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# Orientation to Inpatient COVID-19 Care

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# Disclosures

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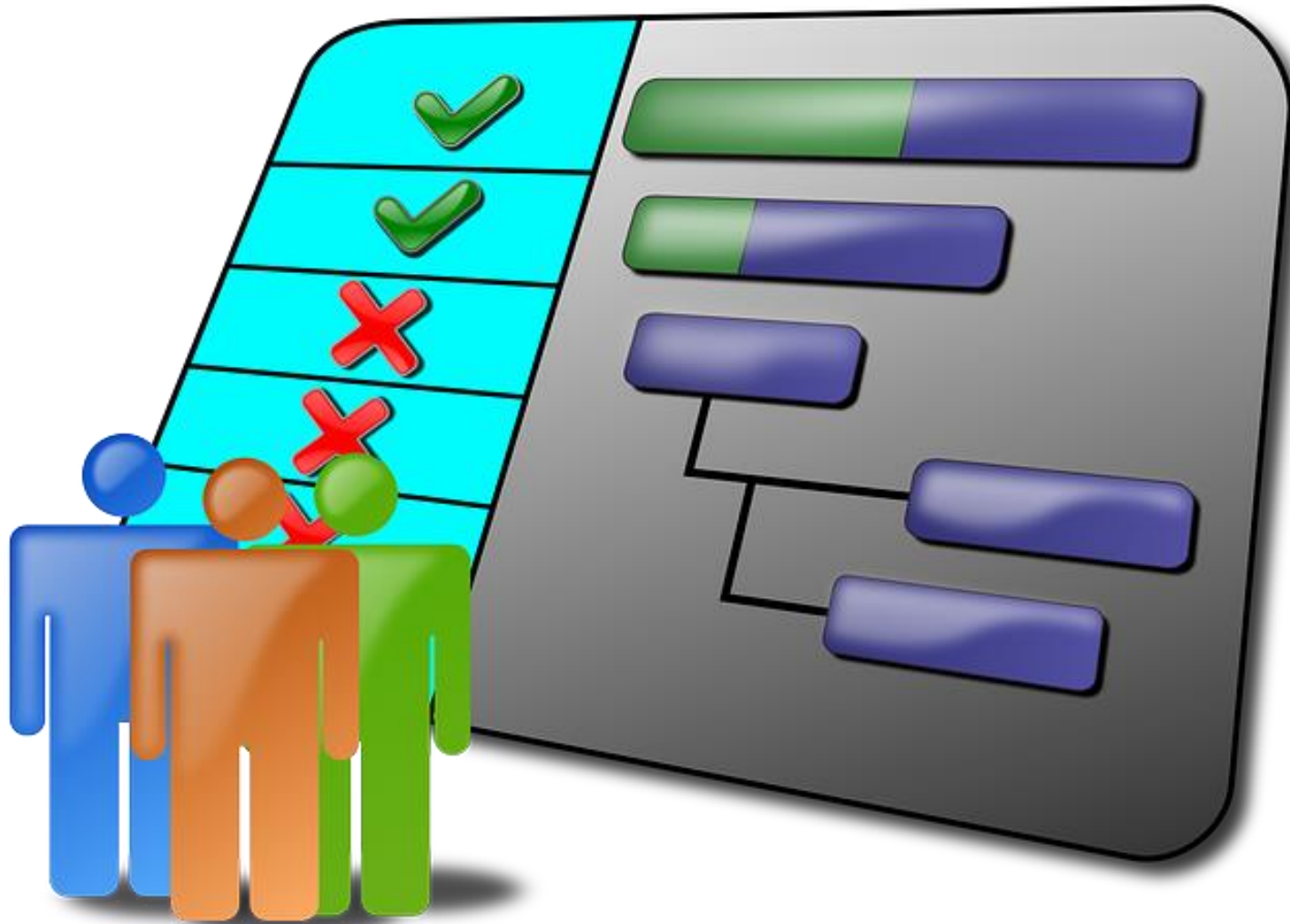
We have no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests to disclose.

# Special Thanks

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Michelle Le, MD, Assistant Professor, Hospital Medicine

Erin Kelly, MD, Assistant Professor, Hospital Medicine



# HOSPITALIST STRUCTURAL OVERVIEW & WORKFLOW

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NITENDRA AGARWAL,  
MD, MPH, FACP, FHM

# Hospitalist Team Structure (Non-Surge)

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## **TRIAGIST**

Gatekeeper- Takes calls from ED, ICUs, Clinics, outpatient facilities

Helps with rapid assessments and assignment of patients to teams



## **DIRECT CARE TEAMS (A-G)**

1 Hospitalist + 1 APP on each team



## **TEACHING TEAMS**

Work with 1 Upper Level (PGY-2/PGY3) resident+ 2 Interns



## **TRANSPLANT TEAMS 1 & 2**

1 hospitalist per team caring for half the transplant patients.

# Night & Cross Cover Staffing and Roles

## Night Attendings (2)

- Triage requests from the ED
- Help with admissions and cross cover
- Staff with residents and interns

## Night Resident (1)

- Admissions
- Medicine Consults

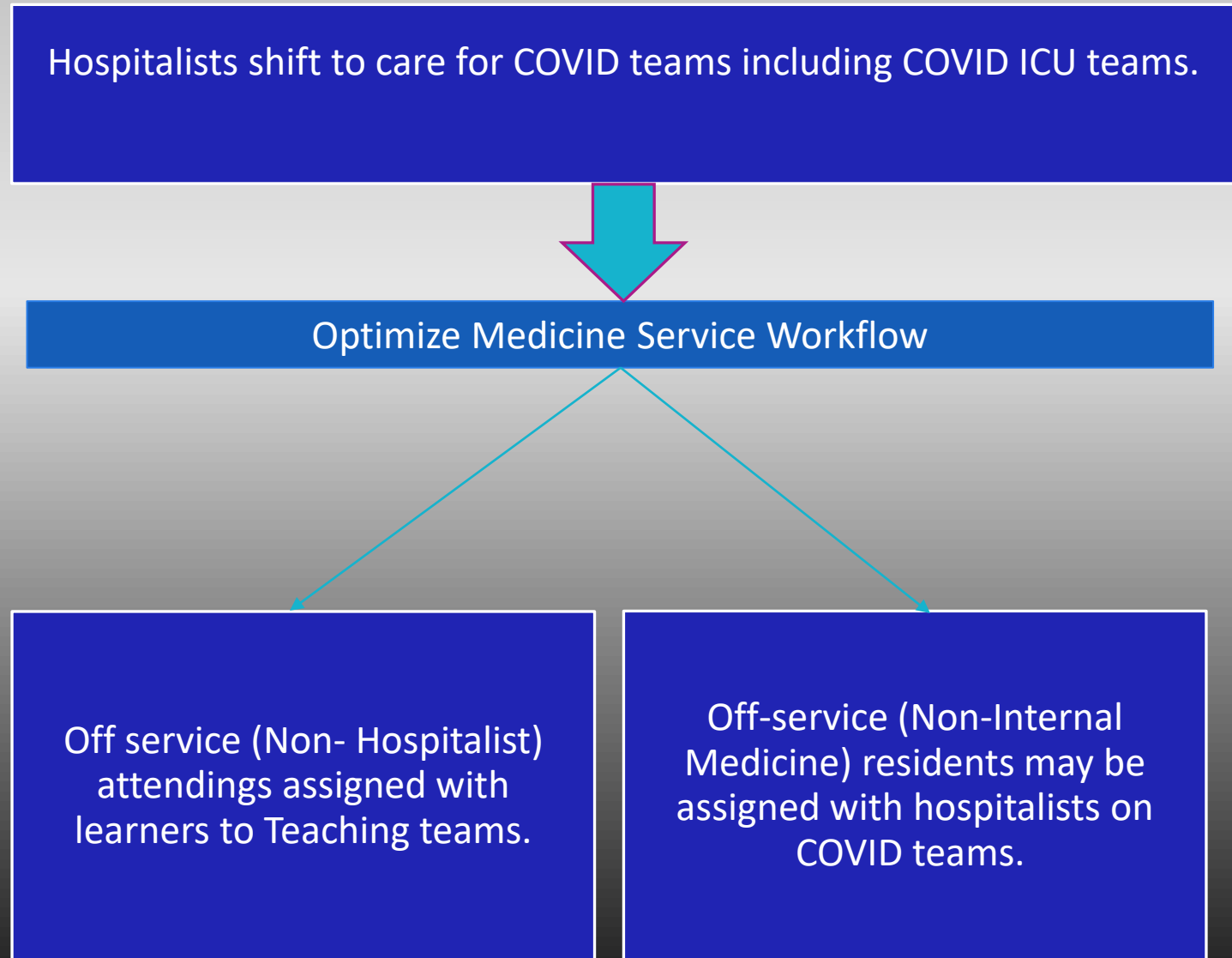
## Night Interns (2)

- Admissions
- Cross Cover on Teaching Teams

## Night APP (1)

- Cross Cover on Direct Care Teams

# SURGE PLAN





# Typical Day On Teaching Service

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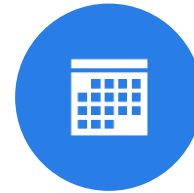
DAY STARTS 7-8AM  
WITH REVIEW OF  
OVERNIGHT  
EVENTS AND ANY  
NEW ADMITS.  
FLASH ROUNDS  
BETWEEN 8:30-  
9:00A



TARGET IS FOR  
ROUNDS TO BE  
DONE BY 11AM



EACH TEAM HAS AN  
AFTERNOON FLASH  
ROUNDS TO PLAN  
DISPOSITION FOR  
THE NEXT DAY.



STAFF NEW  
ADMISSIONS WITH  
YOUR TEAM UNTIL  
THE END OF YOUR  
SHIFT



CALL SHIFT UNTIL  
8PM (EVERY 6TH  
DAY)  
STAFF NEW ADMITS  
ASSIGNED BY 6PM



NON-CALL /  
REGULAR SHIFT:  
STAFF NEW ADMITS  
ASSIGNED TO YOUR  
TEAM BEFORE 4PM

# Case management / Power Through Flash rounds

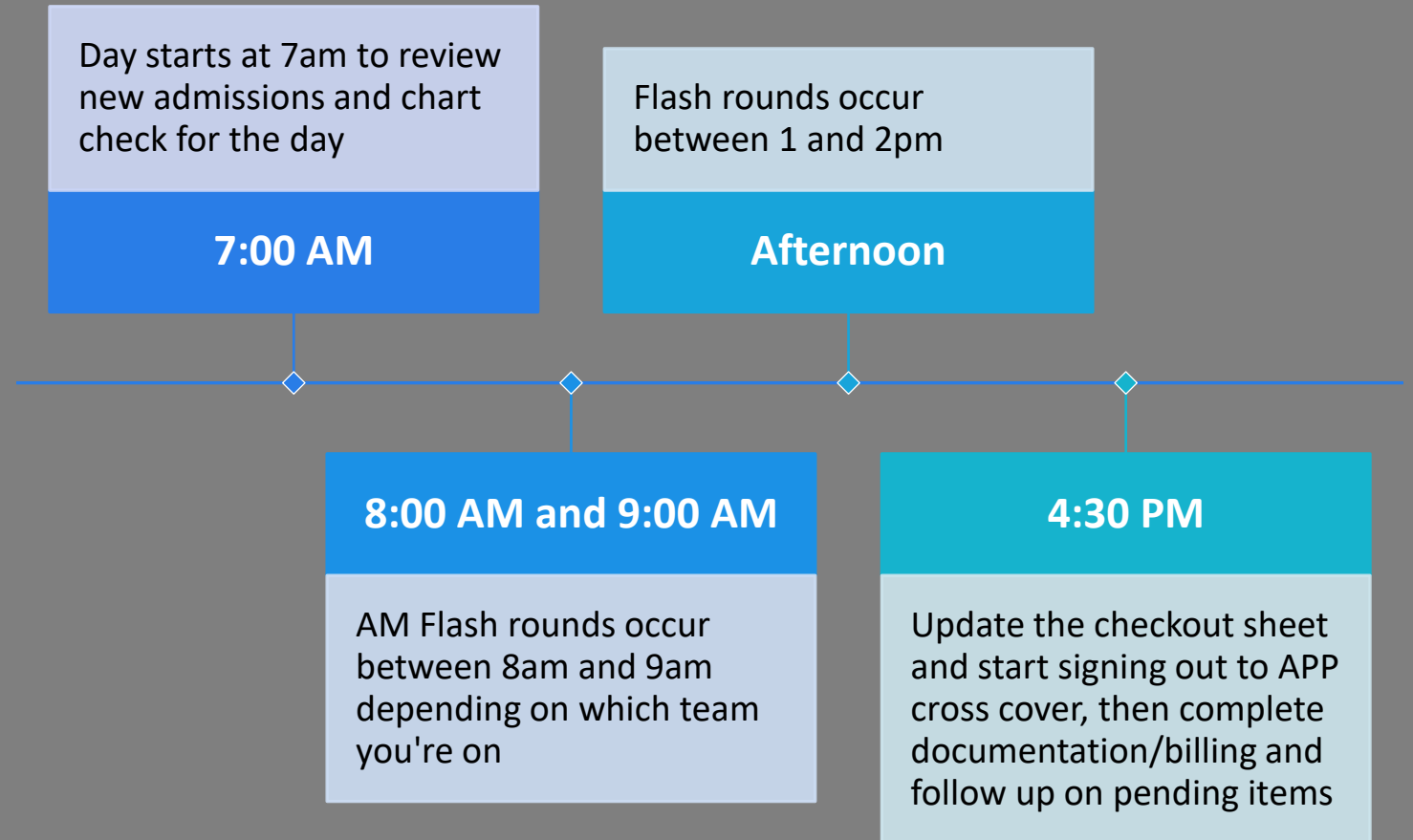
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Goal: Help with workflow and facilitating discharge by coordinating transition of care to discharge facility, setting up discharge transportation, home health, etc.

- Morning: Discuss discharge status for each patient on the list. Anticipate and address any potential barriers to discharge. Prioritizing ancillary services such as PT/OT/ST to a patient if these services are rate limiting factors to discharge.
- Afternoon : Follow up on any issues and anticipate patient to discharge the next day

# Typical day on Direct Care Team



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# Caring for COVID-19 at UHS

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HOLLY DAY, MD

# Common Presentations

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## Symptoms:

- Most common: Cough, fever, malaise/fatigue
- Additional symptoms: Myalgias, nausea or diarrhea, change in smell/taste
- Alarm Symptoms: Shortness of breath, chest pain

## Exposure History:

- High-risk exposure history: Healthcare workers, recent travel to an area with high transmission, known exposure to a PUI or COVID+ patient.
- Community transmission is occurring in San Antonio

# Differential Diagnosis

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COVID-19

Pretend you were seeing the patient 4 months ago. What would you have suspected back then?

Differential diagnosis for FEVER and/or SHORTNESS OF BREATH

- Community acquired pneumonia – viral vs. bacterial
- COPD / Asthma Exacerbation
- Volume overload – acute heart failure, renal failure, cirrhosis
- Pulmonary Embolism
- Myocardial Infarction
- Malignancy
- And more...

# Routine Studies

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COVID-19 test

Respiratory Viral PCR

Sepsis work-up: blood cultures, urinalysis w/ culture, lactic acid

Pneumonia work-up: sputum culture, procalcitonin, legionella antigen

Inflammatory Markers: D-dimer, ESR/CRP, ferritin, LDH, CK

CMP, CBC with differential

Imaging: CXR or CT on admission

EKG on admission

# Deciding Level of Care

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Recommend Critical Care Consult if:

- High or rapidly-increasing oxygen needs (>4-6 liters O<sub>2</sub>)
- Respiratory rate >30 and/or respiratory distress
- pH <7.3 with or without hypercapnia
- Hypotension unresponsive to appropriate fluid bolus

Target floor patients to a negative-pressure room if:

- They have any of the above findings, or additional clinical information that makes them high risk for needing intubation
- They have conditions that make them likely to need aerosolizing procedures (OSA on CPAP/BIPAP, tracheostomy, etc.)



# Management: Treatment and Supportive Care

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Pretend you were seeing the patient 4 months ago. How would you have treated them then?

- Antibiotic coverage for CAP and/or sepsis: Start now, de-escalate later

## COVID-19 Specific Care: Subject to Change

- Oxygen therapy: Via simple nasal cannula. Generally avoid high-flow nasal cannula, CPAP or BIPAP.
  - Consider self-proning for floor patients
- Hydroxychloroquine + Azithromycin can be considered for confirmed cases in immunocompromised patients and patients with high risk comorbidities
- Infectious Disease guides enrollment in Remdesivir trial, experimental use of Tocilizumab, Kaletra, or convalescent plasma
- Family communication

# Discharge

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## Clinical stability:

- No need for supplemental O2, or return to baseline O2 usage\*
- Fever controllable with Tylenol

## Appropriate home conditions for safe isolation

- Separate room in the household for patient, ideally with separate bathroom
- Access to necessities (food, medicines, PPE for patient's caregiver, etc.)
- No household members with high-risk comorbidities (age >65, COPD, cardiac disease, immunosuppression)

## Discontinuing Isolation

- 7 days since symptom onset
- PLUS 3 days of no fever (with no fever-reducing med use)
- PLUS significant improvement in symptoms

# Facing Fear

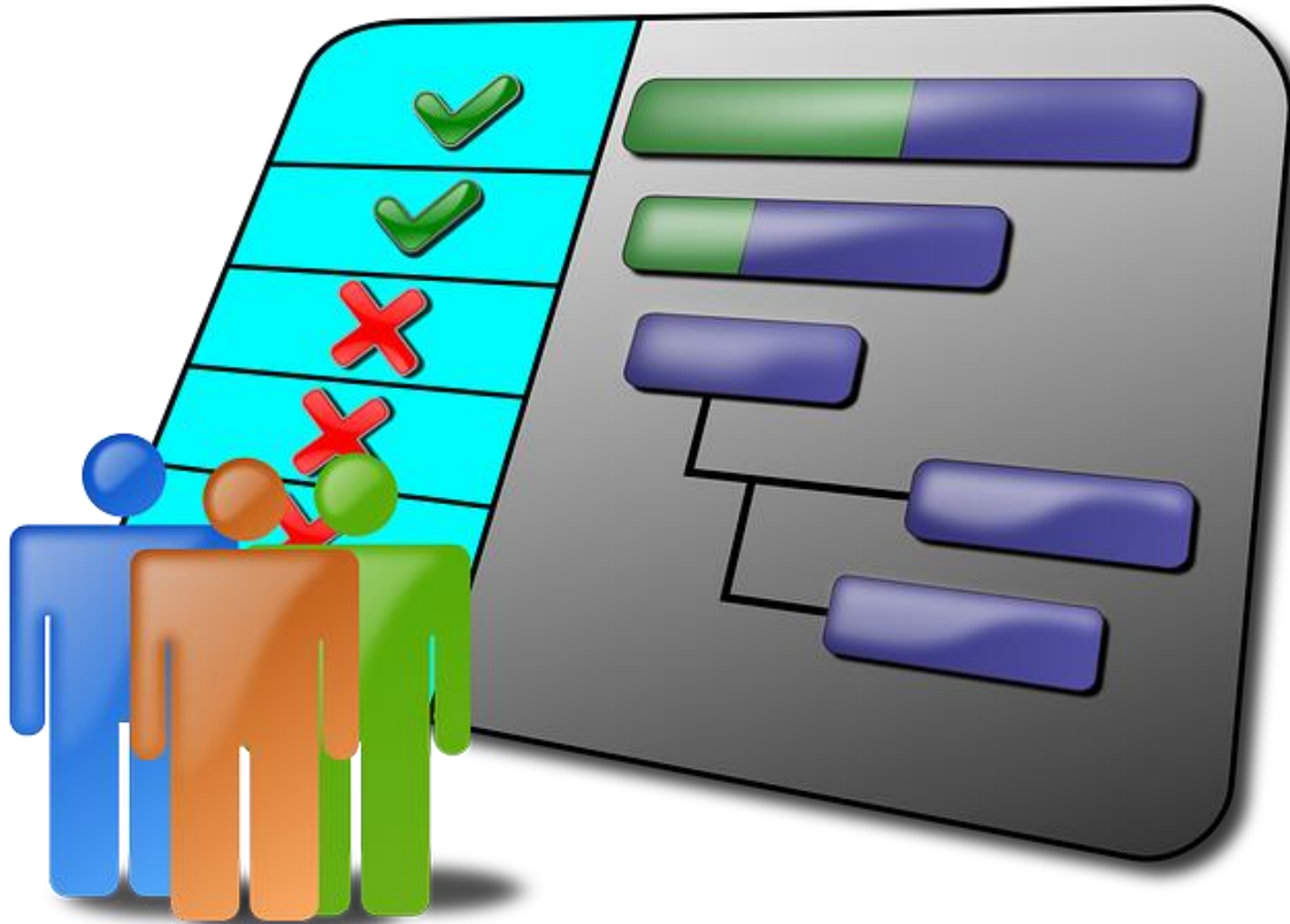
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Will I be expected to perform beyond my capabilities?

What risk does this exposure pose to me and my household?

Remember:

- You are **never** alone
- The vast majority of people who get this infection DO SURVIVE
- The patient is more afraid than you are
- Taking care of sick, scared people is what we trained for



# VIDEO TUTORIAL: ADMISSION PROCESS

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# A Video Walkthrough: Admission & Daily Tasks

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RAUDEL RODRIGUEZ, MD

# Hospitalist-In-Time Orientation

Part I: Admission, Chart Check, and  
Daily Tasks

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Questions?

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