

# Human Factors: How to connect humans with systems and processes for better culture and better performance



*Amelia Brooks  
Frank Federico*



# World Patient Safety Day

## 17 September 2019



The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is joining the World Health Organization (WHO) and other leading organizations around the world to recognize **World Patient Safety Day**, 17 September 2019.

Declaring patient safety to be a global health priority, WHO will use the day to initiate a campaign of building awareness and commitment to improve the safety of health care worldwide.

For this inaugural year, WHO is urging all stakeholders to “Speak Up for Patient Safety.” In the spirit of supporting that goal, IHI is pleased to share the following resources.



# Human Factors

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- Human factors is a discipline dedicated to uncovering and addressing elements of mismatch between people, the tools they have to work with and the environments in which they work.

Why is understanding human factors  
important to health care?

# The Case of Nifedipine Gel Capsule

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What Would your Root Causes Analysis  
Uncover?

# Discovery Questions

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- What is the policy?
- Is the nurse competent?
- Does the nurse need retraining?
- Did the nurse have the appropriate education?
- Did we consider what would happen if a nurse has a syringe and needle in hand? Priming?



# Would You.....

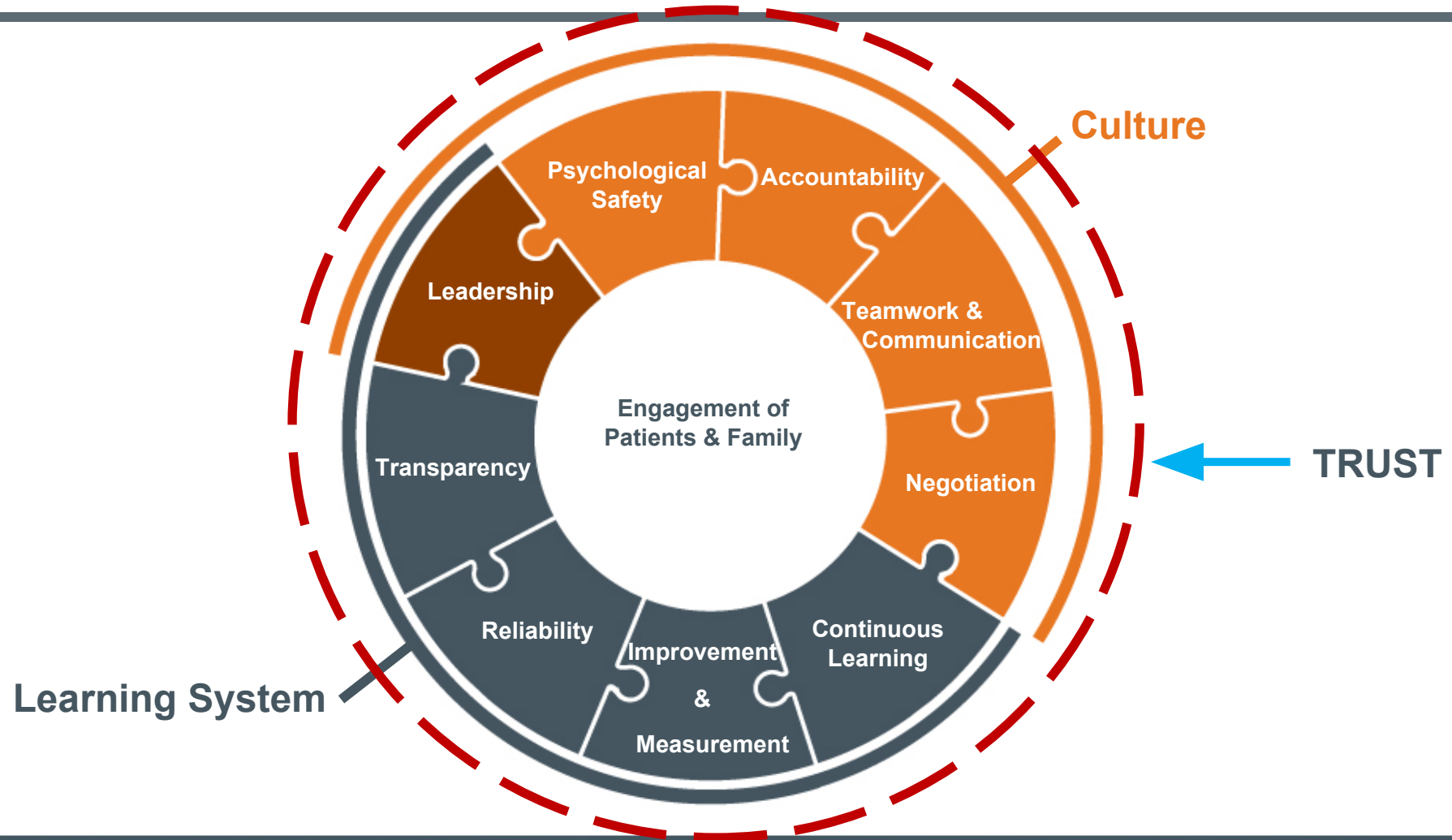
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- Ask whether interruptions are a common occurrence?
- Ask about the culture?
- Ask how long this process has been in place?
- Ask whether anyone ever considered what could go wrong and why?
- Test whether the individuals act as a team?





# Framework for Safe, Reliable, and Effective Care



Some common 'solutions'

Are they effective?

# Some common 'solutions'

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- Update policy/procedure/guideline
  - Email to all
  - Signature on a document
  - Promise compliance



# Some common 'solutions'

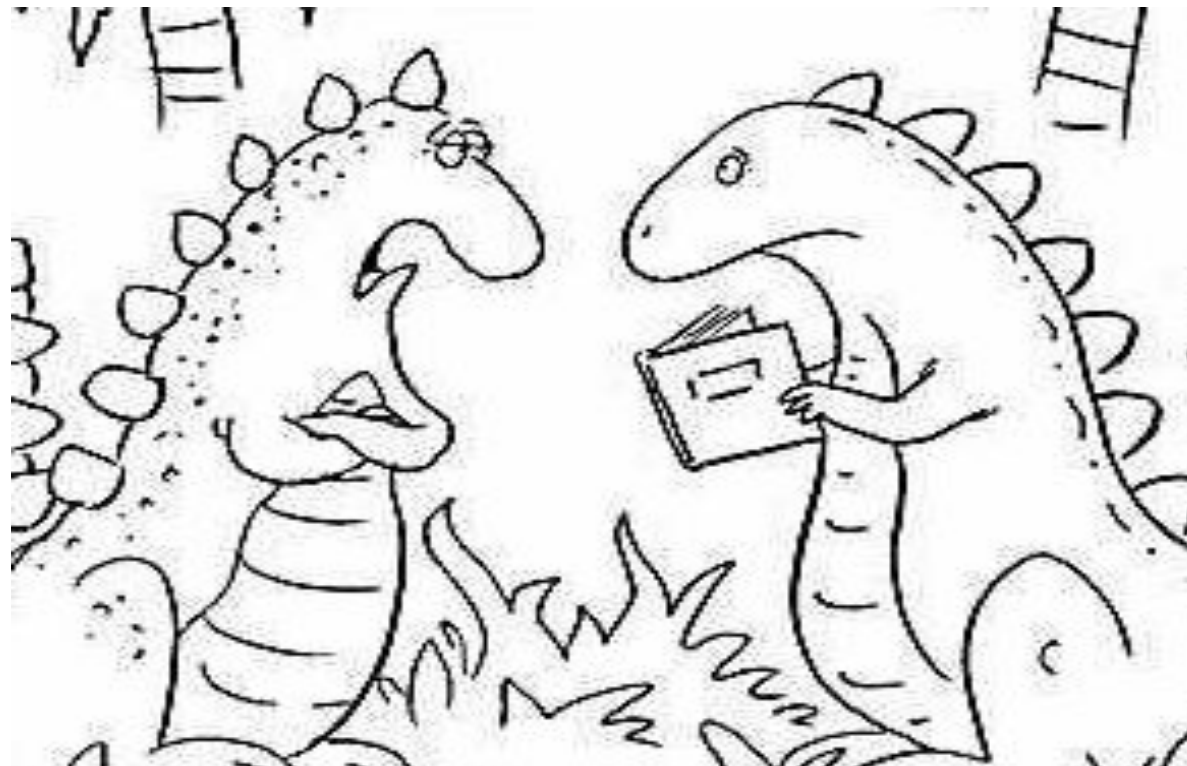
- Raise awareness
  - Campaigns
  - Posters
  - Newsletters
  - Briefings



# Some common 'solutions'

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- Training & Education
- ***Necessary, but not sufficient***



'Forget it, no matter how hard you study you'll never become a thesaurus'

# Violation Producing Conditions

## Do they exist in your organization?

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- Perceived low likelihood of detection
- Inconvenience
- Misperception or lack of recognition of risk
- Authority / status to violate (self-perceived)
- Copying behavior
- No disapproving authority figure present
- Group pressure

(Primary Source Human Error Assessment & Reduction Technique, Jeremy Williams)



# Some of the Drivers of Human Error

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- Fatigue
- Boredom
- Frustration
- Shift work
- Injury or illness
- Devices designed in an accident prone fashion
- Noise, heat, clutter, lighting
- Unnatural workflow
- Reliance on memory
- Reliance on training
- Reliance on vigilance
- Assuming communication competence
- Assuming teamwork competence
- Interruptions/distractions
- Processes designed in an accident prone fashion (e.g. overly complex, too many steps)



# Cultural Drivers of Human Error

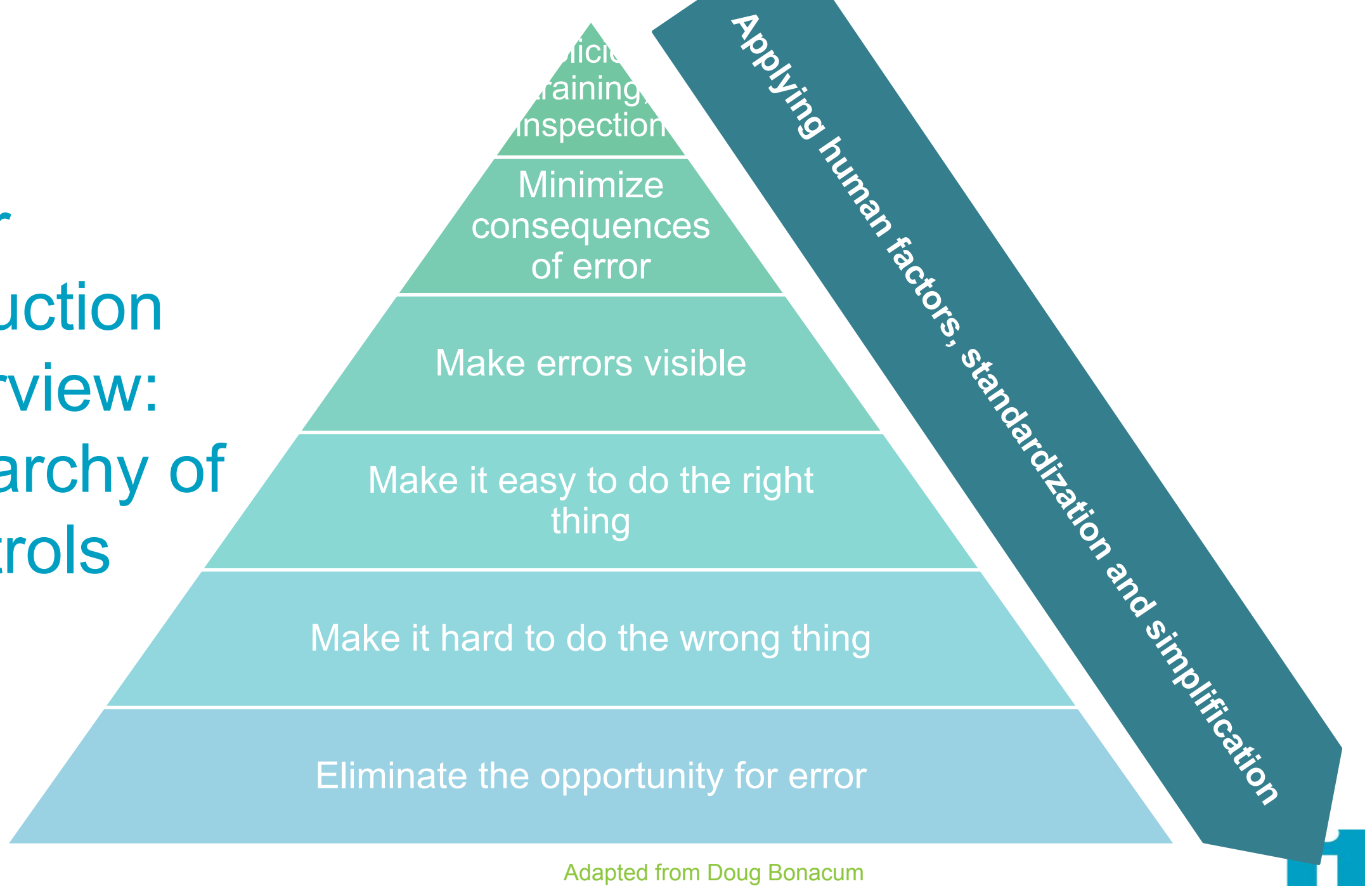
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- Lack of trust
- Disrespect & incivility
- Silo working
- Steep authority gradient
- Fear of failure
- Isolation
- Stress
- Burnout





# Error Reduction Overview: Hierarchy of Controls



Adapted from Doug Bonacum



# Areas to Consider

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1. Cognition and mental workload
2. Distractions
3. The physical environment
4. Physical demands
5. Service/product design
6. Teamwork
7. Process design



# Specific Error Reduction Strategies

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- Use visual controls
- Avoid reliance on memory
- Simplify and Standardize
- Use constraints/forcing functions
- Use protocols and checklists
- Improve access to information
- Reduce handoffs
- Decrease look-alike / sound-alikes
- Automate carefully
- Reduce interruptions and distractions
- Take advantage of habits and patterns
- Promote effective team functioning



# Human Error

*'We can't change the human condition, but we can change the conditions under which humans work'*

James Reason



# Reflection



# Humanity in Healthcare

## Putting the Person back in Personnel

Prof Lee Chien Earn & Dr Syahid Hassan, PhD  
17 Sep 2019



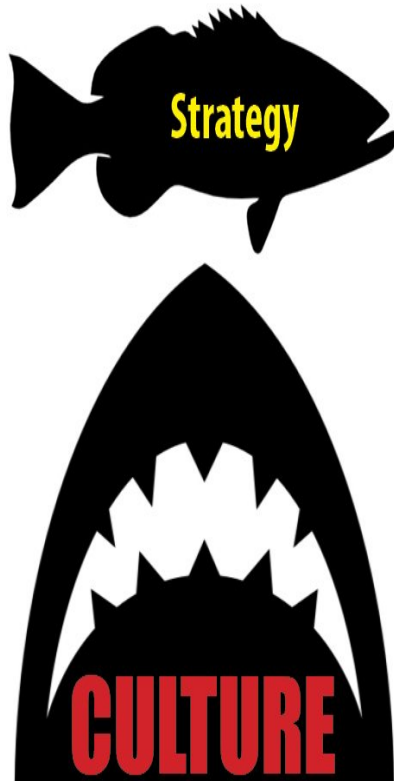
Changi  
General Hospital  
SingHealth

# Eliminating ~~Human~~ Error

Part of the  
 Problem  
 Solution



# HUMANS AS PART OF THE PROBLEM



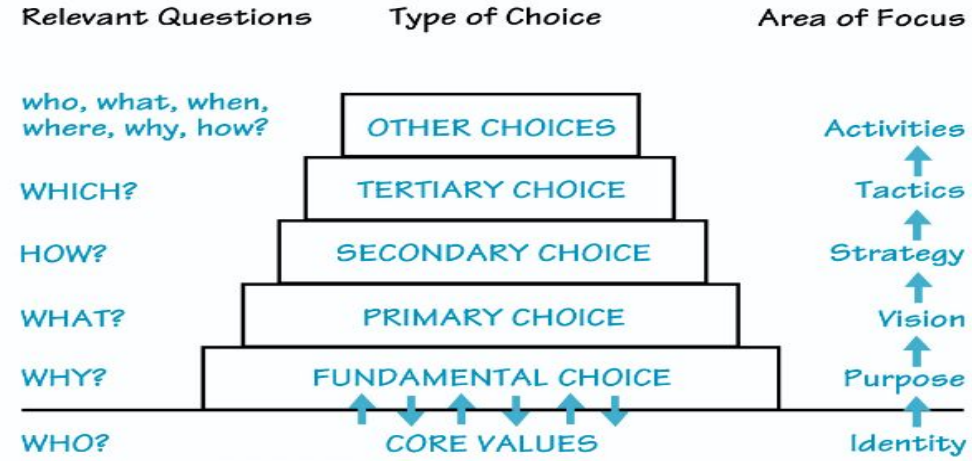
Knows it is wrong, but just kept quiet



Source: <http://english.cri.cn/12394/2014/12/22/2743s857735.htm>



# HUMANS AS PART OF THE SOLUTION



“The source of energy at work is not in control, it is in connection to purpose.”



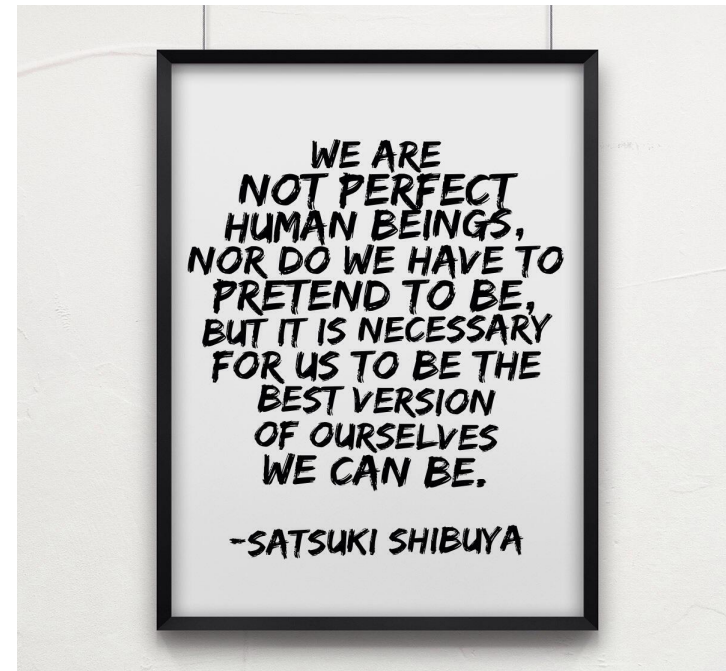
Comprehensible, Manageable and Meaningful

# PURPOSE

## Our Mission

To deliver the **BEST** patient care with passion and empathy

- A choice and commitment
- Learn, Unlearn, Relearn



# JUST AND LEARNING CULTURE

**Organization** has a responsibility to employees (and ultimately to patients)

**Staff** accountable for the quality of choices they make regardless of the outcome

Shared Accountability



ENABLED BY GOOD HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

# Just Culture and Human Error

## Reckless Behavior:

Knows the act is unsafe and unjustifiable, but does it anyway

Deter and do not tolerate

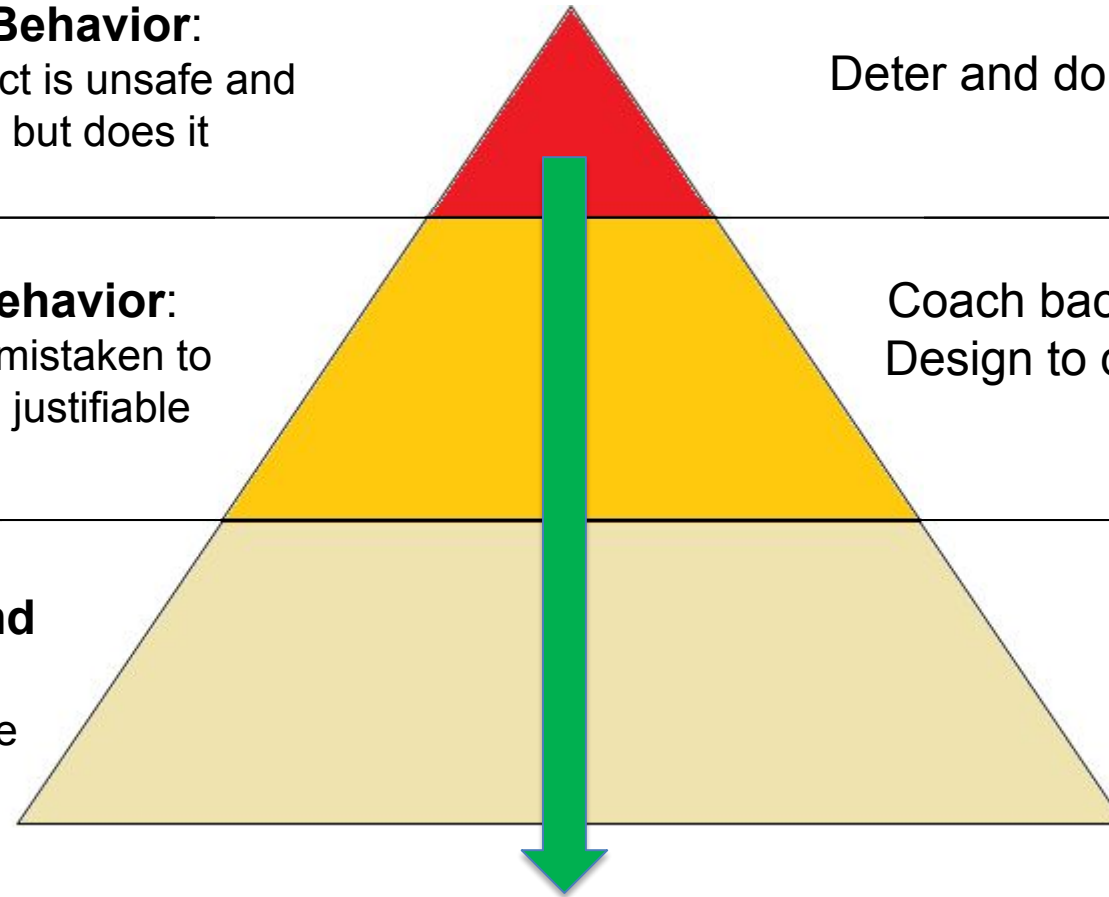
## At-Risk Behavior:

Unsafe act mistaken to be safe and justifiable

Coach back to safe act  
Design to disincentives

**Slips,  
lapses and  
mistakes**  
despite safe  
choices

Design to  
minimize  
or mitigate

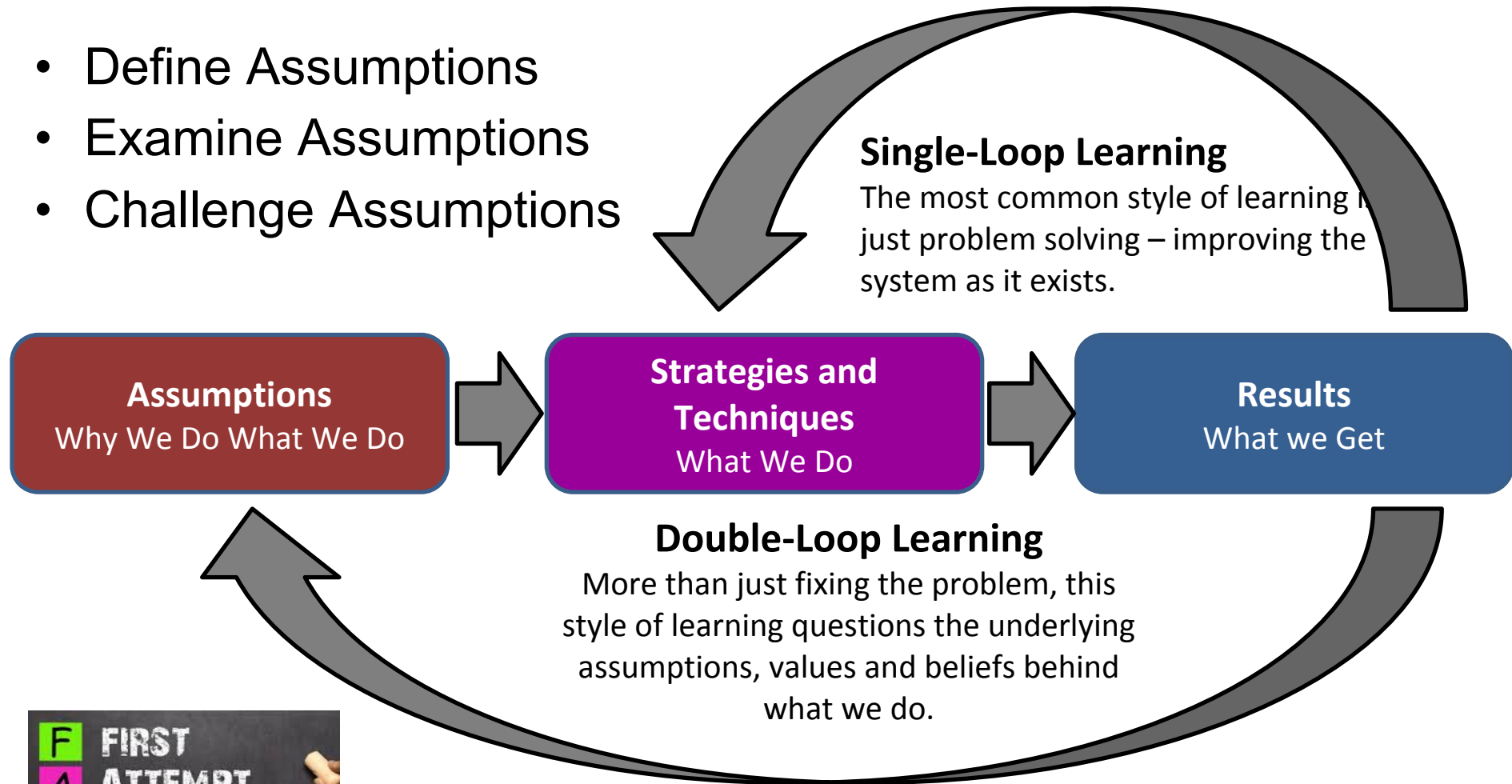


**A learning culture throughout the organization**

Sources:  
Just Culture (Outcome Engenuity)  
Enterprise Risk Management Handbook for Healthcare Entities (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), American Health Lawyers Association

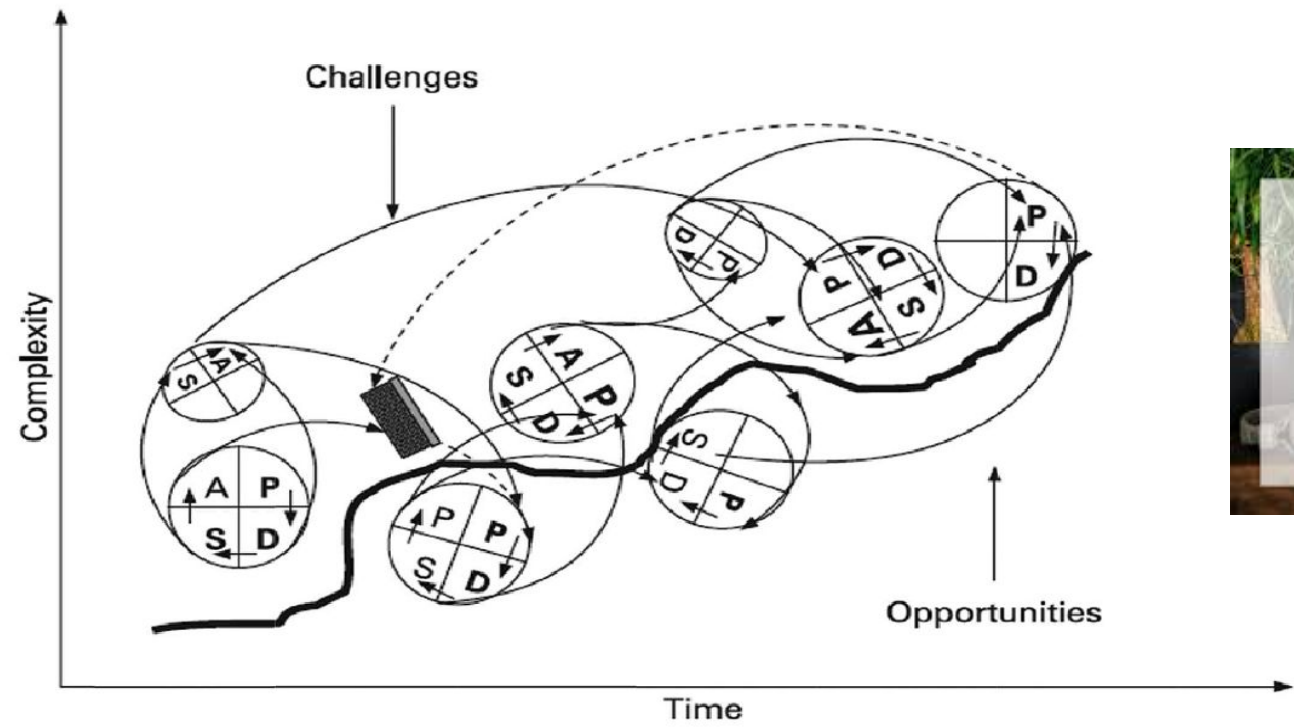
# PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

- Define Assumptions
- Examine Assumptions
- Challenge Assumptions



# FOCUS ON LEARNING, NOT PERFECTION

Learning Organisations are places “where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning how to learn together.”



# WHAT HUMAN FACTORS IS



Create **good “fit”** between the human and system based on an understanding of the **interaction between system design and human abilities & limitations**

# SAY OUT THE COLOURS OF THE WORDS

**TASK AIM:** Before the mic drops, say out the colours of the words in the black boxes, from top to bottom

*Say*

*“green”*

*“blue”*

*“red”*

**PRACTICE**  
**E**

**HAS**

**ICON**

**POLAR**





# SAY OUT THE COLOURS OF THE WORDS

**TASK AIM:** Before the mic drops, say out the colours of the words in the black boxes, from top to bottom

**TEST No.1:  
READY?**

**FLIP**

**STUNT**

**CAP**

**IMPORT**

**NICE**



# SAY OUT THE COLOURS OF THE WORDS

**TASK AIM:** Before the mic drops, say out the colours of the words in the black boxes, from top to bottom

**TEST No.2:  
READY?**

**RED**

**YELLOW**

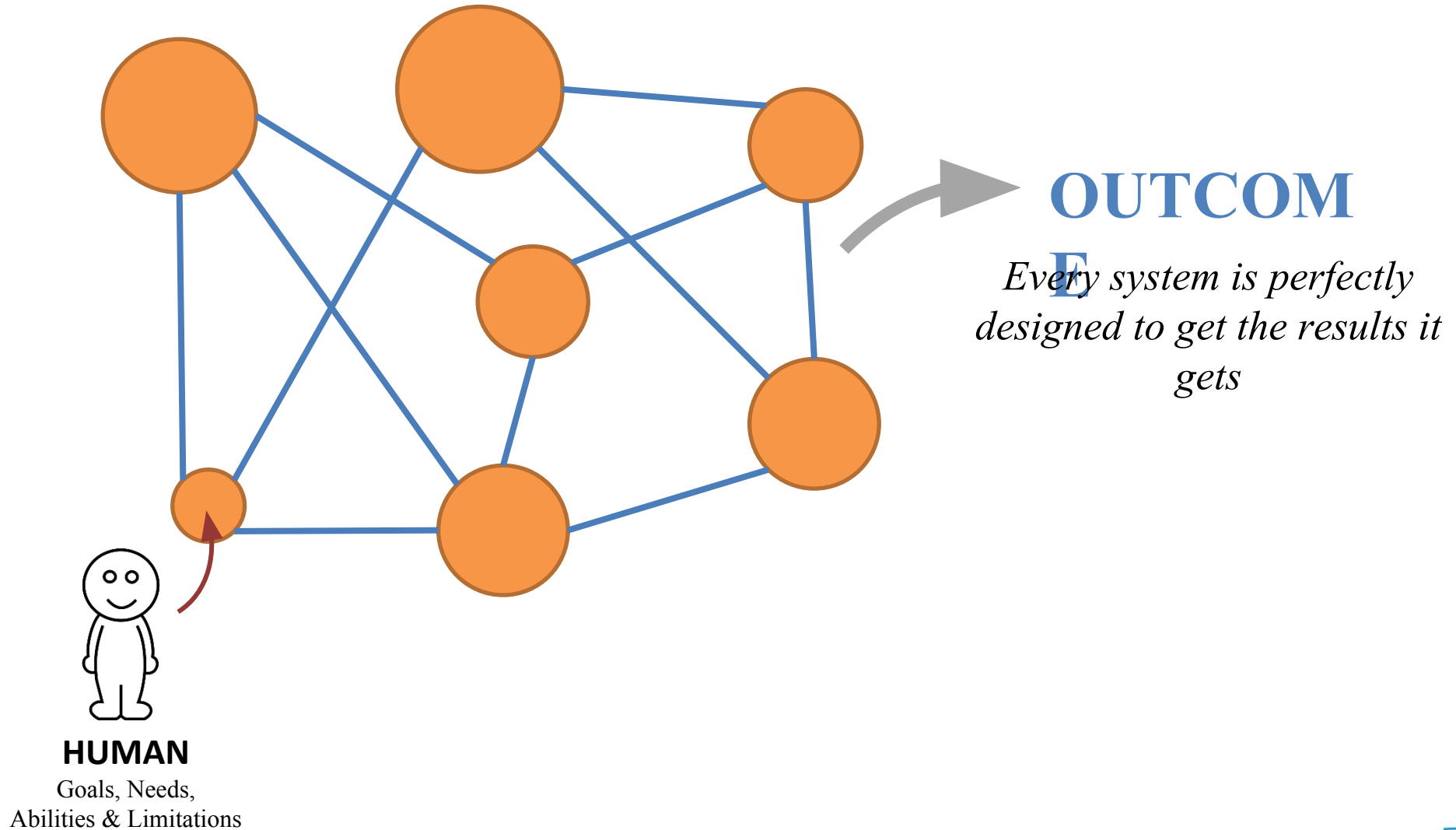
**PURPLE**

**GREEN**

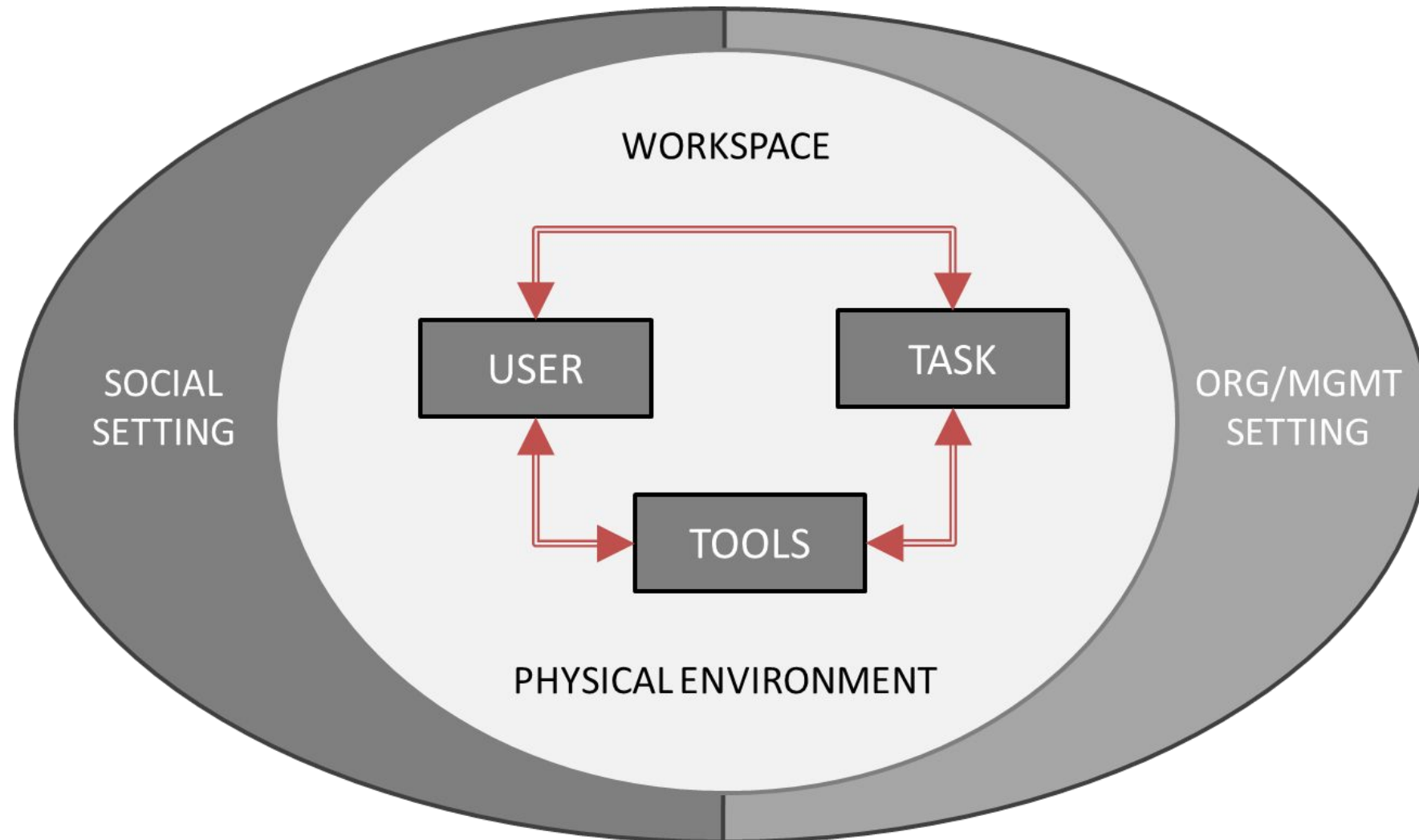
**BLUE**



# SYSTEMS THINKING



# SOCIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEM THINKING



# PATIENT-CENTERED COMMUNICATION DESIGN



## PATIENT FOOD CHARTING GUIDE

### Chart Diet Accurately

- Carbohydrate (NT, ¼, ½, ¾, 1 Share)
- Meat (NT, ¼, ½, ¾, 1 Share)
- Vegetable (NT, ¼, ½, ¾, 1 Share)

Patient Eaten	Not Taken (NT)	Eaten 1/4 Share	Eaten 1/2 Share	Eaten 3/4 Share
<b>CARROT CAKE</b>		Eaten ¼ CARROT CAKE 	Eaten ½ CARROT CAKE 	Eaten ¾ CARROT CAKE 
<b>CHEE CHEONG FUN (RICE NOODLE ROLL)</b>		Eaten ¼ CHEE CHEONG FUN 	Eaten ½ CHEE CHEONG FUN 	Eaten ¾ CHEE CHEONG FUN 
<b>WAFFLE/ PANCAKE</b>		Eaten ¼ WAFFLE/ PANCAKE 	Eaten ½ WAFFLE/ PANCAKE 	Eaten ¾ WAFFLE/ PANCAKE 

“Match the real world” visual design facilitate accurate communication and charting of food consumption

Credit: CGH Dietetic Consultation



# STAFF-CENTERED DECISION AID DESIGN

Goal : To keep Blood Sugar > 4mmol/l

Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Time : \_\_\_\_\_

Not on NBM / Patient conscious		N
Give either <input type="checkbox"/> 60ml of Trutol® (oral glucose solution) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Simple carbohydrate i.e. 3 teaspoons of sugar <input type="checkbox"/> Check H/C 15mins later		

H/C is still < 4mmol/L	N
<input type="checkbox"/> Repeat 60ml of Trutol® <input type="checkbox"/> Re-check H/C 15mins later	

H/C ≥ 4mmol/L	N
Serve either one of the following <input type="checkbox"/> During meal times : meal that is due <input type="checkbox"/> Between meal times : 15g of complex carbohydrate → 3pcs of crackers or → 1 slice of bread <input type="checkbox"/> Check with doctor to review medications (insulin/OHGA) <input type="checkbox"/> Re-check H/C 2hrs later If H/C is ≥ 4mmol/L continue with the routine H/C monitoring	

H/C is still < 4mmol/L	D	N
<input type="checkbox"/> Inform Doctor at _____ hrs <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor reviewed at _____ hrs <input type="checkbox"/> IV Dextrose 50% 20ml Serve either one of the following <input type="checkbox"/> During meal times : meal that is due <input type="checkbox"/> Between meal times : 15g of complex carbohydrate → 3pcs of crackers or → 1 slice of bread <input type="checkbox"/> Re-check H/C 15mins later till capillary blood sugar > 4mmol/L <input type="checkbox"/> Check with doctor to review medications (insulin/OHGA) <input type="checkbox"/> Re-check H/C 2hrs later If H/C is ≥ 4mmol/L continue with the routine H/C monitoring		

H/C ≥ 4mmol/L	N
Serve either one of the following <input type="checkbox"/> During meal times : meal that is due <input type="checkbox"/> Between meal times : 15g of complex carbohydrate → 3pcs of crackers or → 1 slice of bread <input type="checkbox"/> Check with doctor to review medications (insulin/OHGA) <input type="checkbox"/> Re-check H/C 2hrs later If H/C is ≥ 4mmol/L continue with the routine H/C monitoring	

	D	N
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary Team to review cause of hypoglycaemia and optimize OHGA/insulin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer Diabetic Nurse Educator for patient education and counseling		
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer endocrinologist (if persistent/recurrent hypoglycaemia)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer Dietitian		

DOCTOR I/C	NURSE I/C
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\* If patient becomes unconscious at any one point, Inform Doctor  
Start NBM / Patient unconscious pathway

Page 2



## Patient Conscious & Not on NBM

**IMMEDIATE ACTIONS**      GOAL: Keep Capillary Blood Glucose (CBG) ≥ 4mmol/L

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Nurse who initiated form:  
Name & Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

CBG CHECK Number	Time	CBG Reading	Hypoglycaemia	Normal
			If CBG 3.9 or less mmol/L	If CBG 4.0 or more mmol/L
1 <sup>st</sup> CBG		1 <sup>st</sup> mmol/L	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Set A</b> Check CBG 15 mins later	Not Applicable
2 <sup>nd</sup> CBG		2 <sup>nd</sup> mmol/L	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Set A</b> Check CBG 15 mins later	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Set B</b> Check CBG 1 hour (hr) later
3 <sup>rd</sup> CBG & ABOVE*		3 <sup>rd</sup> mmol/L	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Set C</b> Check CBG 15 mins later  Run "Set E": IV Dextrose 10% Infusion** first (1 pint over 8 hr) while awaiting for IV Bolus D50% ** For Stroke Pathway patients, run IV D/S infusion first (1 pint over 8 hr) while awaiting for IV Bolus D50%	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NOTE!</b> Continue routine CBG check only after 2 consecutive readings ≥ 4mmol/L (Stable readings)

\* Guideline charting not required from 4<sup>th</sup> check onwards  
STOP GUIDELINE ONLY WHEN CBG LEVEL IS STABLE

**Set A**

60ml Trutol®  
(oral glucose solution)

**Set B**

Either  
3 pcs of crackers  
OR  
1 slice of bread  
OR  
Normal meal if due within 1 hour

For all NGT Patients only:  
- If feed is due within the next 1 hr:  
> Bring forward the next feeding  
- If feed is not due in the next 1 hr:  
> Give 120ml of Isocal  
& inform dietician that Isocal is given for hypoglycaemia rescue

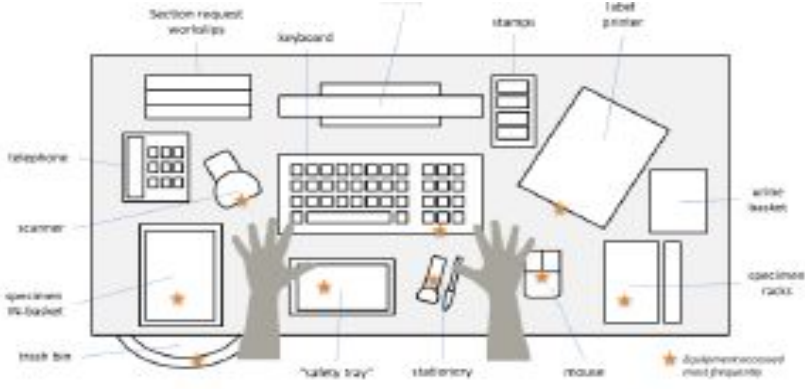
Information grouping and graphical design eases understanding of algorithm

Credit: CGH Hypoglycaemia Prevention Team

# STAFF-CENTERED TASK & WORKDESK DESIGN



Old Processing desks



Equipment laid out with consideration for:

- Left-to-right workflow
- Frequency of usage
- Improved access to label printer (for easier reach to label and easier view of access number)

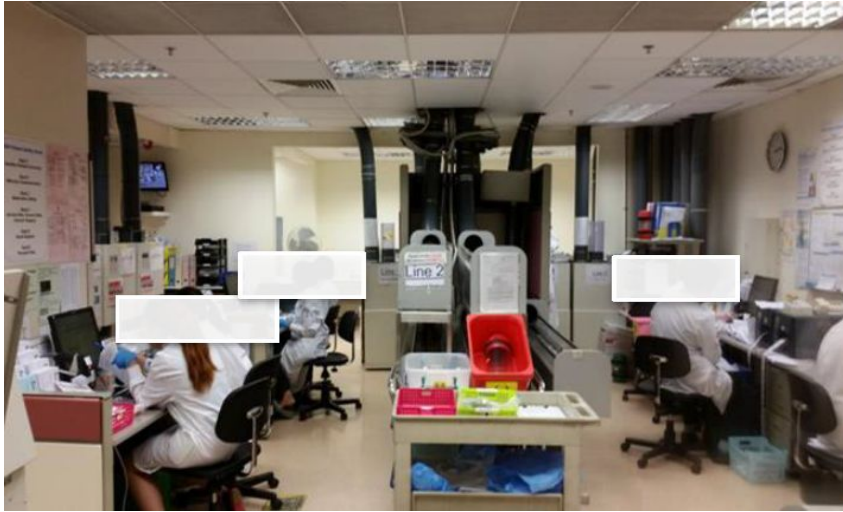


New Processing desks

Items placed to facilitate efficient flow of motions

Credit: CGH Core Lab Processing Team

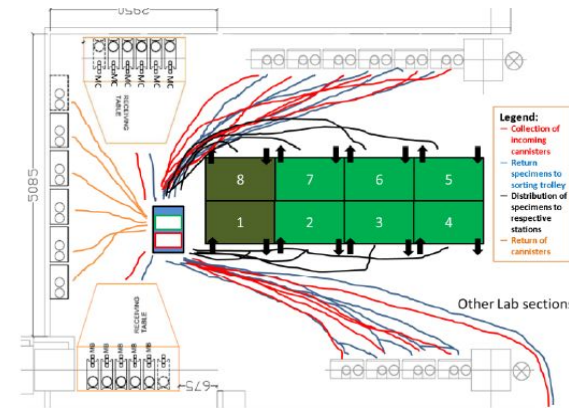
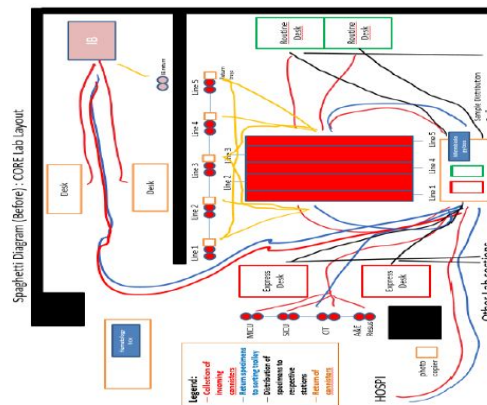
# STAFF-CENTERED TEAMWORK & WORKSPACE DESIGN



Distributed outward facing desks



Clustered central facing desks



Credit: CGH Core Lab Processing Team



# PATIENT-CENTERED MODEL OF CARE & SPACE DESIGN

Empowering patients to return to normalcy and wellness



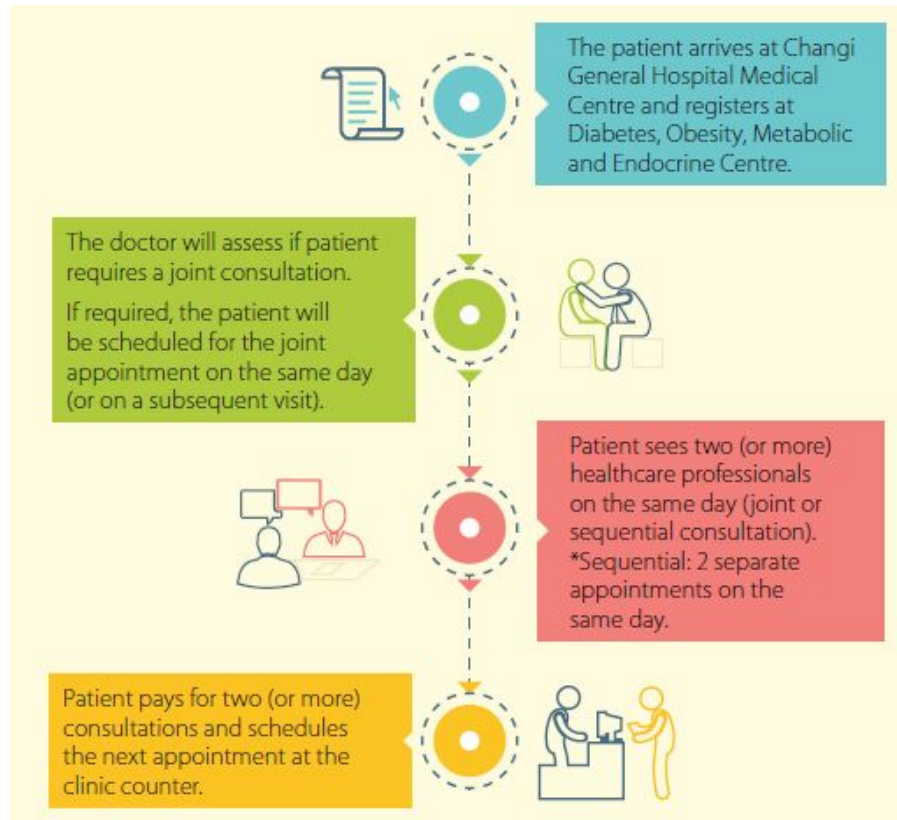
“Cluster housing” ward concept with common dining, family area and rehab to encourage interactivity and peer support amongst patients



Pre-discharge Rehab in mock-up HDB apartment

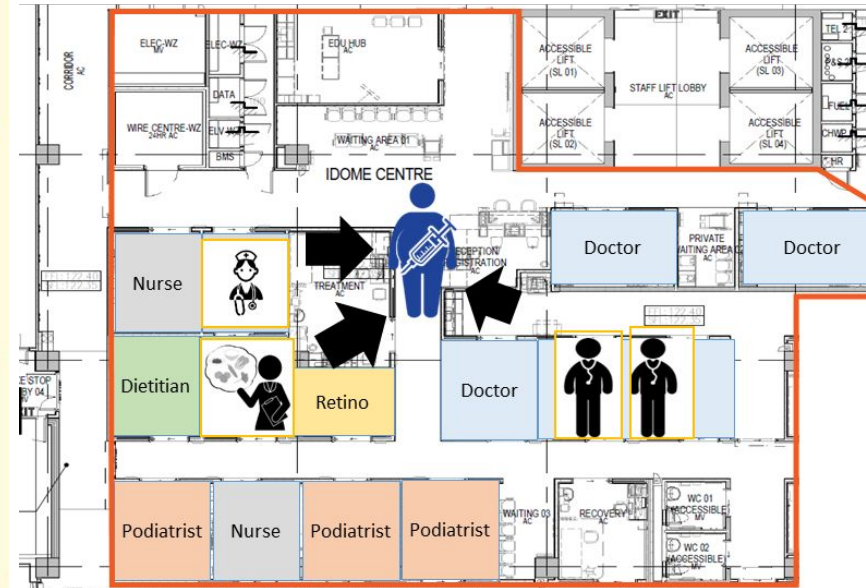
# PATIENT-CENTERED MODEL OF CARE & SPACE DESIGN

## Integrated Multi-Specialty Practice: One-Stop Centre for Patient



Aligned clinical protocol for same condition across specialties

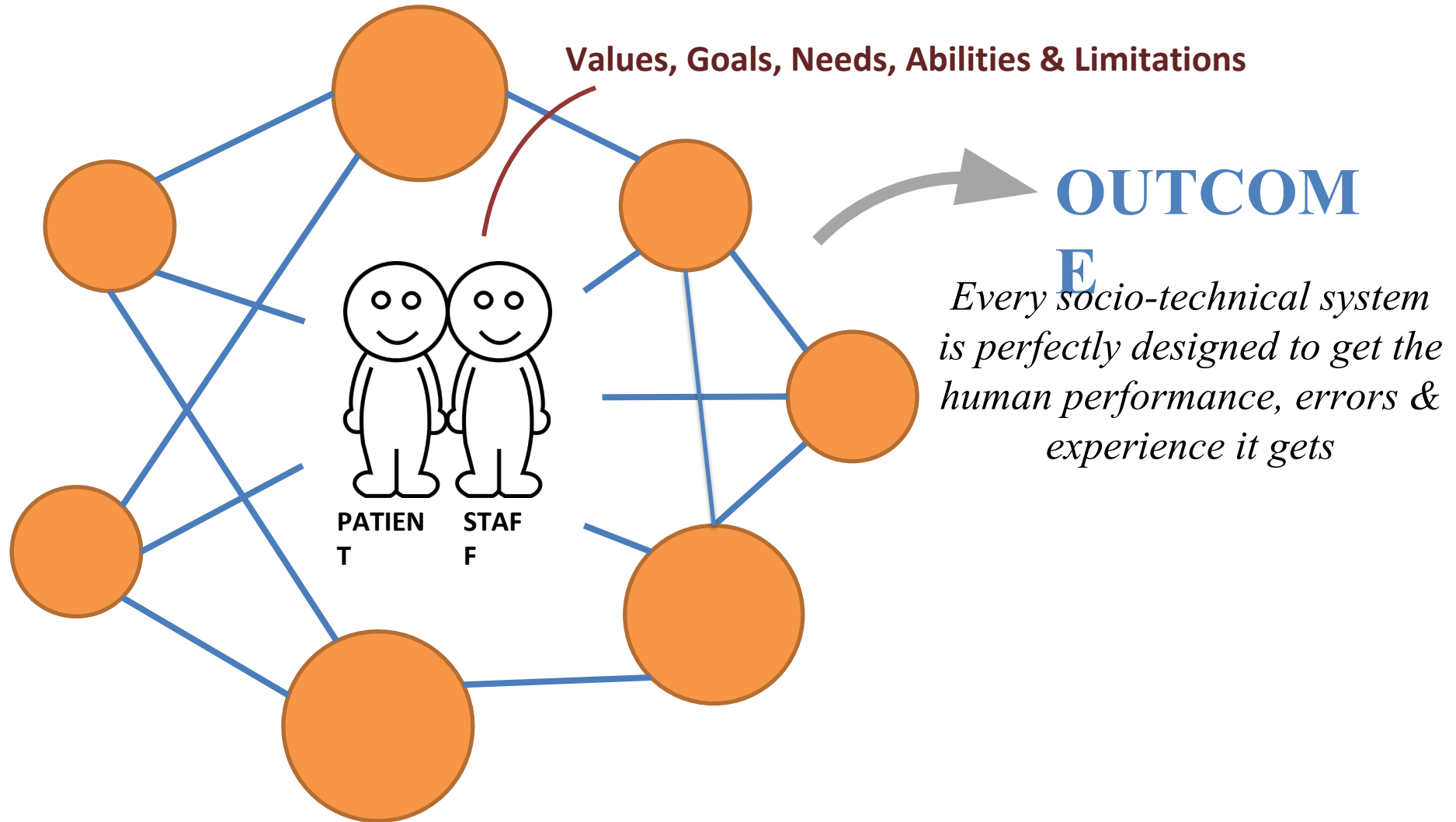
### Diabetes, Obesity, Metabolic and Endocrine Centre



Infrastructure design facilitates cross-corridor consultation and collaboration

Allows patient to experience integrated care, save travel time, receive diagnosis & treatment earlier

# HUMAN-CENTERED SYSTEMS



Thank you  
Questions/Comments