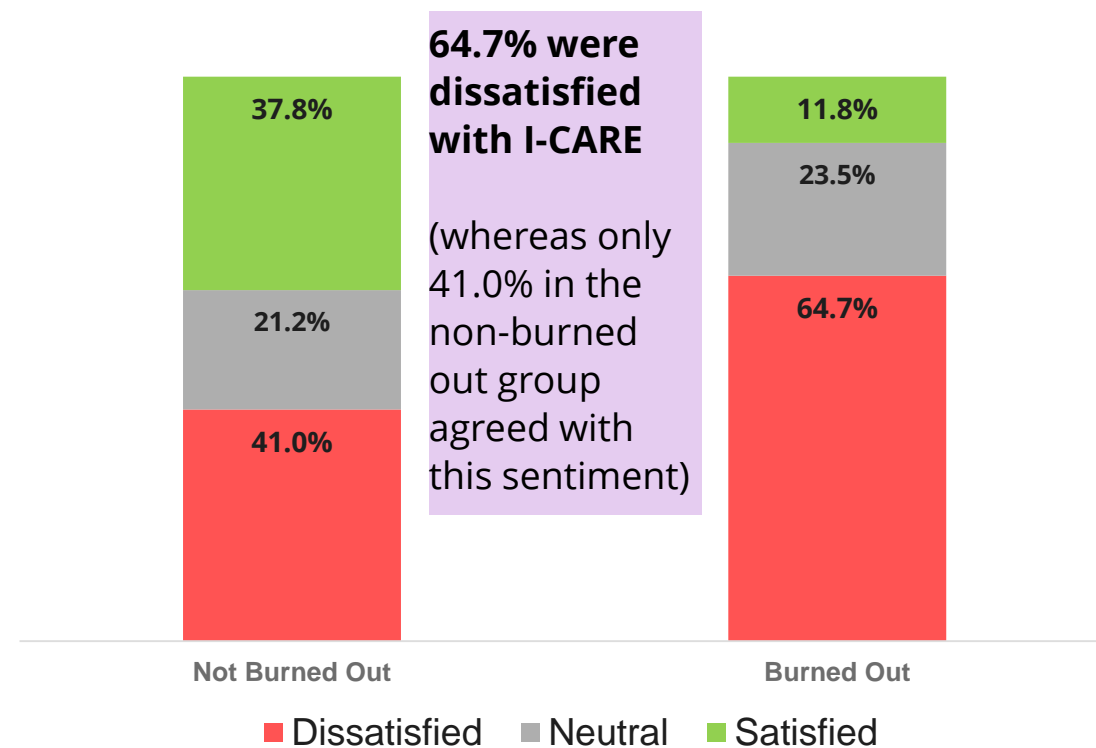
# Benchmark Survey: Significant contributors to physician burnout - Frustration and Satisfaction with EHR



Of those physicians and learners who were burned out



**EHR adds to my daily frustration**  
( $p < 0.001$ )

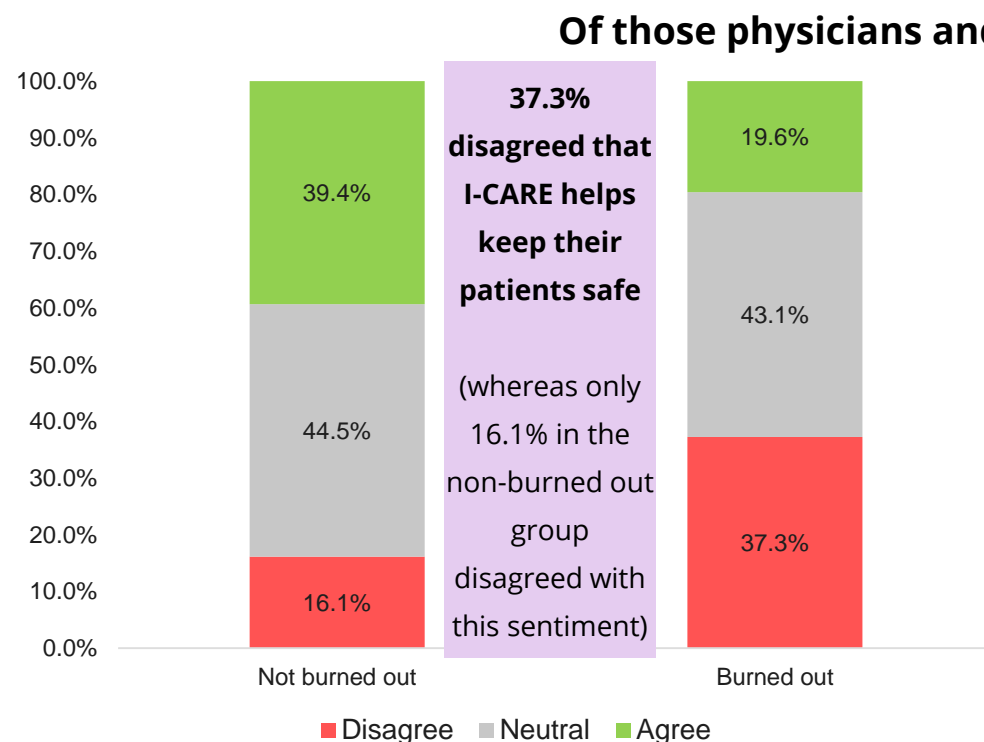


**How would you rate your satisfaction with EHR?**  
( $p < 0.001$ )



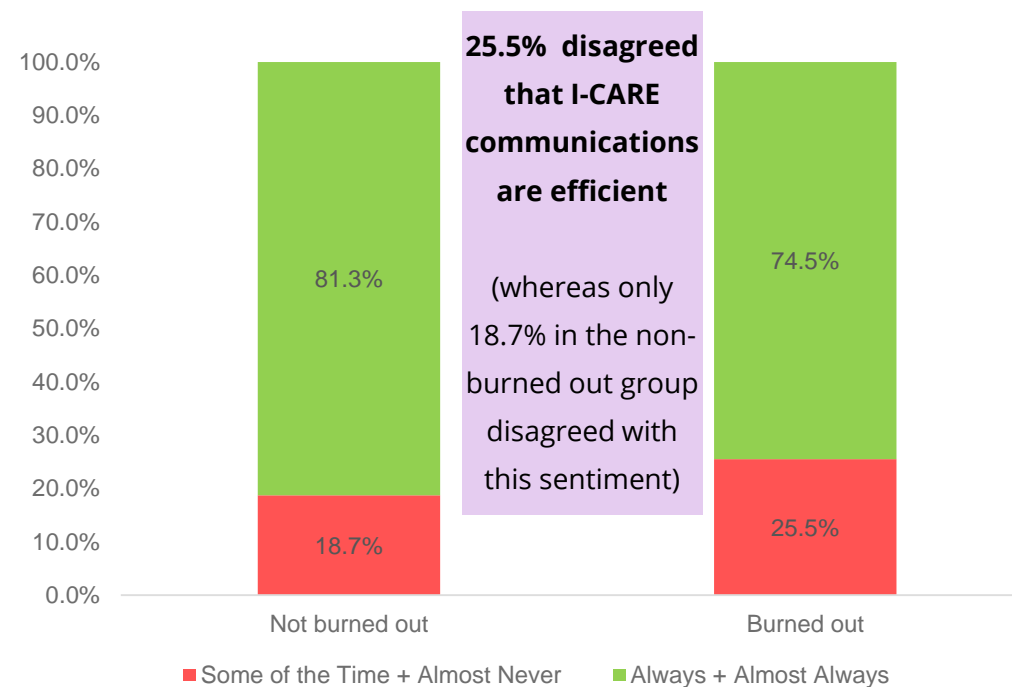
## Benchmark Survey: Other significant differences between participants who were burned out vs. not burned out

### Perceptions on I-CARE's usefulness



**EHR helps keep my patients safe  
( $p < 0.002$ )**

### Communication around I-CARE



**Do you feel communication regarding  
EHR changes are efficient?  
( $p < 0.047$ )**

# Benchmark Survey: Physicians' Experiences with EHR



## Themes amongst those participants with

### Low EHR Satisfaction

#### Usability:

"not intuitive",  
"not user friendly",  
"too many redundant tasks",  
"too many clicks"

#### Technical issues:

"system crashes",  
"have to log out and back in often"

#### Additional training:

"don't know any shortcuts", "forwarding notes is a great function and surprisingly underused"

#### Information retrieval:

"difficult to find documents",  
"info you need is buried"

#### System speed:

"unresponsive", "slow",  
"clunky",  
"takes away from time spent with patients"

#### Fixes:

"prompts for diagnosis hinders workflow",  
"dialogue boxes that cannot be dismissed"

### High EHR Satisfaction

#### Need for customization:

"I use my own templates, not EHR templates",  
"personal short cuts"

#### Workarounds:

"type long consult notes in word then copy into EHR",  
"enter appointments in my calendar"

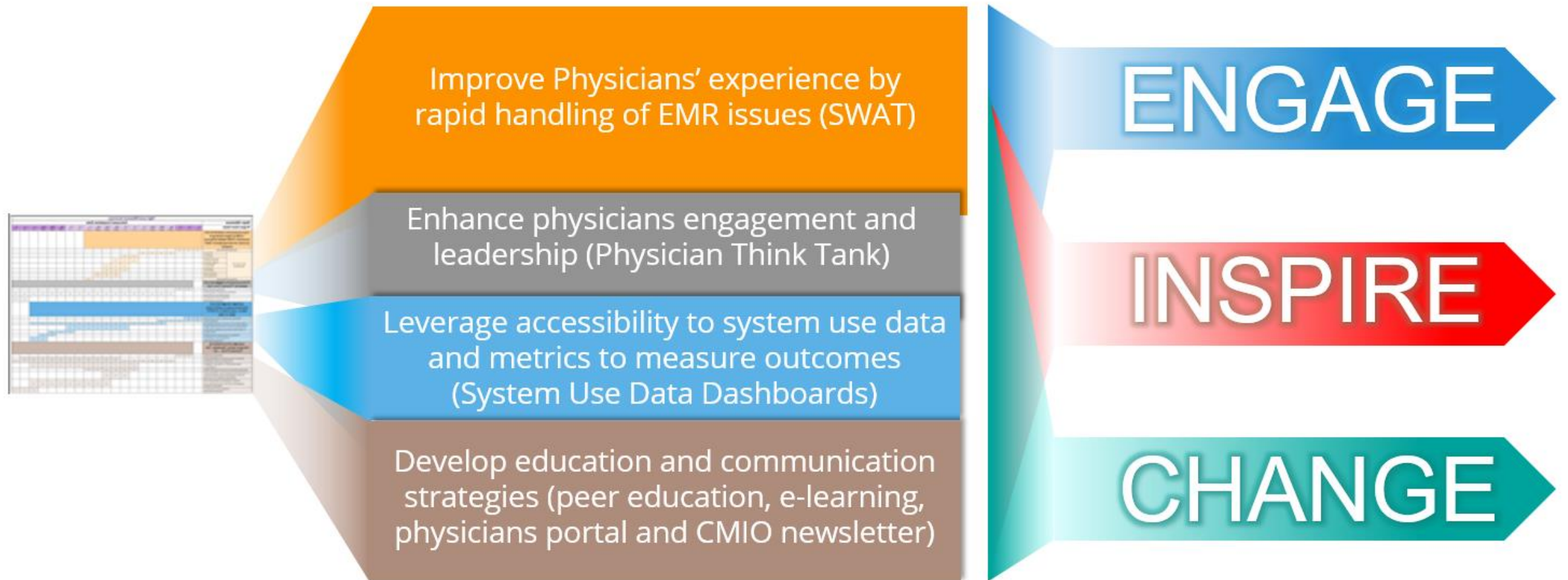
#### New users:

"still getting used to it",  
"probably use not all the functionalities"

#### Speech recognition:

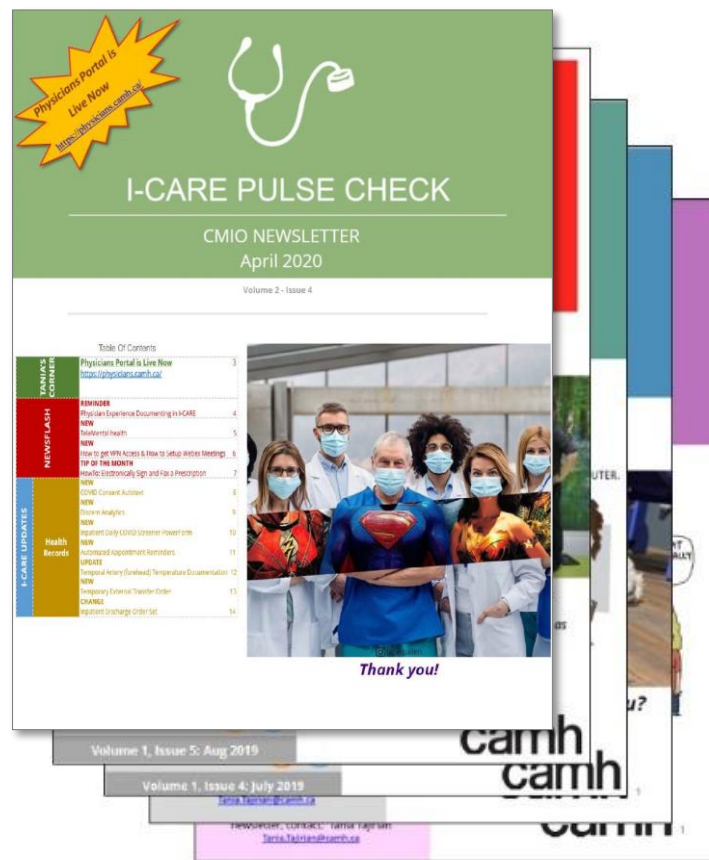
"use speech recognition tool exclusively instead of typing progress notes"

# Multi-Pronged Physician Engagement Strategy



Develop education and communication strategies (peer education, e-learning, physicians portal and CMIO newsletter)

## CMIO Monthly Newsletter (September 2019 onwards)

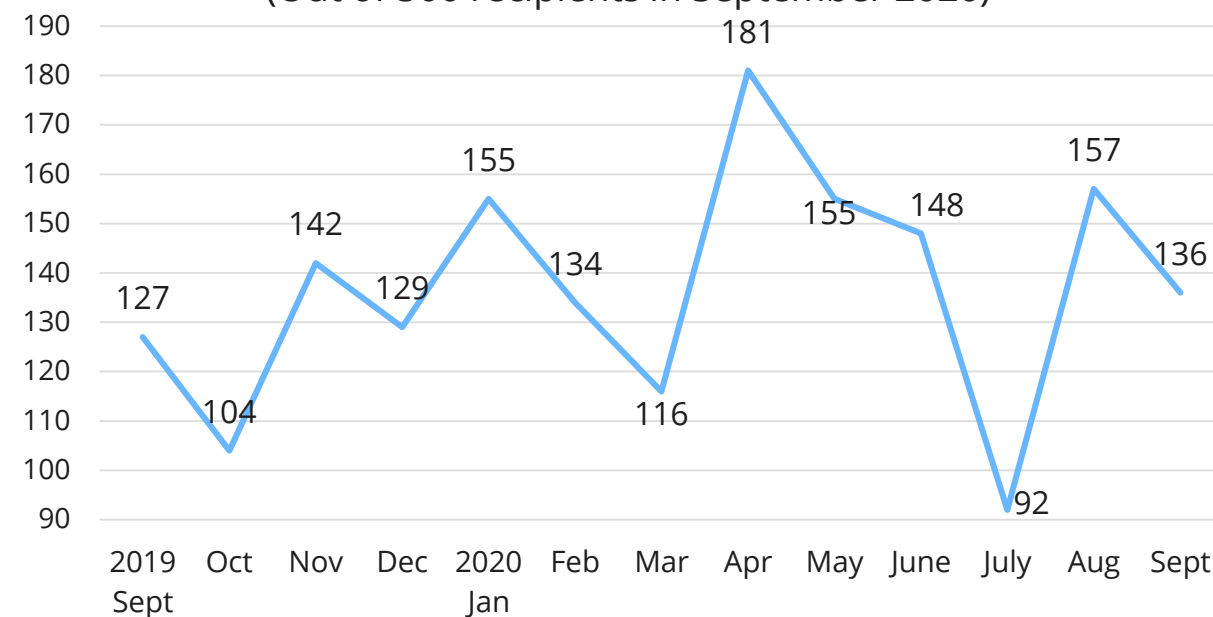


Content:

- Initiatives updates
- Interviews
- EHR Tips & Tricks
- EHR changes in 3 categories (Pharmacy, labs, health records)

### Open Rates

(Out of 500 recipients in September 2020)



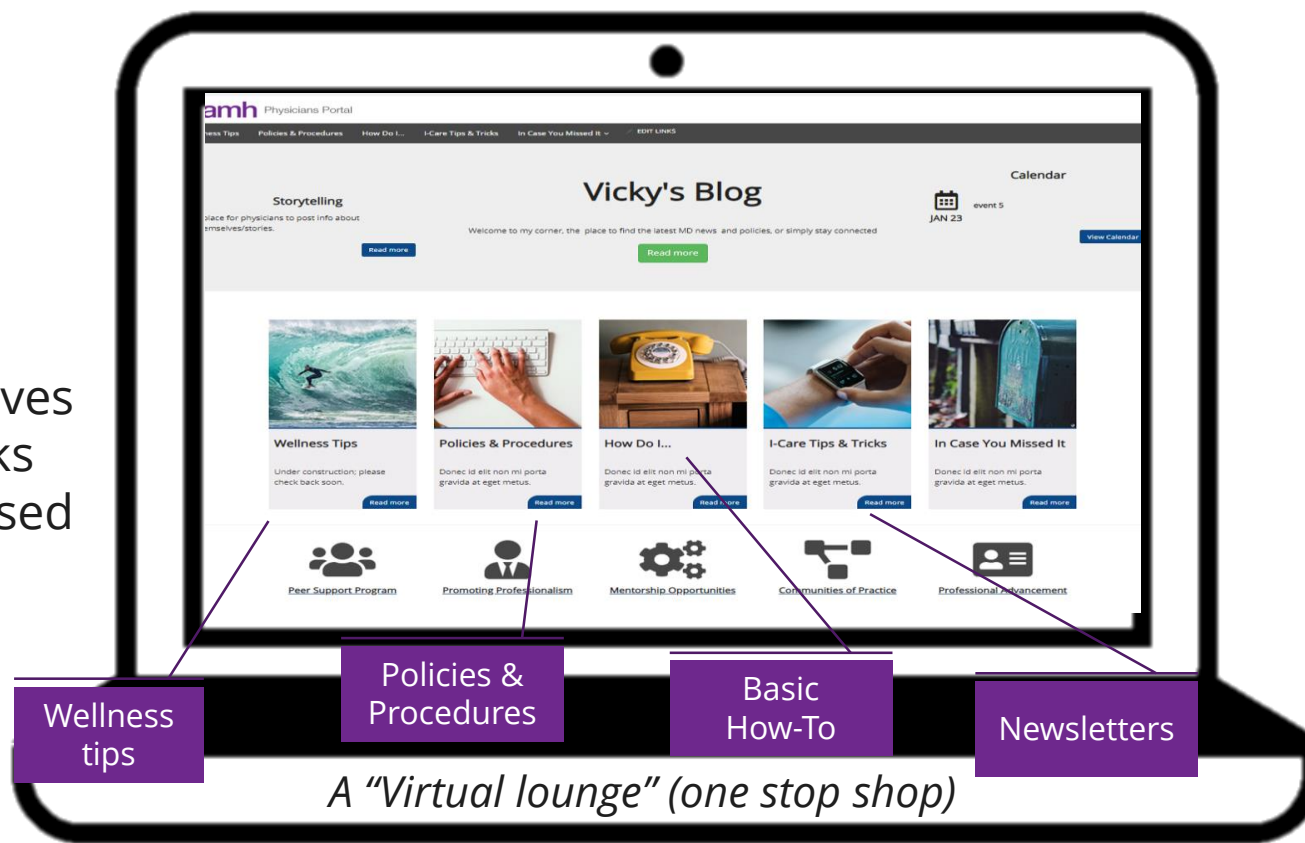
**Performance metrics:** Delivery rates, Open rates, Links clicked.




Develop education and communication strategies (peer education, e-learning, physicians portal and CMIO newsletter)

## Physician Portal (March 2020)

Content:  
-Stories  
-Wellness initiatives  
-EHR Tips & Tricks  
-In case you missed







Enhance physicians engagement and leadership (Physician Think Tank)

## Physician Think Tank (Cross divisional lens)



### Membership

CMIO (Chair)

Physicians 'Divisional Liaisons'

Clinical Informatics Nurses

Clinical Applications Team

Health Information Management

Pharmacy Informatics

Laboratory and Diagnostics

Professional Practice Office

Enterprise Project Management Office



### Goals



- Discuss new topics/changes
- Lead the improvement of EHR

### Benefits



- Part of the Change Control Governance
- Representation from all divisions and stakeholders

Leverage accessibility to system use data and metrics to measure outcomes  
(System Use Data Dashboards)

## Physician Efficiency Profiles

### Allowing physicians to view their own system use metrics:

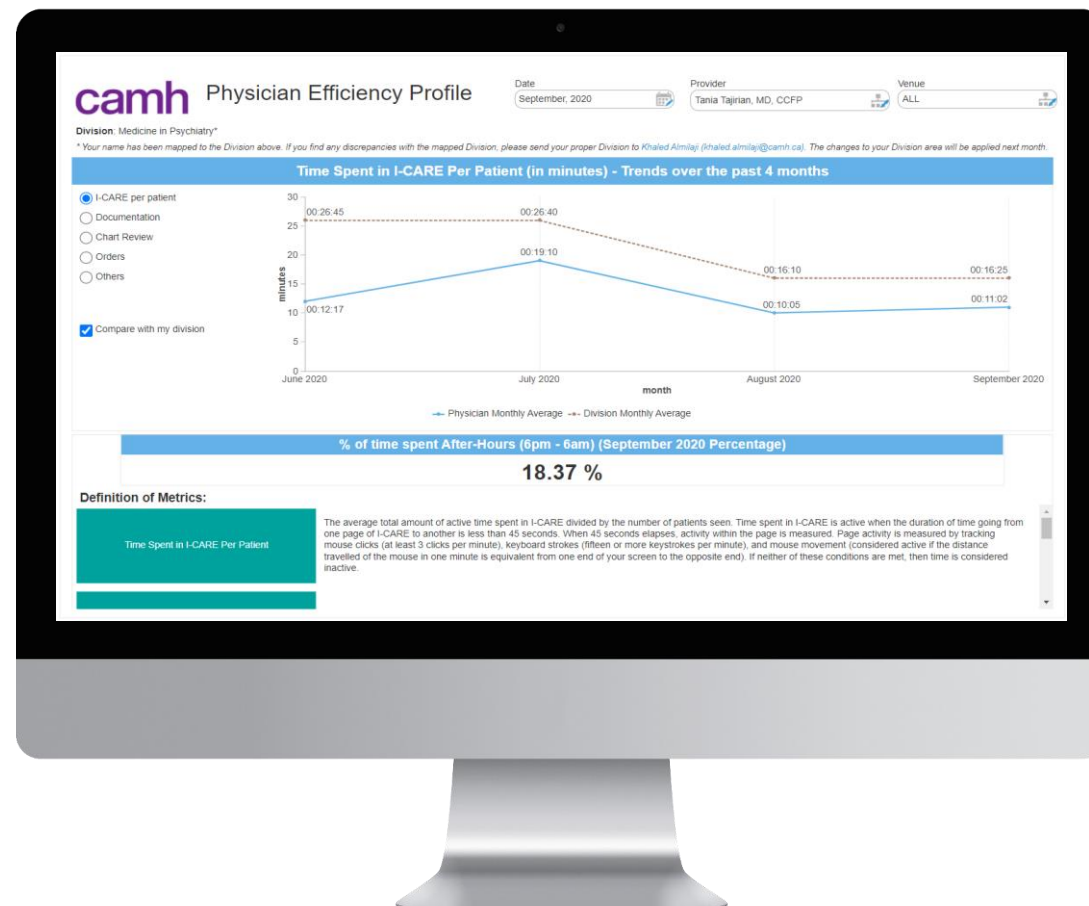


#### Time in EHR

- Total active time
- Time spent **per patient** including:
  - documentation
  - chart review
  - orders time
  - orders



#### Time Spent in EHR After Hours



Improve Physicians' experience by rapid handling of EHR issues (SWAT)

# SWAT



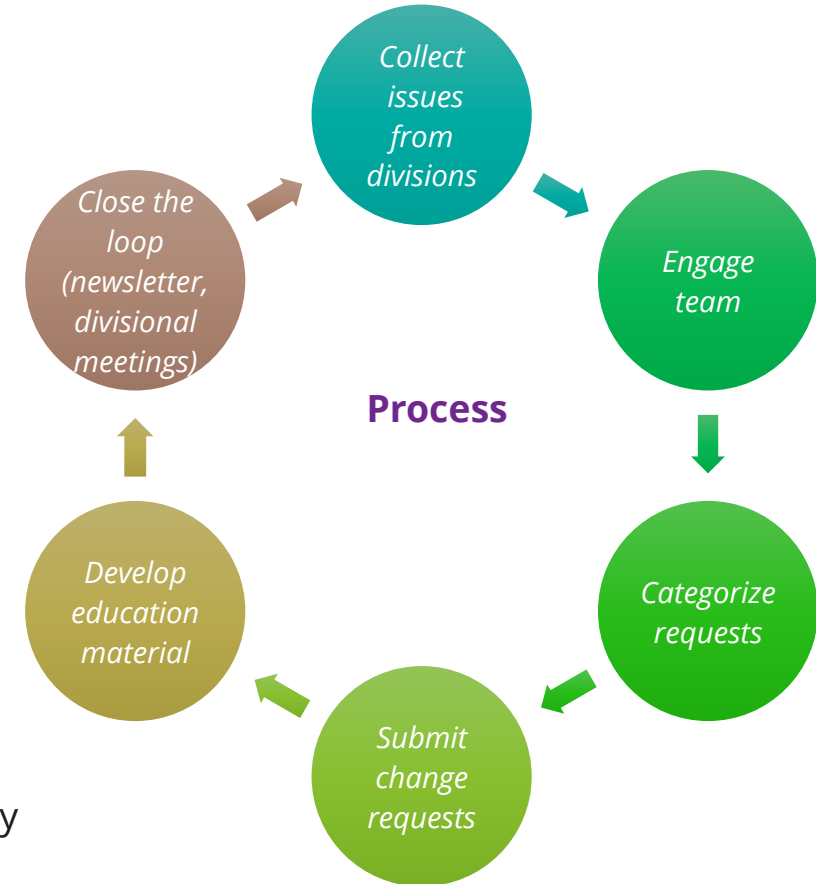
## Goals

- Apply rapid changes and fix “the pebbles in your shoes”
- Fill the gaps in the physicians' EHR knowledge

## Benefits



- Multi disciplinary team
- Follows agile methodology



# SWAT: Request Categorization



## Blue Requests

Needs more training



## Green Requests

Fixes will be delivered within 6 weeks of submission to change control governance



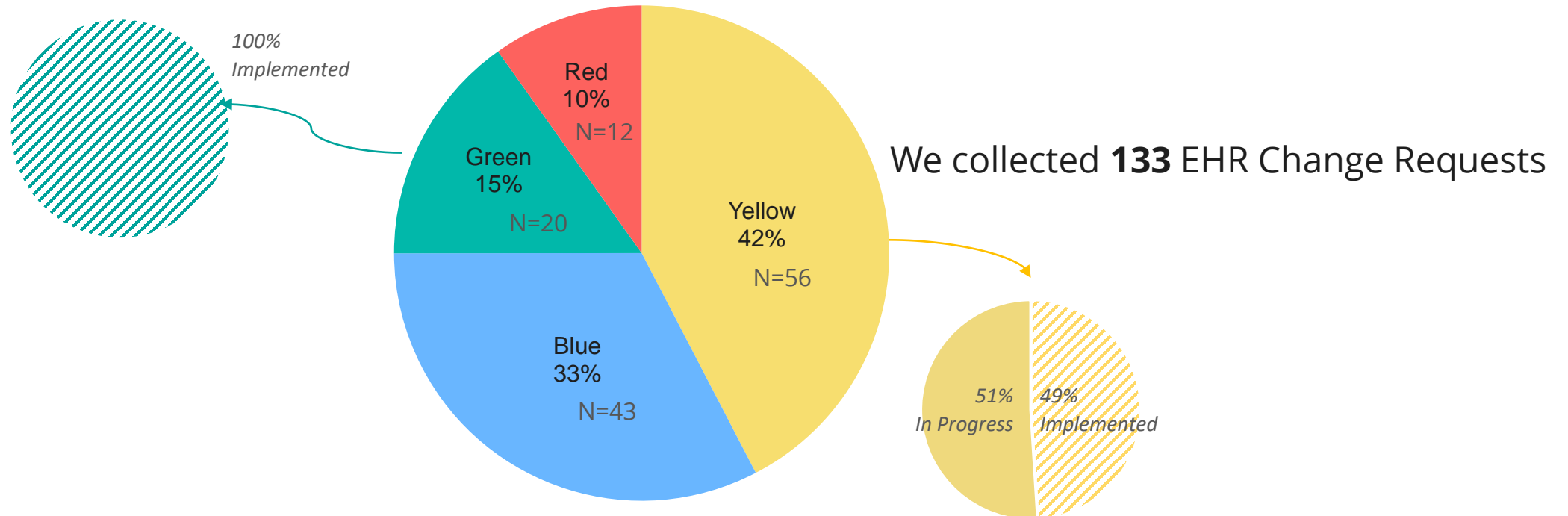
## Yellow Requests

Request is applicable but needs time due to needed system upgrade or other requirement (On-Hold)



## Red Requests

Change is not in scope, or not aligned with policies and regulations



## SWAT: Divisional Dashboards

- Shareable interactive dashboard to monitor the status of all requests including:
  - Feedback for each request
  - Visualization by: Division, Status, Category
- Allows for real-time updates





## SWAT: Lessons Learned from SWAT I

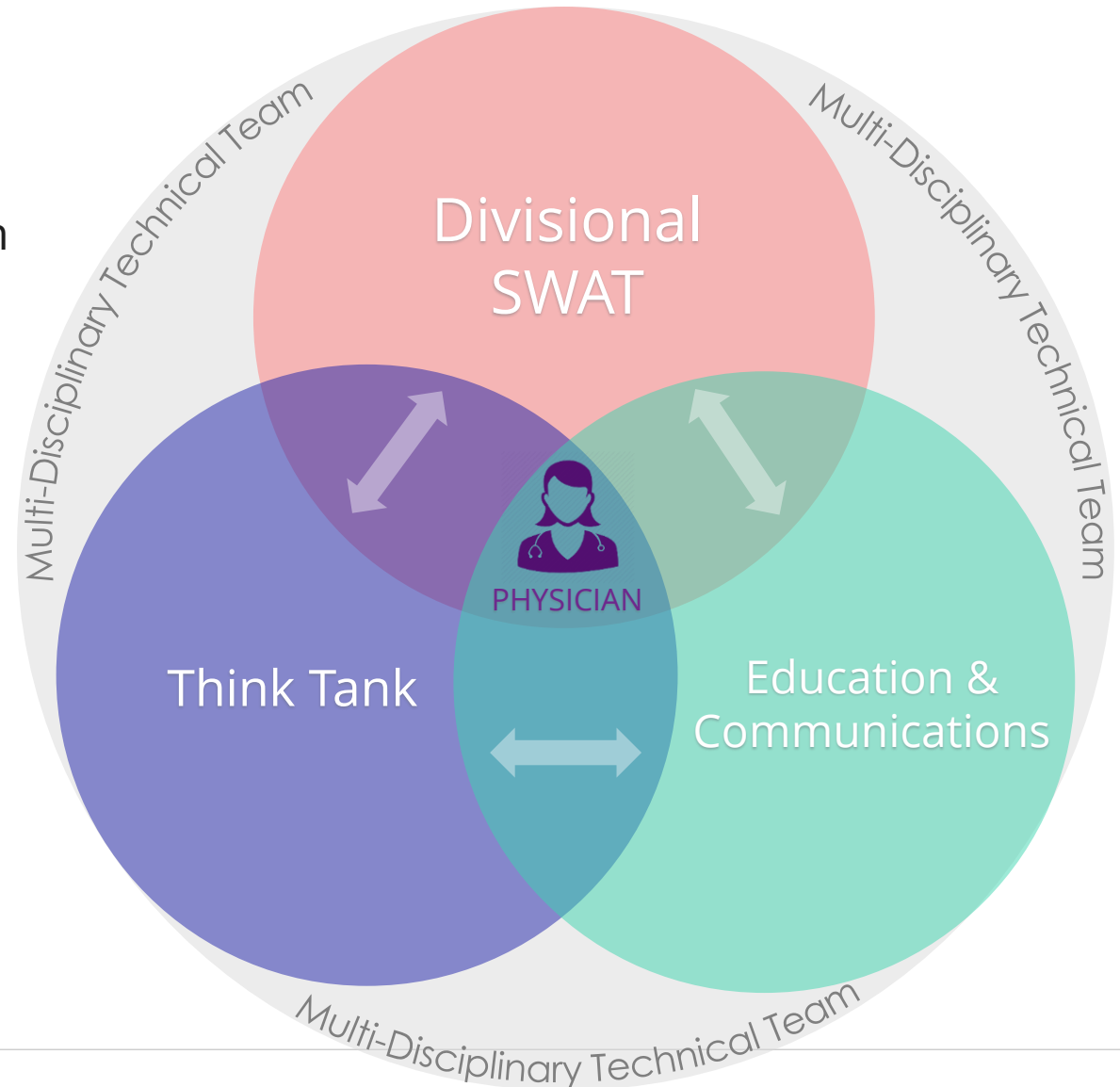
- ✓ Agile methodology
- ✓ Attending physician divisional meetings
- ✓ Engaging divisional leadership
- ✓ Multi disciplinary representation in the SWAT team
- ✓ Development of SWAT II (education focus)
- ✓ SWAT III (closing the loop) to maintain accountability

### SWAT II:

- **EHR education sessions resumed in September 2020**

# Multi-Pronged Physician Engagement Strategy: Lessons Learned

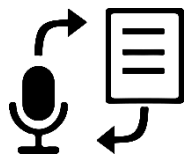
- Physicians are main stakeholders/decision makers in all initiatives of the strategy
- Multi-disciplinary team to be engaged in direct discussions with MDs
- Initiatives are connected and provide essential input to each other





## Next Steps

- Continue to increase *satisfaction* through  
**Reducing inefficiencies** and **improving education**



Speech  
recognition  
technology



Peer education, videos,  
e-learning, super users

- **Measure impact** & continuously improve ( PEPs)
- **Return to what EHR was intended to do:**
  - *Provide fast access to patient information*
  - *Support clinical decision making*
  - *Support the patient journey through transitions of care*
  - *Improve patient safety & quality of care*

*Data rich*  
=  
*Data driven*

# Questions?



**Gillian.Strudwick@camh.ca**

**Tania.Tajirian@camh.ca**

**Brian.Lo@camh.ca**



**@GStrudRN**

**@TaniaTajirian**

**@lobri888**

***Thanks to:***

*Khaled Almilaji, Damian Jankowicz, Jessica Kemp,*

*Lydia Sequeira and David Yin*

**camh**