

Diagnosing the Eloped Population

An Additional Safety Net

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Innovation Description

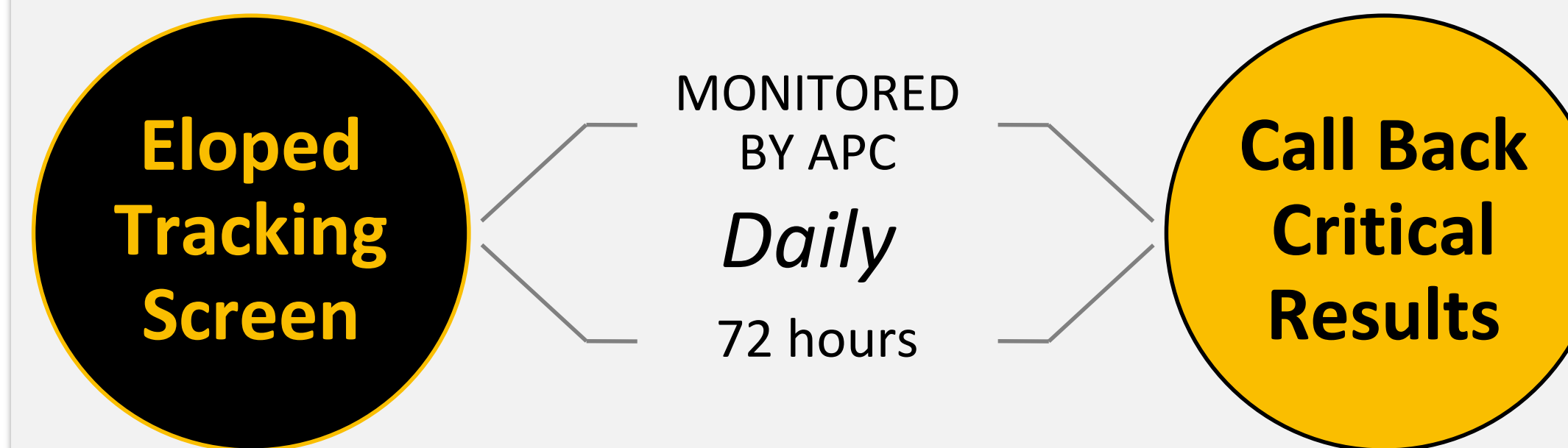
BACKGROUND

- Patients seen by Physician in Triage (PIT) get blood drawn, imaging initiated, and unfortunately have to wait when our ED is at capacity
- Receiving more data while the patient is waiting enables us to identify the sicker patients and get them to a treatment area sooner
- Sometimes patients elope after blood is drawn or other diagnostics are complete

PROCESS

- A tracking screen was created where these patients are automatically placed if disposition is eloped
- They remain on the screen for 72 hours
- APC's review data daily and call back critical results

Process to Track Eloped Patients



Results of the Innovation

- Several patients have been diagnosed with potentially life-threatening conditions that have eloped from the waiting room after triage
 - Renal failure
 - Pancreatitis
 - New onset diabetes
 - Cervical spine fracture
 - Appendicitis
 - Pneumonia
- Many of these have returned for completion of evaluation and treatment

Lessons Learned

- There are many benefits to initiating labs and other diagnostics in triage when the treatment areas are at capacity
- We have identified patients that are more acute than they originally appeared while they wait
- We have also identified patients after they have eloped from the waiting room with concerning findings
 - These patients are contacted for return
- This is an additional layer of safety for our patient population



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