



Meaning in the numbers

A mixed-methods evaluation of a latent tuberculosis infection testing and treatment project

November 15, 2019

Carolyn Fisher, Ranjani Paradise

Ceylon Auguste-Nelson, Martina Todaro, Blessing Dube

Institute for Community Health (<https://icommunityhealth.org/>)

Building **sustainable community health**, together



Meaning in the numbers

- Intro to the LTBI demonstration project
- Evaluation design
- Challenges and approaches to addressing them
- Multiple roles of qualitative data

Meaning in the numbers

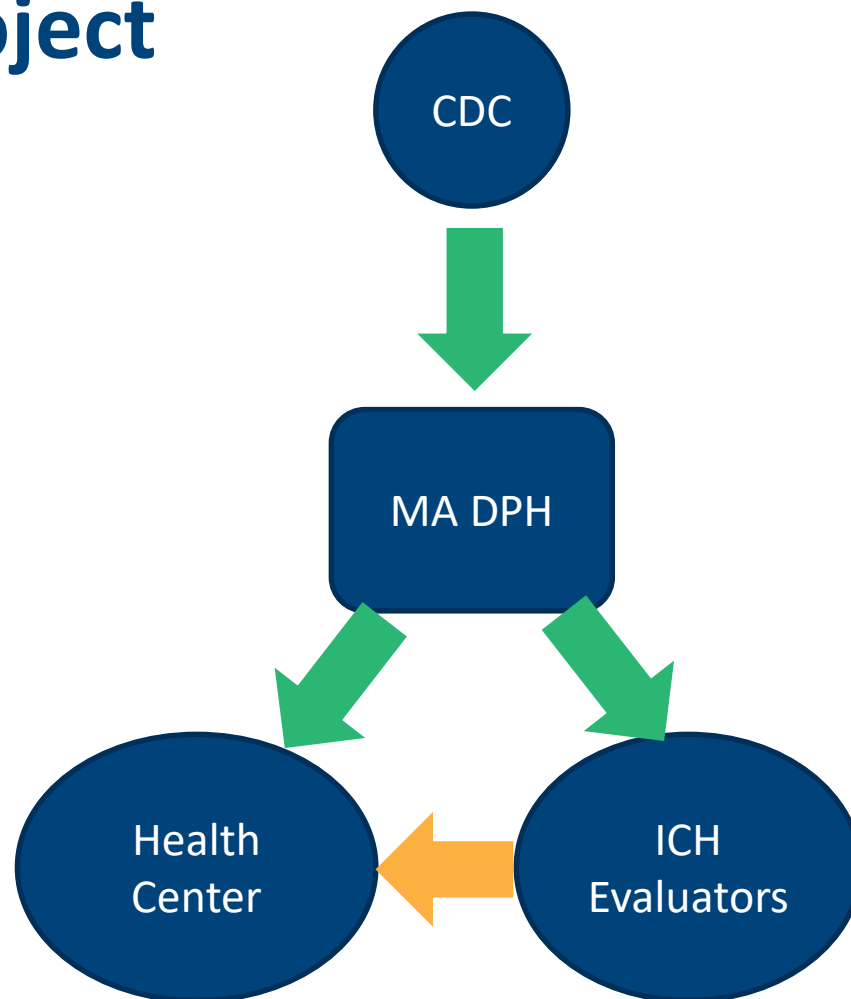
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Latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) demonstration project

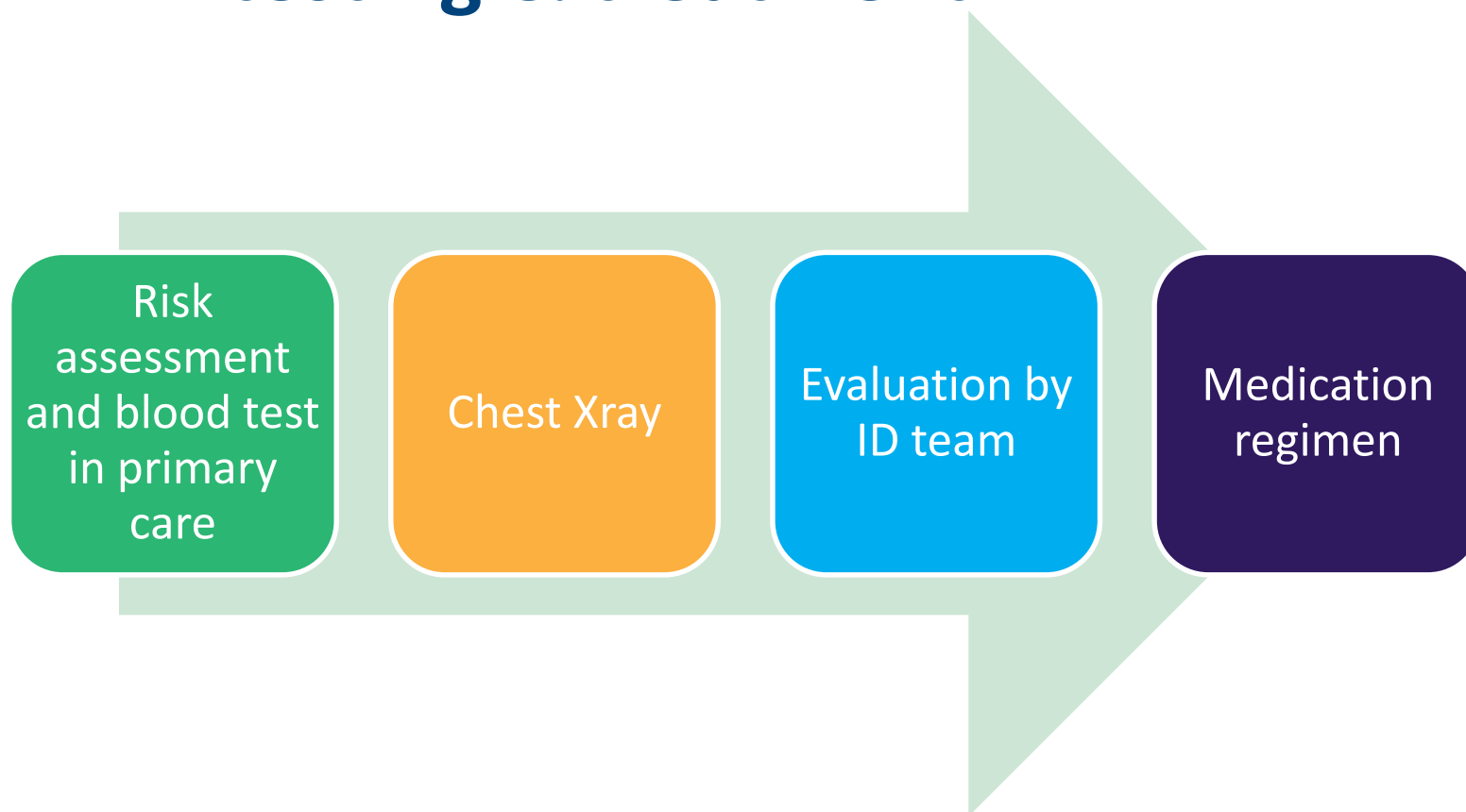
**Goal: to scale up the testing and treatment
of LTBI among foreign born patients**

- 3-year demonstration project
- Safety-net population
- Treatment lowers long-term risk
- Illness is stigmatized, misunderstood
- Treatment is burdensome

LTBI project



LTBI testing & treatment



Meaning in the numbers

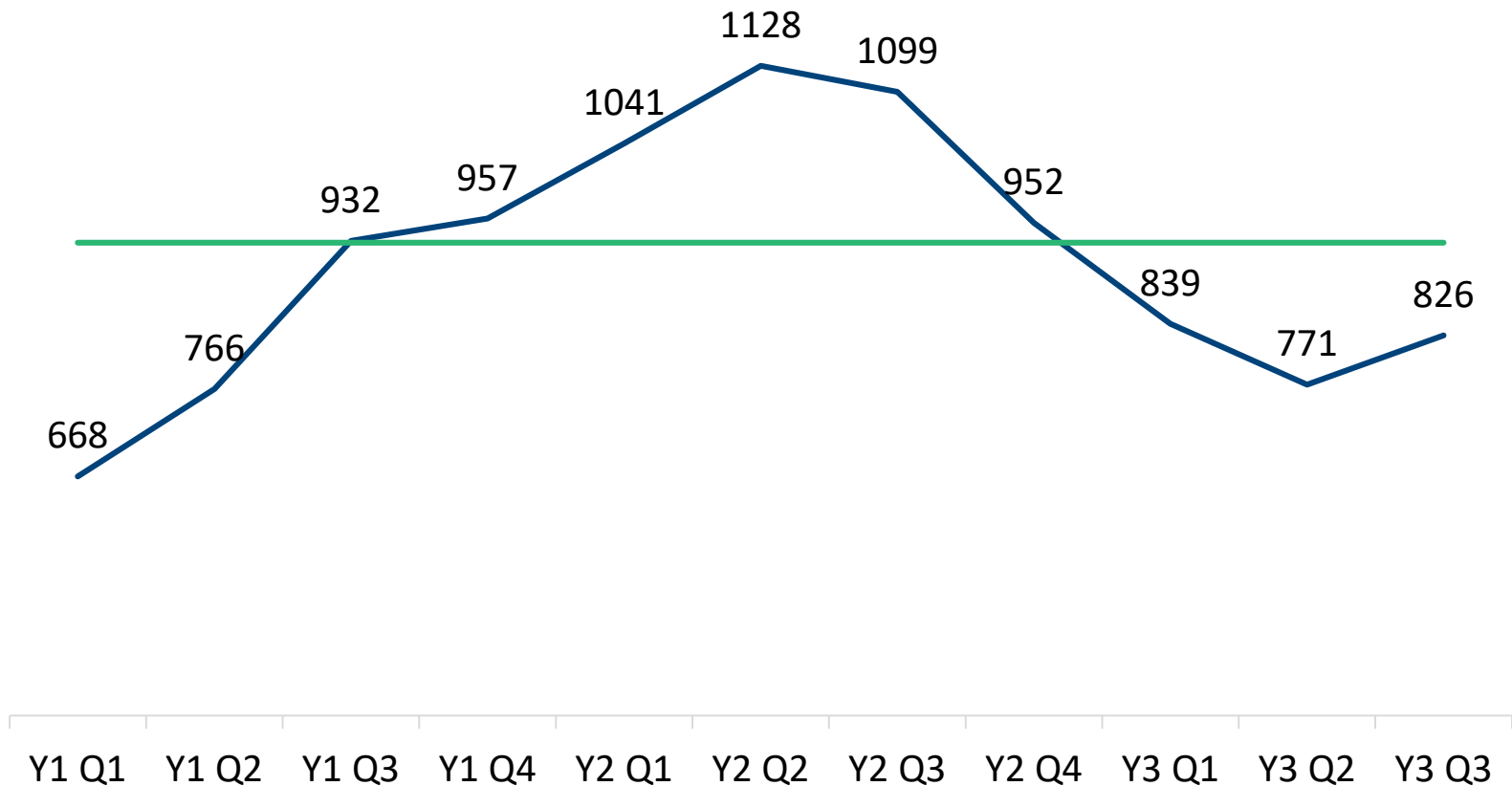
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Evaluation design

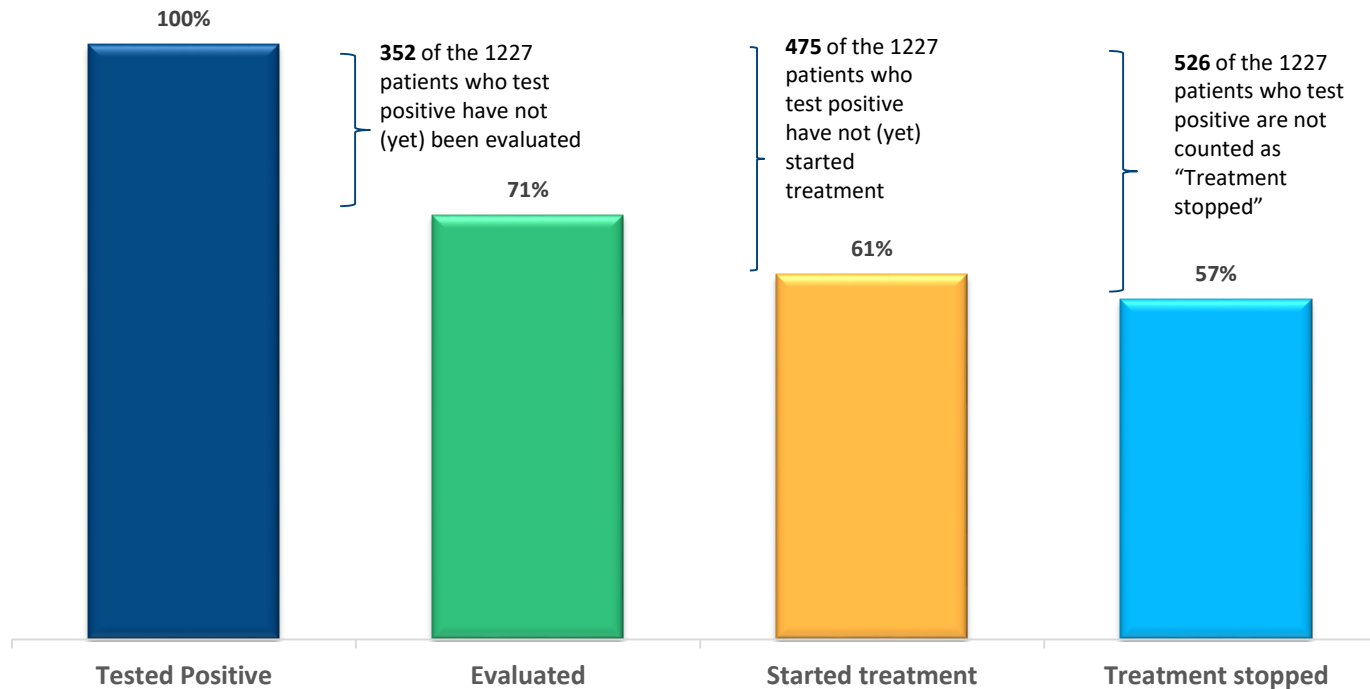
- Logic model
- Process and outcome measures
- Quarterly data reviews
- Key informant interviews
- Continuous Quality Improvement

Monitoring testing

Number of patients tested per quarter as of **July 11, 2019**



LTBI cascade of care



Evaluation design: CQI

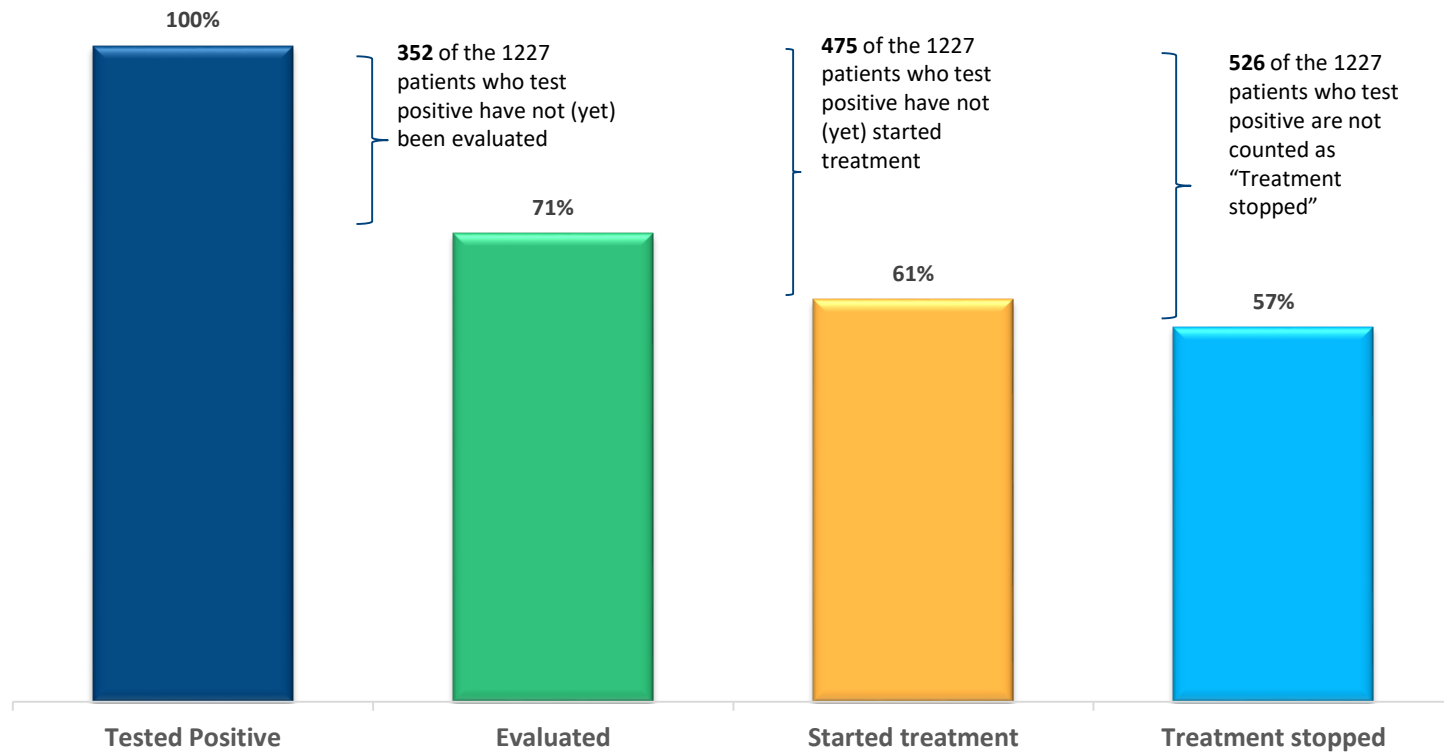
- Continuous quality improvement projects
- Planning at quarterly data reviews
- Traditional Plan-Do-Study-Act process using care cascade to identify gaps
 - Additional data collection to explore gaps, including qualitative interviews

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Evaluation challenges

- Too much scrutiny
- Big power gap
- Unproductive, circular discussions about data
 - How to conceptualize measures
 - Are things measurable?
 - Is there value in measuring?
- Defensiveness about CQI



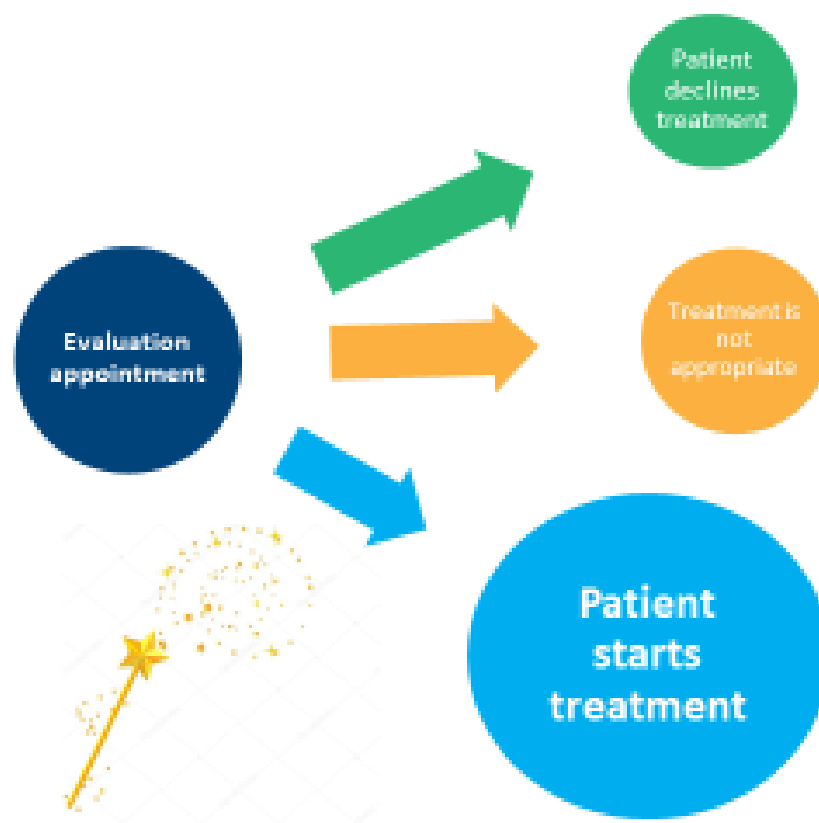
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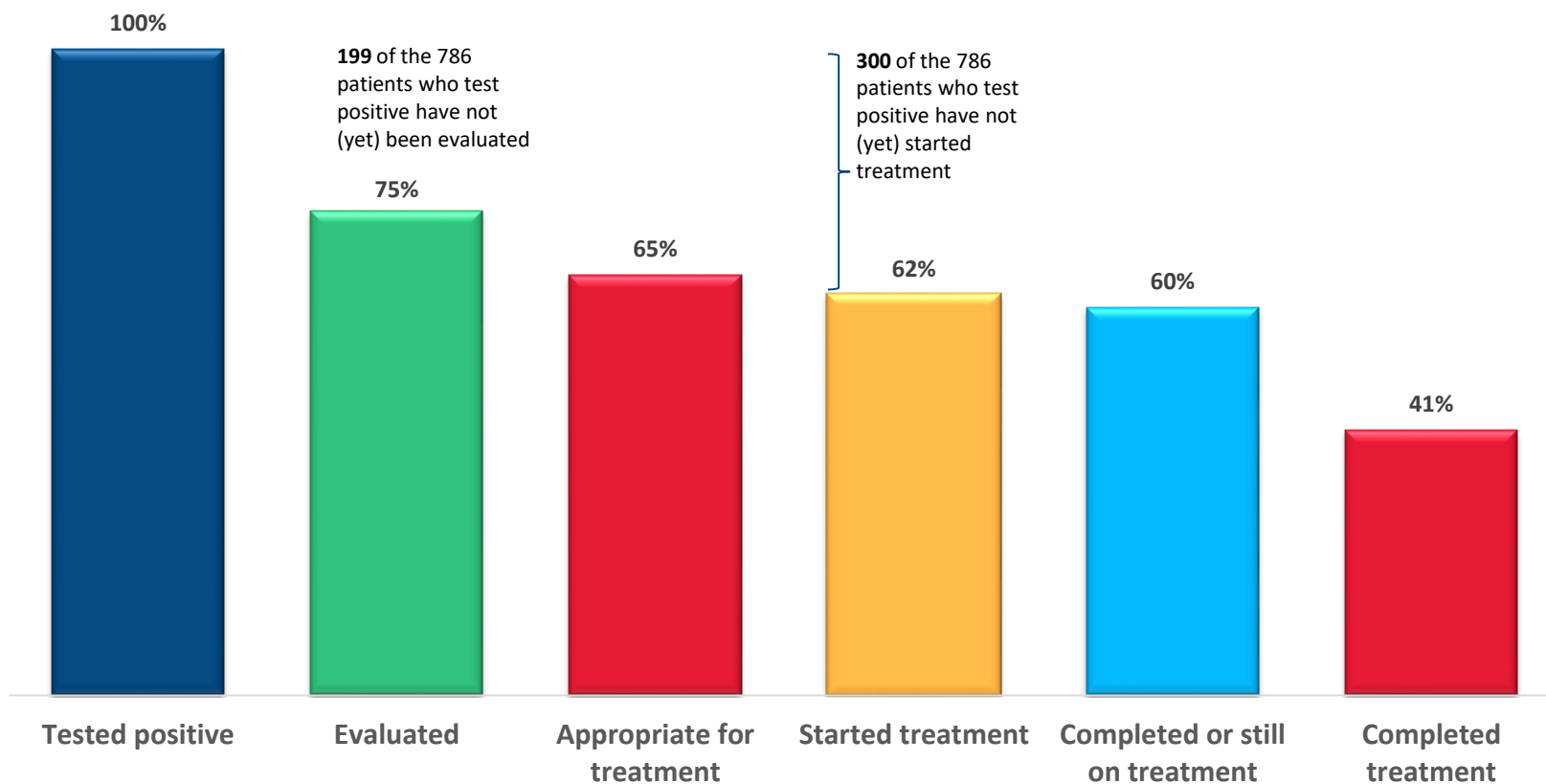
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Approaches to addressing challenges

- Strengths-focused inquiry
- Relationship building with clinic staff
- Using planned qualitative data collection to focus on understanding relationship dynamics and clinic culture
- Worked to document actual activities via workflow

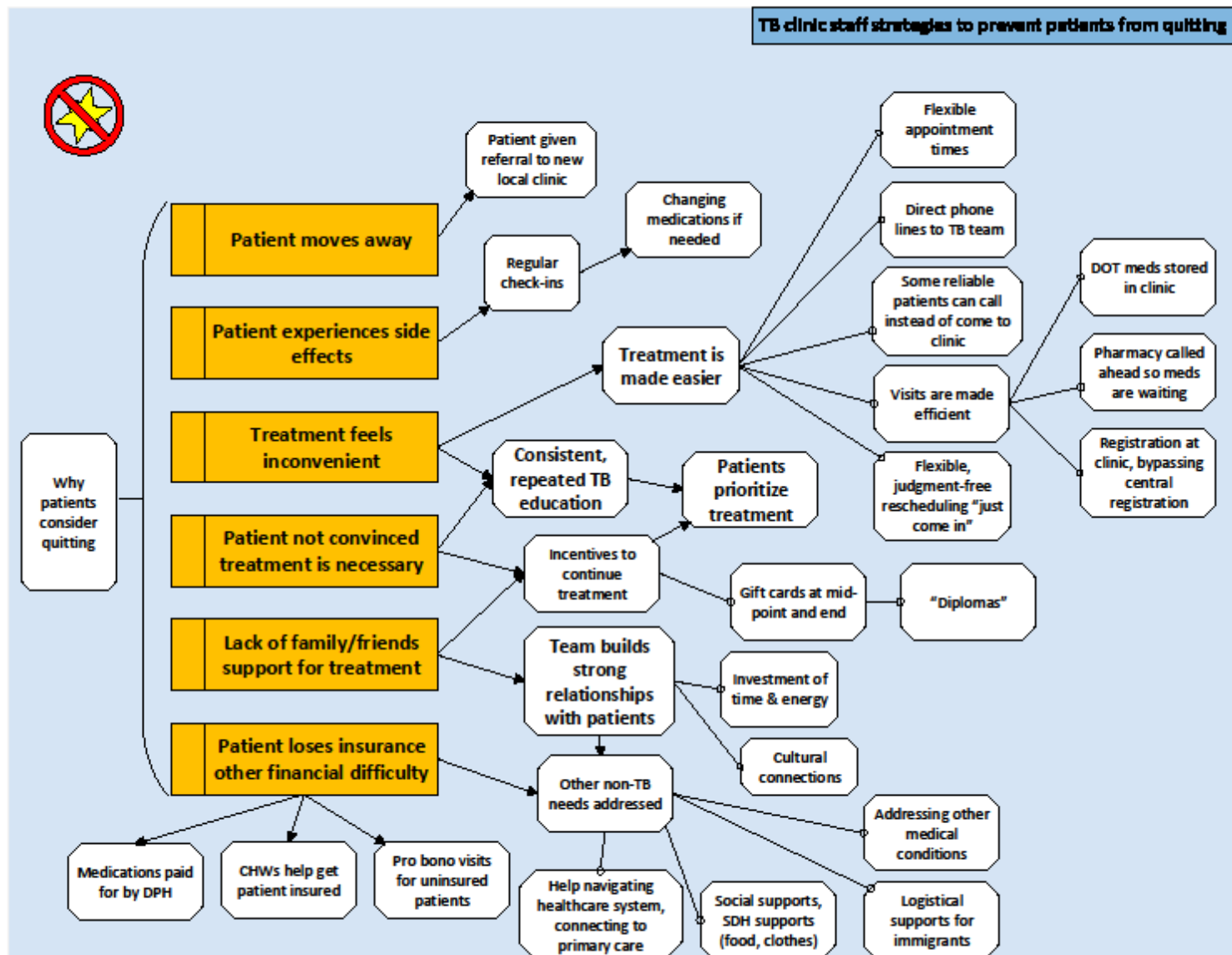
From evaluation appointment to starting treatment





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Qualitative data collection

- Highly-structured interviews with ID staff
- Short, targeted semi-structured interviews with ID and primary care staff
- Semi-structured interviews with patients
- Structured observations
- Ethnographic observation

Multiple roles of qualitative data

- Process of data collection
- Data analysis
- Data presentation

Multiple roles of qualitative data

- Process of data collection
 - Relationships / trust built
- Data analysis
 - New understandings built
- Data presentation
 - Clinic staff feel heard
 - Funders understand on-the-ground
 - More productive conversations

Multiple roles of qualitative data

- Evaluators more deeply understand personal relationships
- Evaluators and clinic staff have positive and productive interactions
- Clinical staff have formal and informal avenues to express their perspectives
- Evaluators demonstrate understanding of the on-the-ground situation

Multiple roles of qualitative data

- Evaluators build trust and credibility with funders
- Clinical staff defensive spirals are redirected & moved into more productive talk
- Evaluators are able to document informal CQI processes in the absence of formal CQI

Thank you!

Institute for Community Health

www.icommunityhealth.org

Carolyn Fisher, PhD

cffisher@icommunityhealth.org

Ranjani Paradise, PhD

rparadise@icommunityhealth.org

Ceylon Auguste-Nelson, BA

caugustenelson@icommunityhealth.org

