



Two Heads Are Better Than One



*In alliance with
The University of Vermont*



Team Membership

- *Carolyn S. Johansen, RD*
- *Lakshmi Joshi Boyle, MS., CCC-SLP*
- *in coordination with:*
University of Vermont Medical Center
and
The ALS Center

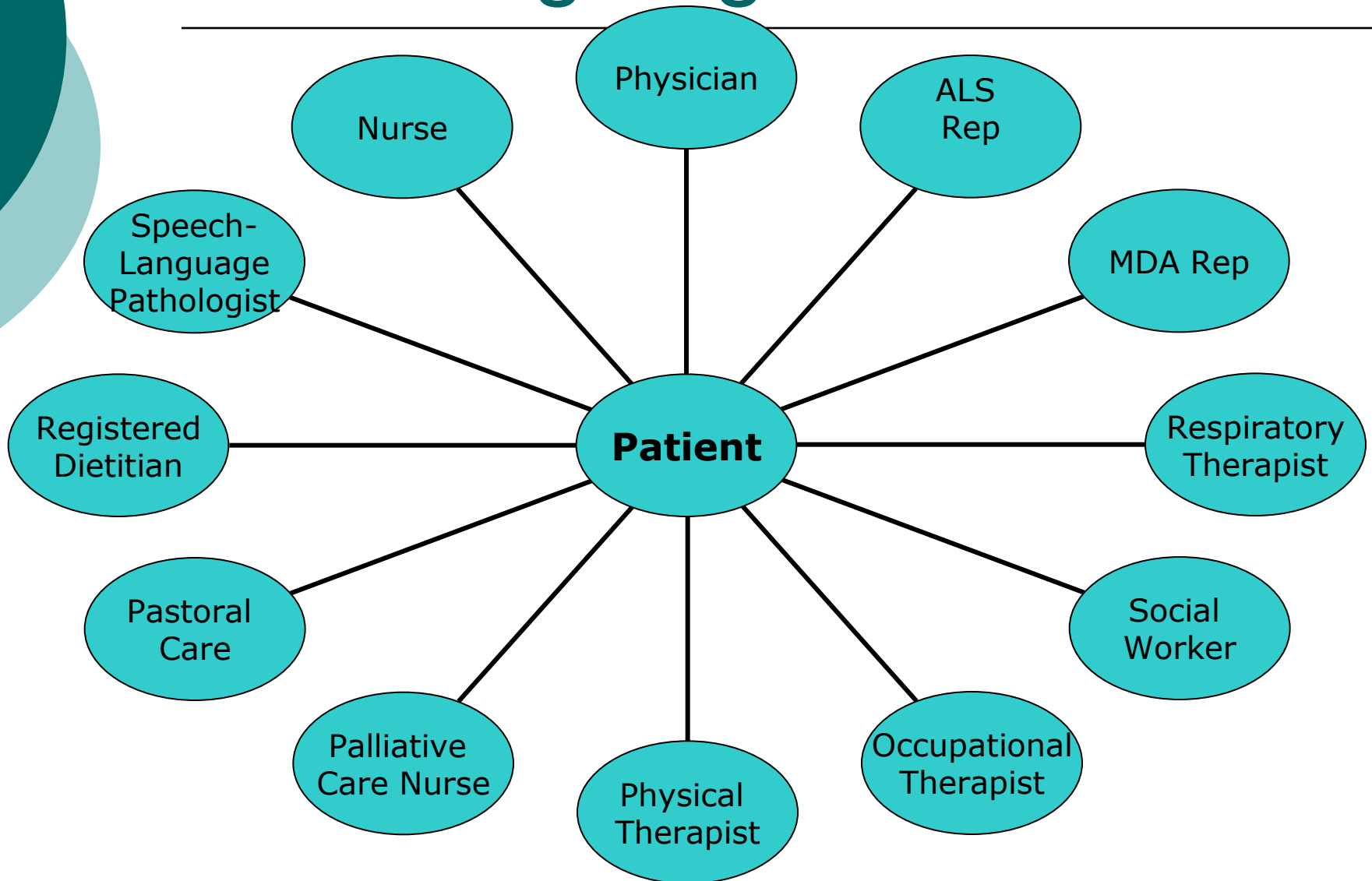
Problem Statement:

- *Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont-Demographics*



Problem Statement: cont.

Scheduling Logistics





Problem Statement: cont.

- Our Assumptions.
- Patient Expectations.
- Our Expectations.
- Our Outcomes?



Problem Statement: cont?

- With so many expectations to fulfill, how do we provide a valuable clinic experience, while maintaining some semblance of energy conservation for the patient?



DO: Analysis

- *We had several meetings to analyze/brainstorm what we could do differently, while maintaining the integrity of the clinic.*



Do: Analysis

- Decision:

1. Create a Dietitian/Speech-Language Pathology Team.

2. Create a Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Team.



The SLP-Dietitian Team

- ALS Clinic Survey:
- The Dietitian and the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) try to see patients together in order to conserve your energy as we gather information about nutrition and swallowing. However, we would like to know from you whether or not you believe this to be helpful. Answering the following questions, will help us ensure your satisfaction:



SLP-Dietitian Team Cont.

- 1. Is it helpful for you to have the Dietitian and the SLP see you at the same time?
Please circle: Yes or No

Comments: _____

- 2. Would you prefer to have separate appointments with the Speech-Language Pathologist and the Dietitian? Please circle: Yes or No

Comments: _____



SLP-Dietitian Team cont.

- 3. Do you feel satisfied with the two discipline format? Please circle: Yes or No

Comments: _____

- 4. Are your needs met with the SLP and Dietitian during the ALS Clinic?

Please circle: Yes or No

Comments: _____



Results:

- **15 surveys handed out to patients/families.**
- **10/15 Responded.**
- **Question #1: 90% Yes**
- **Question #2: 90% No**
- **Question #3: 90% Yes**
- **Question #4: 90% Yes**



DISCUSSION:

- *Results at face value indicate strongly favorable leanings towards a SLP-Dietitian team approach. Comments included:*
- *"It helps to see them together, so they can catch what one problem creates for the other"*
- *"Both needs can be met when any two disciplines present together as long as one person is willing to listen to questions outside their specialty."*



Results/Discussion:

- "You work well together."
- "Speech-language more of an issue now than swallowing."



Conclusions/Considerations

- Providing a team approach with *compatible* disciplines may improve patient satisfaction of the clinic visit.
- When implementing the 'Two Heads are Better than One' approach, *compatibility* of the providers is essential.
- Energy conservation is crucial.