

# Implementing a Standardized Approach to Neonatal Herpes Simplex Virus

Laura Brower MD, Amanda Schondelmeyer, MD MSc, Paria Wilson, MD MEd,  
Joshua Courter, PharmD, Michelle Durling, MEd, Neera Goyal, MD MSc, David  
Haslam, MD, Eileen Murtagh, MD MSc, Samir Shah, MD MSCE  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio



## DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

- The authors have no conflicts of interest to resolve
- Funding for this study was provided by the Gerber Foundation Novice Research Award



## Background

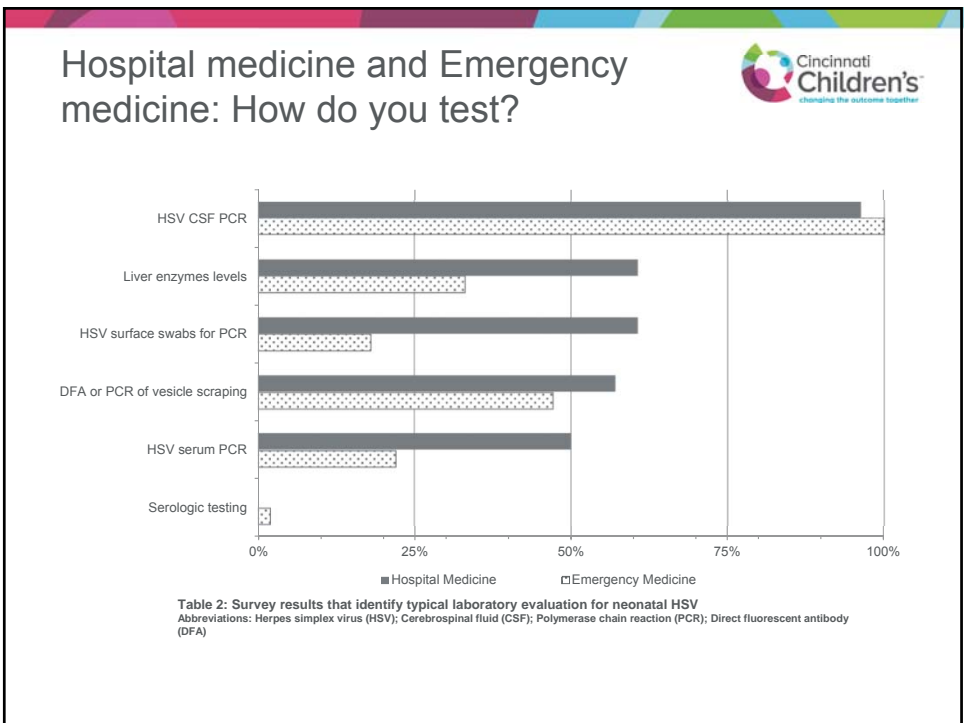
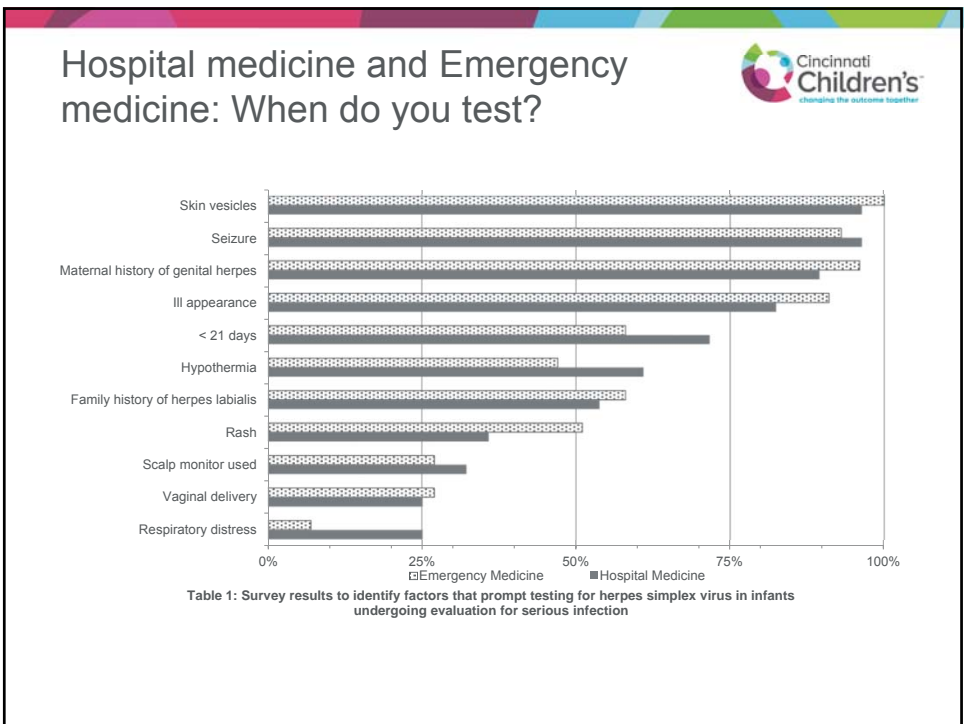
- Neonatal herpes simplex virus (HSV) infections are associated with high mortality and long-term morbidity
- Testing can lead to higher costs and longer length of hospital stay
- Acyclovir has risk of toxicity



## Background

- Appropriate identification of who to test and empirically treat is challenging
  - Low incidence
  - Neonates can present with few to no symptoms



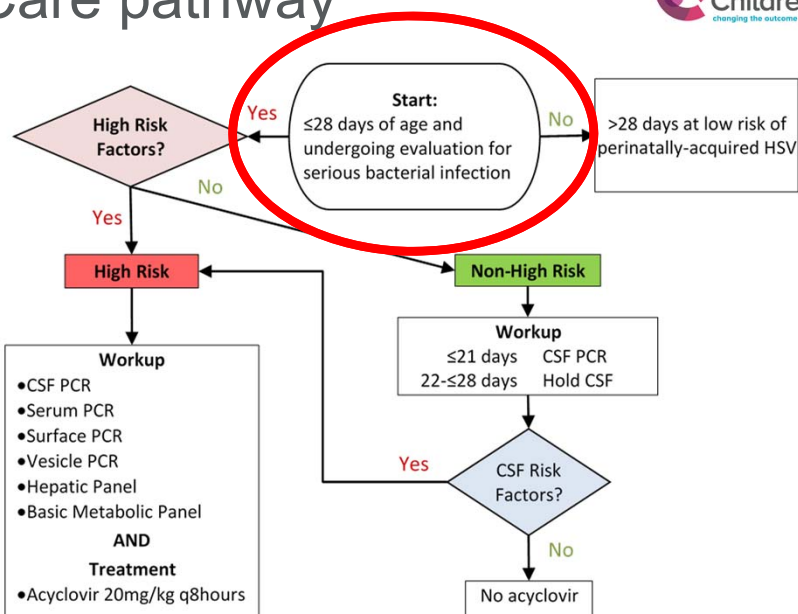


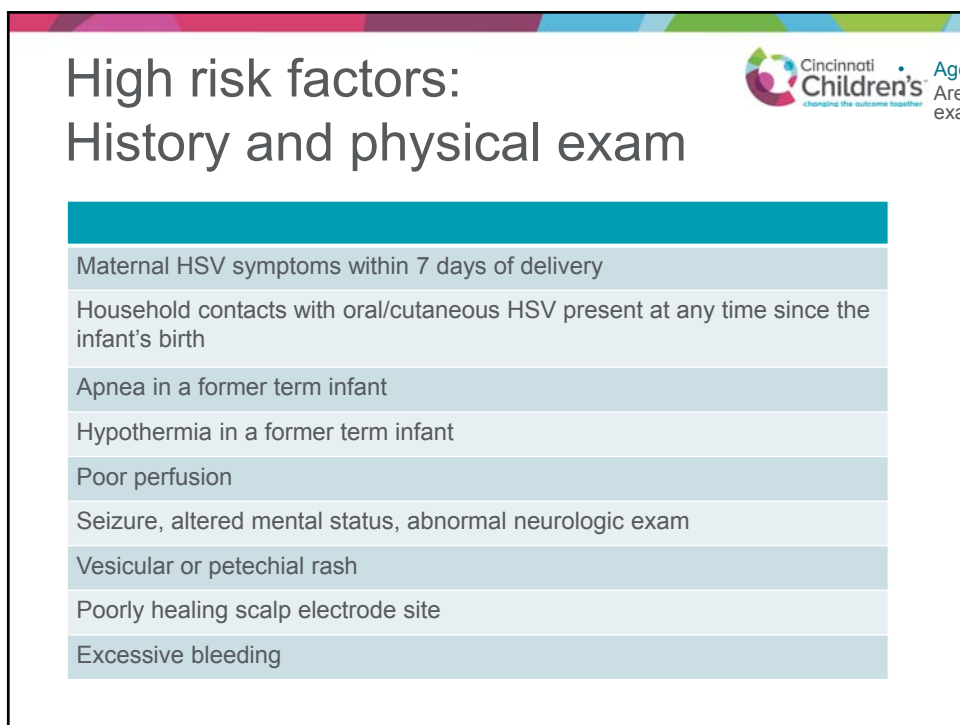
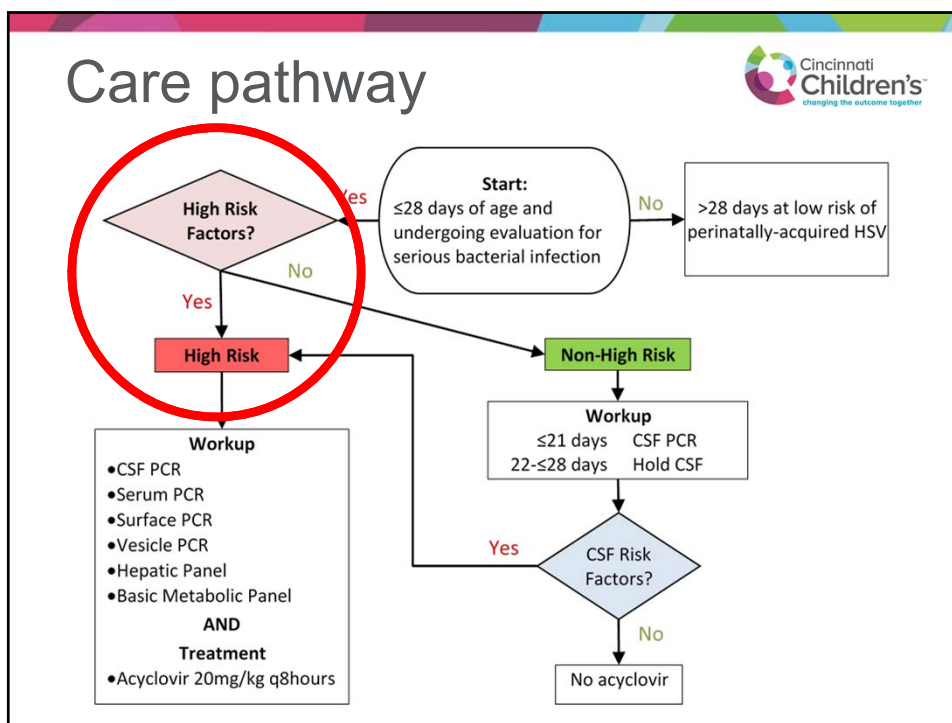
## Background

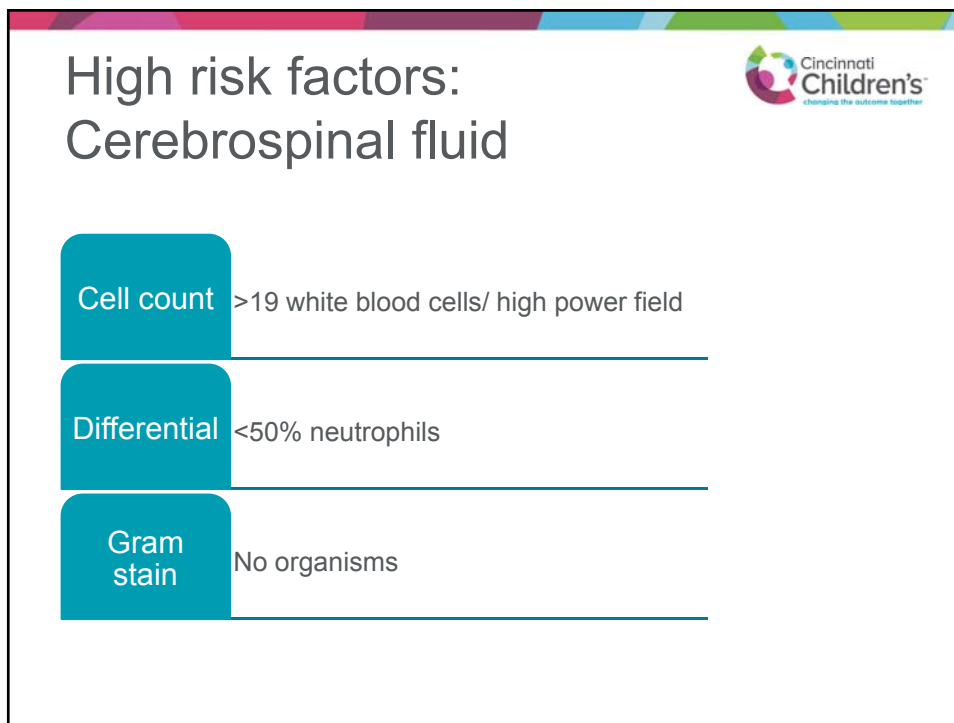
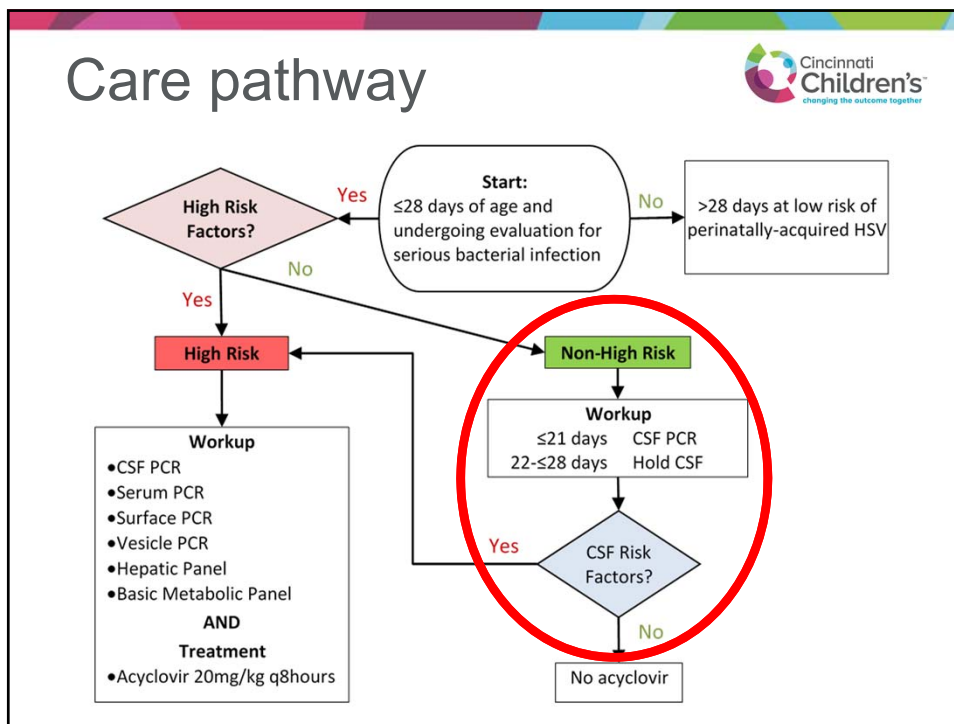


- Multidisciplinary team collaborated to develop an evidence-based care pathway regarding HSV
  - Hospital medicine
  - Emergency medicine
  - Infectious disease
  - Neonatology
  - Pharmacy

## Care pathway







## Care pathway



### High risk

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing
  - CSF, serum, surface, lesion
- Hepatic panel
- Creatinine
- Acyclovir

### Non- high risk

- $\leq 21$  days: CSF PCR
- 22-28 days: Hold CSF
- No acyclovir

## SMART AIM



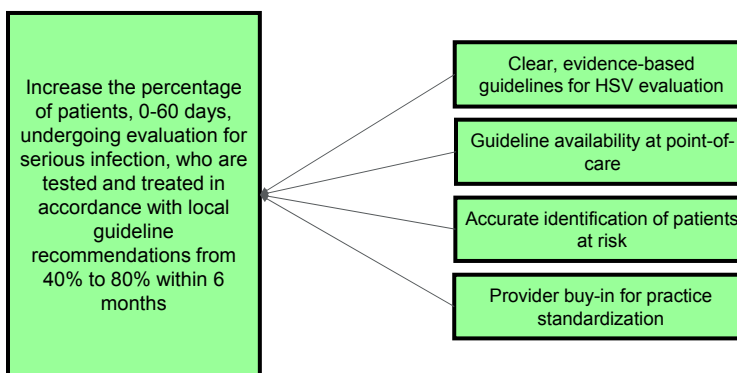
- To increase the percentage of patients, 0-60 days, undergoing evaluation for serious infection, who are tested and treated for neonatal HSV in accordance with local guideline recommendations from 40% to 80%.

## Secondary measures

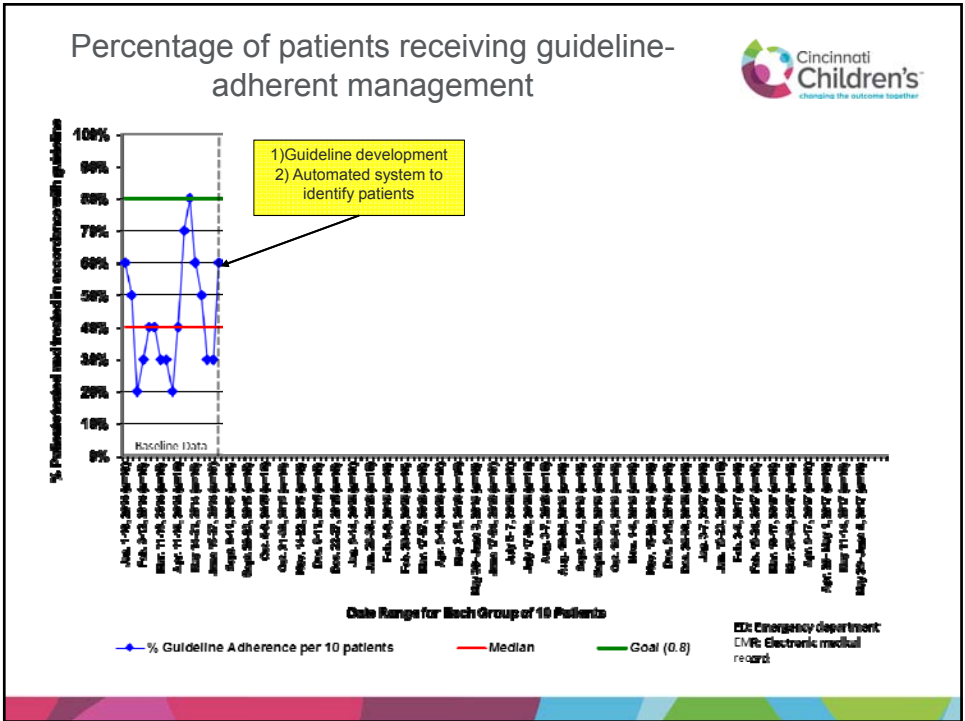
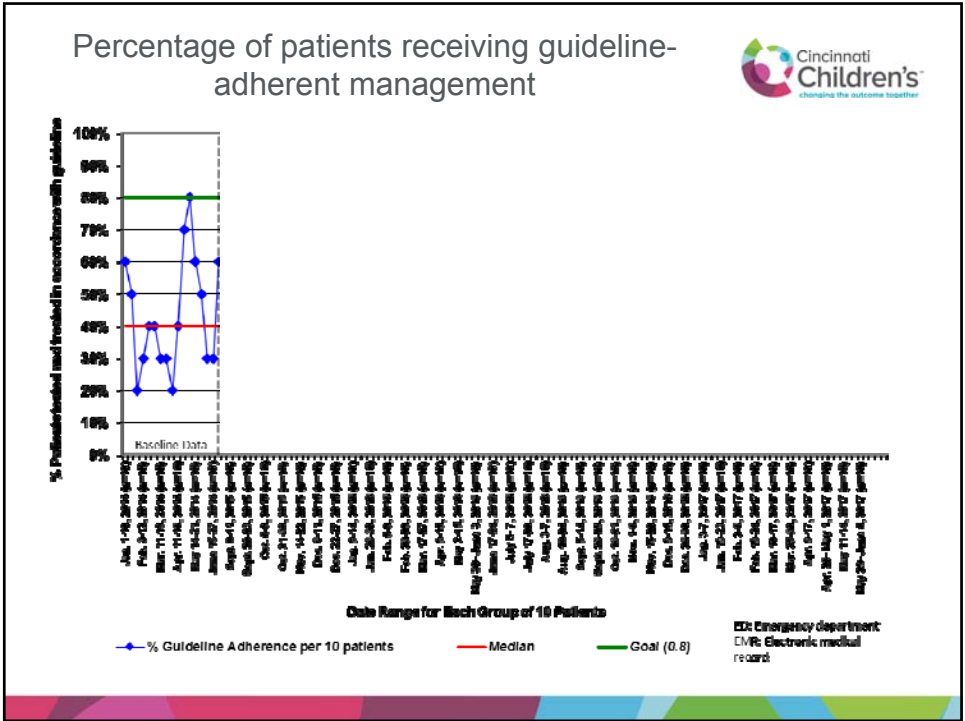


- High risk:
  - % treated with acyclovir
  - % undergoing complete PCR evaluation
  - Length of stay
- Non-high risk
  - % treated with acyclovir
  - PCR test per 100 patients
  - Length of stay
- Delayed diagnosis of HSV

## Key Drivers

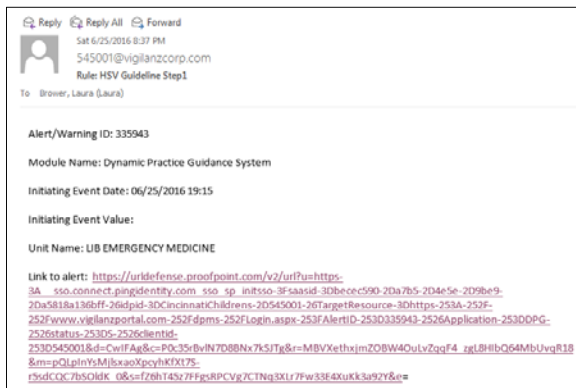






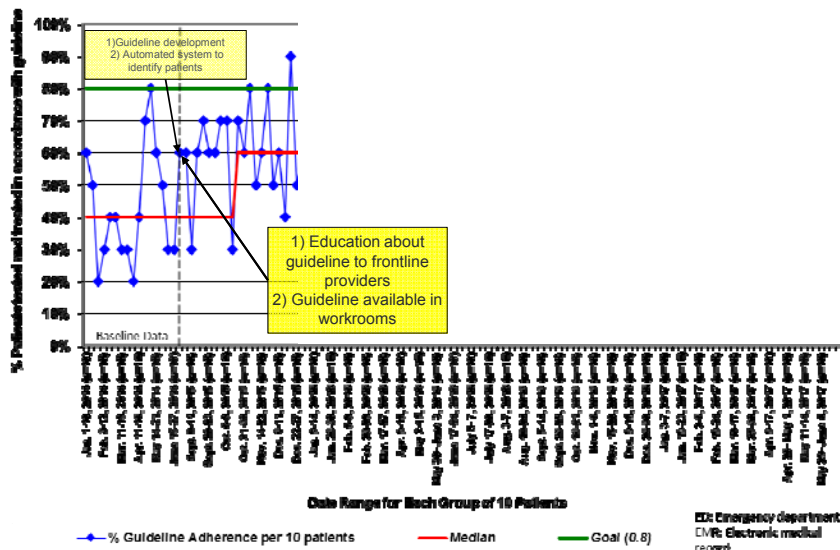


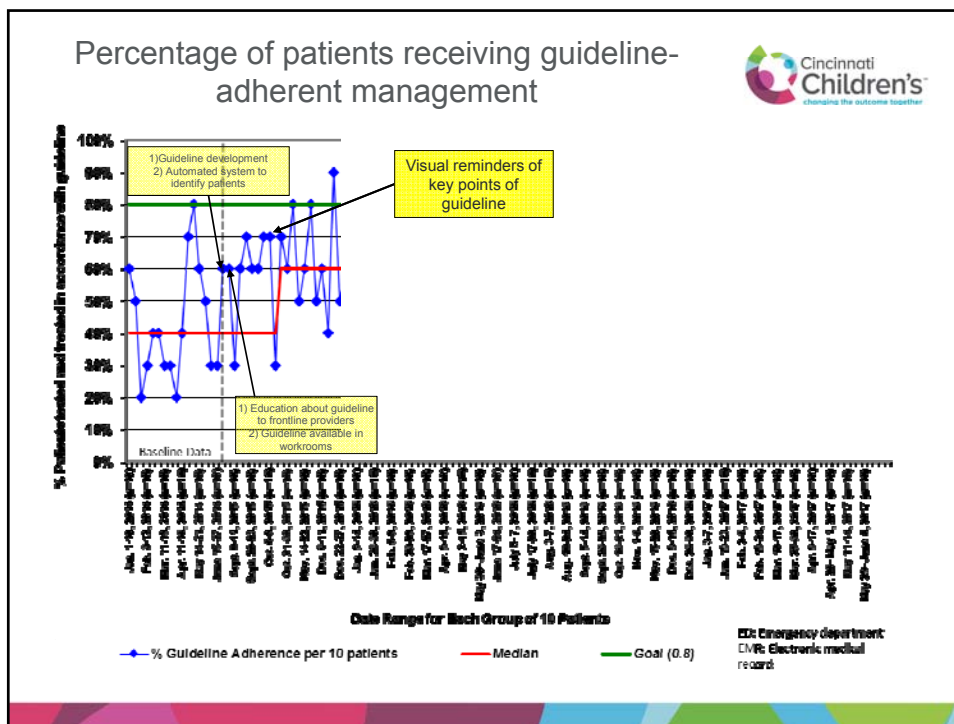
- Real-time identification of eligible patients
  - <60 days with collected blood culture or CSF culture



Vigilanz™

### Percentage of patients receiving guideline-adherent management



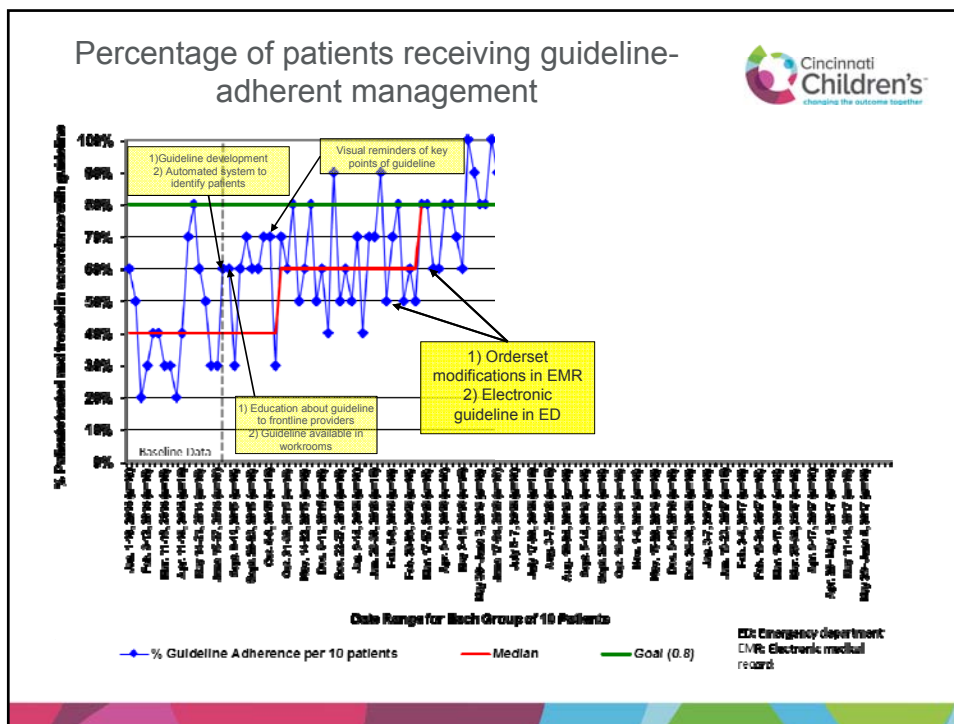


## Visible on screens in the ED

**Neonatal HSV:**  
**Who should be tested?**  
**Who should be treated with acyclovir?**

- **HIGH RISK = TEST and BEGIN ACYCLOVIR**
  - **High risk on history/PE:**
    - Maternal HSV symptoms 7 days before or after delivery and/or household contact(s) with oral /cutaneous HSV present at any time since the infant's birth
    - Apnea or hypothermia (<36C) in former term infant
    - Poor perfusion
    - Seizure, altered mental status, abnormal neurologic exam
    - Vesicular or petechial rash; Poorly healing scalp electrode site; Excessive bleeding
  - **High risk based on CSF:**
    - CSF WBCs >19mm<sup>3</sup> with negative Gram stain AND <50% neutrophils

Questions?  
 laura.brown@cchmc.org  
 patricia.wilson@cchmc.org



### ED Orderset: SBI Evaluation

**Cincinnati Children's**  
changing the outcome together

**Order Sets**

- ED - Serious Bacterial Infection (SBI) Evaluation [Manage My Version](#)
  - NS Flush for All Patients [Collapse](#)
    - NS Flush
      - NS Flush Panel
    - Patients 0-28 Days AND High Risk for HSV [Collapse](#)
      - Patients 0-28d Days AND High Risk for HSV
 

**NOTE: High risk factors from history/exam:** Presence of maternal HSV symptoms 7 days before or after delivery, known household contact with oral/cutaneous HSV, apnea in term infant, poor perfusion, hypothermia in term infant, seizure, altered mental status, abnormal neurologic examination, vesicular or petechial rash, poorly healing scalp electrode site, excessive bleeding

**High risk factors from CSF indices:** pleocytosis (CSF WBCs > 19 mm<sup>3</sup>) with no organisms on gram stain AND < 50% neutrophils

        - Nursing and Labs (Patients Less than 28 Days AND High Risk for HSV)
        - Medications (Patients Less than 28 Days AND High Risk for HSV)
    - Patients 0-21 Days and NON-High Risk for HSV [Collapse](#)
      - Patients 0-21 Days and NON-High Risk HSV [Click for more](#)
    - Patients 22-28 Days and NON-High Risk for HSV [Collapse](#)
      - Patients 22-28 Days and NON-High Risk HSV [Click for more](#)
    - Patients Greater than or Equal to 29 Days [Collapse](#)
      - Patients Greater than or Equal to 29 Days [Click for more](#)

## ED Orderset: SBI Evaluation


 Medications (Patients Less than 28 Days AND High Risk for HSV)

Per CCHMC Guidelines, acyclovir should be empirically started for patients under 28 days who are high risk for HSV along with antibiotics.

- sodium chloride (NS) 0.9 % IV bolus infusion  
Intravenous
- acetaminophen (TYLENOL) 160mg/5mL suspension  
15 mg/kg, Oral, ONCE
- ampicillin (OMNIPEN) intermittent infusion (age <= 7 days)  
100 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE
- ampicillin (OMNIPEN) intermittent infusion (age <= 7 days; meningitic)  
200 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE
- ampicillin (OMNIPEN) intermittent infusion (age > 7 days)  
50 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE
- ampicillin (OMNIPEN) intermittent infusion (age > 7 days; meningitic)  
100 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE
- gentamicin (GARAMYCIN) intermittent infusion (age < 30 days)  
3.5 mg/kg, Intravenous, Administer over 30 Minutes, ONCE
- acyclovir (ZOVIRAX) intermittent infusion  
20 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE
- cefotaxime (CLAFORAN) intermittent infusion  
50 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE
- vancomycin (VANCOCIN) intermittent infusion  
15 mg/kg, Intravenous, ONCE

## ED Orderset: SBI Evaluation


 Medications (Patients Less than 28 Days AND High Risk for HSV)

Per CCHMC Guidelines, acyclovir should be empirically started for patients under 28 days who are high risk for HSV along with antibiotics.

 Medications (Patients Less than 21 Days AND NON-High Risk for HSV)

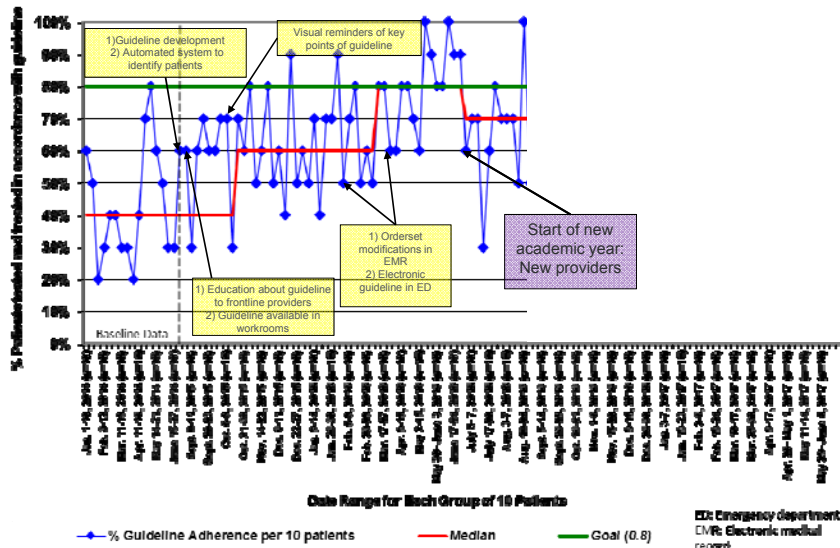
Per CCHMC Guidelines, acyclovir should NOT be empirically started for patients 0-28 days who are non-high risk for HSV.

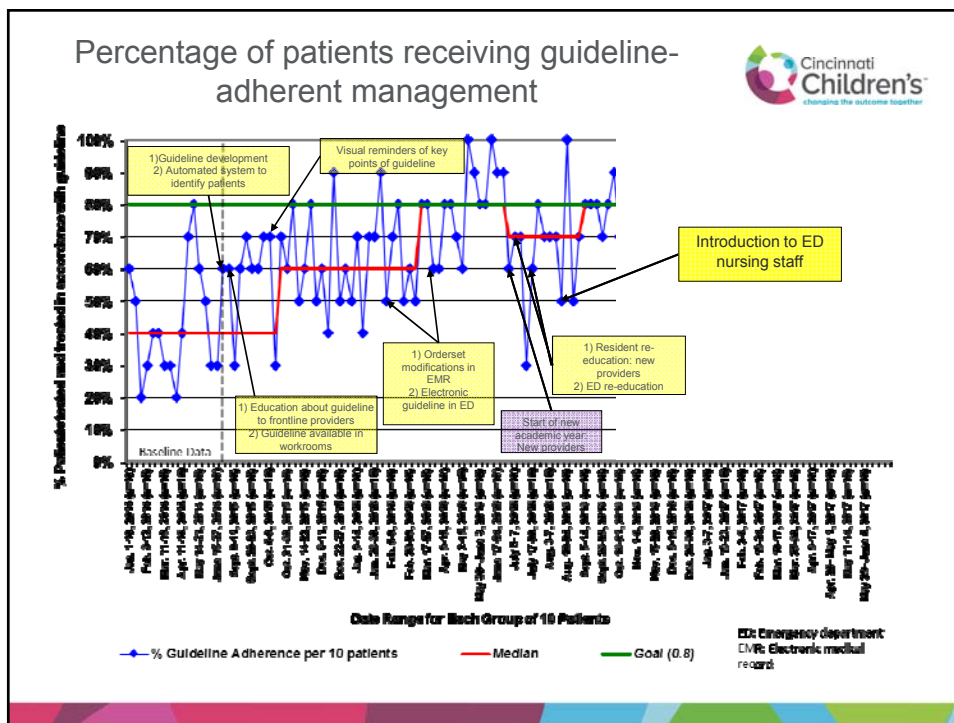
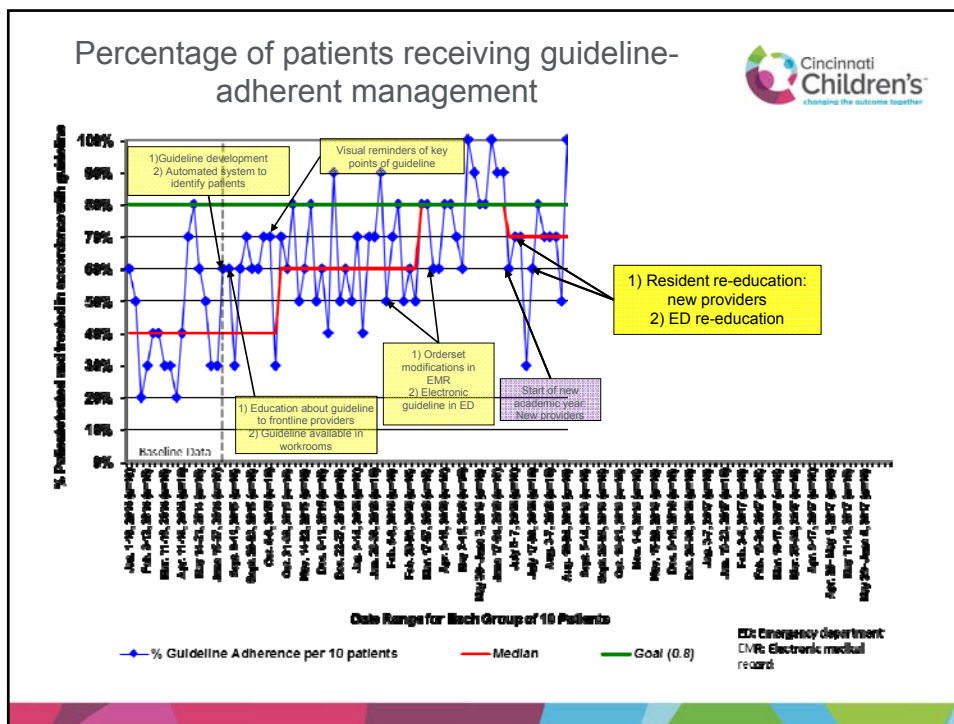
# ED Electronic Availability




The screenshot shows the E-Brain interface with a sidebar on the left containing various clinical tools. The main area lists several protocols, with 'Febrile Infant Algorithm' circled in red. An Adobe Reader window is open, displaying a detailed flowchart for the 'Algorithm for Risk Assessment, Testing and Empiric Treatment for febrile Infants 3-36 Months'.


## Percentage of patients receiving guideline-adherent management



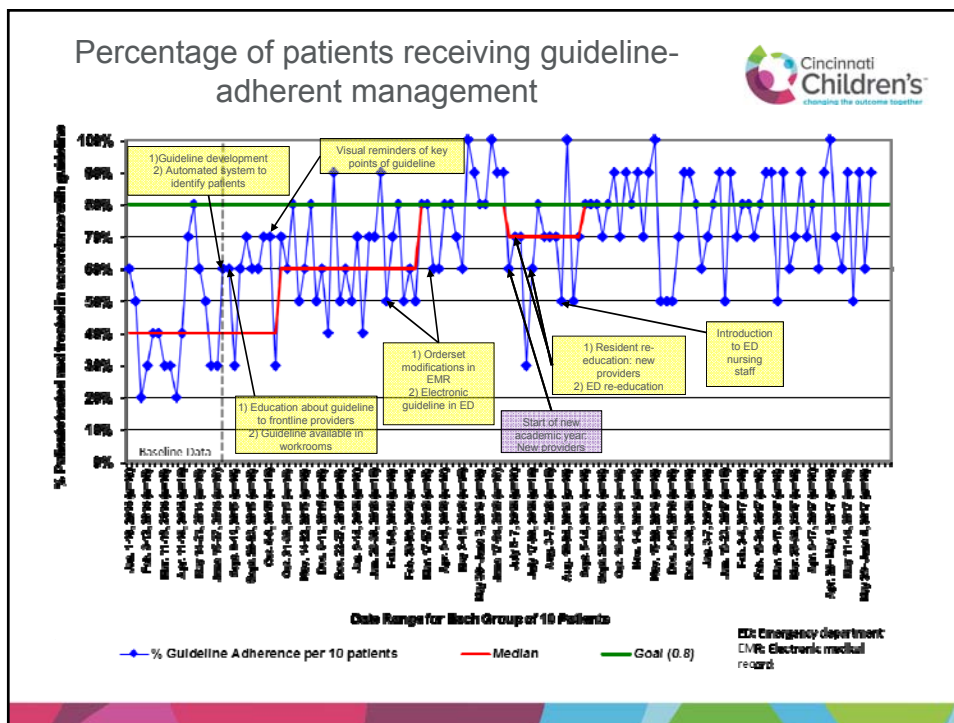




## Swab Guidelines



- For all swabs: Can use red or green-topped Stuart culturette swabs
  - For lesions/vesicles:
    - ✦ Unroof vesicle (if present) with sterile needle
    - ✦ Swab deepest portion of unroofed vesicle or lesion
    - ✦ Swab specimens should be submitted in a sterile culturette
    - ✦ Swab specimens should be labeled as to the specific site of the collection and the patient label
  - For Surface swabs:
    - ✦ Swab conjunctiva (along lower lid), nares (can be one or both), mouth and rectum
    - ✦ Can use 1 swab (done in above order) or multiple swabs
    - ✦ Rotate or rub swab on mucosal surface
    - ✦ Swab specimens should be submitted in a sterile culturette
    - ✦ Swab specimens should be labeled as to the specific site of the collection and the patient label





## Secondary outcomes



## Conclusions



- We increased the percentage infants undergoing evaluation for serious infection who are tested and treated for neonatal HSV in accordance with local guideline recommendations from 40% to 80% within 8 months
- Increased complete evaluations
- Optimized acyclovir usage

## Limitations



- Single center
  - Small number of HSV cases
- Person-dependent process

## Next Steps



- Continue sustainability work with EMR changes on the inpatient side
- Continue to follow the performance of the care pathway



- Thank you to the members of the team
- Providers in the ED and inpatient setting



- Questions?