

A photograph of a trauma team in a hospital room. Several medical professionals, including nurses and doctors, are gathered around a patient lying on a gurney. The patient is covered with white blankets, and there are visible injuries on their torso. The medical staff are wearing white gowns and gloves. In the background, there are medical monitors, IV stands with bags, and a whiteboard with some text. The overall scene is a busy, clinical environment.

# TRAUMA SYSTEMS: What works – what doesn't?

**Erica Caldwell**

*Trauma Coordinator*

*Liverpool Hospital, Sydney Australia*







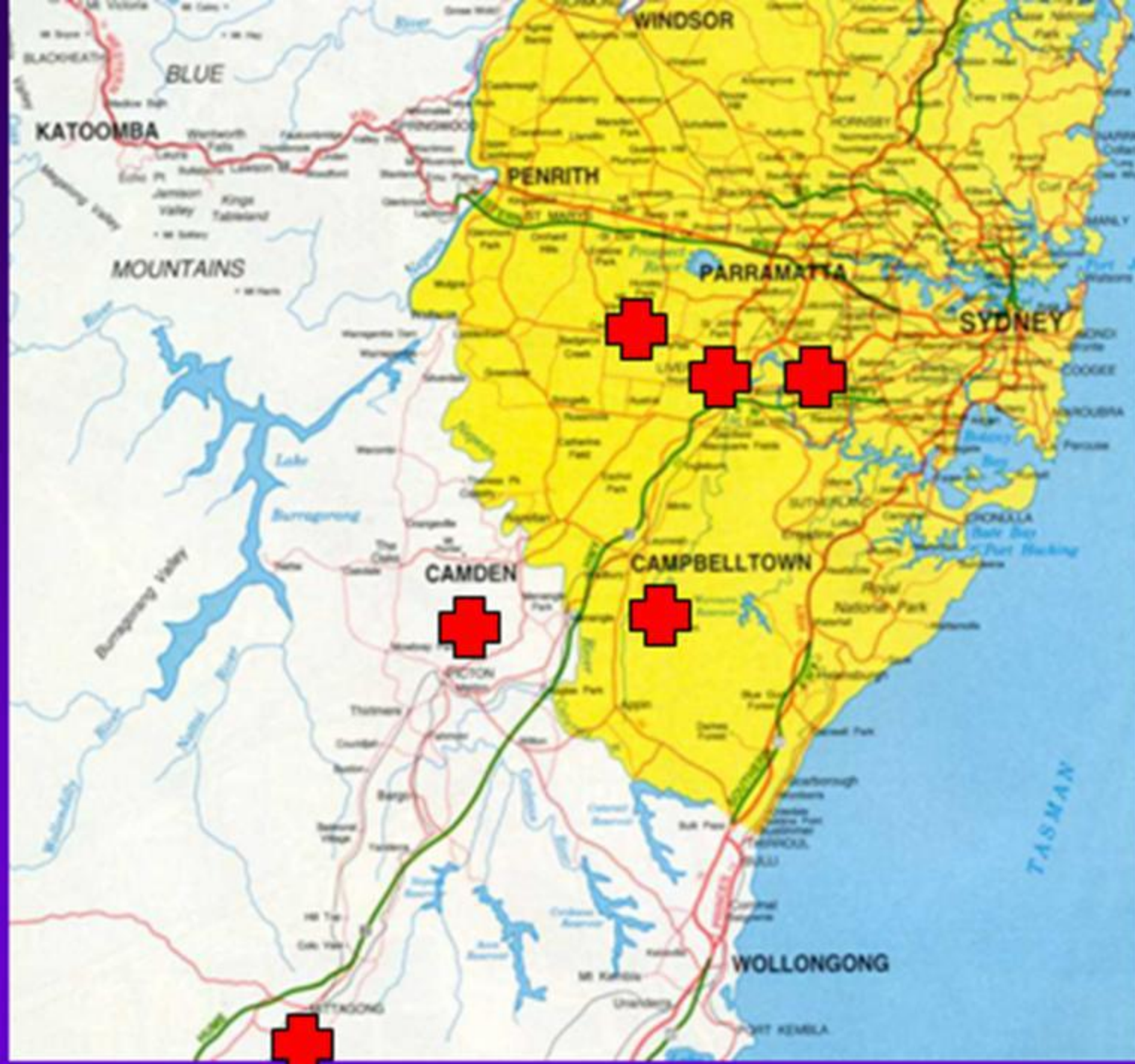








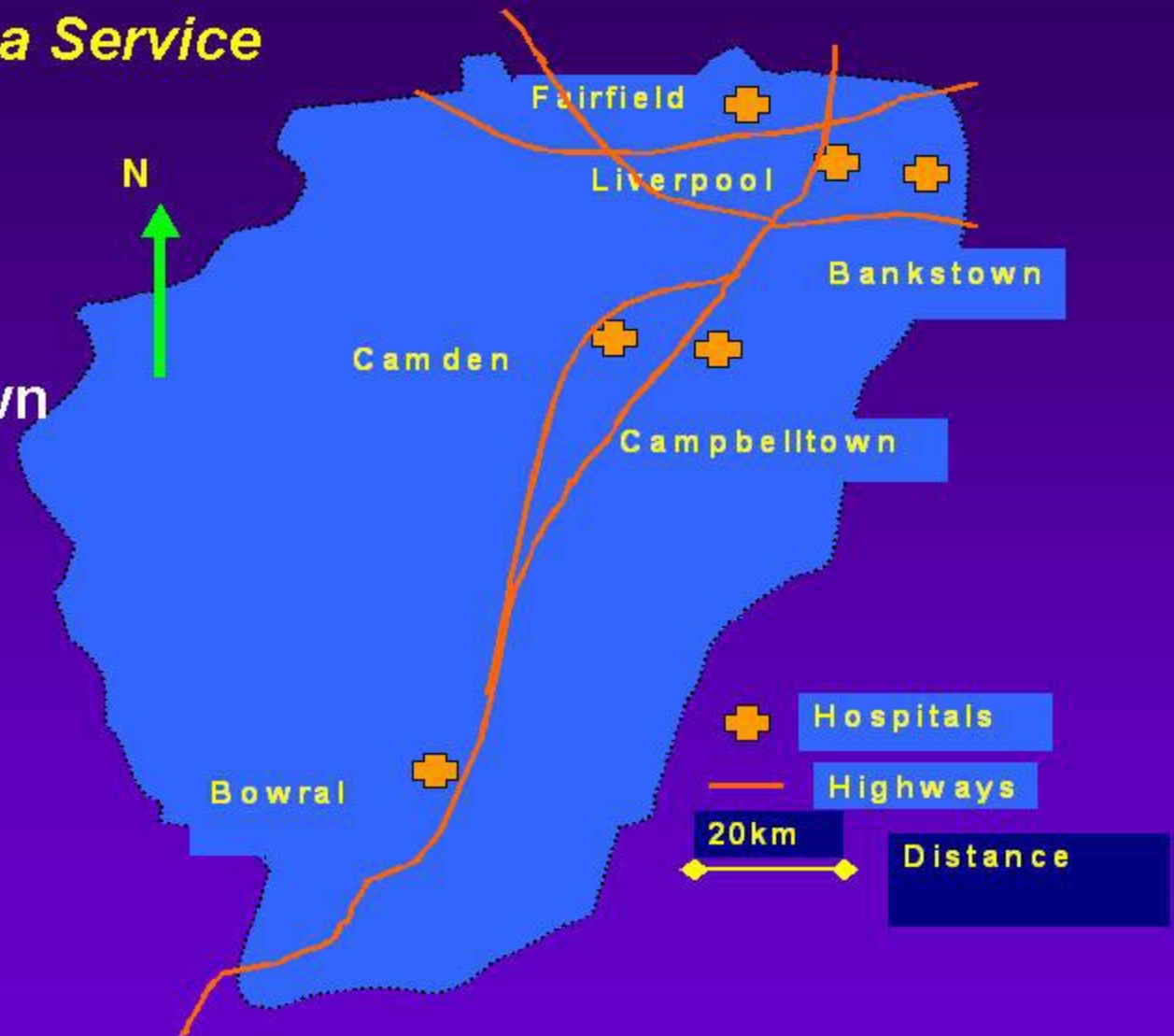




**Major Trauma Service**  
Liverpool

**Urban**  
Bankstown  
Campbelltown  
Fairfield  
Camden

**Rural**  
Bowral



# Pre hospital Trauma Management

- Identify treat life-threatening
  - Prevent secondary injury

A C-spine

B

C

Deliver to appropriate hospital





# Prehospital

Works	Doesn't Work
Triage protocol	Fail to recognise high risk patient
Recognise high risk pt	Fail to bypass
Bypass to MTS	Futile attempts to intubate
Maintain airway	Long scene time
Short scene time	Fail to notify hospital
MIST Radio	Inadequate documentation
MRT	



# Pre hospital Information

- M -Mechanism
- I -Injuries
- S -Vital Signs
- T -Treatment at scene

# Aim

Describe Trauma systems  
Ways to Determine Effectiveness  
Limitations  
The Way Forward



DATE:

TIME OF INCIDENT

AGE 8

SEX ♀

MECHANISM

MVA High speed  
(Passenger)

INJURY

Focal  
tender Abdo/hip

SIGNS

P 120

BP 80

HR 15

Wt. 25 kg.

• Aspirin → 50mg.

• Morphine, 2.5mg

• Propofol - 75-125 mg.

• Sux → 50mg.

• Fluid → 250mg

Mean BP 60-80  
mg/kg

TREATMENT

TEAM LEADER:

# Trauma Team Criteria

- History
- Vital Signs
- Injuries



# Resuscitation

Works	Doesn't Work
Radio	Not receiving notification
Criteria TT Activation	"Wait and see" what pt looks like
Team Leader	No predefined roles
Allocate roles and responsibilities	
PPE before arrival	
MIST Whiteboard	Fail to anticipate
Notify surgeon if BP<90 (other)	Fail to call early for help
Set-ups: airway	Not anticipate need for surgical airway
Chest drain	
Warm fluids primed	
Plan - algorithms	Delay to call surgeon, interventional radiologist etc
Pelvic binder	
Drug keys	
Warm blankets	

# Trauma Team

- ED Doctor
- ED nurses
- Surgical Registrar
- ICU Registrar



Wardsman

Social Worker

Clerk

*Trauma Fellow  
Coordinator  
Others?*





# Assessment

Primary Survey

Secondary Survey









# Tertiary Survey

- Review all investigations and x-rays
- Consults
- Injuries missed on secondary survey
- Requires multi disciplinary team approach

# Tertiary Survey

Janjua KJ, Sugrue M, Deane S "Prospective Evaluation of Early Missed Injuries and the Role of Tertiary Trauma Survey." JTrauma 1998 44(6):1000-1007

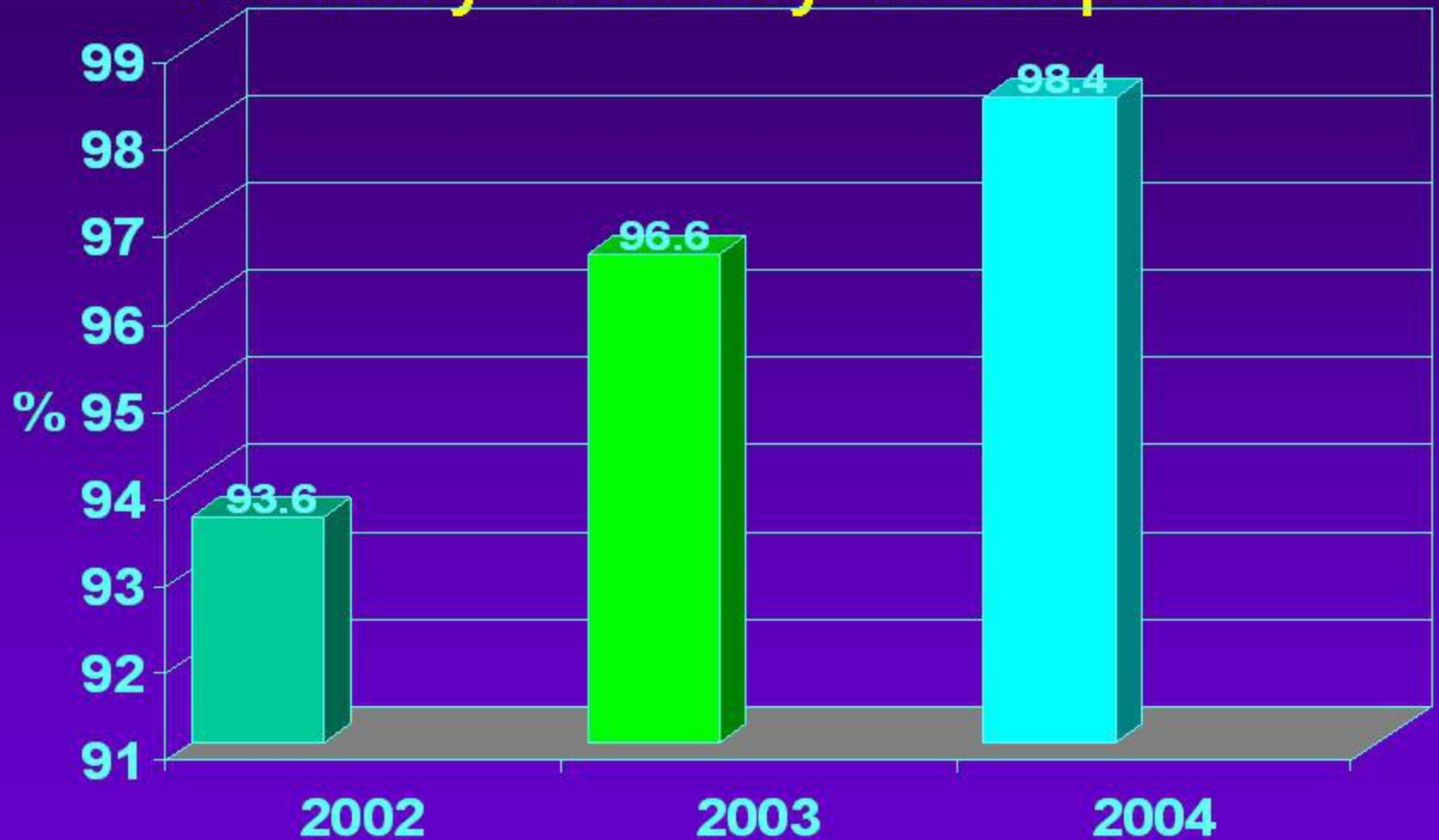
PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT				
PR		BP	RR	Temp
SaO2				
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION				
BODY REGION	Findings			
Head/Neck				
Face				
Thorax				
Abdomen				
Extremities				
Spine				
Per Rectum				
Medical Imaging	Date	Result	What additional imaging requested?	Date performed
CXR				
o-spine				
PXR				
Other				
CT scans				
MRI				
Other				
Operative procedures				
New injuries discovered or suspected?				
Most Recent Pathology Results			URINALYSIS: Blood NO/YES (macro/micro)	
Plan for further management				

# Worldwide

- Violence is leading public-health problem
- Road traffic injuries cause extensive and serious public-health problems
- Annually >100 million sustain injuries
- >5 million die from violence and injury
- 90% global burden of violence and injury mortality in low and middle-income countries



# Tertiary Survey Complete



# Clinical Pathways

- Ribs
- Blunt abdominal trauma
- Fractured Pelvis
- Severe head injury
- Fractured Femur shaft
- Elderly

Sesperez J and Wilson S. Jalaludin B, Seger M, Sugrue M. Trauma Case Management and Clinical Pathways: Prospective Evaluation of Their Effect on Selected Patient Outcomes in Five Key Trauma Conditions. JTrauma 2001;50: 643-649

# Elements

Assessment

Tests

Nutrition-hydration

Mobility

Medications

Pain

Education

Discharge planning

CLINICAL PATHWAY		FRACTURED RIBS			
Date	Expected Outcomes Day of Admission	AM Sign	PM Sign	ND Sign	Action if Outcomes not met
Assessment / Observations	Medical Assessment Surgical Team assessment and definitive plan documented in notes Medication chart attended Medical Admission attended Consults attended if required Nursing Assessment History taken Oxygen therapy commenced Vital signs recorded 1/24 to achieve: • Sats > 95% * HR < 100 • RR 12-24 * SBP > 100 *Temp 36-38.5C Measure & apply 1/2 length TEDS if ordered				
Investigations/ Tests	Tests Ordered and Reviewed C-spine x-ray <input type="checkbox"/> CXR <input type="checkbox"/> PXR <input type="checkbox"/> ECG <input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____				
Nutrition/ Hydration	Tolerating diet Input and output on Fluid Balance Chart				
Activities of Daily Living	Encouraged to mobilise if able Encourage deep breathing & coughing				
Medications	Patient's regular medications DVT prophylaxis Stool softeners NSAIDS are charted (unless contraindicated)				
Pain Management	Pain score is <3 and documented 1/24 Regular analgesia is ordered & administered PCA or epidural is commenced				
Patient Education	Give and explain handouts • Information pamphlet <input type="checkbox"/> • Hospital/Ward Information <input type="checkbox"/> • Explain admission procedure <input type="checkbox"/> • Patient treatment & status explained to patient and family/significant others <input type="checkbox"/>				
Discharge	Discuss length of stay and discharge				



# Interhospital Transfers

Works	Doesn't Work
Guidelines	Sending everything
Criteria	
Dedicated phone	Delay recognise needs transfer
MTS accepts	
Capacity for conference calls	Direct to ward /ICU (bypass Resus)
Confirm who is arranging transport	
Policy	
Hotline	
Feedback	



# High Dependency Trauma Patients

- Trauma patients at higher risk of developing life threatening complications
  - Multiple injuries
  - Those at risk of bleeding
  - Significant co-morbidities
  - Elderly
- Very few trauma specific HDU in Australia.



# Tools

- Injury and management list
- Spinal clearance and positioning
- Tertiary survey
- Clinical Pathways
- “Fast Hugs”
- Clinical Practice Guidelines

Injury and management list			Treating teams	
	Mechanism		Surgical	.....
			Ortho	.....
			Neuro	.....
			Vascular	.....
			Plastics	.....
			Other	.....
		Injury	Management plan	
	Head			
	Face			
	Chest			
	Abdo			
	Pelvis			
	Upper			
	Lower			

# Spinal Clearance Form

## SPINAL CARE FORM

### CERVICAL SPINE

CT Scan Yes ☐ No ☐

Plain films Yes ☐ No ☐

Cleared: Radiologically  
Clinically

Yes No  
Yes No  
Comments

Cleared by: Name  
Designation

Date  
Neurosurgical ☐  
Radiologist ☐

### THORACIC SPINE

CT Scan Yes ☐ No ☐

Plain films Yes ☐ No ☐

Cleared: Radiologically  
Clinically

Yes No  
Yes No  
Comments

Cleared by: Name  
Designation

Date  
Neurosurgical ☐  
Radiologist ☐

### LUMBAR SPINE

CT Scan Yes ☐ No ☐

Plain films Yes ☐ No ☐

Cleared: Radiologically  
Clinically

Yes No  
Yes No  
Comments

Cleared by: Name  
Designation

Date  
Neurosurgical ☐  
Radiologist ☐

### PATIENT POSITIONING PLAN

Jordan frame permitted Yes No Not apply

Log roll permitted Yes No Not apply

Philadelphia collar required Yes No Not apply

Sand bags Yes No Not apply

Position patient

Supine  
Head of bed can be raised \_\_\_\_°C  
Can sit without restrictions

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*



# ICU – HDU - Ward

Works	Doesn't Work
<p>Tertiary survey Clinical pathways Monitor in-out Documented management plan Early referral allied health, rehab TEP</p> <p>FASTHUGS Injury List Spinal clearance form</p>	<p>Poor documentation and communication between teams</p>

# In Australia and New Zealand

Leading cause of death in 1-44 age group

Across all ages represents a major proportion of mortality and disability

# Populations at Risk

Works	Doesn't Work
Recognise	Fail to:
Develop policies	•Provide adequate analgesia
Elderly - HDU	•Monitor fluid balance
On warfarin - INR	•Suture scalp laceration
Pelvic fractures – find source	•Admit elderly pts to HDU
Pregnancy - FHM	
Clinical pathways	



# Performance Improvement

- Identify, track, analyze
- PI meetings
- Peer Review deaths
- Follow up on system issues
- Monitor trends
- Practice guidelines: develop, implement, monitor
- Loop closure

# Education

- EMST
- TNCC
- CATN
- DSTC -DPNTC
- ACS
- SWAN







# Research

- Registry
- 10 year report
- Changes in Practice
- Prevention
- Peer Review Process
- Key Performance Indicators

# Administration

- Committees
- Policy Review
- Hospital function
- Verification

# Registry

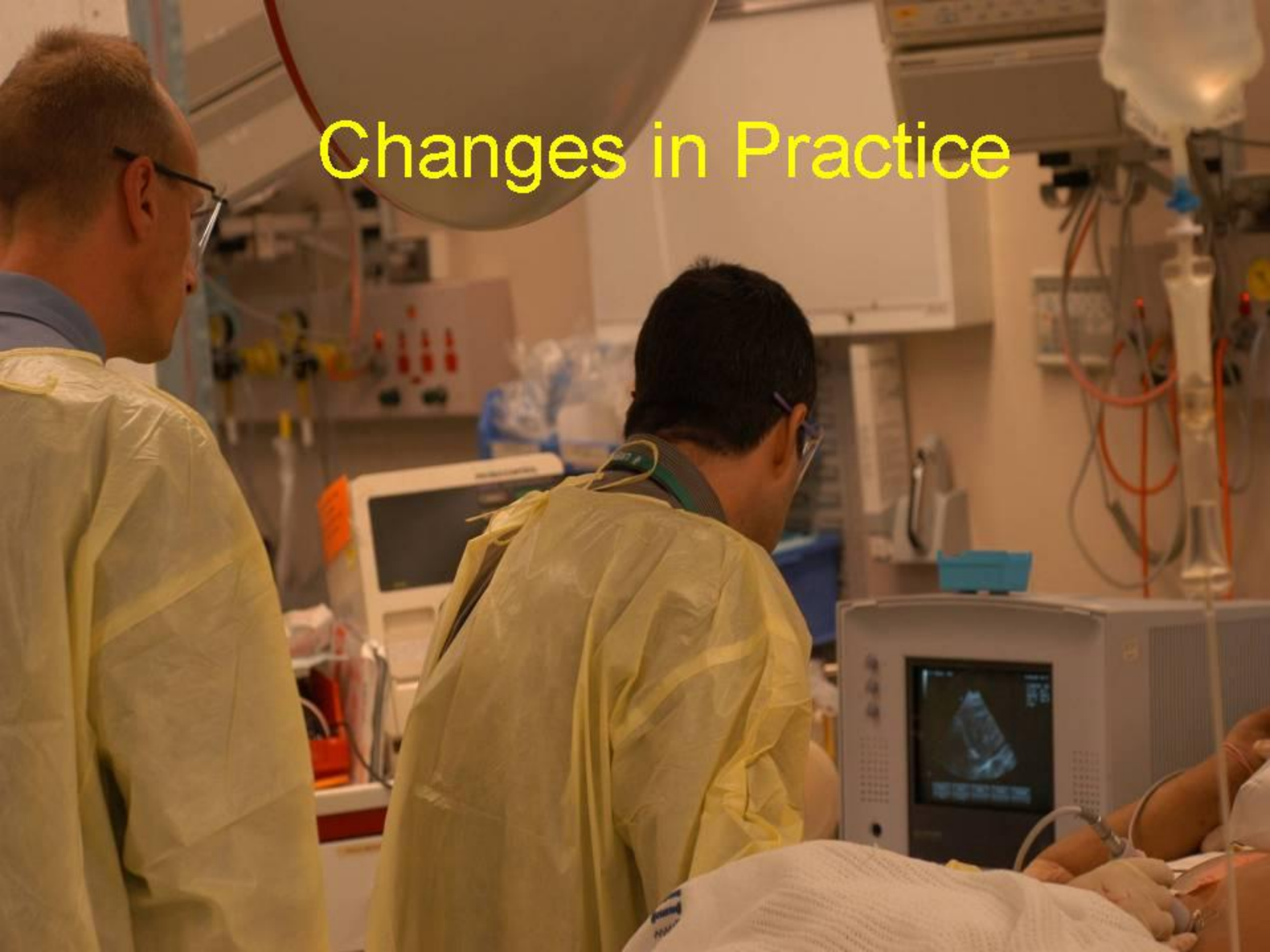
- Data collection
- Key Performance Indicators
- Clinical Pathways
- PIP

PIP

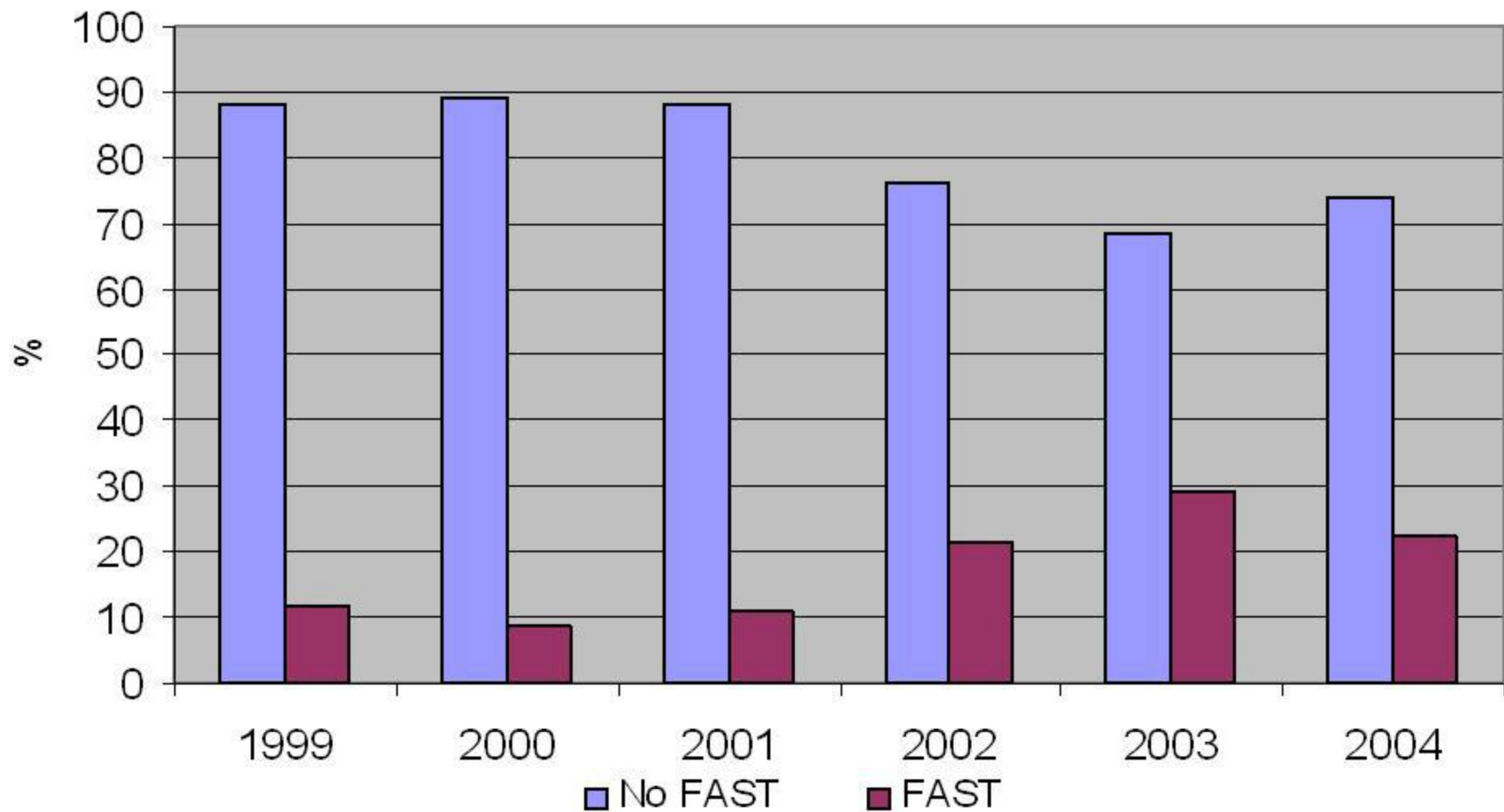
Description	Code	Description	Code
of Reduction/Fix	6506	Delay in MD response	9004
nion	6507	Delay Obtaining consult	9005
myelitis	6508	Delay in Diagnosis	9006
baedic Wound	6509	Error in Diagnosis	9007
on	6591	Error in Judgement	9008
ologic	70	Error in Technique	9009
ol Withdrawal	7001	Incomplete Record	9010
e Encephalopathy	7002	No Tertiary survey	9011
Death	7003	Not under General Surgeon	9012
es Insipidus	7004	Delay suture laceration	9013
gitis	7005	Communication failure	9016
praxia (iatrogenic)	7006	Not referred to General	9017
perative SDH/EDH	7007	<u>Abdominal Compartment</u>	<u>91</u>
ess n original insult	7008	Cohort At risk for ACS	9101



# Changes in Practice



# F.A.S.T.



# Fundamental principle of trauma systems

- Concentrate severely injured patients to a limited number of higher level facilities
- Increase volume and experience at these centres
- Improve patient outcomes

# ACS

7	<u>Abdominal Compartment</u>	<u>91</u>
8	Cohort At risk for ACS	9101
9	IAP measures taken	9102
0	ACS Primary	9103
1	ACS Secondary	9104
2	Temp abdominal closure	9105
3	<u>Operation Ref Hospital</u>	<u>92</u>
	Craniotomy	9201
1	Thoracotomy	9202
2	Laparotomy	9203
3	ORIF fracture	9204
4	Other	9205
5	<u>C-Spine</u>	<u>94</u>
6	Missed c-spine Injury	9411
7	Not missed c-spine	9412
9	Suspect c-spine NAD	9413
1	Delay clearing C-spine	9414



# Effective Trauma System

- Incorporate care providers into organised integrated framework.
- Prehospital, hospital, transport, rehab
- Statewide structure - non-institutional
- Rapid, efficient movement of patients

# Outcome Measures

- MTOS established norms
- ISS
- TRISS Ps
- Z scores SMR

# Effectiveness

- Jurkovich, 1999 Systematic review - registry based assessments provide evidence
- Nathans, 2000 Comparison national rates NCHS and FARS. States with trauma systems had 9% reduced mortality (>17% road)
- Mann, 1999 Effectiveness is based on hospital deaths: recommend expand outcomes measures to assess entire continuum of care

# Is There a Problem?

- Fail to limit number of MTS
- Trunckey JAMA 1995
- Metropolitan Sydney has 8
- Qld
- Victoria
- WA



# The Way Forward

- Strengthen links and share knowledge
- Local and regional
- National, Bi-national
- NTDB, TARN, EuroTARN
- ACS, TAC, ATS, RACS, STN
- Trauma.org

# Registry data

- Common inclusion criteria
- Consistent definitions
- Outcome measures other than survival
- Deaths pre hospital and post discharge

# Ultimate Reward

“The ultimate reward of trauma surgery is the opportunity to restore the previously healthy individual to a productive life after sustaining a devastating injury from a random unanticipated moment of human error.”

Ernest Moore JTrauma 1995



A photograph of Uluru, a large sandstone rock formation in Australia, illuminated by the warm, orange light of a sunset. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the foreground shows dark, silhouetted vegetation.

**THANKS MATES !**

[swsahs.nsw.gov.au/livtrauma](https://swsahs.nsw.gov.au/livtrauma)

Regional system

Hospital system

Trauma  
service

Pt

The diagram consists of three concentric circles on a black background. The outermost circle is blue and labeled 'Regional system'. Inside it is a red circle labeled 'Hospital system'. Inside the red circle is a dashed green circle labeled 'Trauma service'. To the right of the 'Trauma service' circle is a small yellow circle with a red border containing the text 'Pt'. A red arrow points from the 'Pt' circle to the 'Trauma service' circle.

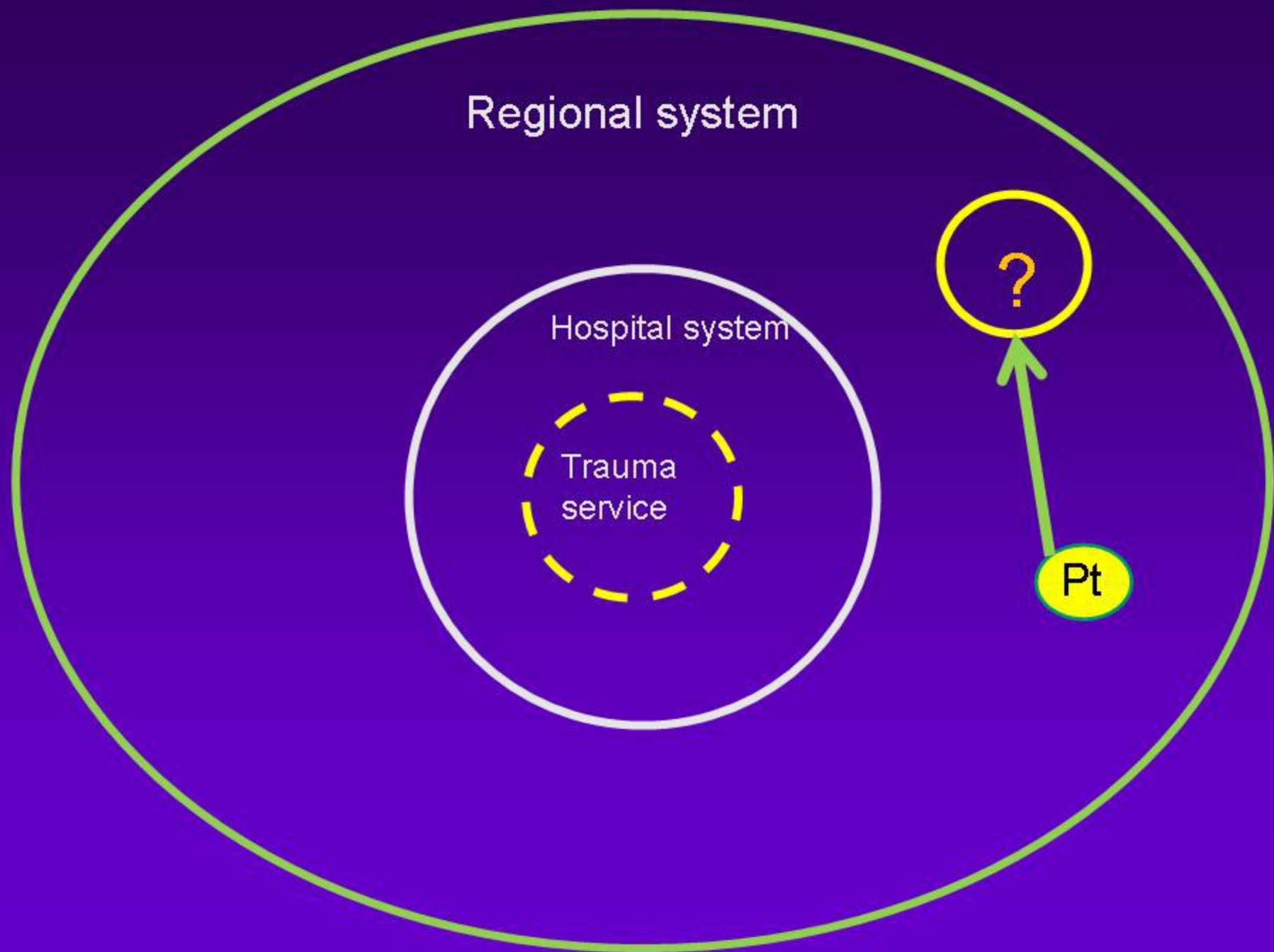
Regional system

Hospital system

Trauma  
service

?

Pt



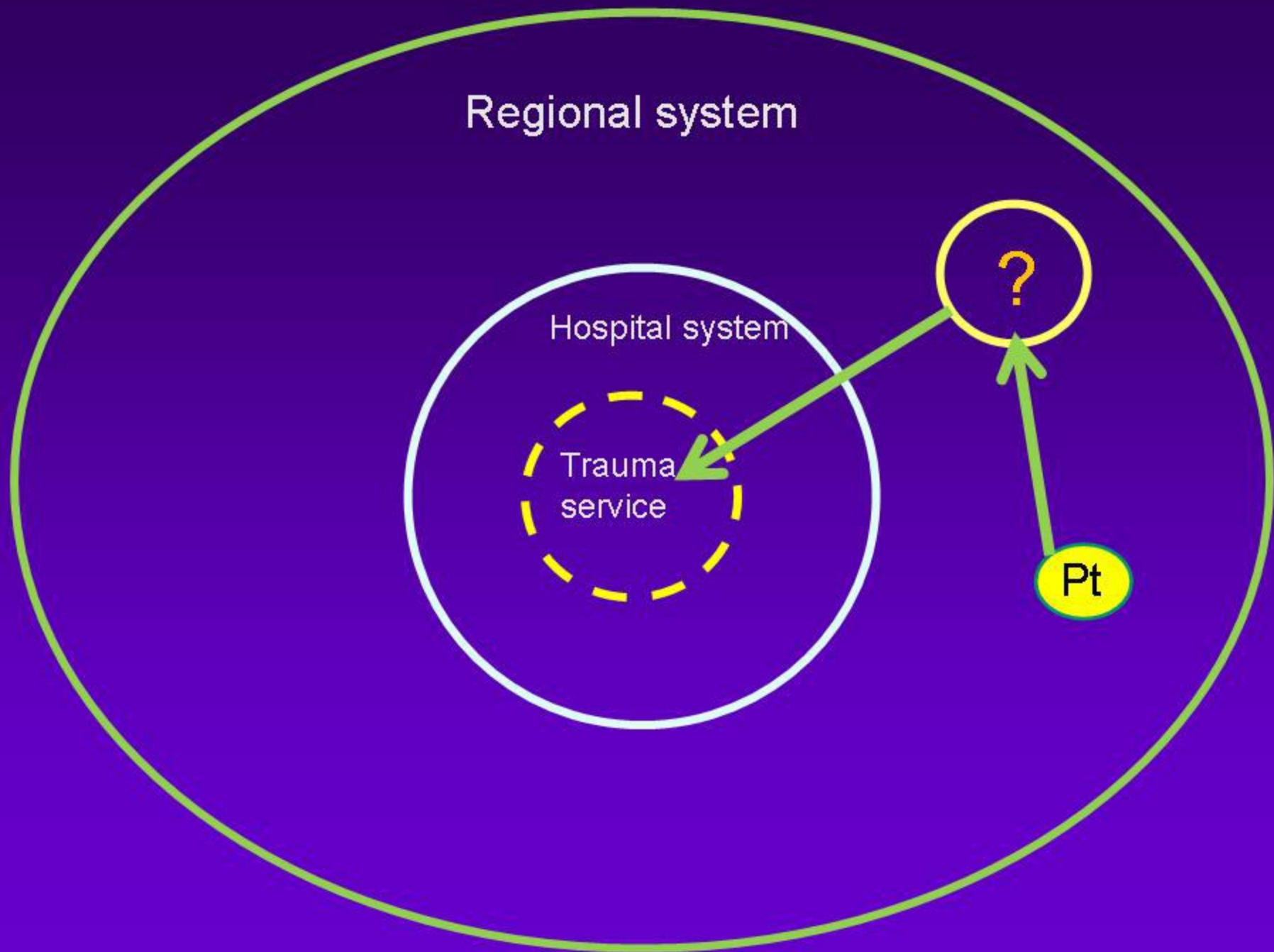
Regional system

Hospital system

Trauma  
service

?

Pt





## Consequently...

- Those hospitals designated to receive a high volume of patients with multiple injuries or severe single injuries should be clearly identified as having additional expertise in the area of trauma care.