

“BETTER IS POSSIBLE”

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Define the 'Trap of Understanding' and recognize how it can inhibit progress in hand hygiene improvement
- Explain the importance of shifting the focus from hand hygiene behavior of healthcare workers to include the systems and processes that contribute to those behaviors
- Describe how defining and measuring action-based leading indicators can help predict hand hygiene performance results

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

GOJO Industries, Inc.
Clinical Educator, Healthcare



JUST HANG ON!

“We’re doing the **very best**
we can with our
current resources.”



Yet, we know we need to
close the gap.



Which means we need to
do better.

“They **know** hand hygiene is important.
Why aren’t they **doing** it?”



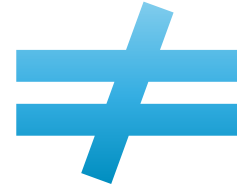
**How many of you
would like to lose
weight or improve
your physical fitness?**



Now, if you have no
idea what you need to
do to accomplish either
of those goals...
lower your hand.

CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND BEHAVIOR

Understanding something
conceptually



Following through
with actions

It's not the absence of knowing or understanding that is the problem. It is people not doing what they know to do.

CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND BEHAVIOR

If I change what they
know, understand,
or believe



They will change
their behavior



Leading to change in
the organization and
outcomes

General Assumption

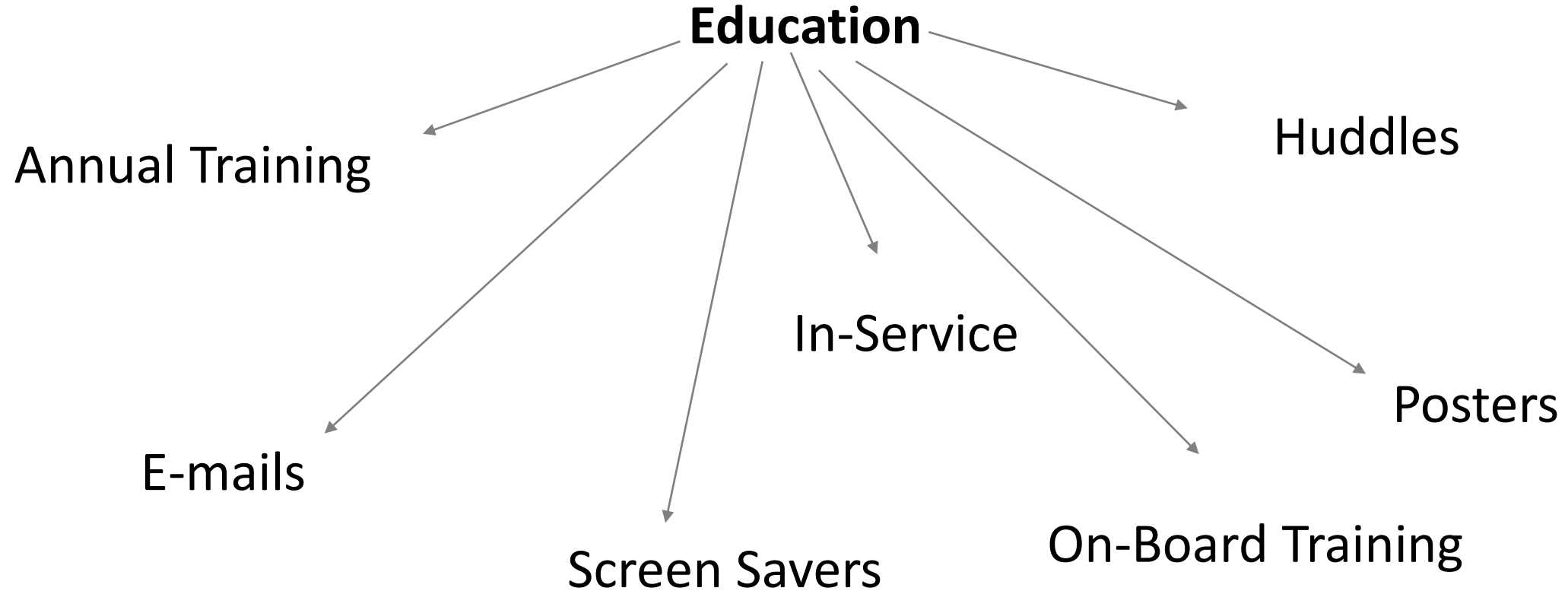
CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND BEHAVIOR

Knowledge ↔ Behavior

Changes in knowledge
bring about changes in
knowledge

Changes in behavior
bring about changes
in behavior

KNOWING DOES NOT ALWAYS LEAD TO ACTION



CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND BEHAVIOR

Knowledge



Action

*This is the
only thing
that matters*

Changes in knowledge
bring about changes in
knowledge

Changes in behavior
bring about changes
in behavior

THE TRAP OF UNDERSTANDING



The belief that **when people understand (know) something, they will act appropriately based on that understanding (knowledge).**

A close-up photograph of a black leather dress shoe with laces, positioned as if about to step on a banana peel on a light-colored stone pavement. The banana peel is bright yellow and curved. The shoe is in the upper right corner, with its toe pointing towards the peel. The background is a blurred view of the pavement.

UNDERSTANDING
IS **NOT** THE
SOURCE OF ACTION!

Fatal Flaw...

Slide attribution: Courtesy of Jeffrey Ford PhD

THE TRAP OF UNDERSTANDING



So where does this
leave us?

"*Better* is a masterpiece, a series of stories set inside the four walls of a hospital that end up telling us something unforgettable about the world outside."

—MALCOLM GLADWELL, author of *BLINK*

Atul Gawande

AUTHOR OF *COMPLICATIONS*

BETTER

A SURGEON'S NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

PICADOR



“Better is Possible.”

"*Better* is a masterpiece, a series of stories set inside the four walls of a hospital that end up telling us something unforgettable about the world outside."

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Chapter 1: Diligence

- The necessity of giving sufficient attention to detail to avoid error and prevail against obstacles.

Atul Gawande

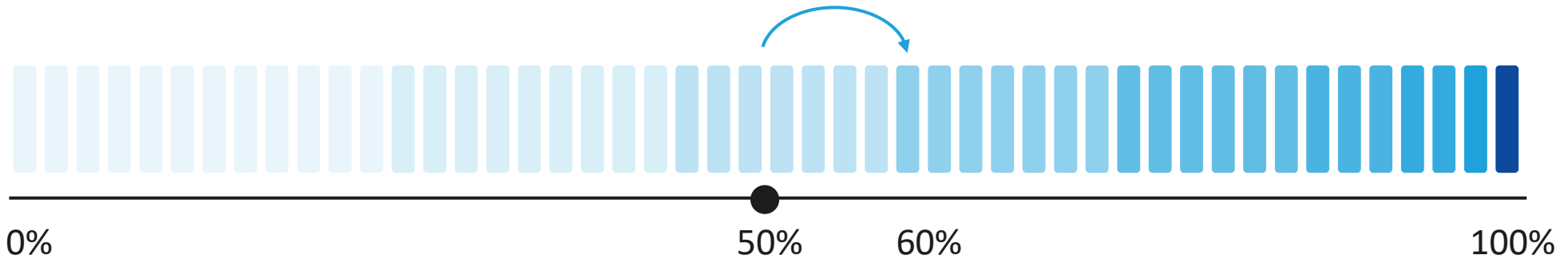
- Devoted and painstaking work and **application** to accomplish an undertaking

Merriam-Webster

“BETTER IS POSSIBLE”

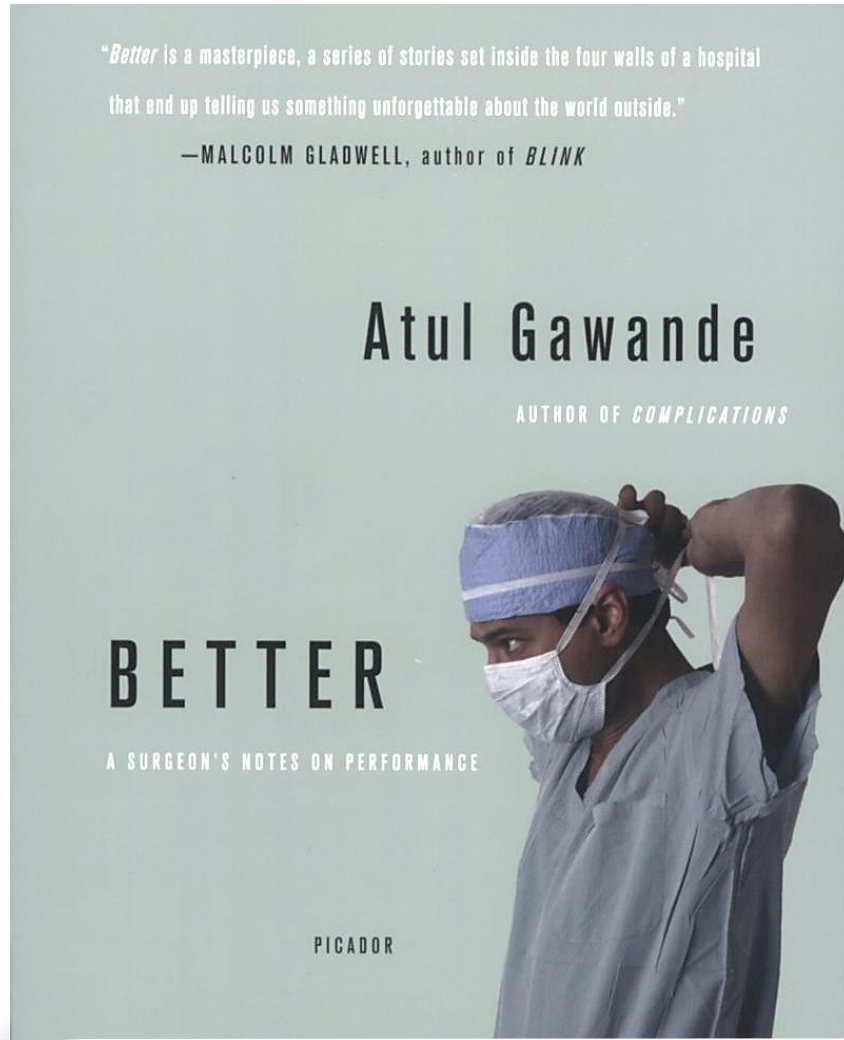
GOAL

Increase the **frequency and reliability** with which people will engage in behaviors that will produce the desired result



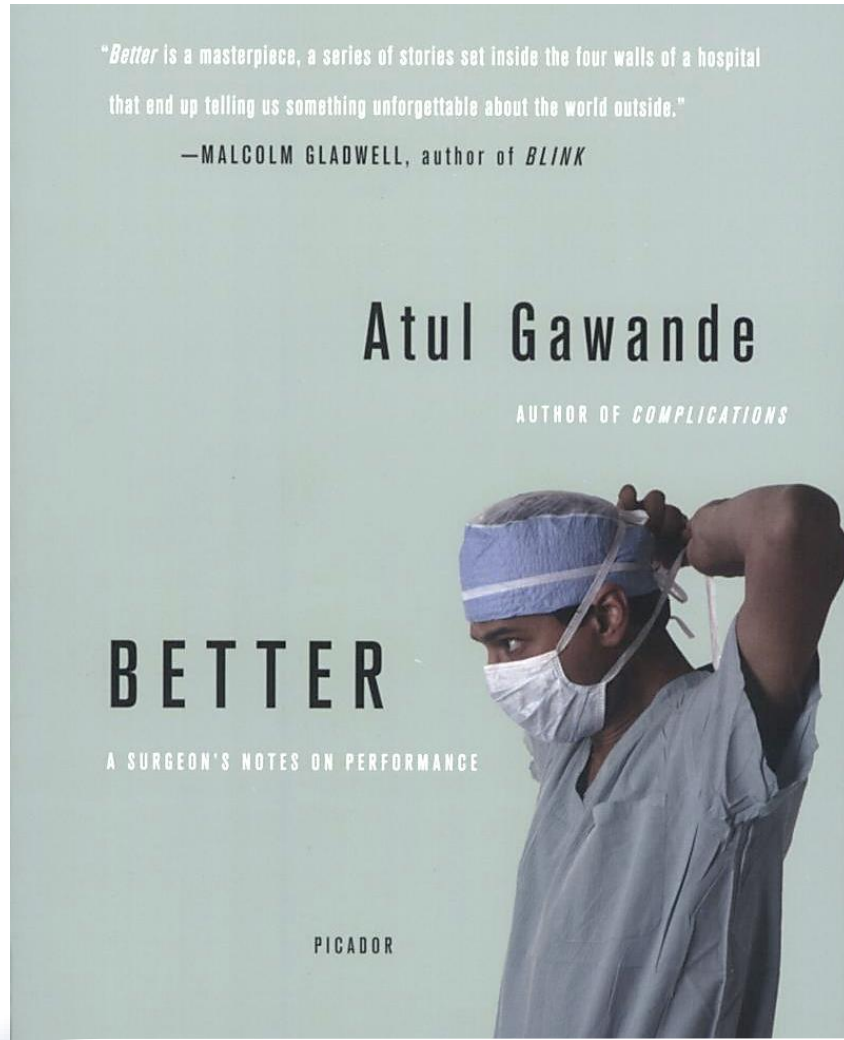
Don't let perfect get in the way of better.

“ASK AN UNSCRIPTED QUESTION”



| “Can we do better?”

THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING TRACK



“If you **count** something interesting, you will **learn** something interesting.” Atul Gawande



| What should **we** count?

EVENTS

COMPLIANCE RATES



| What should **we** count?

OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

COMPLIANCE RATES



Can we improve hand hygiene
by counting these things?

OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

COMPLIANCE RATES

Analyze past
performance



Lagging Indicators

These are **outcome data**.

OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

COMPLIANCE RATES

Analyze past
performance



Lagging Indicators



OPPORTUNITIES

Leading Indicators



Influence future
performance

BEHAVIORS

ACTIONS

The actions or processes
that drive the results we
are getting....good or bad

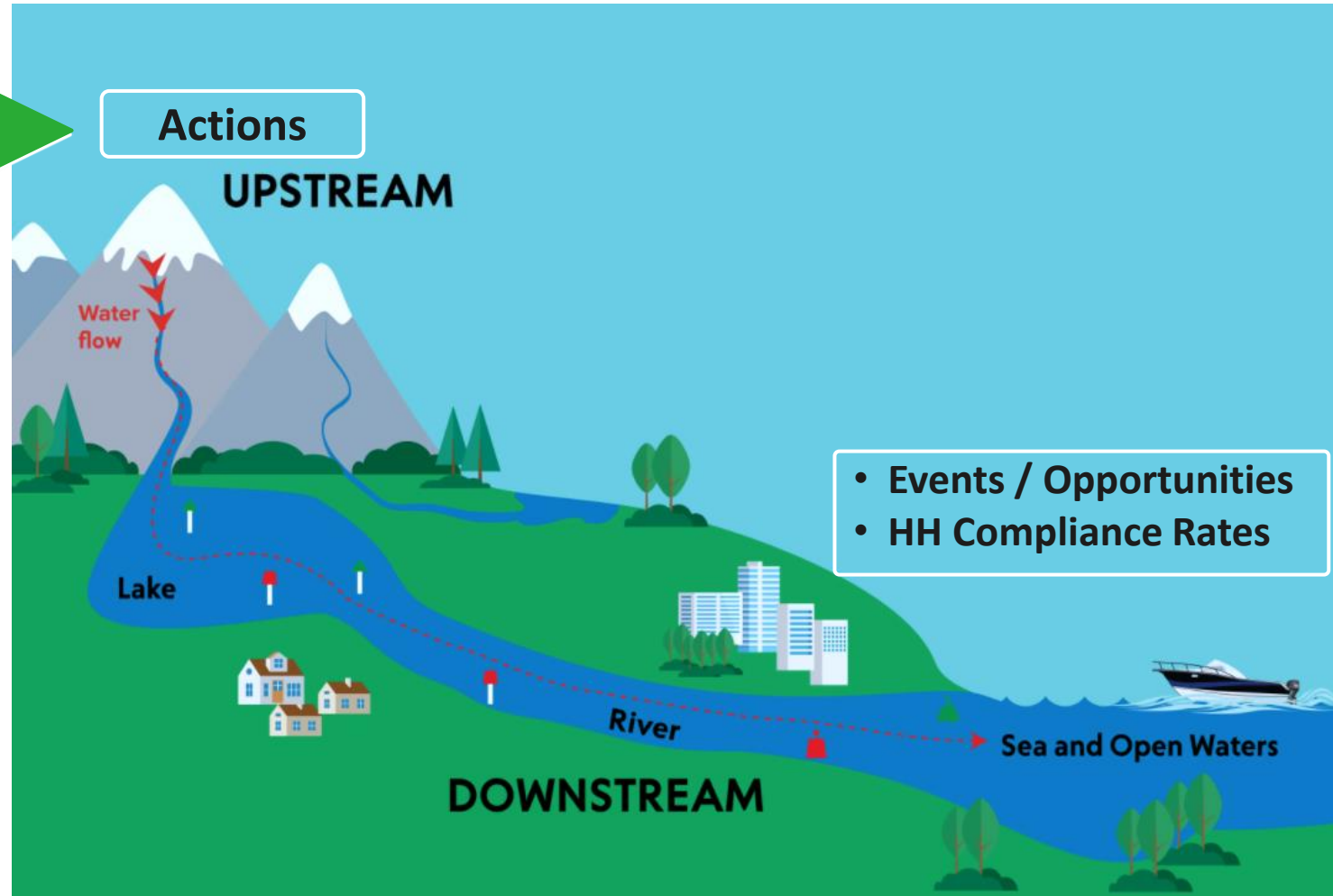
ACTIONS

BEHAVIORS

WE NEED TO “COUNT THINGS” UPSTREAM

Leading

Influence future
performance



Analyze past
performance

Lagging

FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

“They **know** hand hygiene is important.
Why aren’t they **doing** it?”

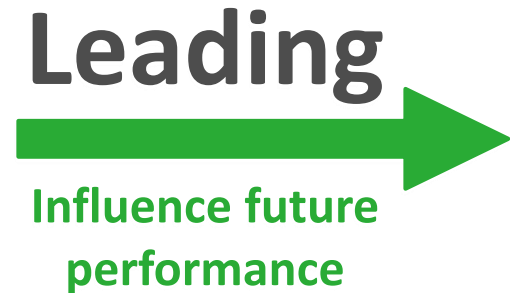
The focus is downstream



LEADERSHIP

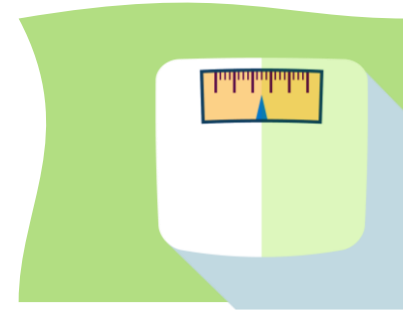
Responsible for putting systems and structures into place that will lead to better results

The focus is upstream



Mrs. Jones

- ☒ Sets a goal weight
- ☒ Records monthly weight



No Improvement

Leading the way with leading indicators. Steve Taninecz; Vizient. October 2, 2014.

Mrs. Jones

- ✓ 2000-calorie diet
- ✓ Daily exercise
- ✓ Records daily weight



No Improvement

Leading the way with leading indicators. Steve Taninecz; Vizient. October 2, 2014



Influence future
performance

Mrs. Jones

- ✓ Records whether she **met** her calorie goal
- ✓ Records whether she **met** her daily exercise goal
- ✓ Records daily weight

TRACKING UPSTREAM
PERFORMANCE RELATIVE
TO GOALS

Action-Based Leading Indicators



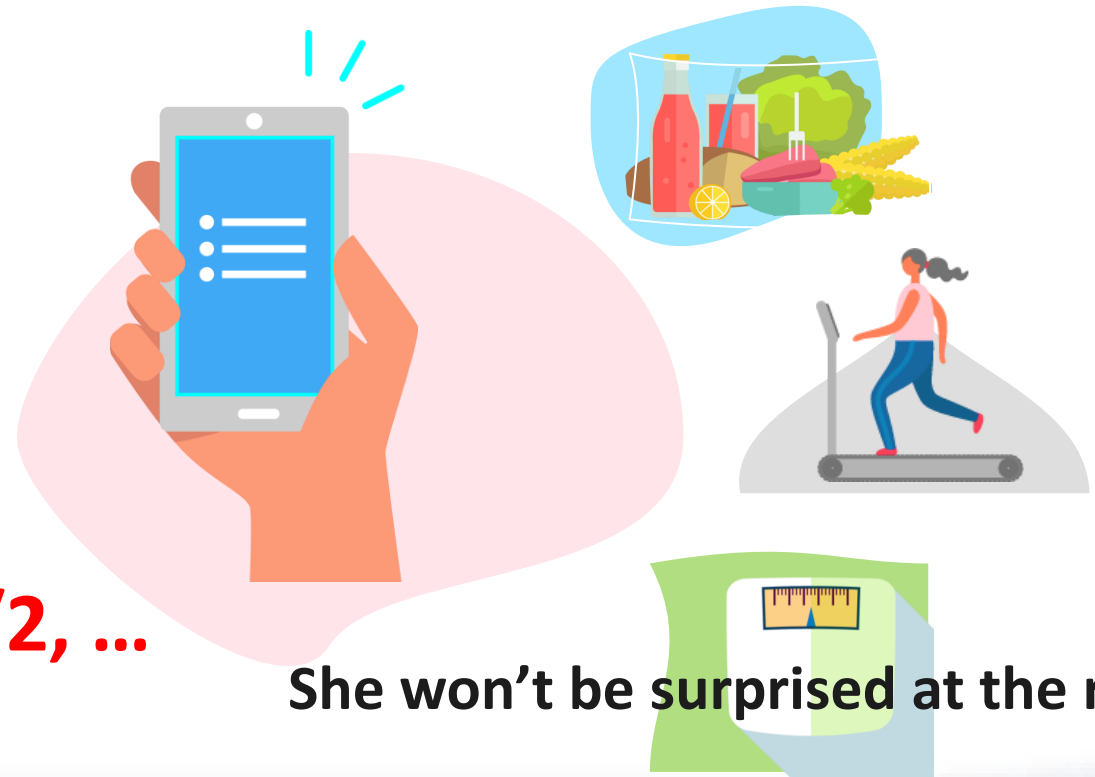
Influence future performance

Mrs. Jones

- ✓ Records whether she **met** her calorie goal
- ✓ Records whether she **met** her daily exercise goal

If the chart shows 0/2, 0/2, 0/2, ...

She won't be surprised at the results.



Action-Based Leading Indicators



Influence future performance

Mrs. Jones

- ✓ Records whether she **met** her calorie goal
- ✓ Records whether she **met** her daily exercise goal

If the chart shows 2/2, 2/2, 2/2, ...

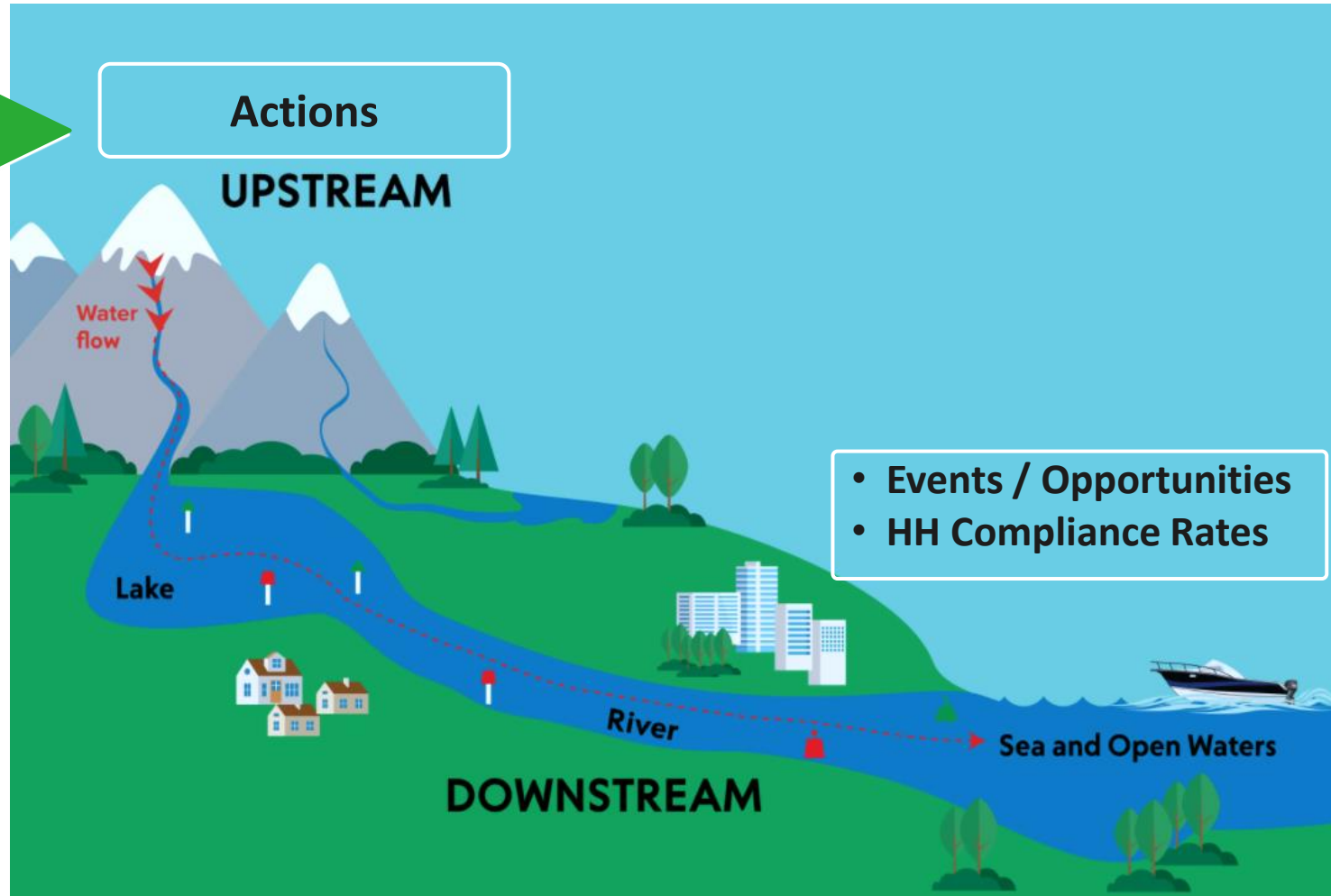


She will have confidence that her outcome will improve!

WE NEED TO “COUNT THINGS” UPSTREAM

Leading

Influence future
performance



Analyze past
performance

Lagging



ACTIONS

BEHAVIORS

BEHAVIORS

Action-Based Leading
Indicators



Influence future
performance

The key:

- Define the upstream action-based leading indicators or processes
- Measure them frequently
- Problem solve, adjust as necessary

ACTIONS

HEALTHCARE EXAMPLE: GOAL - FALLS REDUCTION

Unit A

Unit B

Both units identified 3 actions to reduce patient falls

1. Fall risk assessment for each patient every day
2. Fall risk patient identifiers posted at the room
3. Regularly scheduled toileting of fall risk patients

- ✓ Charted process measures on visual management boards; reviewed daily at huddles
- ✓ Charted monthly fall rate

HEALTHCARE EXAMPLE: FALLS REDUCTION

Unit A

During each daily huddle:

- Charted and discussed falls that occurred the previous day
- Determined root causes for the fall
- Followed up appropriately

Downstream

Unit B

During each daily huddle:

- Charted whether the 3 **actions** were followed the previous day for each patient
- ID fall risk, Room ID, Toileting
- If not, why not?
- What can we do differently?

Upstream

HEALTHCARE EXAMPLE: FALLS REDUCTION

Unit A

Unit B

Let's Review

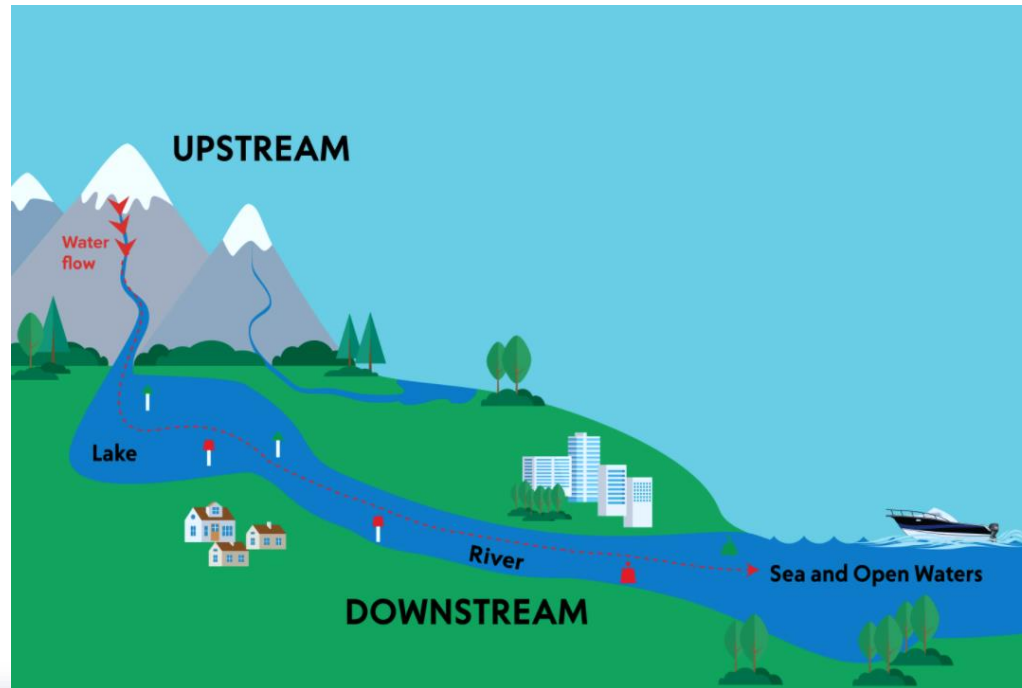
- **Defined the actions** that they felt would be effective in reducing and eliminating patient falls.
- **Tracked those actions** every day
- **Monitored the impact on the outcome**--monthly fall rate.

Drove accountability into the processes and ensured the actions were followed

The essence
of managing

CURRENT APPROACH TO HAND HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT

Focus is on hand hygiene behavior of healthcare workers



Focusing **only** on the hand hygiene behavior of healthcare workers is like treating the symptom **without addressing the cause.**

THE SYSTEM IS THE PROBLEM

- It is unfair to ask employees to perform better than the system's design and management will allow.
- It is the responsibility of leadership to provide a system in which people can be successful.
- If you want to improve performance, you must work on the system

CULTURE OF IMPROVEMENT

- The assumption is that the problem is caused by the system.
- Everyone engages in identifying problems and opportunities for improvement.
- The goal is to improve the system that is contributing to the results.

MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE



| How do we get started?

MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE

Dr. Martine Caris et al.



Studied the relationship between safety culture and the ability to improve hand hygiene.

Hand hygiene performance is less about hand hygiene

and more about

other foundational issues within the unit

Upstream

MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE

High-Performing Units

- High levels of safety culture at the unit level
- Close collaboration and involvement of unit management /free of hierarchy
- Unit managers set standards with staff involvement (collaboration)
- Staff aware of consequences of noncompliance
- Safety issues anticipated and pre-empted
- Addressing coworkers in cases of noncompliance is common
- Implemented more HH interventions than low-performing units

Low-Performing Units

- Low levels of safety culture at the unit level
- Units with multiple medical specialties consistently showed difficulties in collaboration between medical and nursing staff
- Opposing points of view on collaboration
- Reactive approach to safety issues
- Staff focused on own performance and addressing coworker's noncompliance was not a part of the culture
- Discrepancies on improvement strategies

Caris MG, et al. Patient safety culture and the ability to improve: A proof of concept study on hand hygiene. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol.* 2017;38:1277-1283

MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE

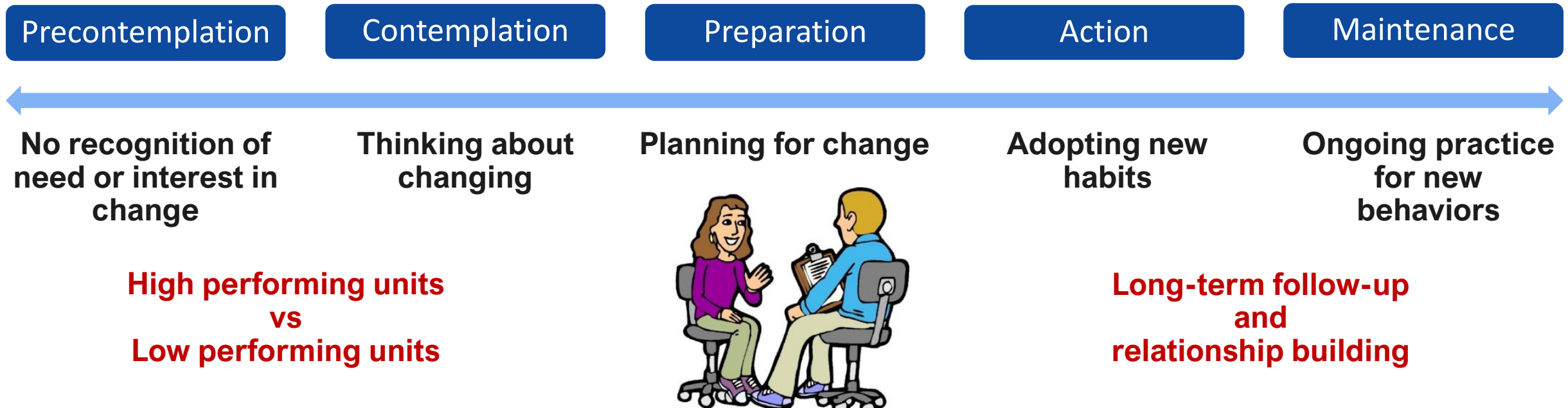
A.K.A. “Speaking Up”

Unit-Led



MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE

Transtheoretical Model and the Stages of Change



NURSE MANAGER READINESS ASSESSMENT

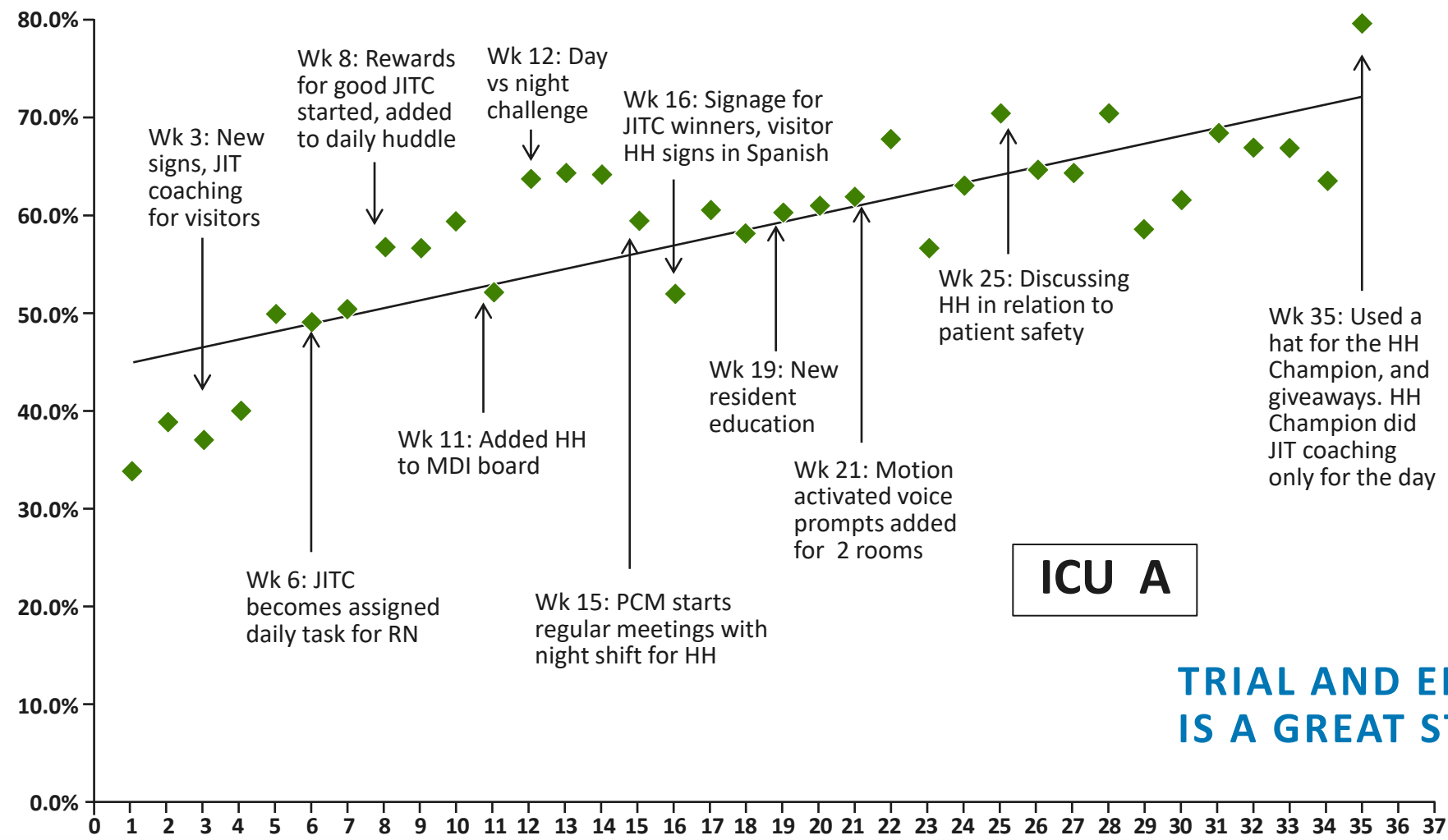
MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE

Large Academic Hospital – 38 units with ECM – 2014 to present

Action-Based Leading Indicators:

- A nursing leader from each unit joins a 15-minute weekly call to discuss hand hygiene.
 - Report their rates, report out on their promised initiatives, what worked/ didn't work, their next steps, commitments for the next week
 - Report barriers/ problems, report solutions or ask for help
 - Every intervention is documented, categorized and tracked

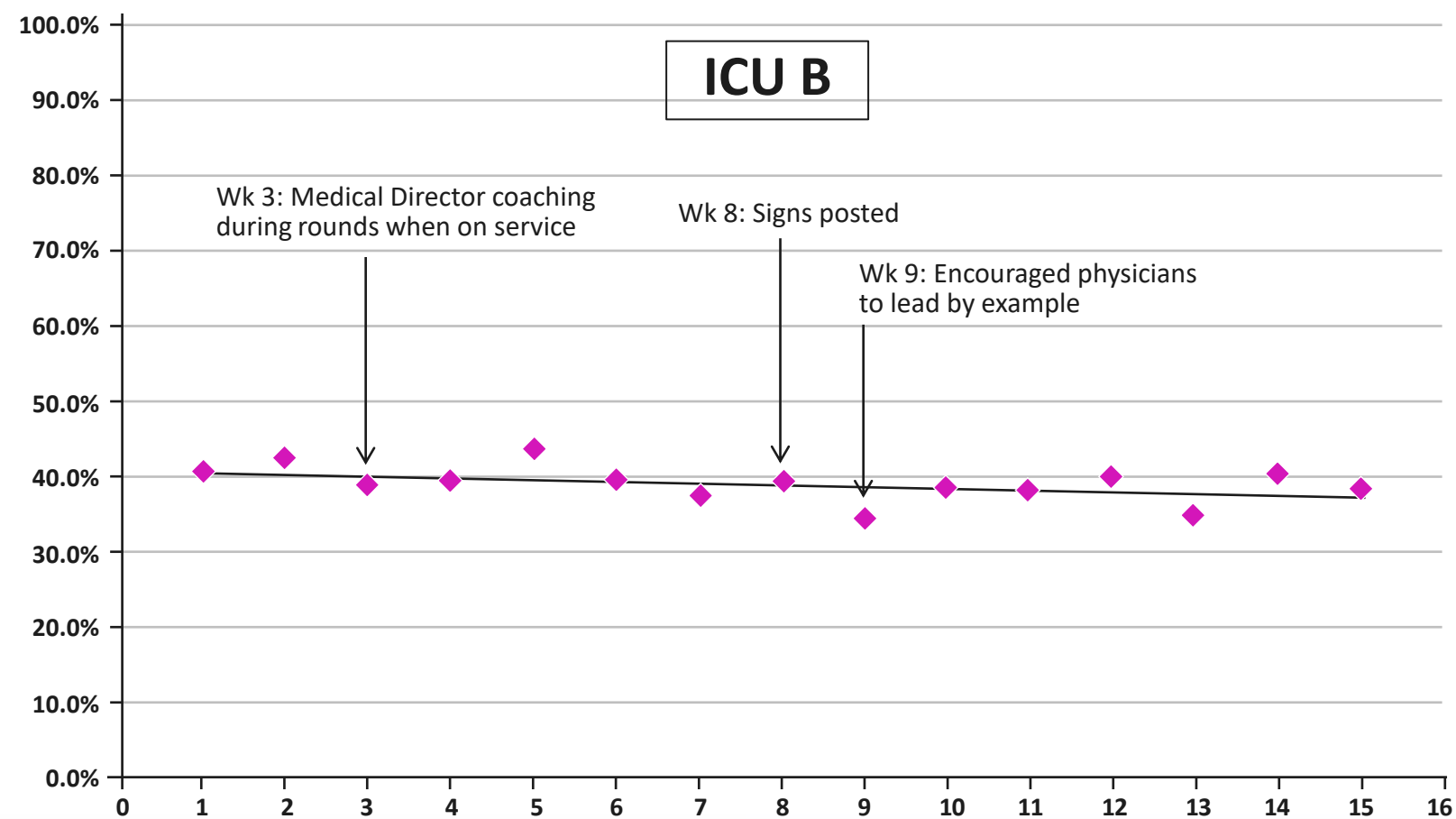
MOVING UPSTREAM TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE



ICU A

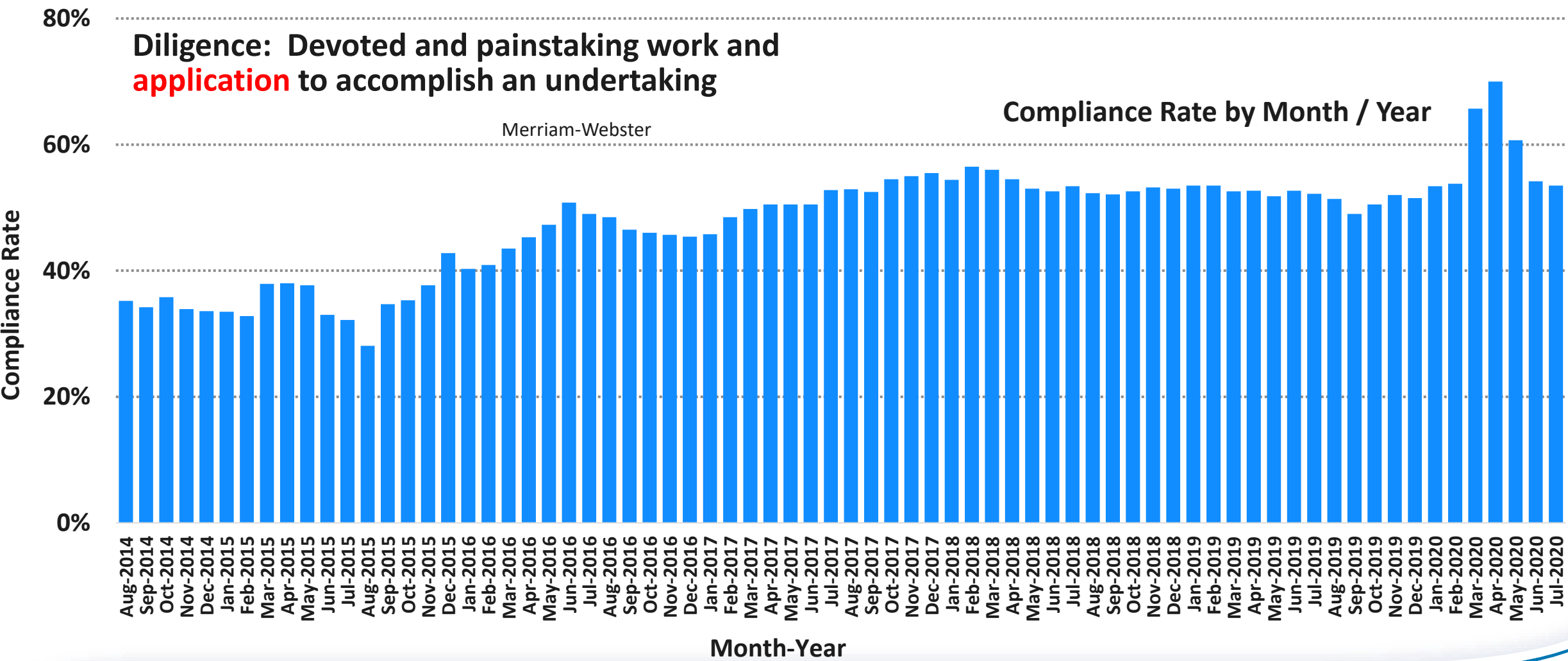
TRIAL AND ERROR
IS A GREAT STRATEGY

LITTLE ACTION = LITTLE IMPROVEMENT

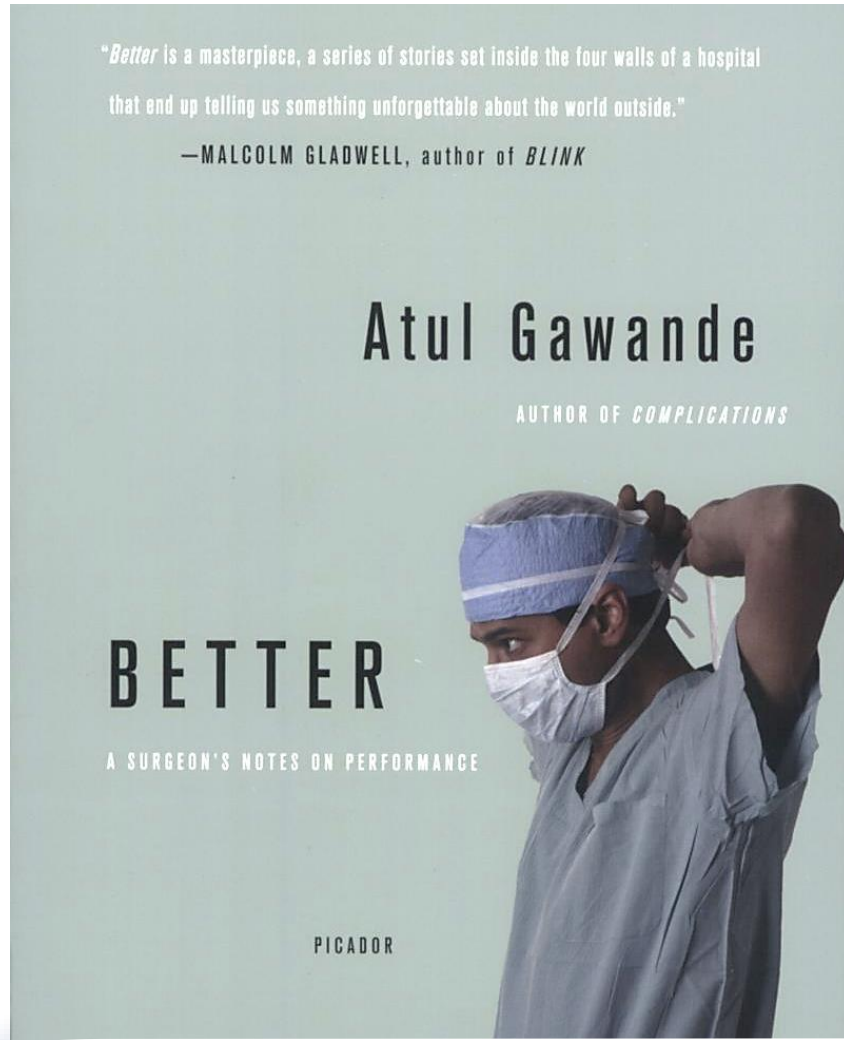


BETTER IS POSSIBLE

AUGUST 2014 – JULY 2020

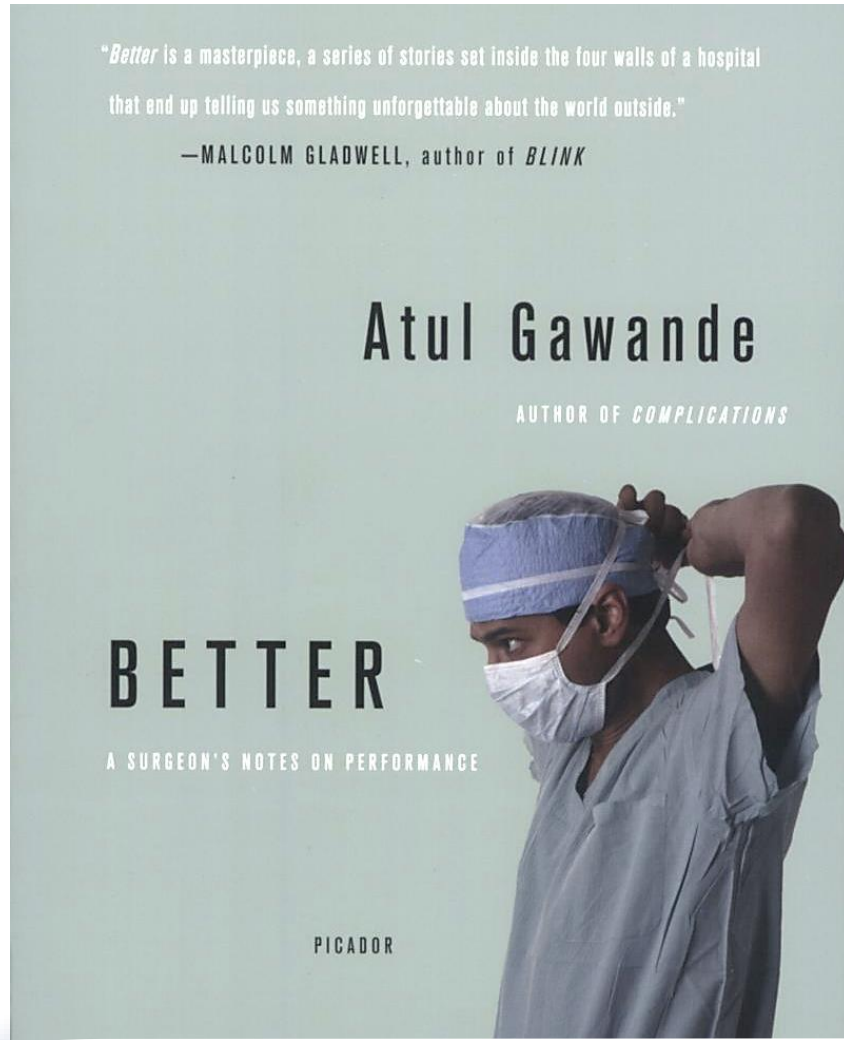


“ASK AN UNSCRIPTED QUESTION”



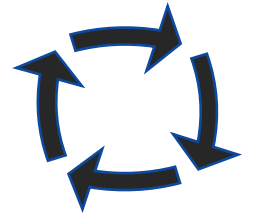
| “Can we do better?”

MANAGEMENT OF HAND HYGIENE



Define the actions upstream that you think will be effective at improving hand hygiene.

Track them frequently.



Monitor for improvement downstream, **problem solve** and **adjust** as needed.

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THANK YOU