Pulmonary Disease Navigator:
Patient Assessment and Education Reduces Length of Stay

PIH HEALTH

Learning Objectives
- Explain analysis and prevention of readmissions.
- Outline the use of available resources and staff to optimize care for specific populations.

Methods
PIH Health Whittier Hospital Respiratory Department developed and implemented a pulmonary disease navigator (PDN) program to reduce COPD Readmissions and LOS.

Lessons Learned
- Spirometry is required to properly diagnosis COPD
- 43% of patients admitted to the hospital for COPD exacerbation showed restrictive or normal spirometry, not consistent with COPD
- Inadequate home regimen, incorrect diagnosis, or poor adherence to care plan resulted in higher COPD readmissions

Key Takeaway
Proper diagnosis, symptom-based education, and patient-centered discharge planning resulted in positive outcomes for the patient and the organization.

90%
Reduced COPD Readmissions

43%
COPD patients may be misdiagnosed

18%
Reduced COPD Length of Stay

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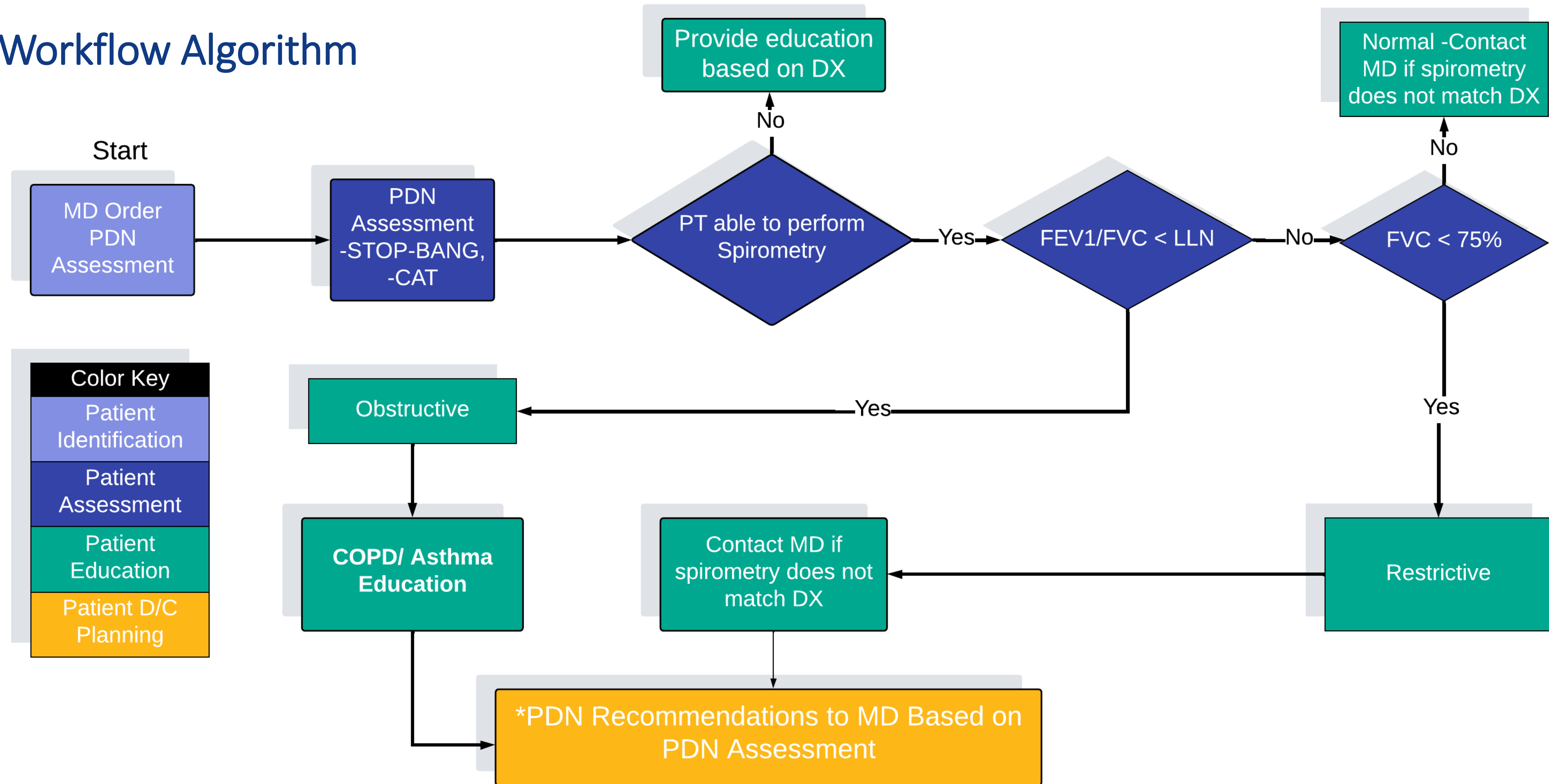MBA, MHA, RRT, RRT-RPFT Respiratory Services
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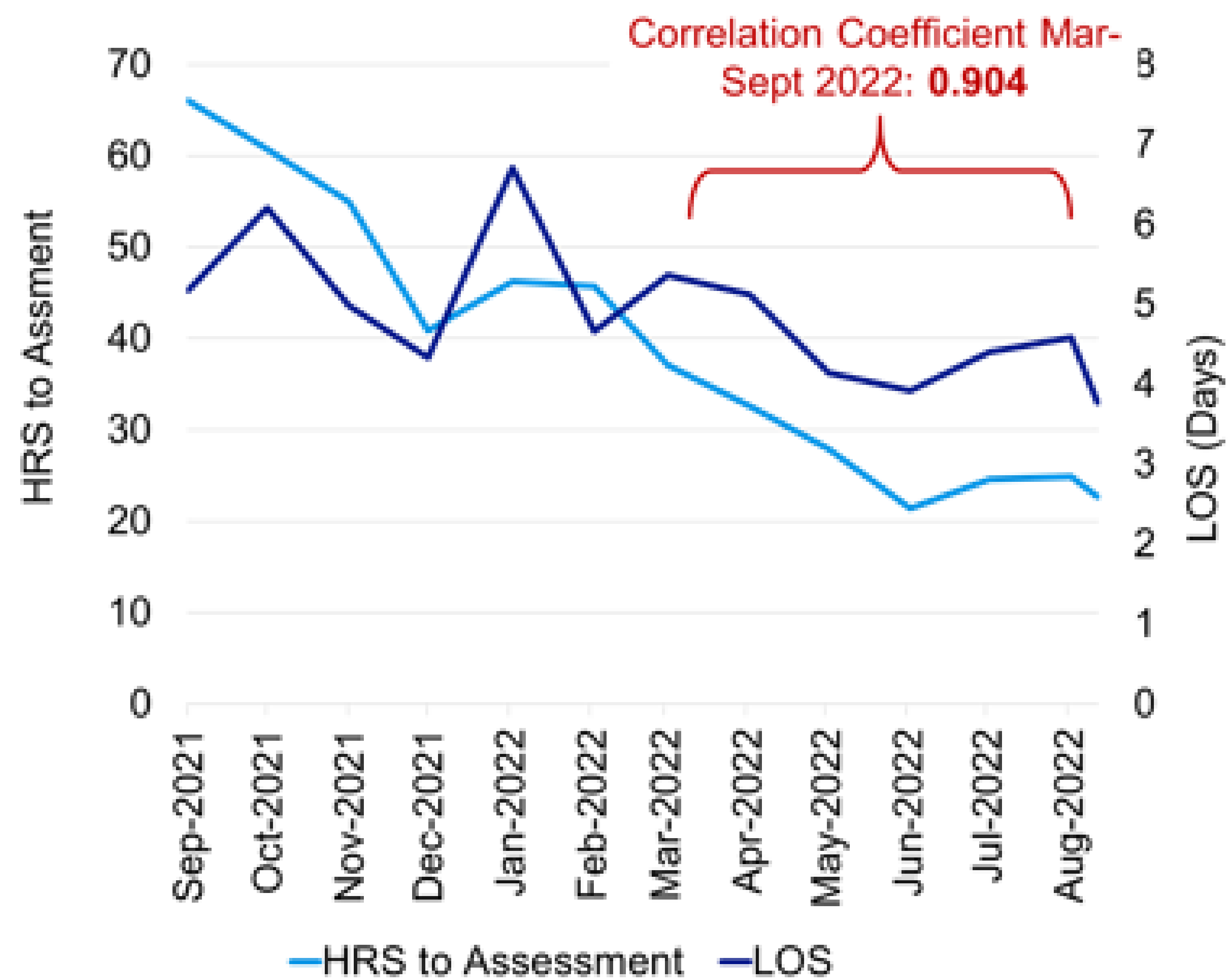
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Outcomes and Impact

Correlation Between Early Assessment and LOS

Correlation Coefficient Mar-Sept 2022: **0.904**

HRS to Assessment — LOS

Spirometry Results

5% — 57% — 38%

Normal — Obstructive — Restrictive