

# Palliative outcome measures in a cancer hospital.....

Dr Ros Taylor

The Royal Marsden

@hospicedoctor



# Steve

- Age 27 yrs
- Spinal tumour
- Weak hands
- Surgery, radiotherapy and now chemo

- **Goals**
- **Be able to text**
- **Manage in the toilet**
- **Get married**



# 1992

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and too small to be useful*



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before? Why should only the minority who die of malignancies—and precious few even of them—be singled out for de luxe dying? And why should a large and general need be left to the scanty and scandalously choosy efforts of a patchwork of local charities with one hand in the coffers of the NHS and the other in the church bazaar economy?

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lamentable; as a base for the development of nursing skills and service innovations such as home care for the dying; and as a first home for that useful scientific, clinical, and educational endeavour, the specialty of palliative care.

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## For all the saints

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*MANAGING  
SUFFERING &  
UNCERTAINTY*



# A drawer full of thank-you letters ....

Dame Barbara Monroe



## *Patient Outcomes*

**The difference you make** OACC



**VALUE**

*Patient Experience*

**What it feels like**

*Activity Data*

**What you do** MDS



# *What matters to people?*

- Goals - being listened to
- Symptom control
- Safety, time for preparation and peace
- Information
- Family support
- Coordinated care and 24/7 advice





# *No triggers for referral*





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*Research....*

*Patient care / teams /  
cancer sites*

*Demonstrate unmet need*



# Research



# Early intervention of Specialist Palliative Care for patients with cancer

## Evidence of benefits:

- Improved Quality of Life
- Better symptom control
- Reduced depression
- Less aggressive care at EOL
- Increased survival
- Improved prognostic understanding

*Temel JS et al. NEJM 2010; 363: 733-42*

*Zimmerman C et al. Lancet 2014; 383: 1721-30*

*Bakitas M et al. JAMA 2009; 302: 741-9*

*Ferrell B et al. JCO 2017; 35(1): 96-112*



# Triggers for referral

## Specialist Palliative Care Referral Triggers Tool

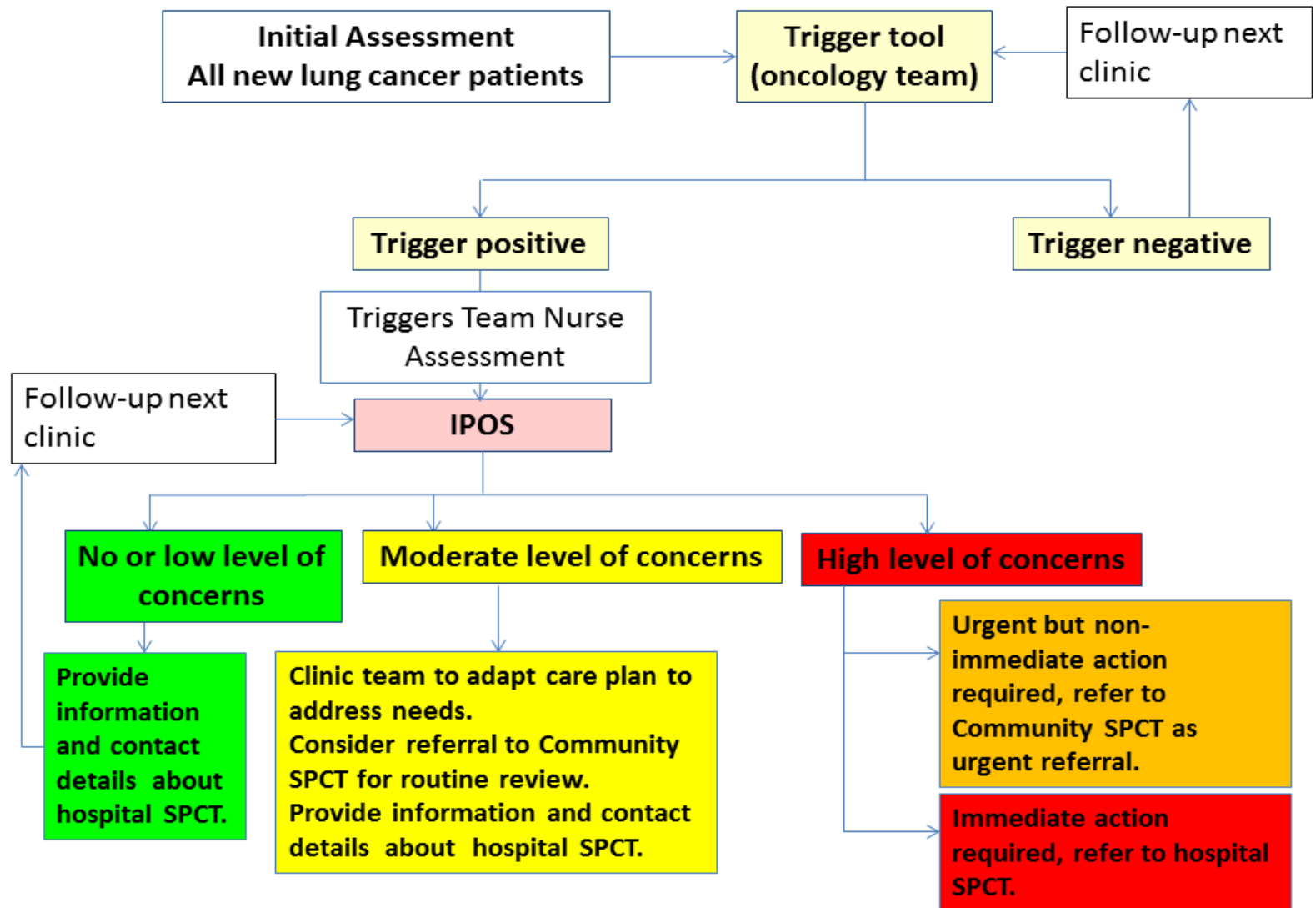
*Patient is "Trigger positive" if they have any one of the following:*

- Metastatic cancer progressing after 1<sup>st</sup> line of treatment
- Performance status ECOG 2 and deteriorating
- Acute oncology or unplanned admission
- Severe or overwhelming symptoms
- Anorexia, hypercalcemia, or any effusion
- Moderate or severe psychological or existential distress
- Complex social issues

RM Partners. London Cancer Alliance Palliative Care and End of Life Care Pathway Group. The Transition to Palliative Care.  
<http://www.londoncanceralliance.nhs.uk>




# “Triggers”: A New Integrated Palliative Care Service



# Data from 4 months of new “Triggers” service

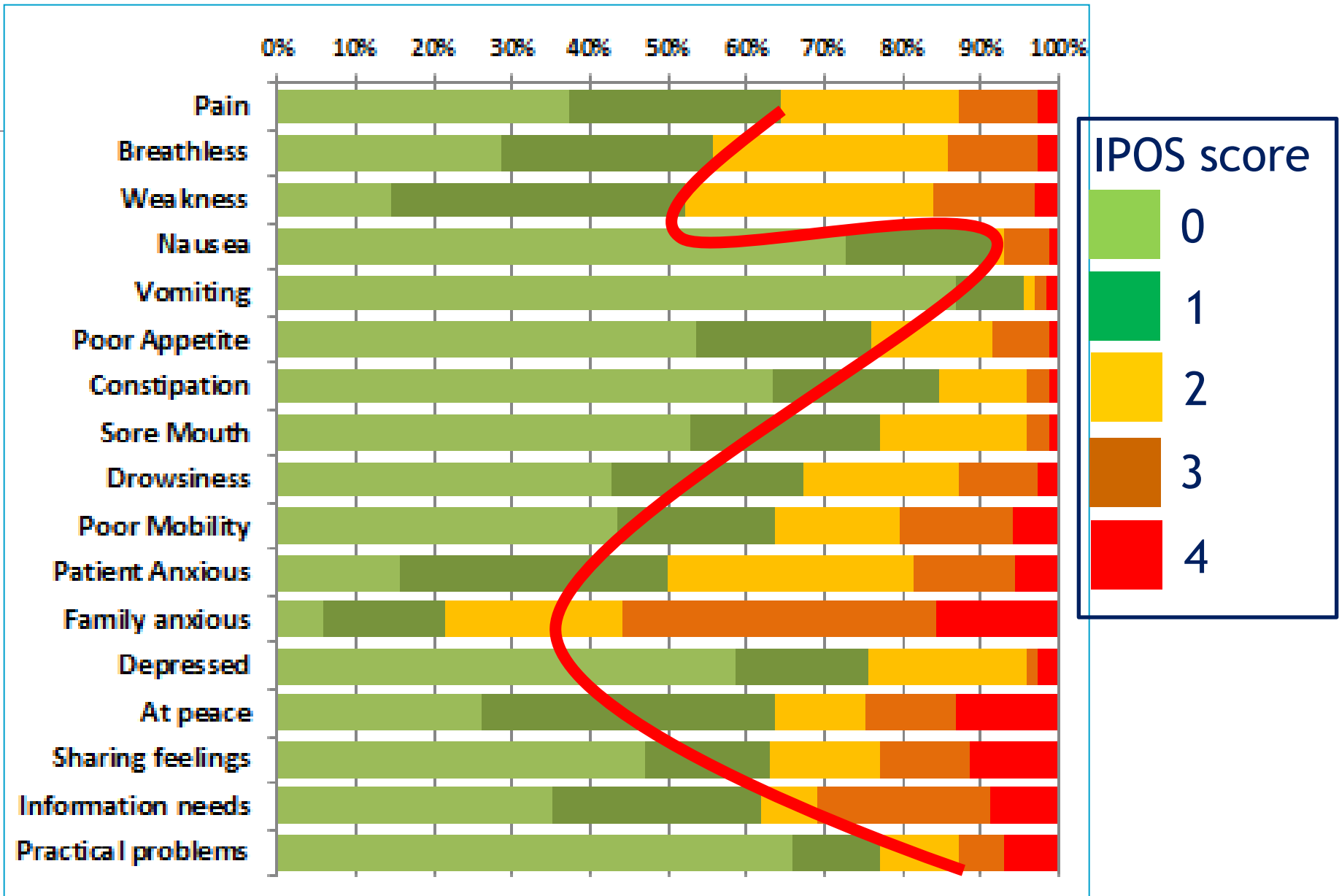
*100+ patients*  
*73 Trigger positive*



81% (57/70) had severe or  
overwhelming PC need on at least one  
IPOS item.



# Palliative care needs at 1<sup>st</sup> assessment





# Of interest:

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*Information needs and family anxiety  
fit with CSNAT assessment globally*

*Carers Support Needs Assessment Tool*

*What does that mean for service?*



# Patients



Life demands excellence

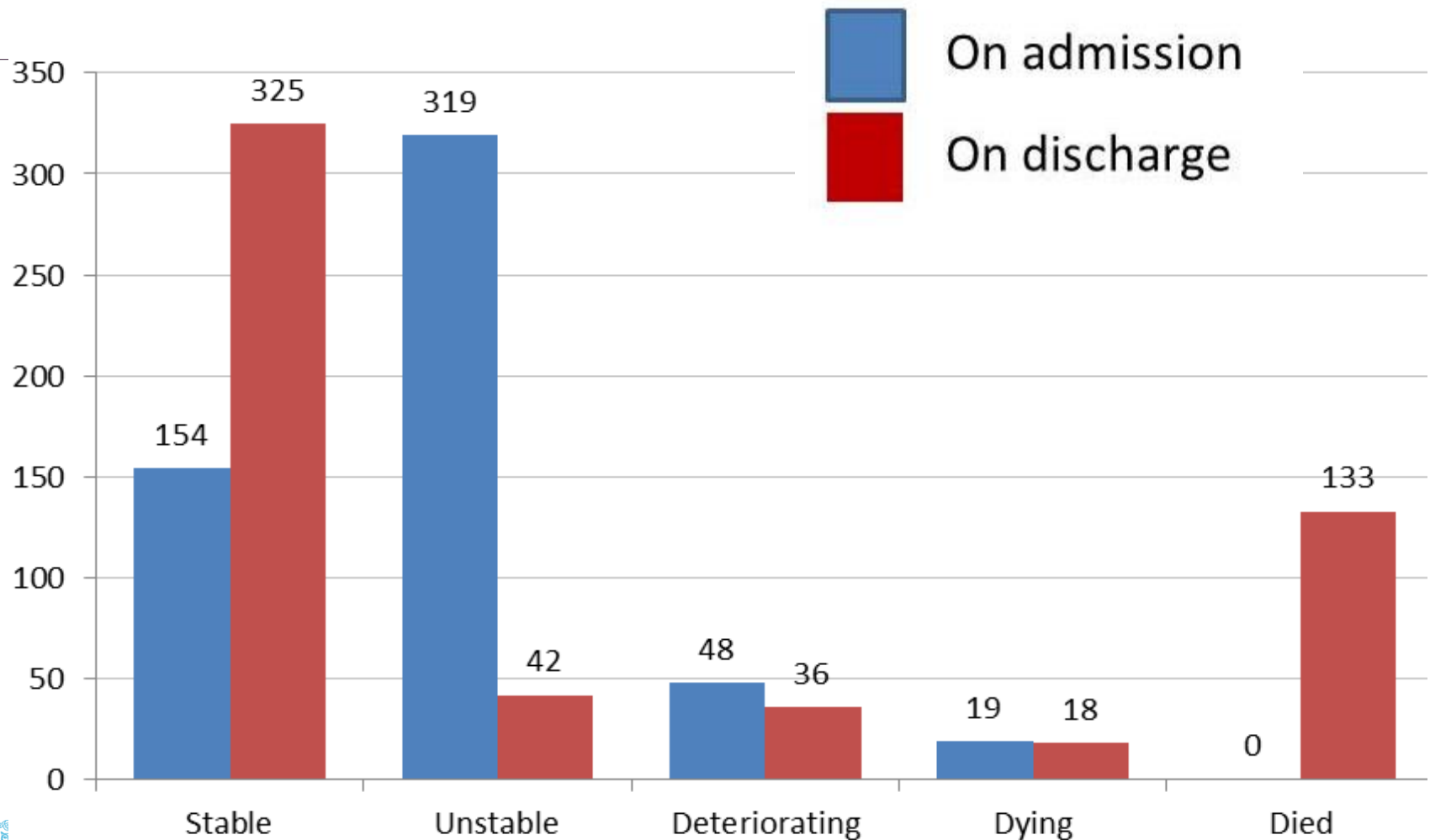
# Phase on every patient, every day

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*Question - How long unstable for?*



# Phase as an outcome measure



# Complexity of referrals

**Phase and AKPS on every new patient discussed at MDT**



# Now

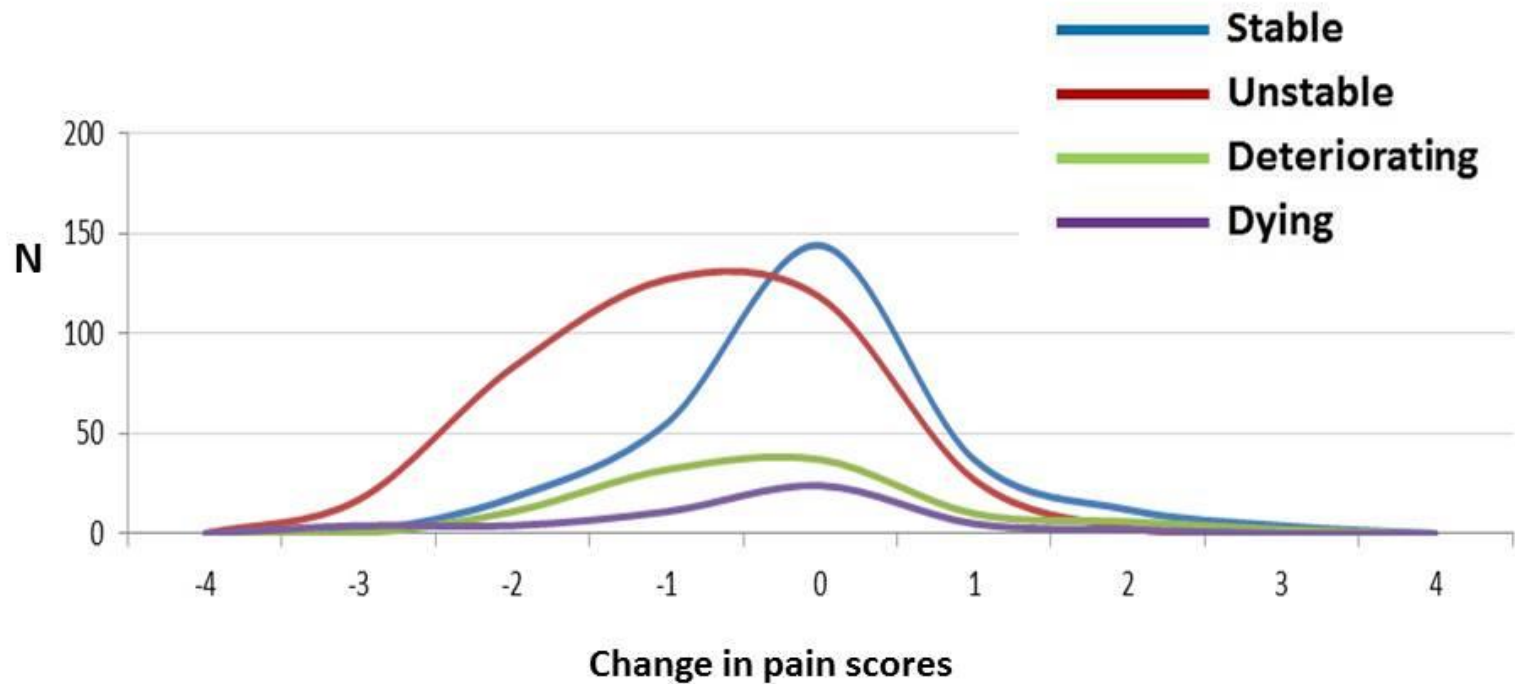
***Phase*** every patient, every day

***AKPS*** for MDT

***IPOS*** every 1st assessment and discharge



# Change in pain scores Start to end of phase





## Potential benefits to patients

*Improved holistic assessment*

*Identification of unmet need*

*Efficient prioritisation*

## Targets - examples

*Unstable phase less than 3 days*

*Proportion of patients with symptom scores less than 2*



# Potential benefits to hospital palliative care team

*Needs driven service*

*Effective MDT*

*Benchmarking with other hospital services*

*Demonstrable measure of value*



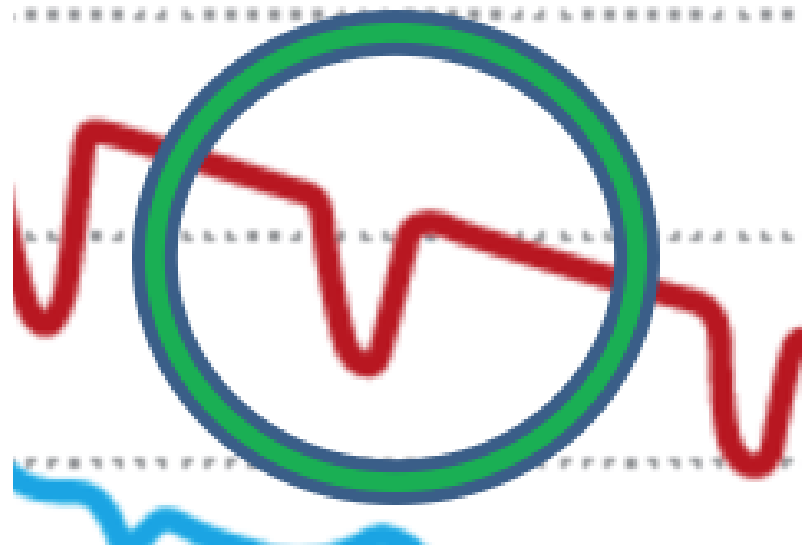
# Unmet need

# Too much focus on the physical....



# *Event-centred care?*

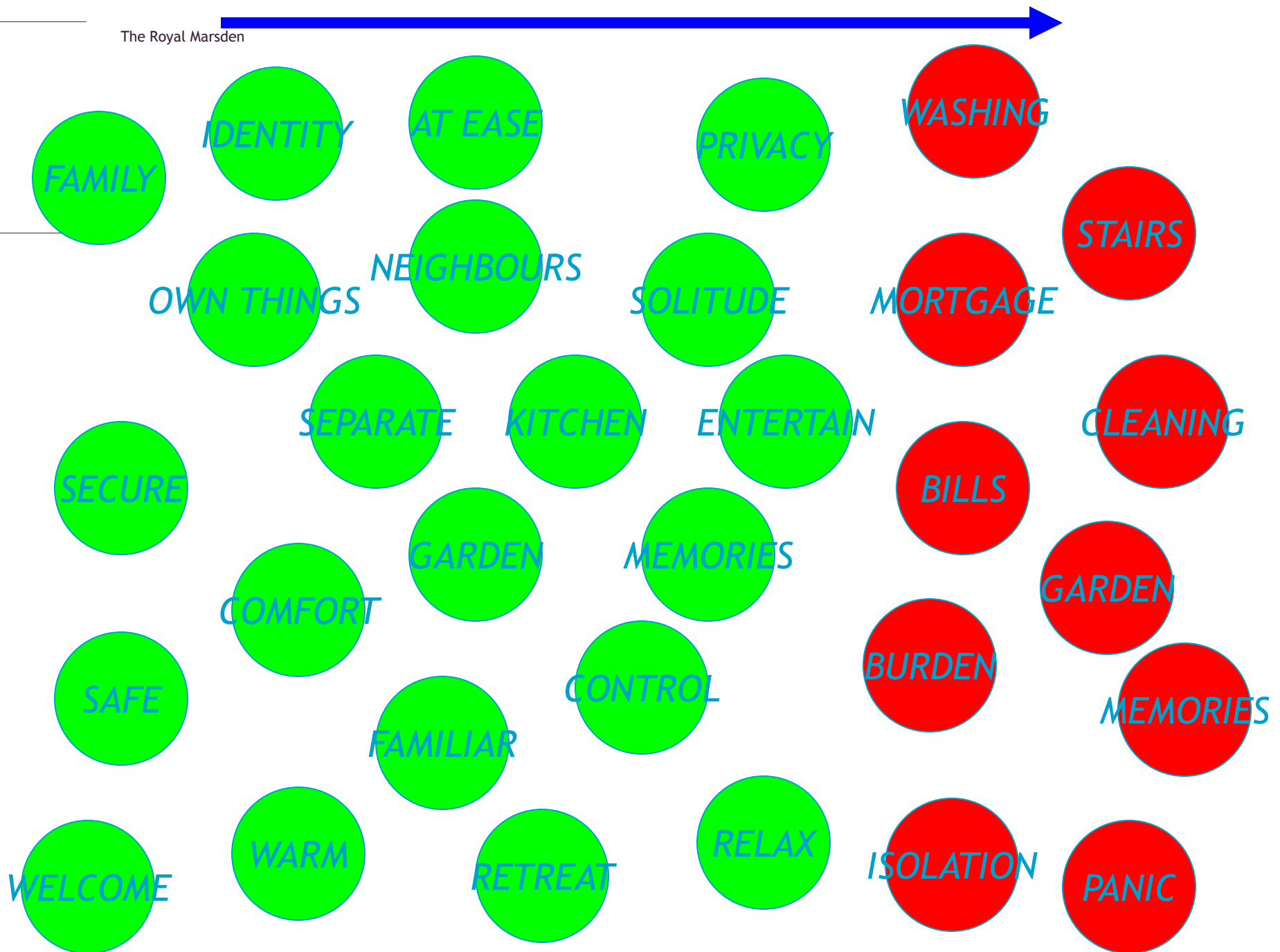
Treat each **event** as a discrete reversible episode without taking into account trajectory



*RESCUE*

© *Lightstone & Taylor*







# Family anxiety

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- Who matters to you ?
- Family meeting skills
- Unravelling the anxiety

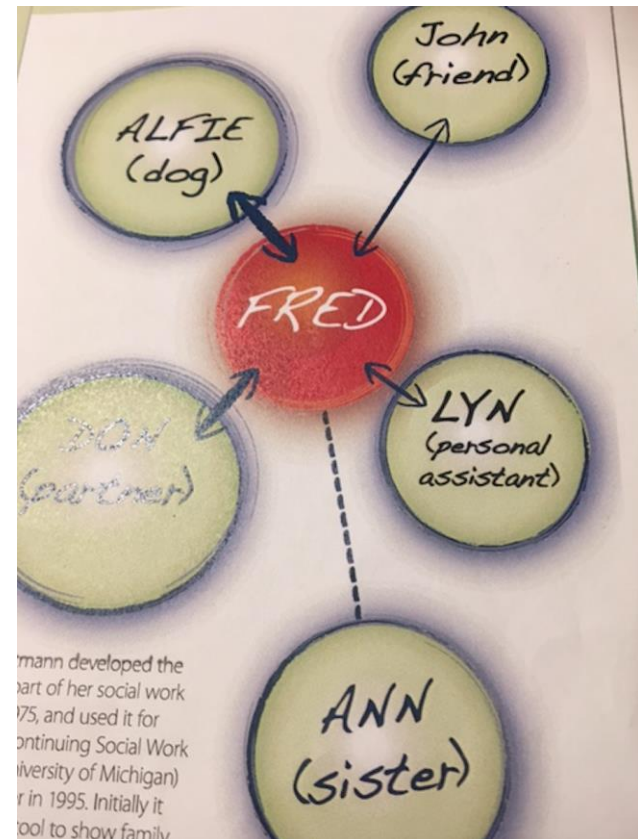




# Family-centred care

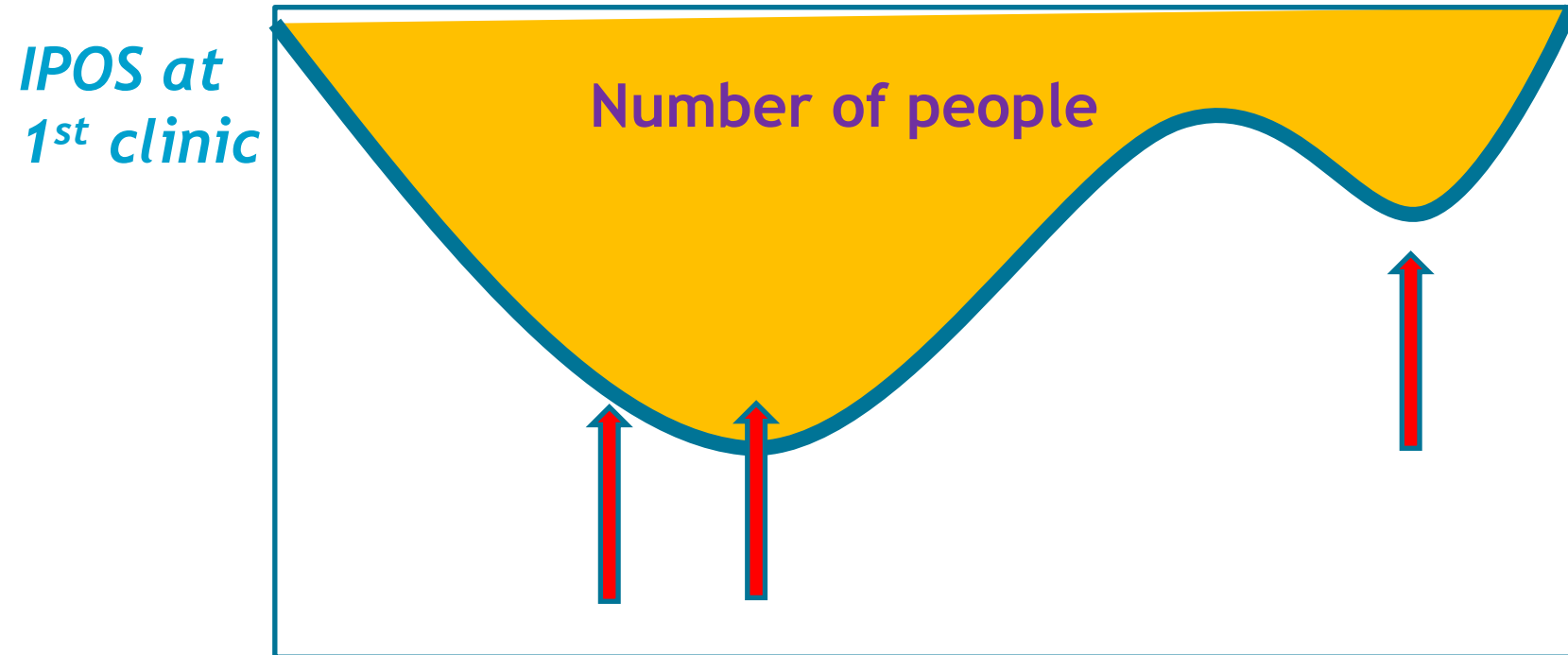
Genogram  
or  
EcoMap

Who matters to you?



# Need for more psycho-social support

Gynae Oncology Patients



*Moderate , severe or overwhelming (scores 2,3,4)*

*Patient anxious, family anxious and information needs*



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Answers please, on postcards to your general manager. He will be interested. Whatever its larger failings, the current reorganisation of the NHS has forced managers everywhere to look at the way services are provided and at the value for money they offer. Good services, they reasonably insist, must also be efficient, and good efficient services should also be generally available. Hospices? Did I hear someone say hospices?

One could almost feel sorry for them, pressed as they are by new management to justify their anomalous existence even as their other source of funds, the public, is finding it harder and harder to stump up. Deep into a long recession, charity is not what it was. The hospice movement is now just another player in the ever more crowded health sector of the pity market.

In its time the hospice movement served several useful functions: as a brave new cause when standards of terminal care were broadly

lamentable; as a base for the development of nursing skills and service innovations such as home care for the dying; and as a first home for that useful scientific, clinical, and educational endeavour, the specialty of palliative care.

Well done, thanks, and goodbye. The hospice movement—with all its paraphernalia of flower arrangers, charity balls, committee loads of duchesses and agreeable secluded little places to die amid leafy glades—no longer has a useful role. It is now a distraction proving dying. It is

The more useful stream of care supplied by home care, most difficult places with front line general hospital doctors syringing in the redoubt of the Why not trail?—c  
Edinburg

### For all the saints

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## My future questions....

How do we make the team  
decision from deterioration to  
dying?

How can we influence family  
anxiety?

How do we link outcomes with  
goals?

