

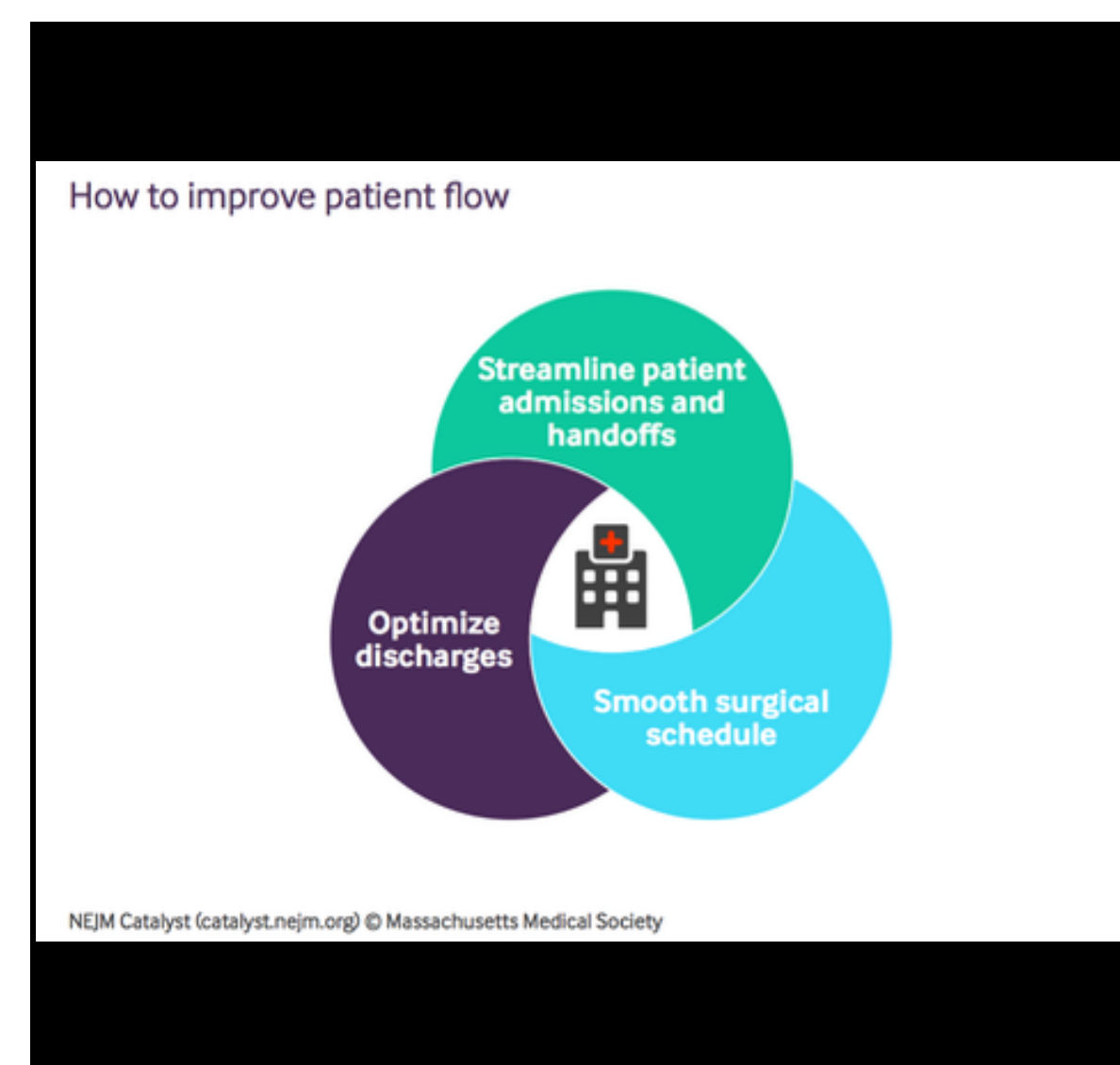


# MANAGEMENT OF OVERFLOW IN HOSPITALS

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## OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study is to investigate and provide effective measures for managing overflow in hospitals. By examining existing situations, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the challenges associated with hospital overflow and offer evidence-based recommendations for reducing the stress impact on staff workload.

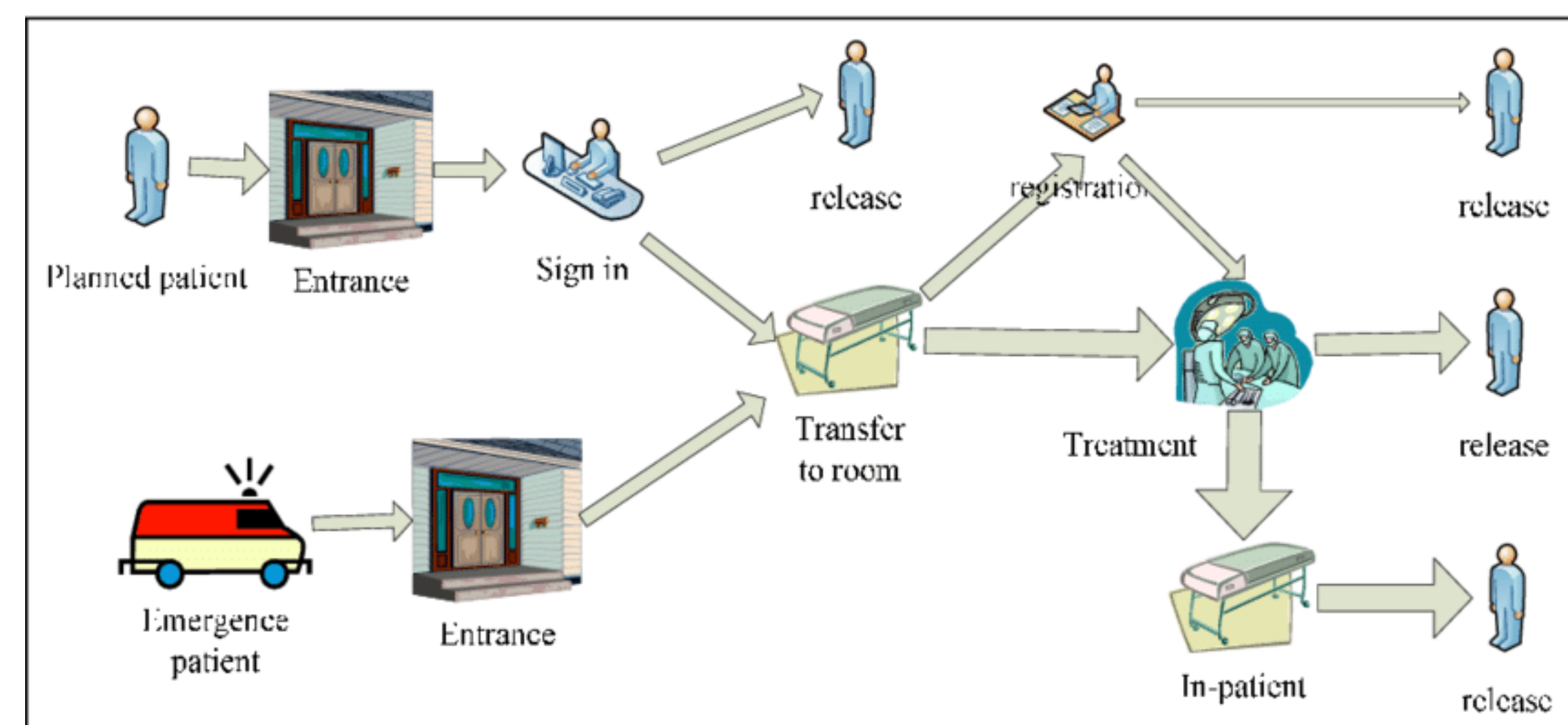


## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Overflow in hospitals is a situation that arises when patient demand exceeds the available capacity of a hospital, leading to overcrowding and compromised quality of care. This situation often arises due to factors such as seasonal diseases, unexpected health crisis, or inadequate preparation for possible events. Hospital overflow poses significant challenges, including increased wait times, decreased patient satisfaction, compromised patient safety, and increased stress on healthcare professionals and hospital managers.

## METHODS

To conduct this study, a systematic review of the problem was performed to identify relevant information from databases such as PubMed. The search terms included "hospital overflow," "patient surge," "capacity management," and "emergency department overcrowding." Studies published in recent years were used for this research.



The Image above shows the flow of a patient's journey in and out of a hospital

## RESULTS

The analysis of the study revealed several effective strategies for managing overflow in hospitals. These strategies can be categorized into three key areas: demand management, capacity optimization, and system coordination.

- 1. Demand management:** This strategy involves pre-planning in the event a crisis that could increase demand arises. It focuses on proactive measures such as implementing emergency protocols, improving primary care access, and promoting community-based care to prevent hospitalization to increase out-patient flow and reduce unnecessary admissions.
- 2. Capacity optimization:** This focuses on the use of existing resources to accommodate increased patient number. This is done by allocating beds to people who really need it, organize for a faster discharge processes, and improving communication and coordination between departments.
- 3. System coordination:** This aims to improve collaboration and coordination between healthcare facilities to evenly distribute patient load more effectively, thereby reducing stress. This can involve establishing regional transfer protocols, improving communication between hospitals, and implementing real-time capacity monitoring systems.

## CONCLUSION

Effective management of overflow hospitals is crucial for providing quality care during times of increased demand.

Adequate planning, coordination, high number of staffs and continuously coming up with ideas for quality improvement are key elements for a successful operations

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