Bed Block

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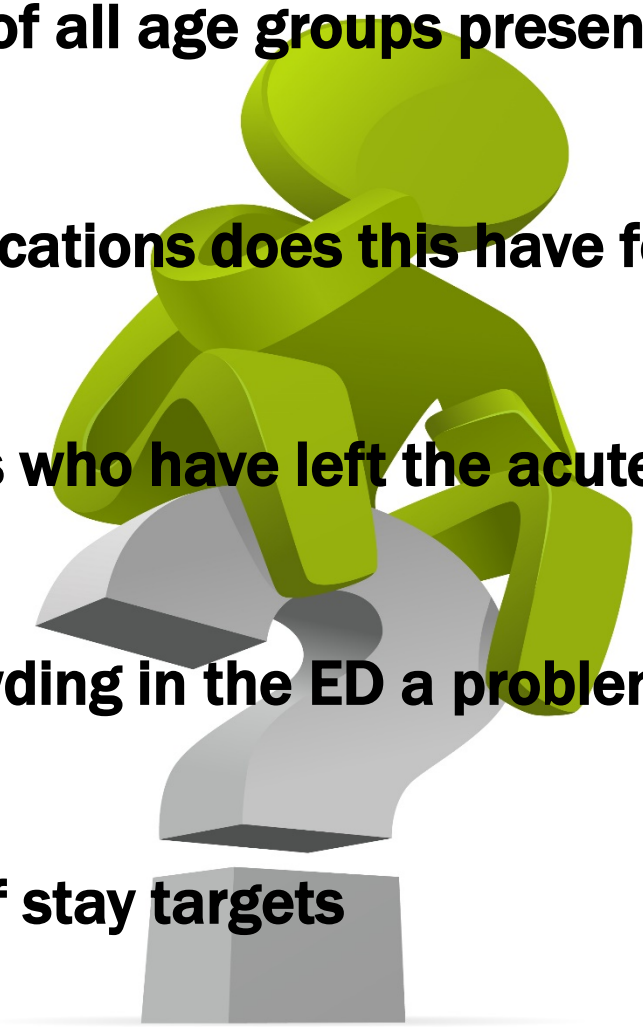
PECOT

- **Population**= Patients of all age groups presenting to the ED
- **Exposure**= What implications does this have for patients?
- **Comparison**= Patients who have left the acute setting
- **Outcome**= Is overcrowding in the ED a problem?
- **Timeframe**= Length of stay targets



Question:

“Why is “bed block” an issue in the Emergency Department and how does this effect patients and staff?

Clinical issue

AKA: “Access block”, “boarding”, or “exit block”.

“access block refers to delayed transfer of admitted patients in the Emergency Department to wards from lack of an inpatient bed” Paoloni & Fowler (2008).

Overview

A phenomenon that occurs in ED worldwide and struggles to be resolved……

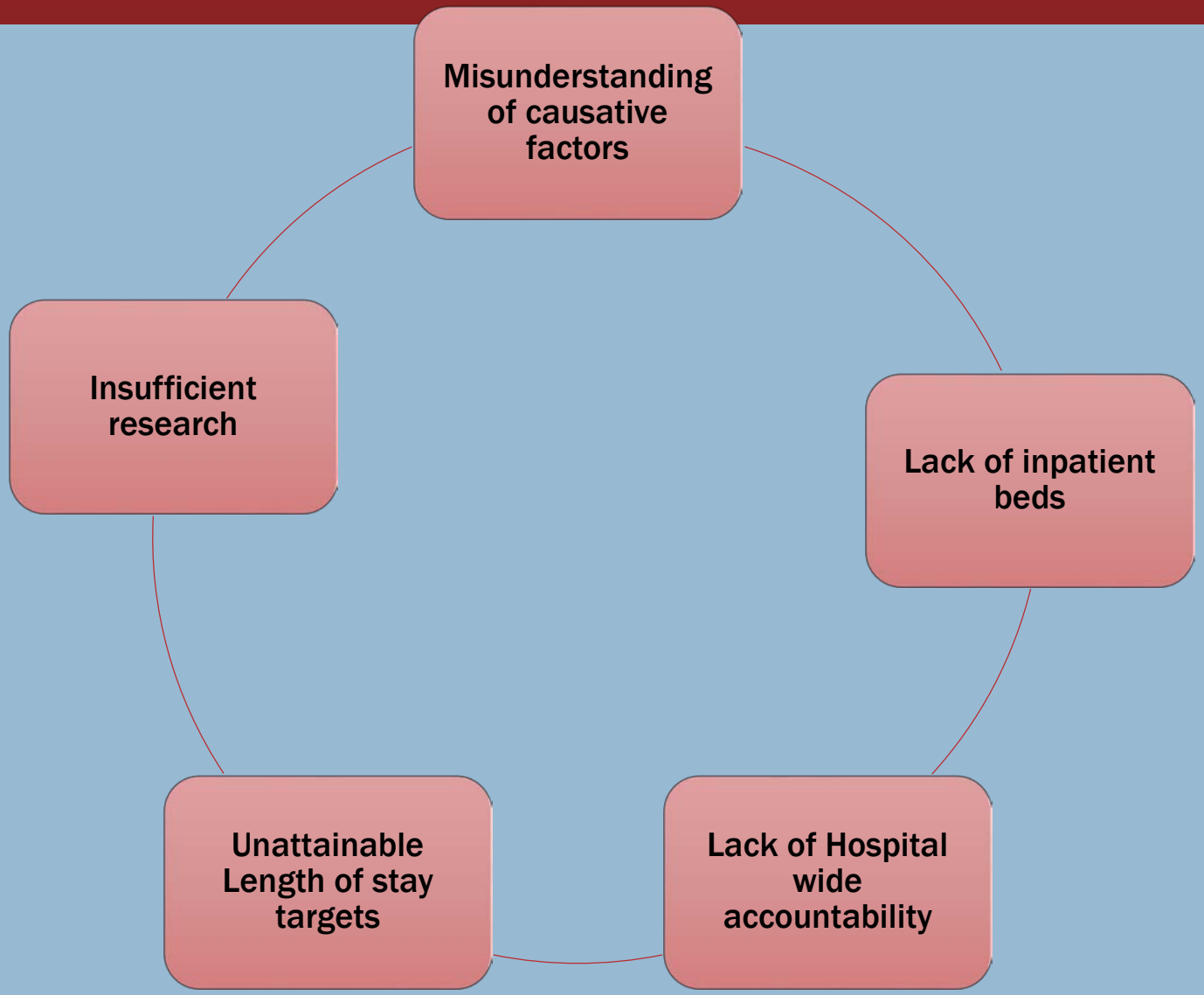
Affecting patient flow through the hospital...

Causing overcrowding....

affecting provision of care..

Detriment to patient safety, morbidity and mortality rates.

What influences bed block?



Richardson & Mountain (2009)

Overcrowding & Patient outcome

"Crowded EDs are associated with poorer outcomes including increased mortality for patients seen during crowded periods"

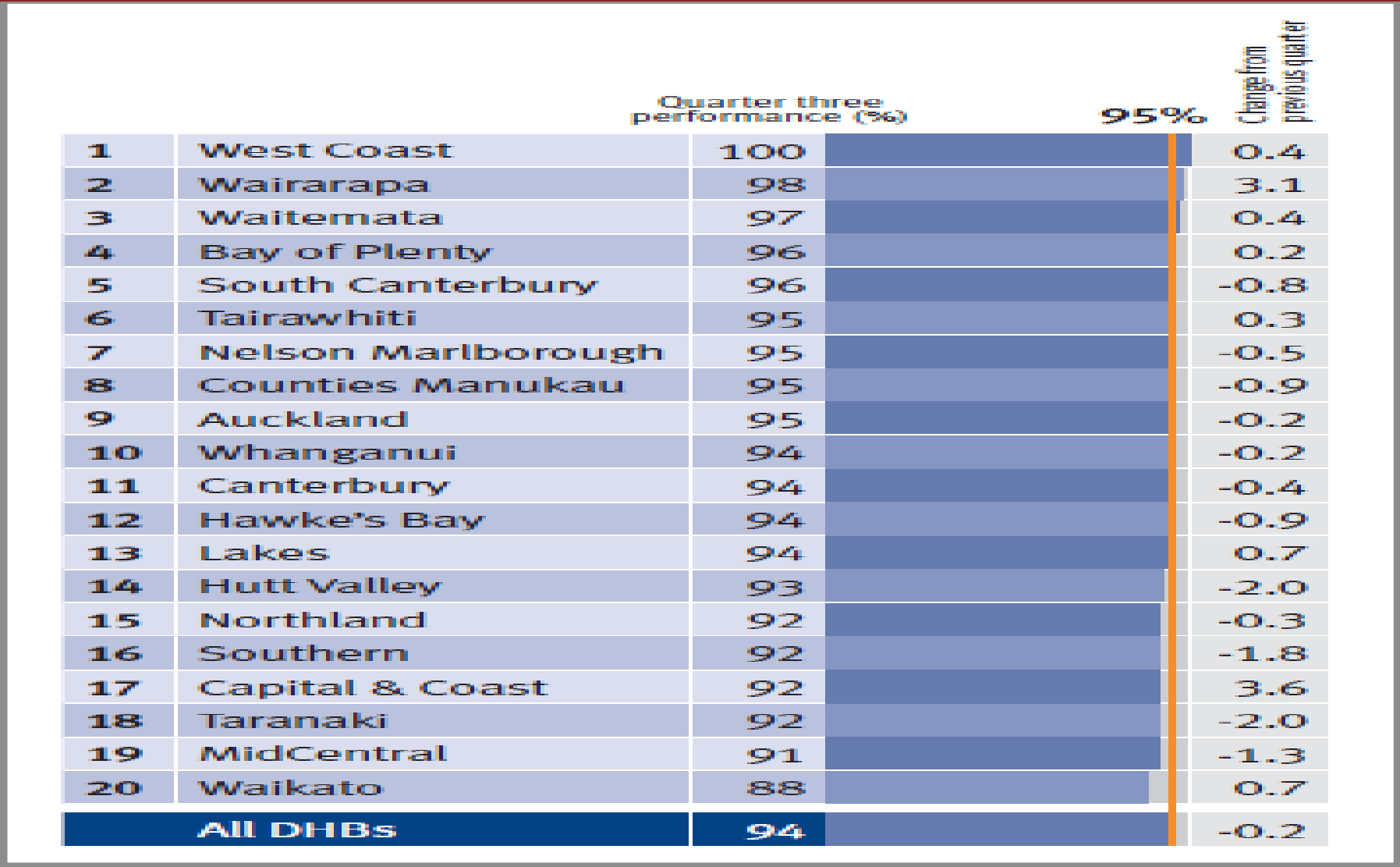
(Affleck et al, p.359, 2013)

Length of Stay target: A NZ context

"The shorter stay target is a measure of "how efficiently our acute (urgent) patients are flowing through our public hospitals to get back home again (MOH, 2017)".

Length of stay target= 6 hours

Performance for 2017



		Quarter three performance (%)	95%	Change from previous quarter
1	West Coast	100		0.4
2	Wairarapa	98		3.1
3	Waitemata	97		0.4
4	Bay of Plenty	96		0.2
5	South Canterbury	96		-0.8
6	Tairawhiti	95		0.3
7	Nelson Marlborough	95		-0.5
8	Counties Manukau	95		-0.9
9	Auckland	95		-0.2
10	Whanganui	94		-0.2
11	Canterbury	94		-0.4
12	Hawke's Bay	94		-0.9
13	Lakes	94		0.7
14	Hutt Valley	93		-2.0
15	Northland	92		-0.3
16	Southern	92		-1.8
17	Capital & Coast	92		3.6
18	Taranaki	92		-2.0
19	MidCentral	91		-1.3
20	Waikato	88		0.7
	All DHBs	94		-0.2

Recommendations

LOS targets should be implemented throughout the whole hospital, a shared target will yield accountability across all departments involved in the patients' care.

A whole systems approach to healthcare should be adopted to ensure appropriate care planning for the patient

More research is needed to determine exactly the extent of the problem

References

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