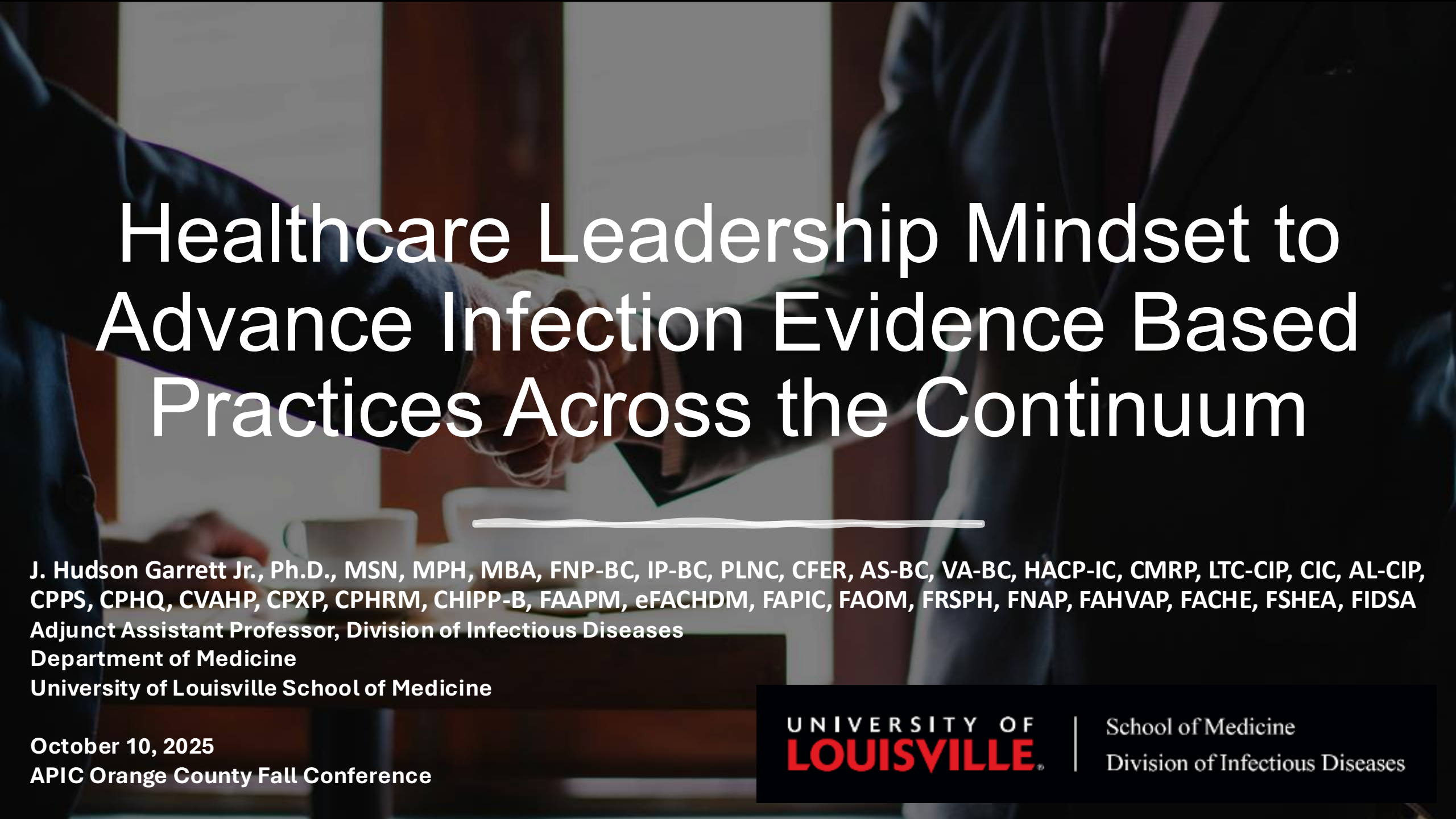

# Healthcare Leadership Mindset to Advance Infection Evidence Based Practices Across the Continuum

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**Department of Medicine**
**University of Louisville School of Medicine**

**October 10, 2025**
**APIC Orange County Fall Conference**

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE | School of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases

# Speaker Financial Disclosures

- Relevant Financial Disclosures:
  - Consultant: Aerobiotix

# Objectives

Identify gaps in bundle compliance and areas for improvement

Develop leadership and team engagement strategies to drive infection prevention innovation

Utilize data-driven decision-making and real-world case studies to optimize patient safety

# What is the “Sweet Spot”?

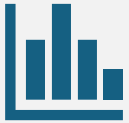
*optimal balance between delivering high-quality patient care, improving outcomes,  and eliminating preventable costs of care*

# Target the Right Goals

Reduction in hospital-acquired conditions

Improved surgical or procedural outcomes

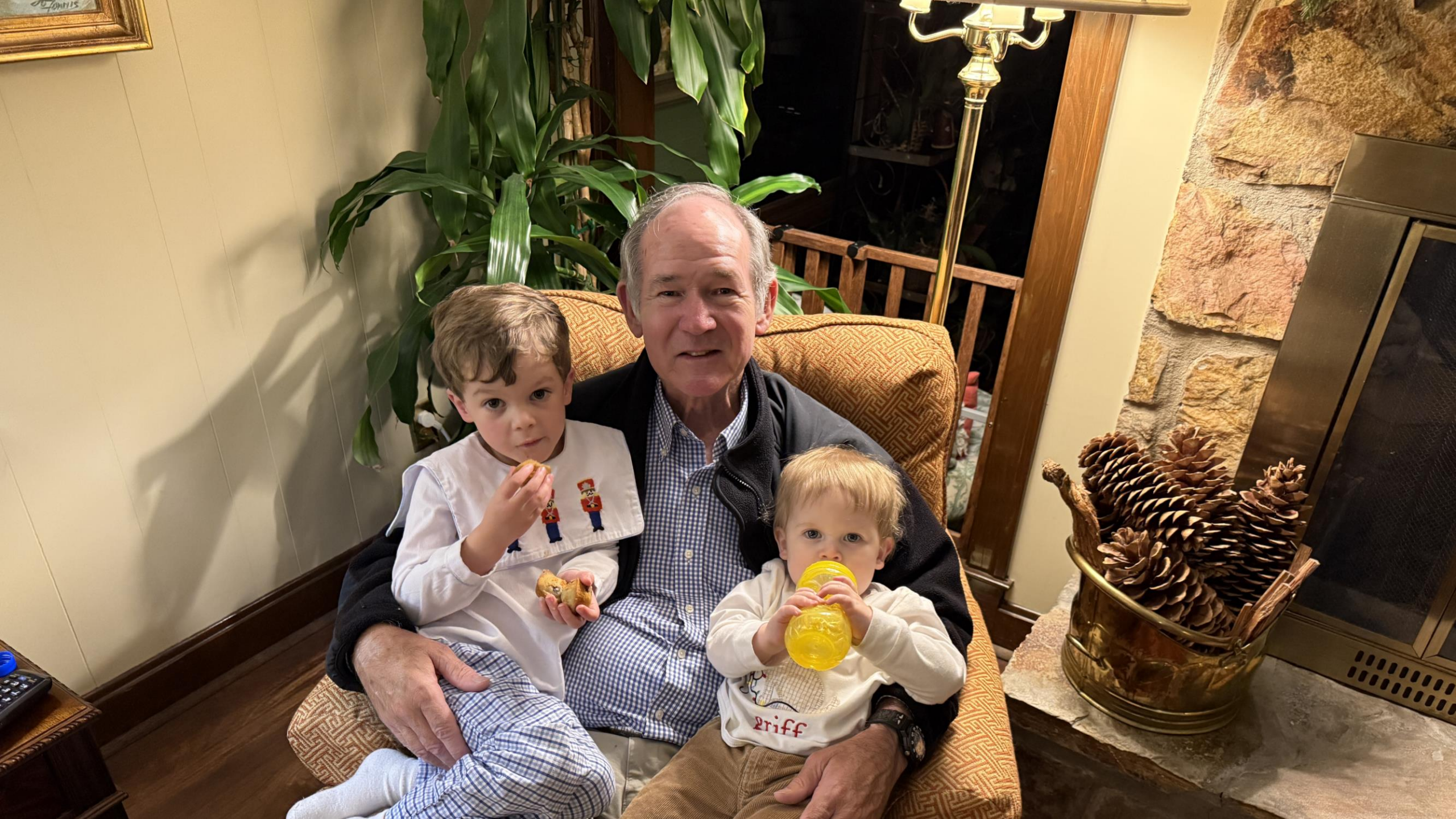
Decreased readmissions or complications



Staff and patient satisfaction metrics

# Not Just Numbers & Statistics


Anesthesiologist
Perfusionist
Heart Surgeon
Morbidity and Mortality Conference




Source: US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)


HALYARD
PURPLE NITRILE
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
375
325
275
225
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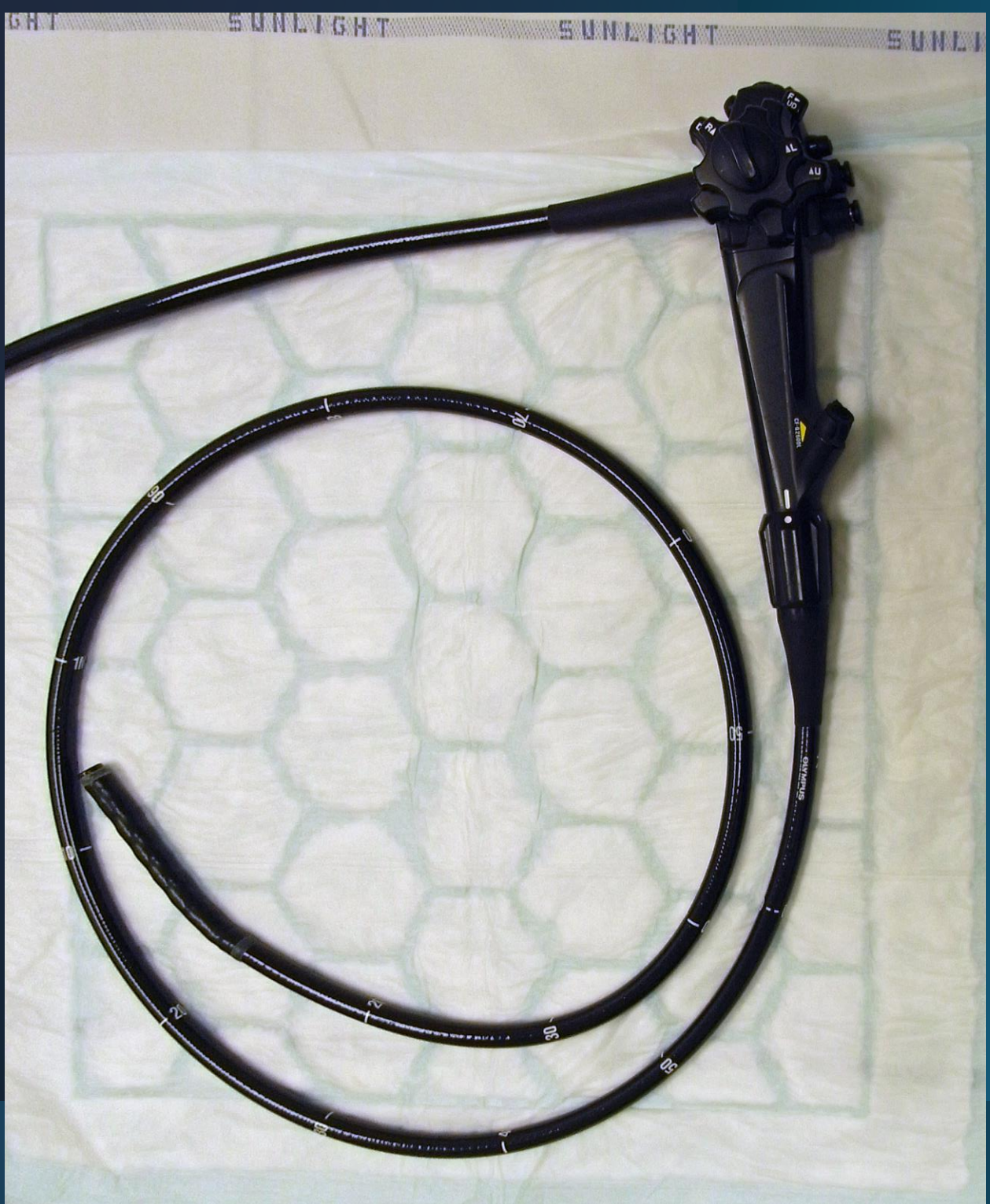
5


SIEMENS


Uretero


SUNLIGHT
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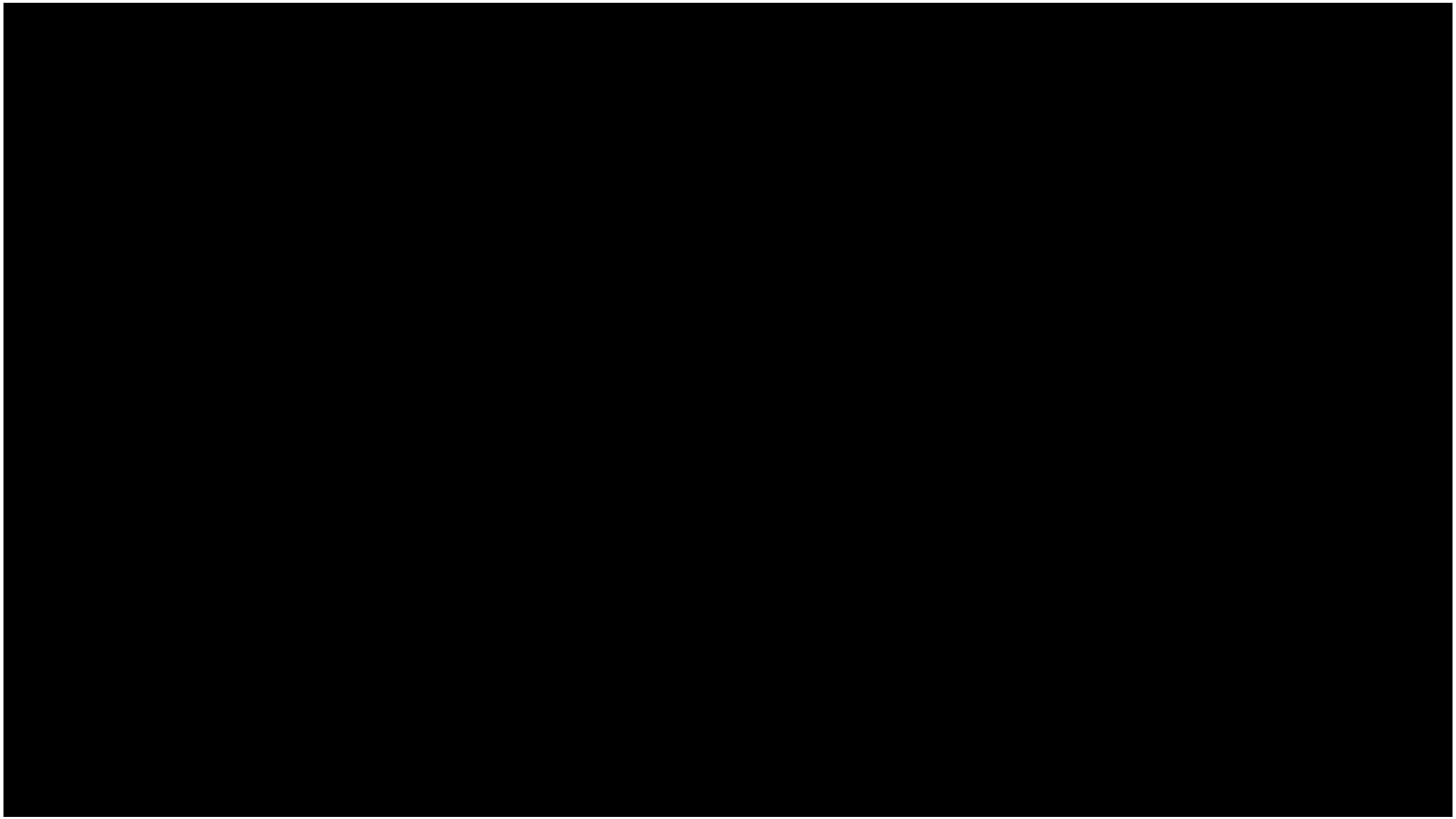
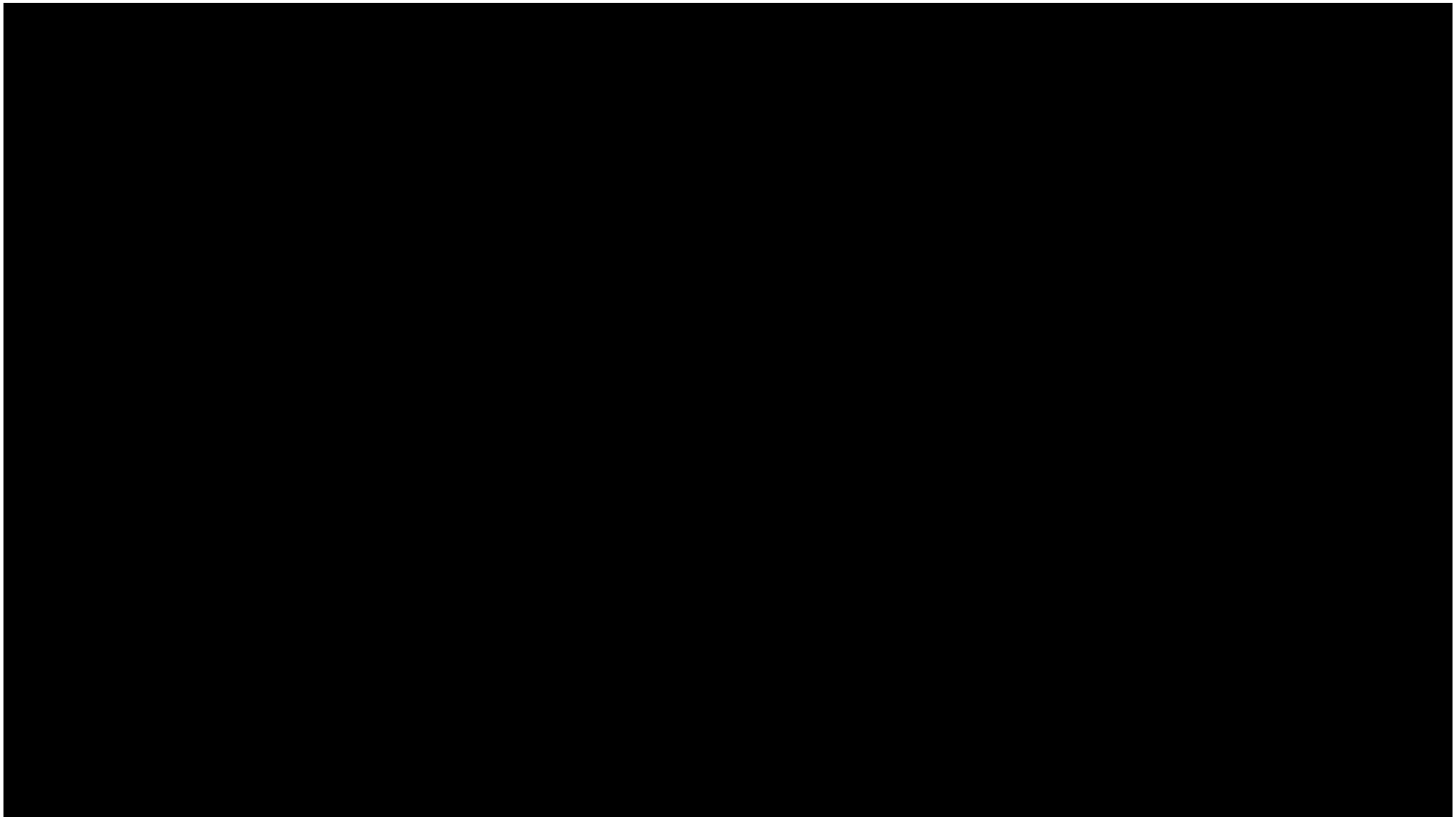
# Case Example

Hospital repeatedly had failures with flexible endoscope reprocessing. Failures were attributed to equipment failure, but the actual HLD process was never evaluated or assessed. The devices were not actually inspected; they were only sent back to the manufacturer for maintenance. It was discovered that the reprocessing staff had not been properly trained on the newest model of the endoscope that was implemented 14 months ago.

# Get Back to What Matters Most

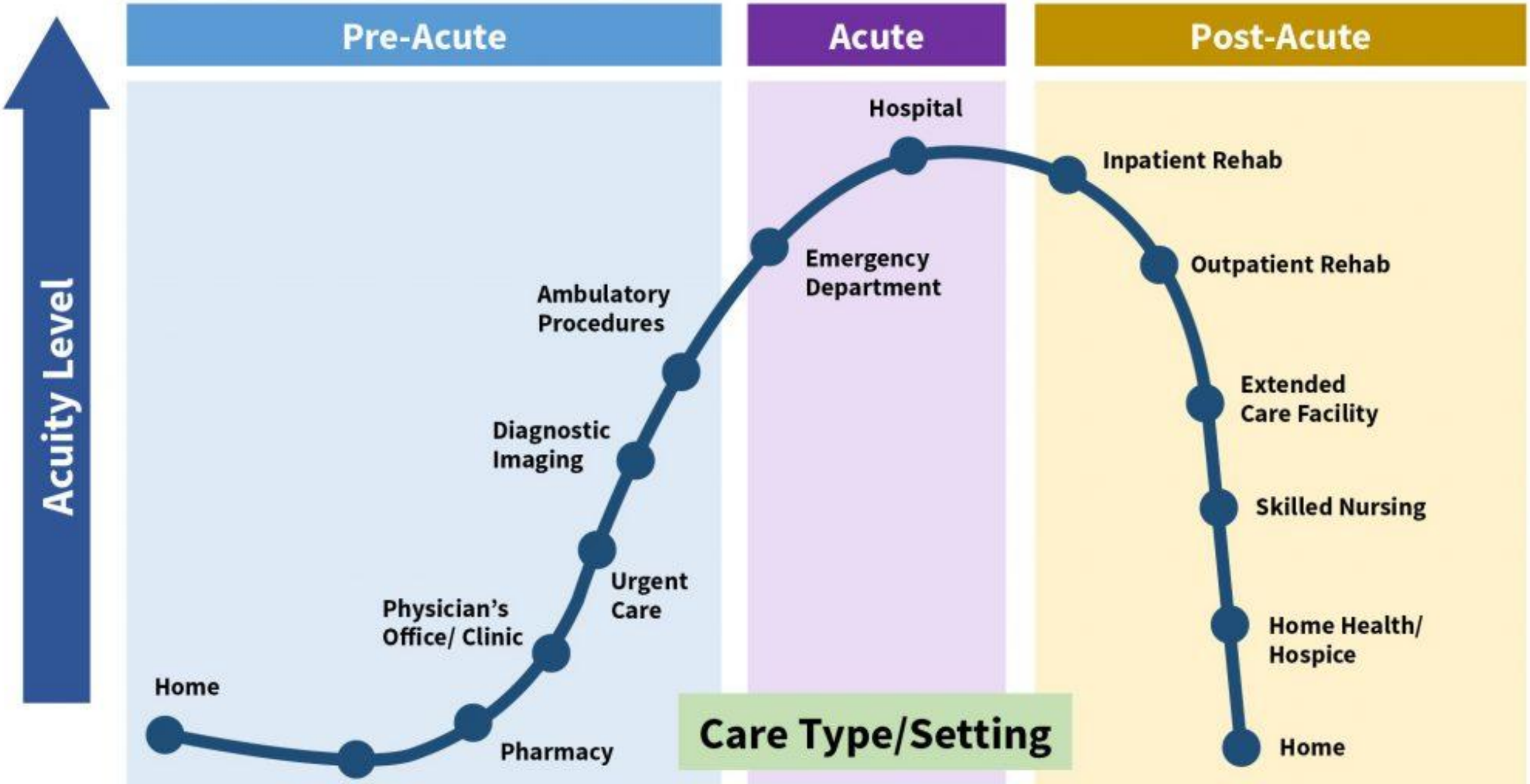


# How is Healthcare Truly Perceived?

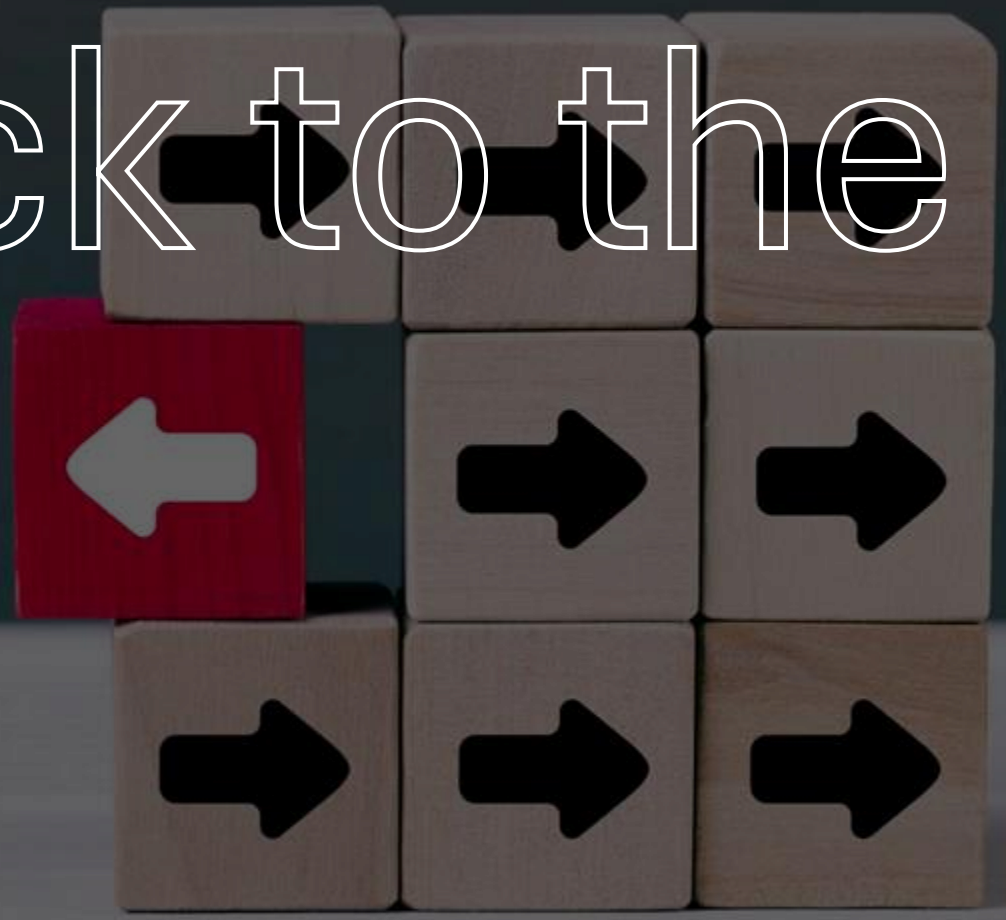



Patients
Pre-Primary Care
Primary Care
Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Hospitals
Specialists
Inpatient Outpatient Rehabilitation
Skilled Nursing Facility
Home Care
Hospice
Insurance Partners
Community
Acute Care
Post-Acute Care

# The Health Care Continuum

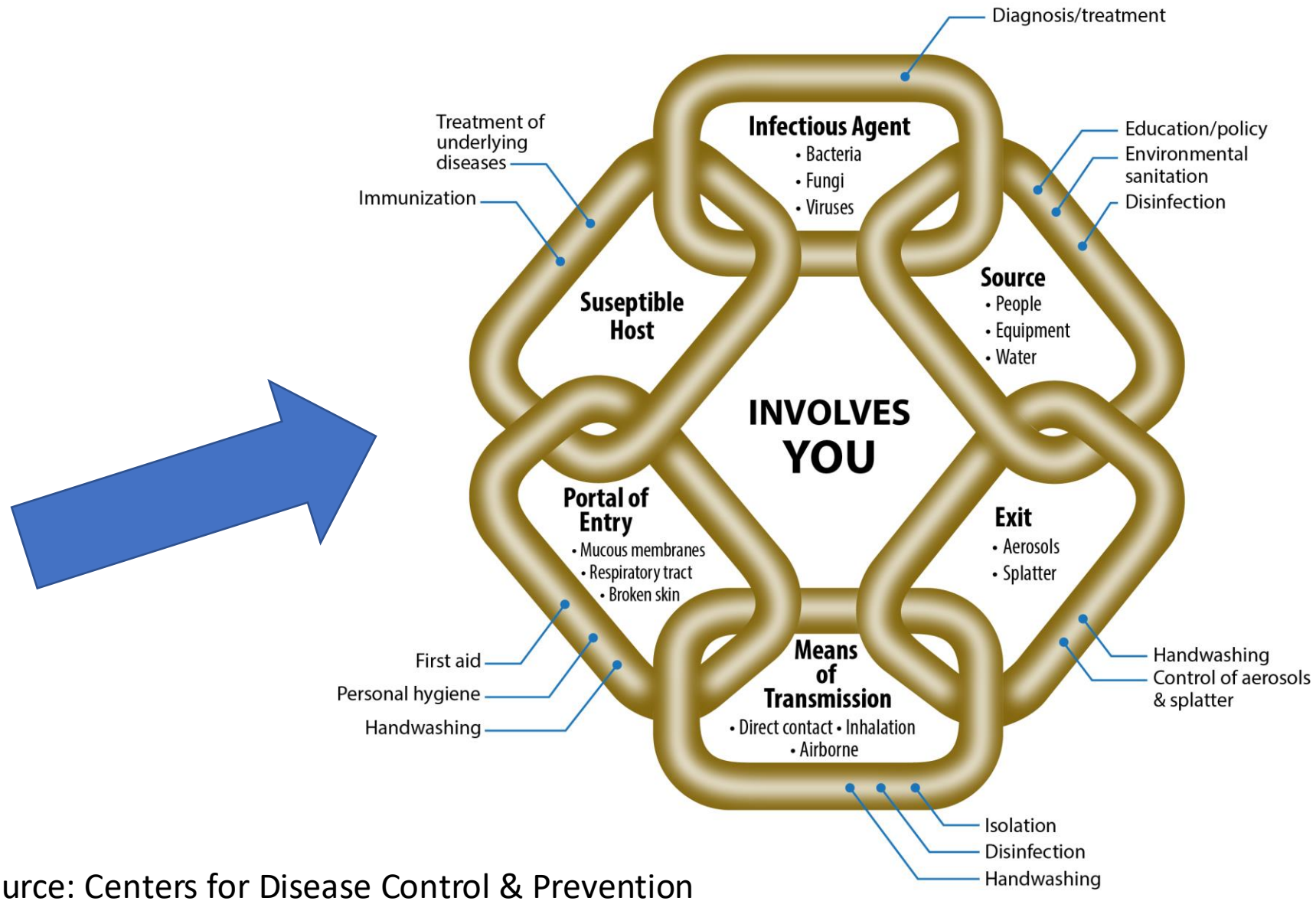


# Go Back to the Basics



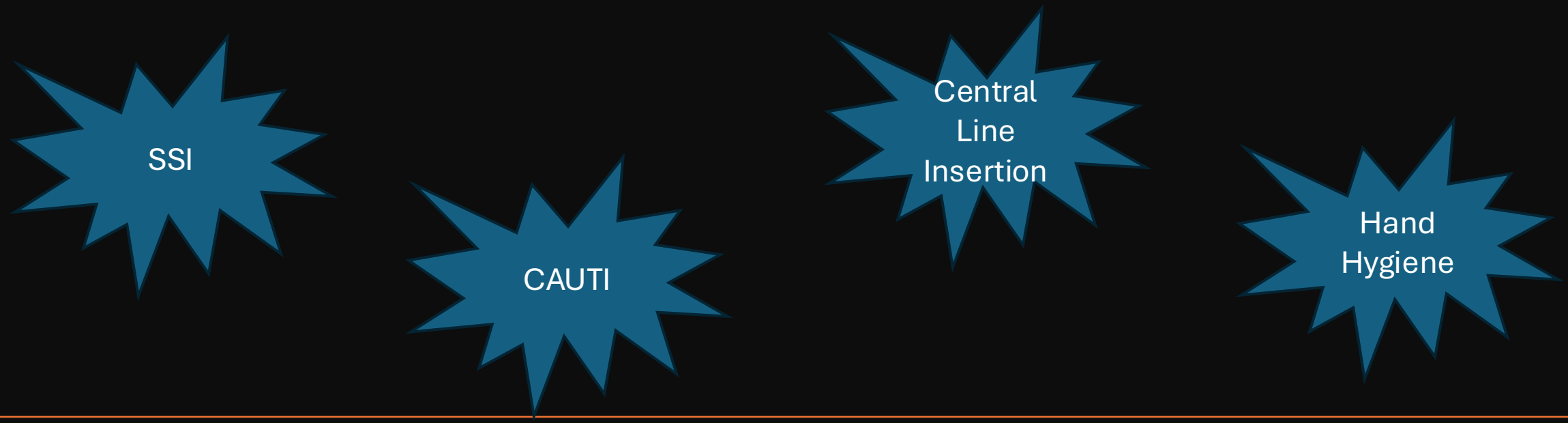
# Where do Risks in Healthcare Primarily Originate From?

- Contaminated Hands of the HCP or Pt
- Contaminated Clinical Environment of Care
- Contaminated Skin of the Patient (Microbiome)
- Contaminated Air




Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

# Break Down the Bundles into Common Sense



# Basis for CDC Core Practices

Existing HICPAC and other CDC guidelines contain specific infection prevention and control activities with evidence-basis

Beyond guidelines, little has been done to pull those practices together for use in clinical practice and education

Identification of core practices can provide a framework for improved provision of care and improved outcomes

Application of core practices must be integral to all care activities to ensure safe care and outcomes in all settings where care is delivered

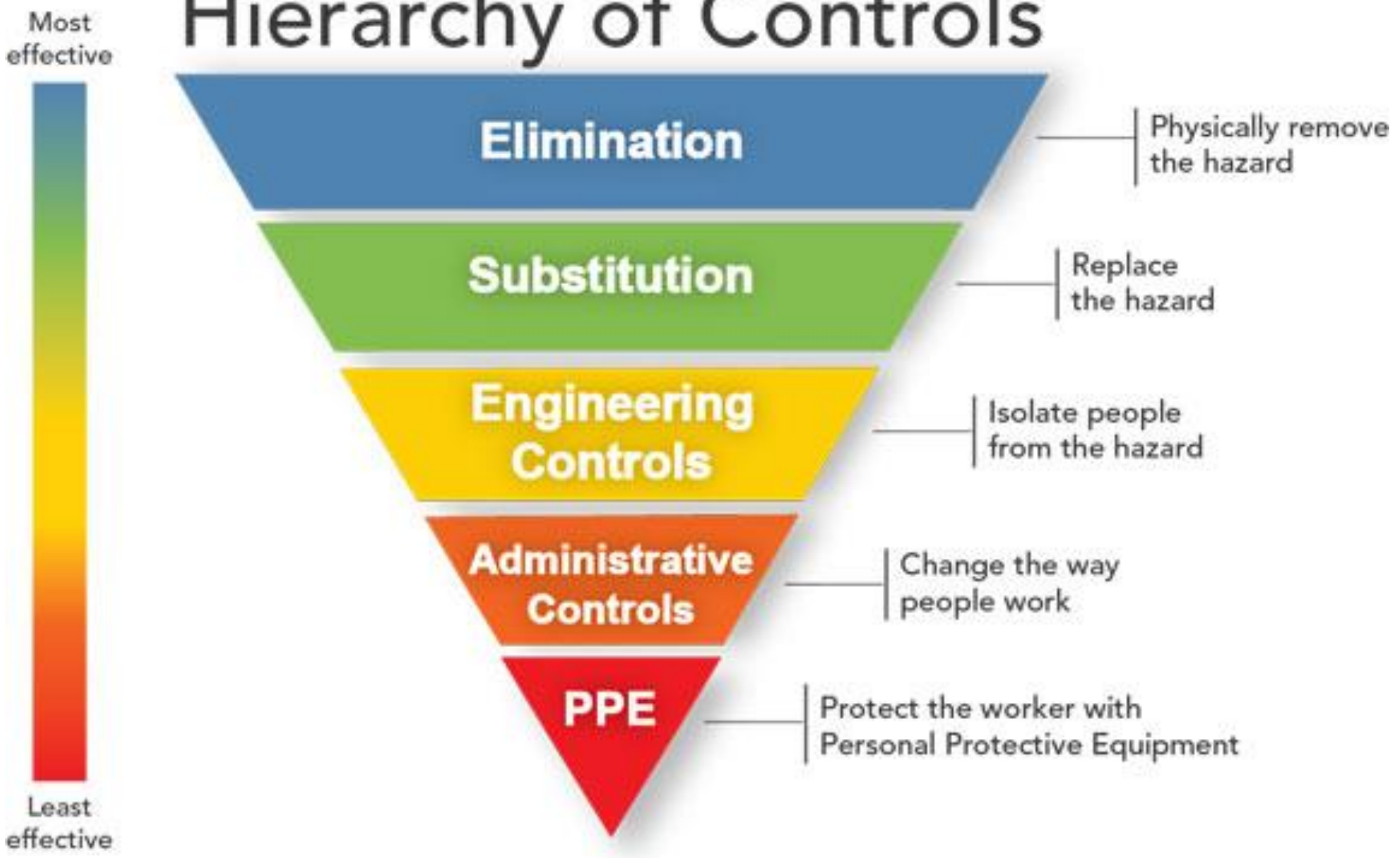
# CDC Core Practices for Infection Prevention & Control

- Hand hygiene
- Aseptic technique
- Safe injection practices
- Standard and transmission-based precautions
- Training and education of healthcare personnel
- Patient and family education

# CDC Core Practices for Infection Prevention & Control

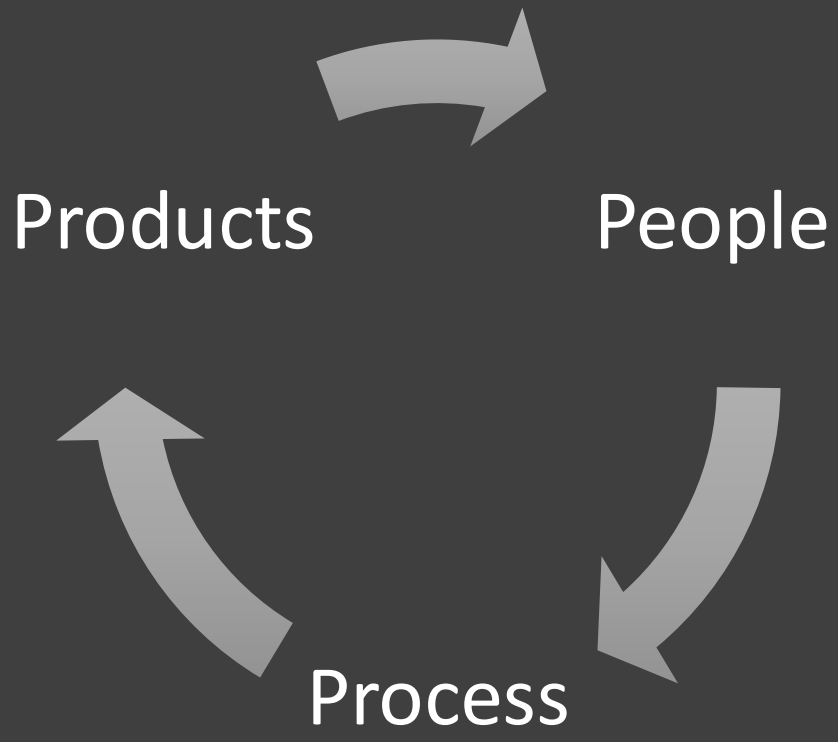
- Environmental hygiene
- Leadership support
- Monitoring of practice
- Employee/Occupational health
- Early removal of invasive devices

# Hierarchy of Controls




Source: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html

# The 3 P’s Approach




# Leadership Sets the Tone for Safety Culture

- Infection prevention begins with leadership commitment — it signals that patient safety is a non-negotiable core value.
- When leaders consistently prioritize infection prevention, it shapes organizational culture, accountability, and staff behaviors.
- A visible, engaged leadership presence reinforces trust, transparency, and a shared sense of responsibility.

# Strategic Alignment Drives Sustainable Results

- Aligning infection prevention goals with organizational strategy ensures resource allocation, staffing, and operational support.
- Leadership engagement transforms infection control from a compliance task to a strategic performance objective.
- Executive sponsorship empowers frontline teams to act quickly and confidently on emerging infection risks.

# Evidence-Based Leadership Decisions Save Lives

Data-driven leaders support evidence-based practices such as environmental hygiene, air disinfection, endoscope reprocessing, and device safety.

Leaders who champion evidence application and technology adoption can significantly reduce infection rates and associated costs.

Leveraging data dashboards and outcome metrics creates accountability and reinforces measurable improvement.

# Cross-Disciplinary Leadership Promotes Collaboration

Effective infection prevention requires a “one team” approach — uniting clinicians, value analysis, supply chain, engineering, and infection prevention.

Leaders must break down silos and build systems that integrate safety, value, and evidence across all disciplines.

Collaborative leadership fosters mutual respect, transparency, and shared ownership of outcomes.

# Leadership Communication Drives Behavior Change

Consistent, clear communication from leadership keeps infection prevention visible and relevant at every level.

Storytelling and recognition of infection prevention successes reinforce desired behaviors and motivate continuous improvement.

When leaders communicate the “why” behind every infection prevention initiative, compliance becomes purpose-driven rather than punitive.

# ROI of Leadership in Infection Control

Strong infection prevention leadership reduces patient harm, shortens hospital stays, and minimizes financial penalties from HAIs.

Every infection prevented protects patients, reduces costs, and enhances the organization’s reputation for safety and quality.

Leadership-driven infection prevention is both a moral imperative and a business necessity.

Zoom Meeting

Recording

# Bring People Together

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cameron Tanner Pd.2 | Laura Bruno | Carly Casten | Jonathan Kim | Nadine Twombly |
| Bella Zoll | Caroline Derringer | Irene Haramis | Dylan Rosen | Kaiden Youssefieh |
| Avery Max | Casey Meretta | Jake Rood | Jaden Selby | Jordyn Feldman |
| Jenna Bergman | Shiv Puri | Camila Ton | Collin Chen | Winston Zhang |

1/2

1/2

# Diversify Your Toolbelt


AHVAP
Association of Healthcare Value Analysis Professionals
CERTIFICATION CENTER
Infection Control
Value Analysis
Specialist

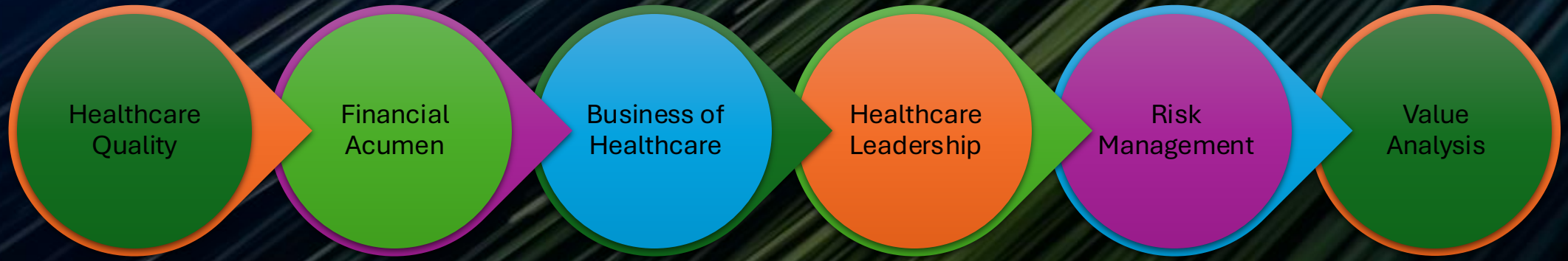

AHVAP
Association of Healthcare Value Analysis Professionals
CERTIFICATION CENTER
Medical Products
Instructions for Use
Specialist Micro-
Credential

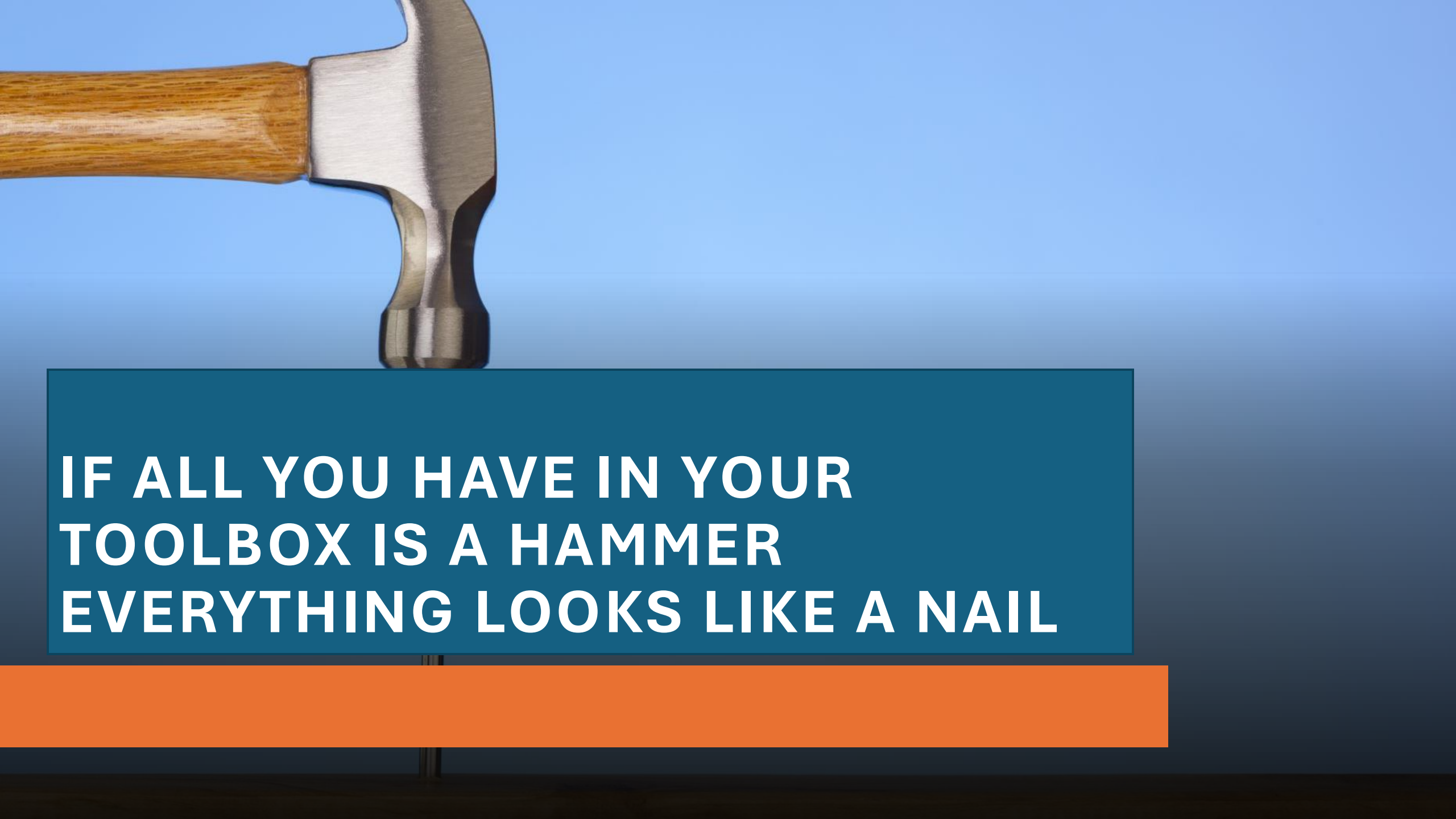

AHVAP
Association of Healthcare Value Analysis Professionals
CERTIFICATION CENTER
Medical Device Value
Analysis Specialist
Micro-Certification


AHVAP
Association of Healthcare Value Analysis Professionals
CERTIFICATION CENTER
Incident Command
Healthcare Value
Analysis Specialist
Micro-Credential


AHVAP
Association of Healthcare Value Analysis Professionals
CERTIFICATION CENTER
Human Factors in
Healthcare Value Analysis
Specialist Micro-
Credential

# Where Do YOU Stand?





# IF ALL YOU HAVE IN YOUR TOOLBOX IS A HAMMER EVERYTHING LOOKS LIKE A NAIL

# Approach to Infection Control Problem Solving

Efficacy

Safety

Compatibility/Reliablity

# Let’s Wrap Up

Infection Prevention and Control requires a comprehensive and integrated approach across the continuum

It’s time to break the silos and expand the knowledge base

Get back to the heart of the matter-the patient

# For More Information

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LinkedIn: @drhudsongarrett

Facebook: drhudsongarrettjr

Twitter: drhudsongarrett