

Piloting of the Qatar Early Warning Scoring (QEWS) System A Clinical Improvement

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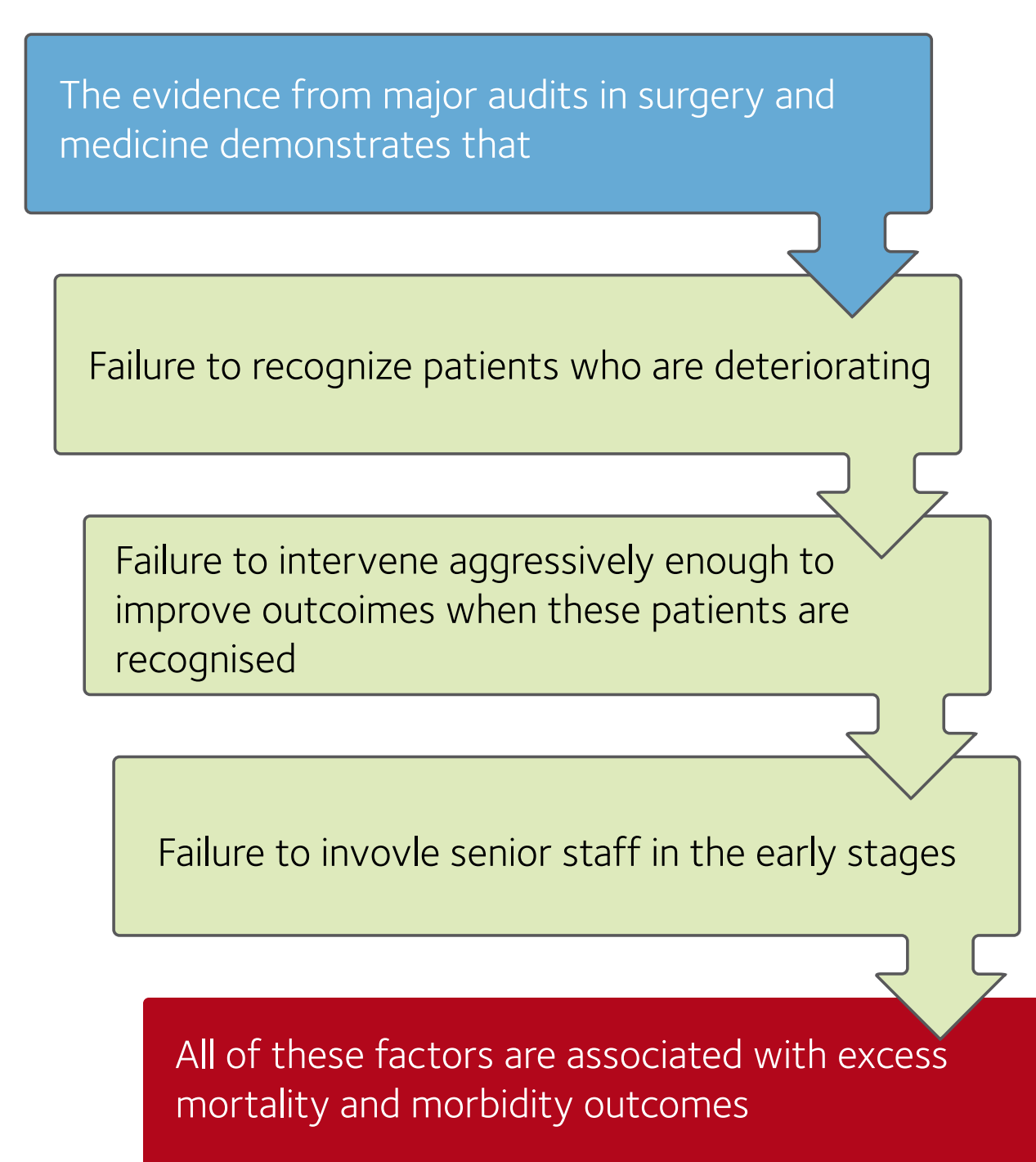
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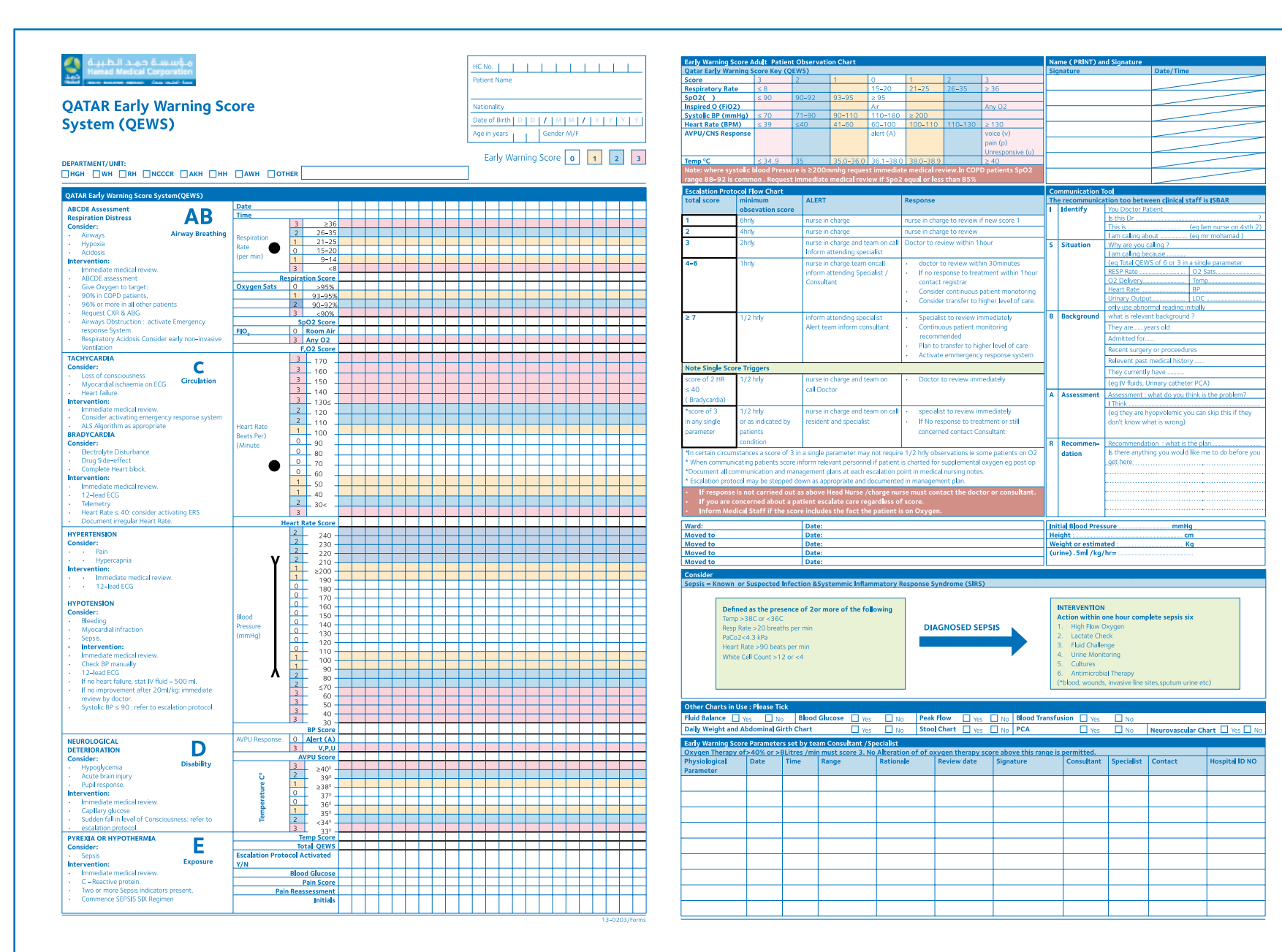
Description

Early warning scores facilitate early detection of deterioration by categorizing a patient's severity of illness and prompting nursing staff to request a medical review at specific trigger points utilizing a structured communication tool while following a definitive escalation protocol. Adopting the Qatari Early Warning Scoring system (QEWS) is beneficial for standardizing the assessment of acute illness severity, enabling a more timely response using a common language across acute hospitals nationally. The tool was adapted from standardised Early Warning systems to reflect the differing physiological parameters in the younger population demographic group that accounts for a substantial number of hospital admissions in Qatar.

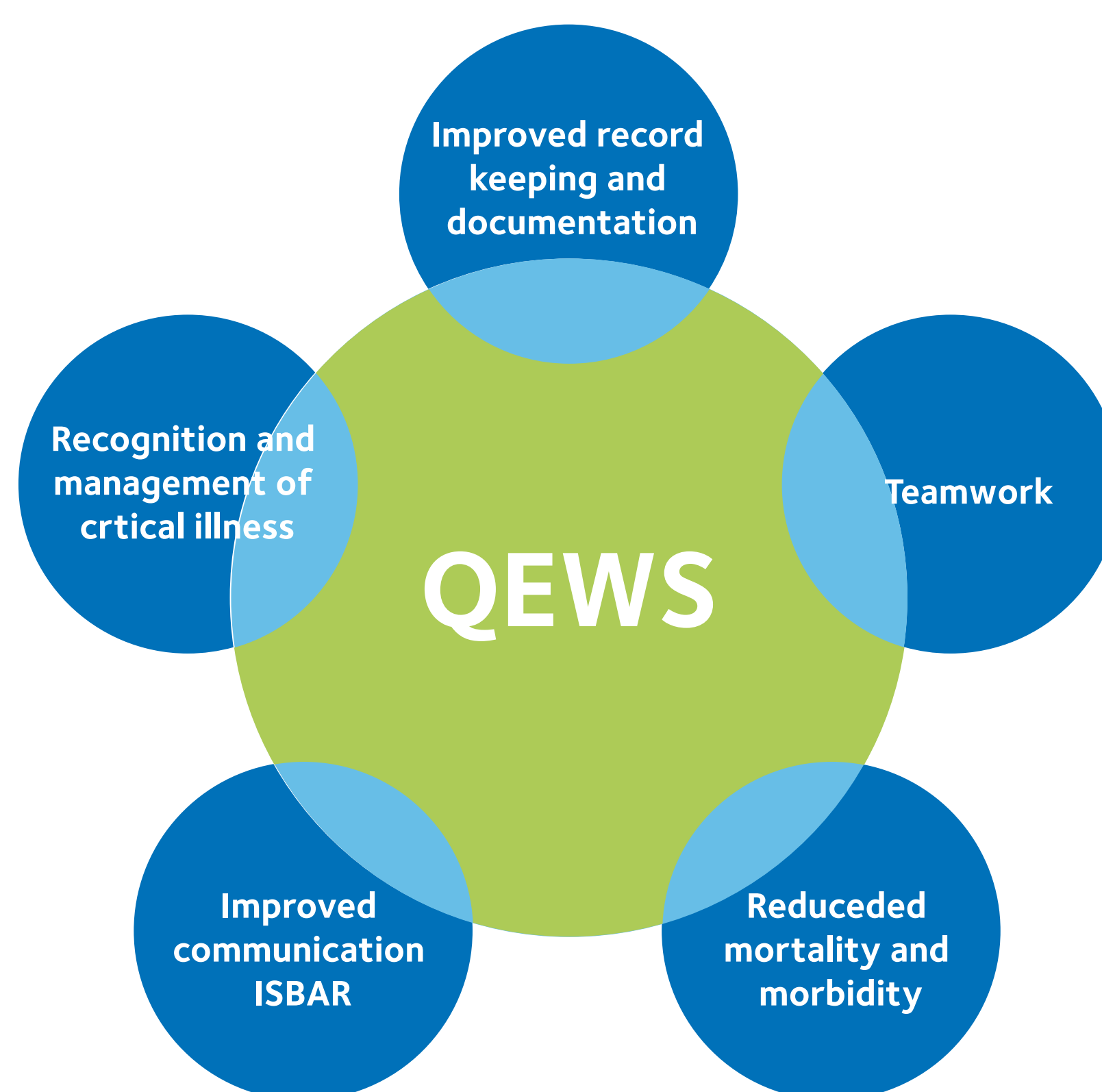
Background to QEWS



The QEWS Chart



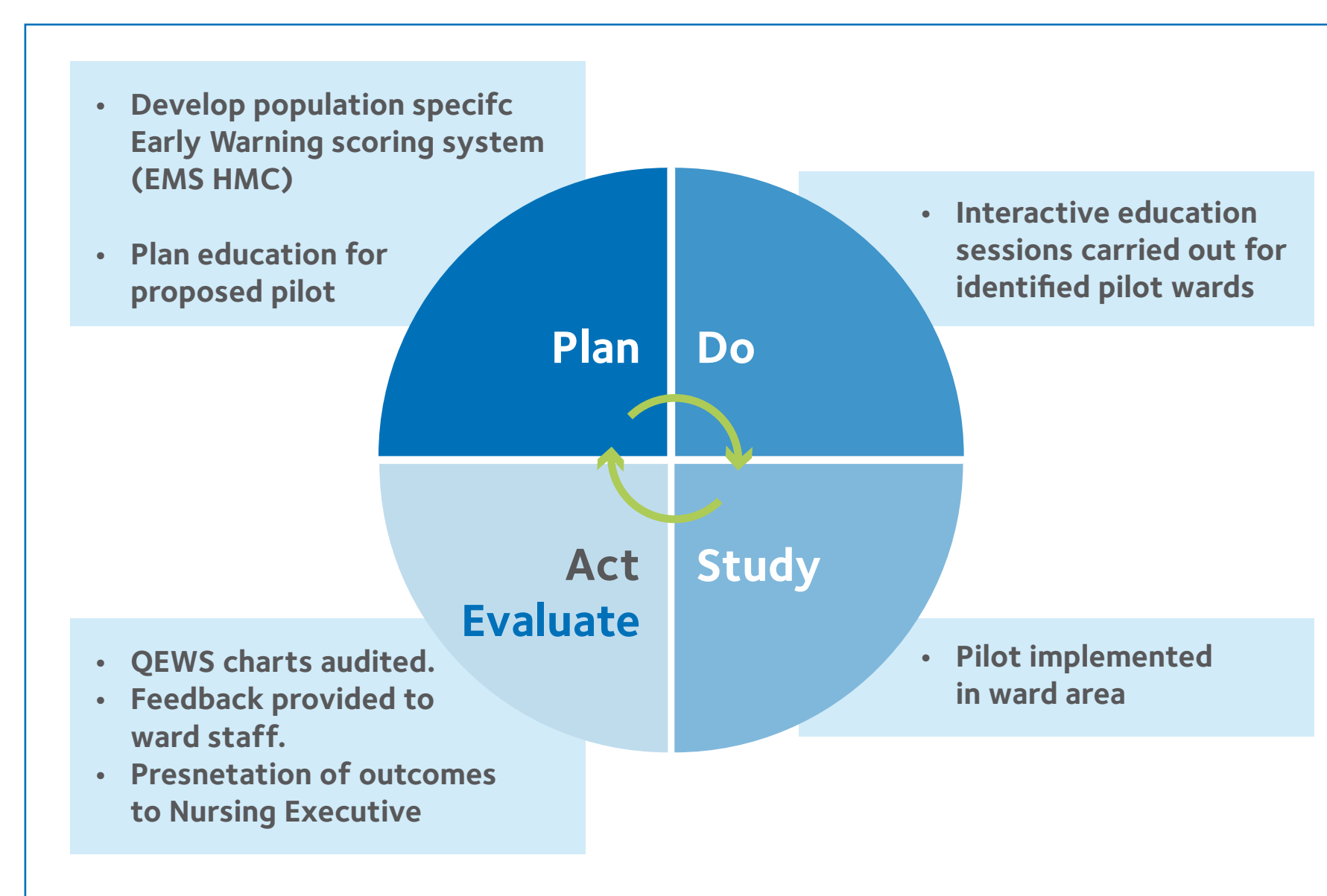
Aim of the QEWS and Goals of Pilot



Key Points

Trigger is also visual through colour.

- All parameters must be assessed and documented as for any standard observation chart.
- There is a score for each parameter and then a cumulative score all boxes must be completed
- The chart should be used in the clinical context of the patient and not in isolation. It is not a substitute for nursing assessment procedures or documentation



The Pilot study

The first pilot study took place in a surgical unit 4, North 1 in Hamad General Hospital, part of the Hamad Medicinal Corporation. Prior to the pilot nurses working on the unit were requested to attend a four hour education session. The session comprised of the evidence for early warning scoring systems, the adaptation for Qatar population and how to use the chart; this was followed by practical use of the chart in simulated case studies.

Following successful implementation of the QEWS a critical outreach team will be the next step in improving care and outcomes for patients admitted hospitals or specialized units within HMC.

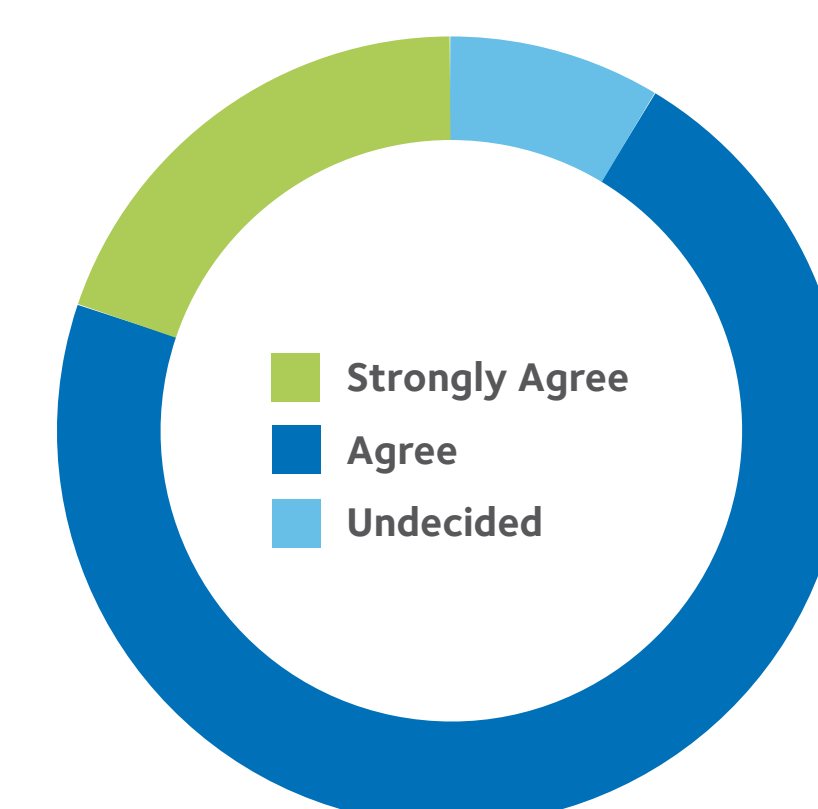
Acknowledgement to EMS HMC for development of QEWS chart

References

- Royal College of Physicians (2012) National Early Warning Score (NEWS). Standardizing the assessment of acute-illness severity in the NHS. Available online from: <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk> [accessed February 2014].
- NHS Portsmouth (2014) Acute life threatening events; recognition and treatment. Available online from: www.alert-course.com
- [accessed February 2014].

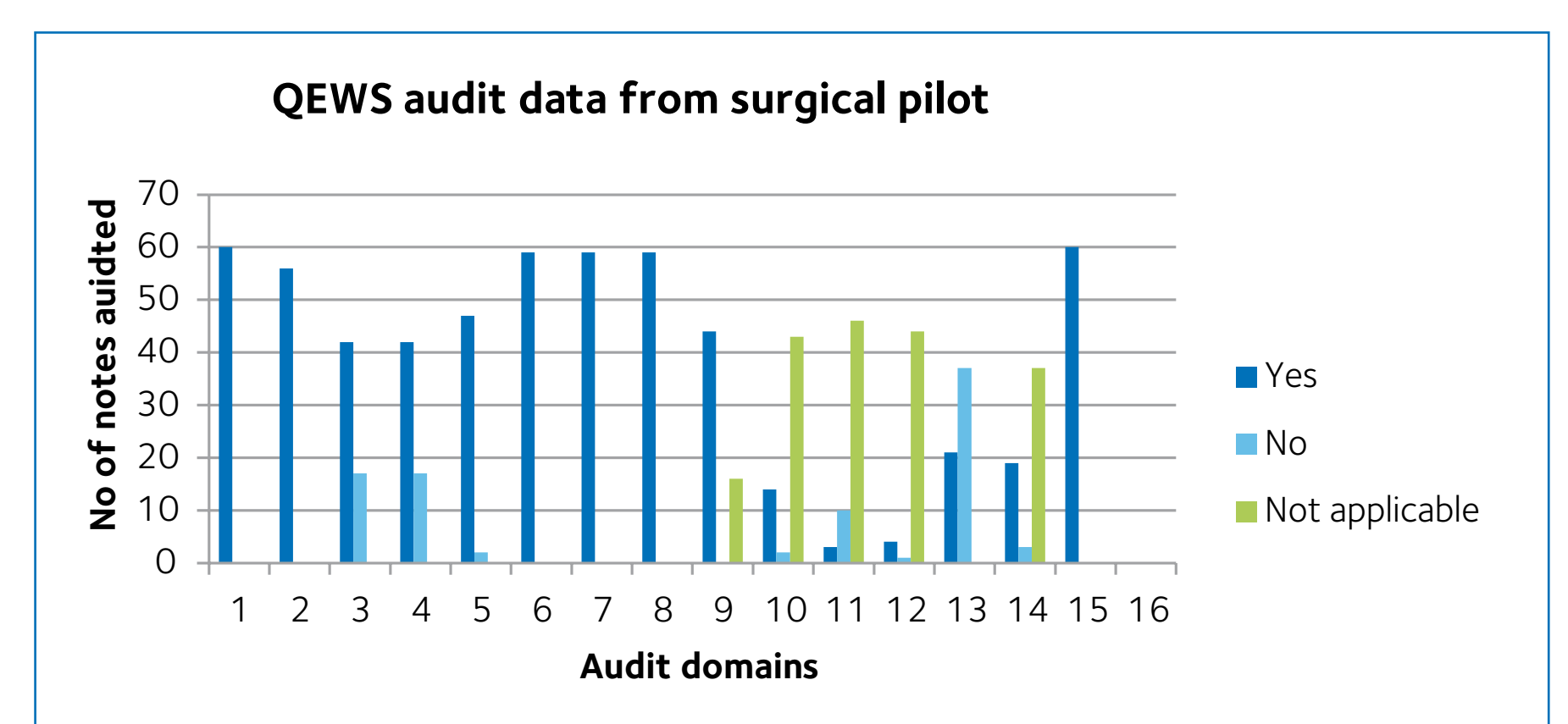


4 North 1 Team, HGH



The education session was subsequently evaluated using a Likert 3 point scale questionnaire. The domains measured related to relevance to practice, content and education delivery. Predominantly learners were very satisfied with the education component.

	Measurements	Y	N	N/A
1	Patient identifier			
2	Date and time			
3	Altered criteria if present are signed			
4	Observations not in graph format (numerical)			
5	Observations frequency TDS or as charted			
6	Heart rate charted			
7	Blood pressure			
8	Respiratory rate			
9	Temperature			
10	O2 saturations			
11	Oxygen			
12	Route and rate			
13	Daily weight			
14	Observations out with normal range			
15	Escalation calls made as per protocol			
16	Response to escalation protocol			



A second pilot is currently taking place in 3 South 3, a medical unit, following which a second audit will take place with outcome data evaluated and conclusions drawn.



Nursing staff from 3 South 3 Team, HGH

Conclusions and Recommendations

The evidence supports the use of early warning scoring systems in improvements in mortality and morbidity outcomes. This still has to be evaluated following the QEWS pilot in the surgical and medical units in HMC Qatar. Anecdotal evidence and narrative from nursing staff is that they have found the tool useful and it appears to have improved communication between multidisciplinary teams.

It is proposed to carry out further pilots in units in Al Khor and Al Wakra two outreach hospitals within the HMC organization.