# Experience with a Clinical Data Repository and Warehouse

Adam Wilcox, PhD Columbia University March 24, 2009

#### Outline

- History
- Clinical Data Repository
- Clinical Data Warehouse

## Clinical Information Systems

- Stage 1: Early computers calculated data in context
- Stage 2: Client applications provided access to ancillary data
- Stage 3: Systems began aggregating data from multiple sources
- Stage 4: Data storage provided historical view
  - And analysis
- Stage 5: Workflow applications formalize processes between clinical roles

# Clinical Information System Technology Levels

- Level 1: Departmental applications
- Level 2: Internally-developed integrated systems
- Level 3: Functional vendor-based systems
- Level 4: Comprehensive clinical information systems

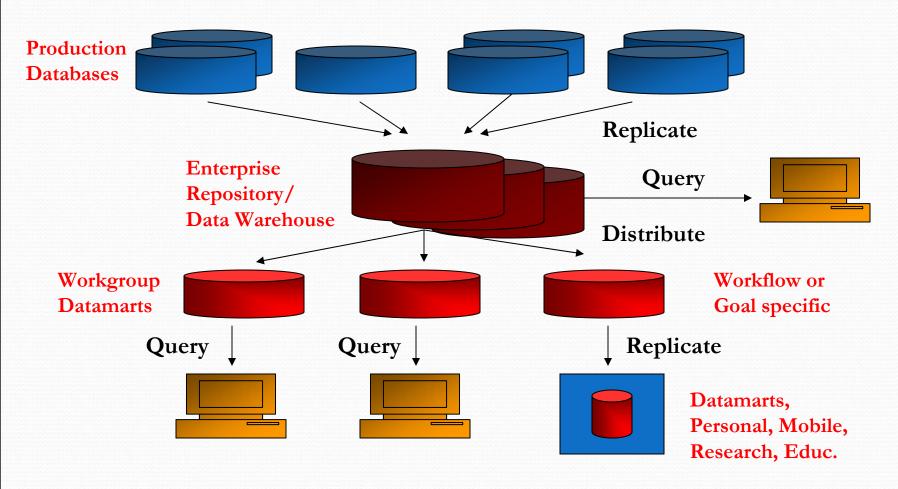
# Clinical Information Systems at Columbia University

- Began at Stage 3
- Pushing a Level 1 system to Level 2
- Issues
  - Vocabulary
  - Data modeling
  - Interfaces
  - Decision support
  - Data processing
- Recipient of first Nicholas Davies Award

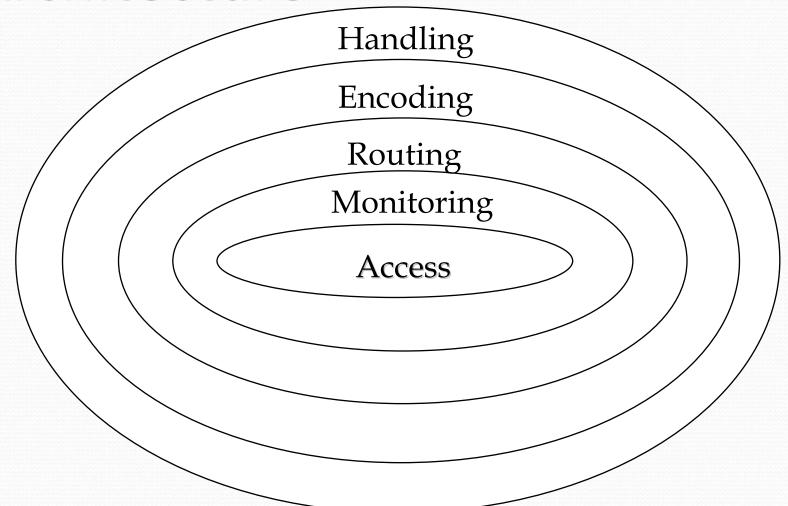
#### Clinical Information ystems Architecture Pharmacy-Lab -Data . Patient Billing/ Receivables Admit -Collection **Programs** Management Radiology -**Patient** Data Base → Physicians Data Data Dictionary **Review** → Nurses Logic Driver Management Knowledge Base Data Knowledge Base Structured Unstructured **Analysis** (Rules) (Library) **Editor**

FIGURE B.1

#### **EMR** environment



#### Architecture



# Other Level 2 Systems

- Intermountain
- VA
- Partners
- Regenstrief
- Vanderbilt

# Level 3 Systems

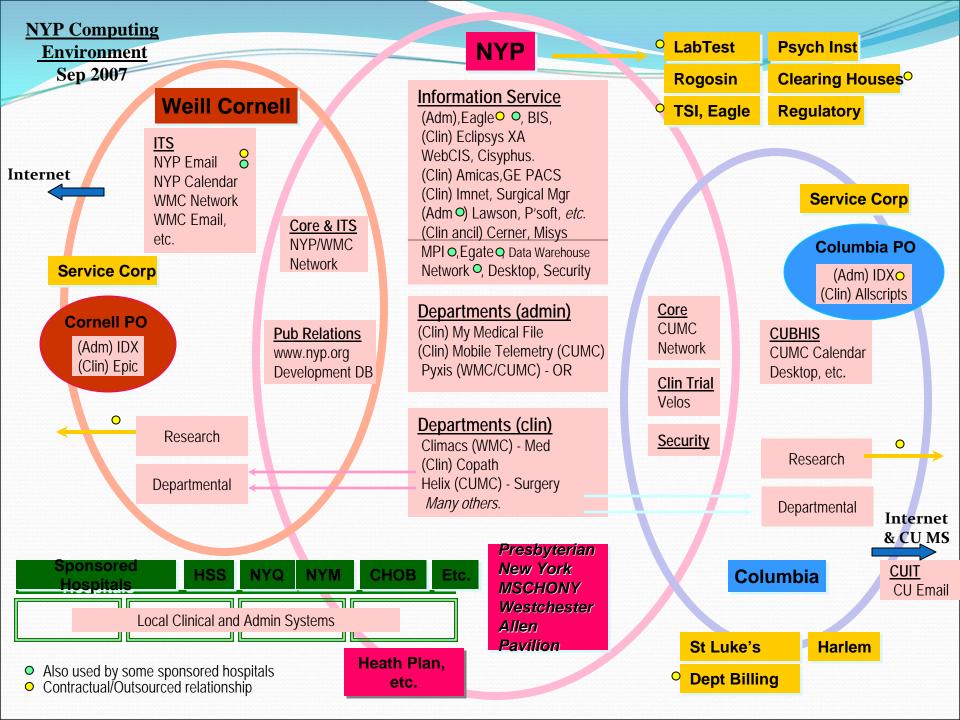
- Cerner
- Epic
- Eclipsys
- GE
- McKesson

#### Challenges at Columbia

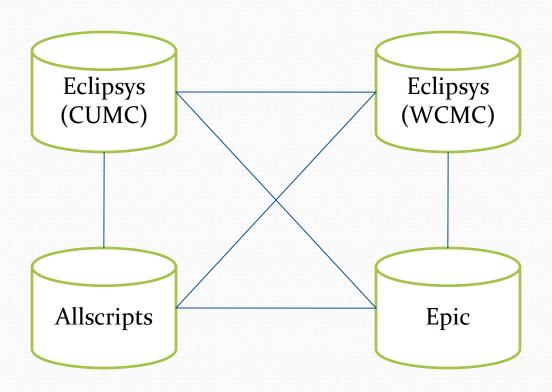
- Moved from Stage 3 through Stage 4 to Stage 5
- Purchased a vendor system (Level 3)
- How to get to Stage 5 and Level 4?

# Challenges at CPMC/CUMC/NYPH/WCMC

- In 1998, merged two academic medical centers into NewYork Presbyterian Hospital
  - Columbia Presbyterian campus became Columbia University Medical Center
  - New York Hospital became Weill Cornell Medical Center
- Currently 4 different electronic health records
  - Eclipsys (WCMC)
  - Eclipsys (CUMC)
  - Epic (WCMC)
  - Allscripts (CUMC)



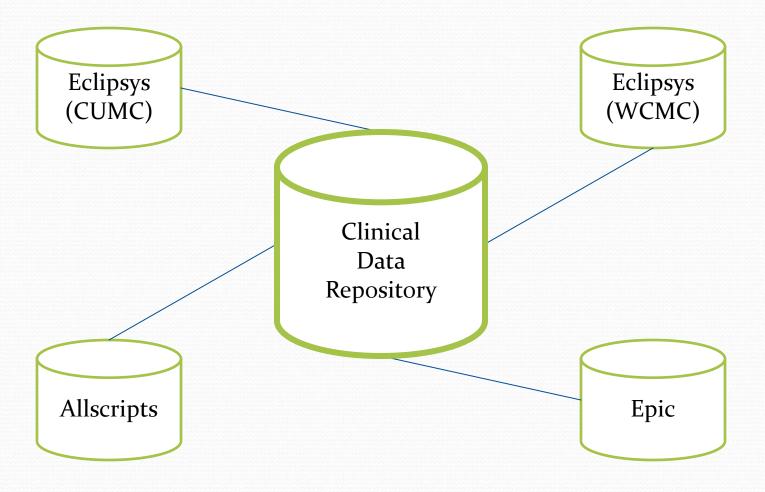
#### Integrating Among Multiple EHRs



# Problems with Integrating to Application Databases

- Must model each system multiple times
  - Increased effort and complexity
- Overloading workflow databases
- Protecting external data consistency (no updates)
- Increased complexity of data protection
- Bringing in data for a new patient
  - When to pull data in
  - Interfaces don't naturally pull in historical data
- Increases complexity as move toward RHIOs

# Repository Model



#### Benefits of CDR

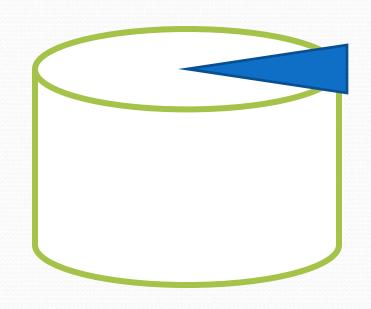
- Only model data from source systems once
- Common data store
- Data are read only
  - Optimized for read
- Historical data included
- Web-based viewer adaptable to multiple applications
- Adaptable to future health information exchange efforts
- Platform of innovation

### Optimized for Retrieval

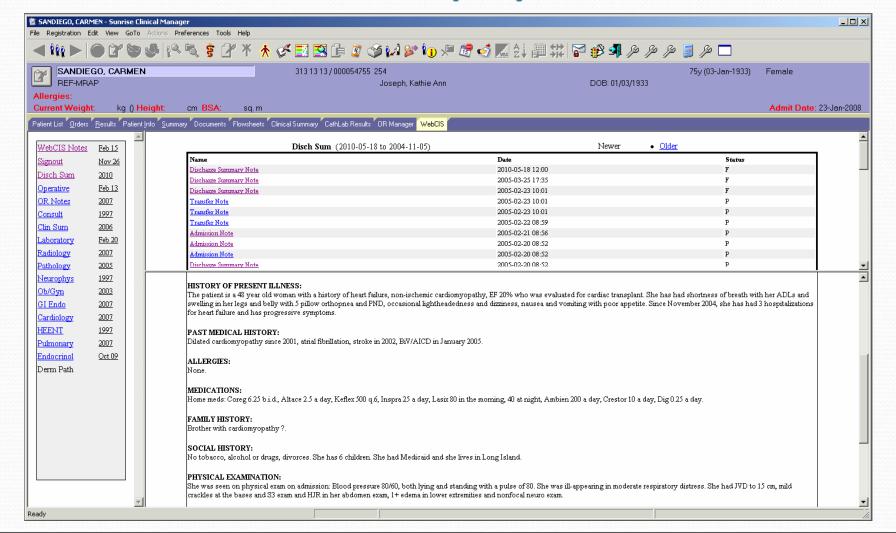
- Relational structure can be difficult to query for both data and context
  - Gathering multiple elements requires multiple table joins
  - Good for data storage
  - Good for aggregating across multiple patients
- Event-based model good for querying across data types
  - Data organized according to patient
  - Not good for querying across patients

### Retrieval optimization

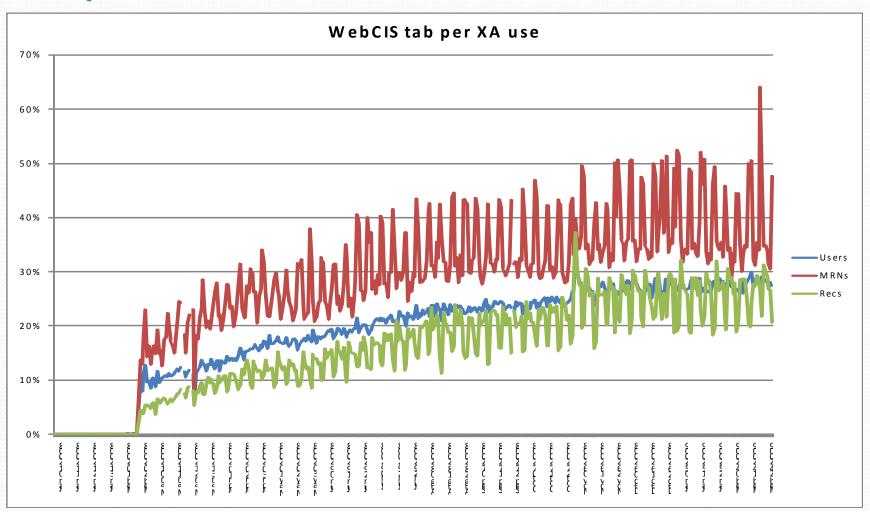
- Paradigm shift in how data are used
  - Paper records mainly for primary use
  - Electronic allows secondary use
  - Secondary use can be multiple times



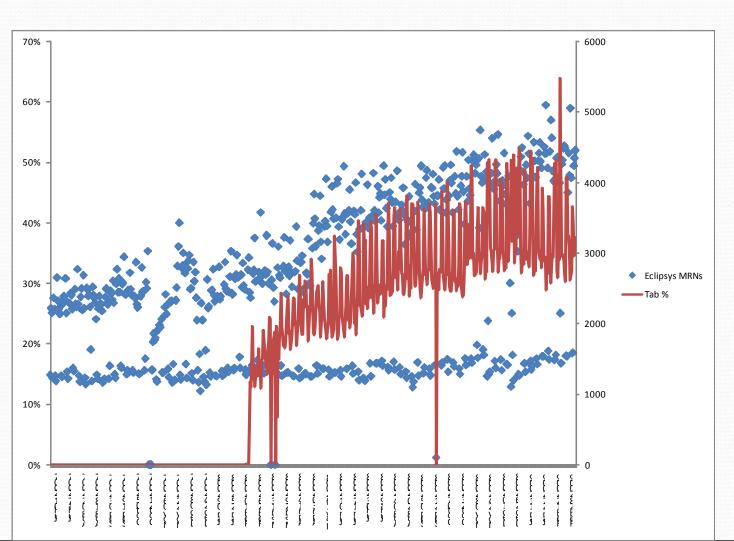
### **CDR View in Eclipsys**



#### **Proportion of CDR Viewer Access**



#### Increase in CDR View Access



# CUMC/NYP Clinical Data Warehouse History

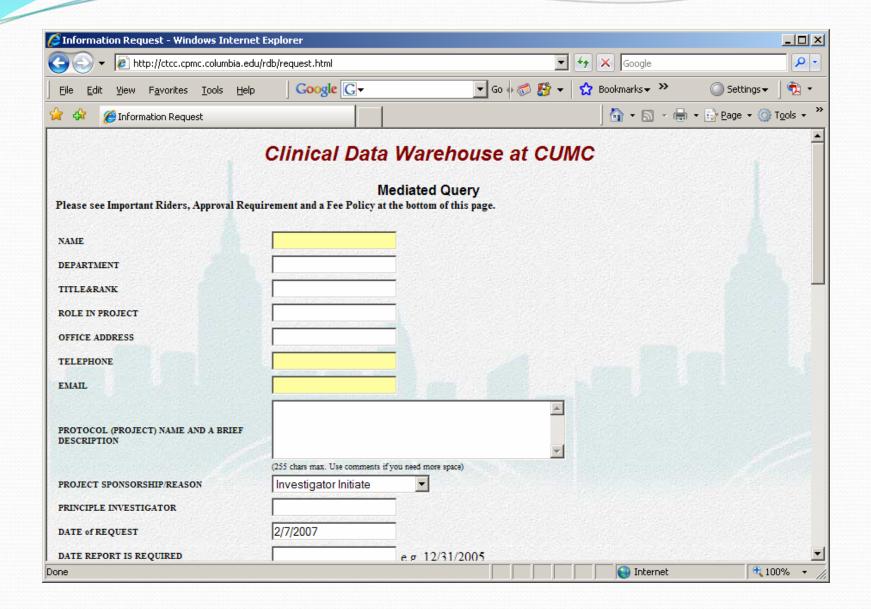
- ▶ 1994: Created, sponsored by Columbia University Department of Medical Informatics and Office of Clinical Trials
  - Populated with data from existing clinical data repository
  - Supporting clinical research
- ▶ 1998: Columbia + Cornell = NewYork Presbyterian Hospital
  - Warehouse funded by NYPH
  - Goal to incorporate and provide data across whole system
- 2004: Formal analysis of CDW user needs by Clinical Quality and Information Technology Committee (CQIT)
  - Creation of Data Warehousing Subgroup
  - Need to bring together disparate clinical data sources
  - Need to manage user requests for data

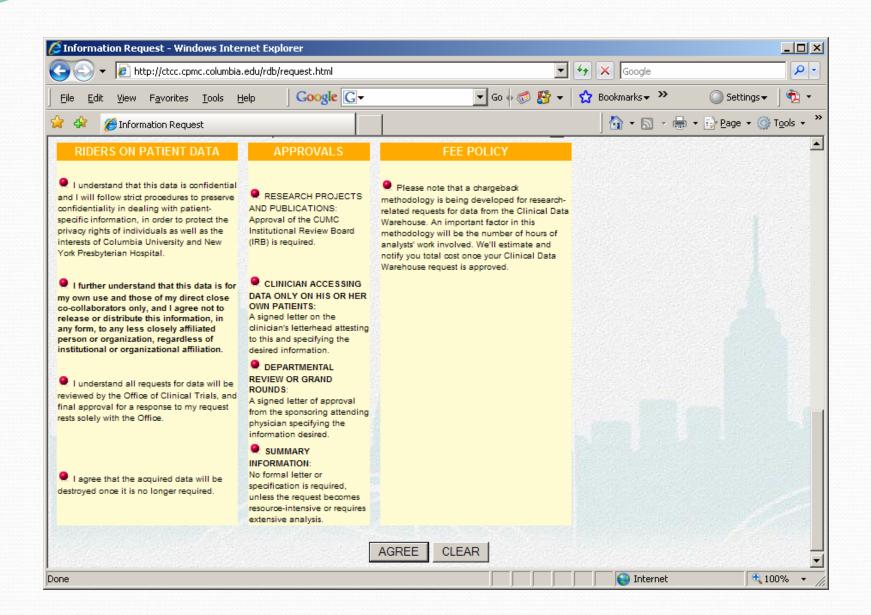
#### Uses of the Warehouse

- Clinical research queries
- Management reports
- Clinical trial recruitment

#### **CDW Content Issues**

- Began as a copy of the repository
  - Data already gathered
- Mainly for research queries
  - Some data marts built for common queries
- Ability to query rapidly across patients increases security risk





### Goal of Access Policy

- Provide broader access to data
  - Central control is resource limited
- Allow collection of more data sources
  - Reassure data stewards
    - Three separate institutions
    - Data ownership not completely defined for all data

#### **CDW Structure**

- Identifying data
  - Patient identifying information
- Main data
  - Event tables for clinical repository
- Lookup tables
  - Vocabulary translation
  - Contains no patient data
- Specialty data marts

### **Access Policy**

- Identifying data
  - Most restricted
  - Create a research identifier to replace the patient ID
  - Allow access to only ResearchID, sex, birth date (month and year only), marital status, race, death status
- Specialty data
  - Access policy defined by data steward
- Patient clinical data
  - No access to text data
  - Modified dates
- Lookup tables
  - Full access (contain no patient data)

### **Access Policy**

- Specific patient information
  - Sometimes needed to create initial queries
  - Analysts get access only to a randomly selected subset
  - Access request through supervisor
- De-identified patient data
  - Test patients
  - Full access given

# CUMC/NYP Clinical Data Warehouse History

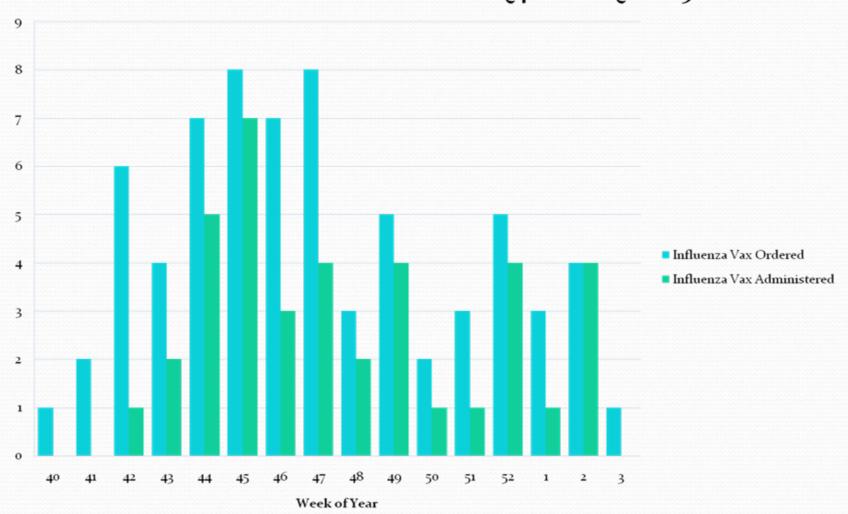
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### **Analysis of Challenges**

- Data in vendor-based transactional systems
- Could not query across transactional systems
- Users needed help in defining their needs
- Mature initiatives required more robust data solutions

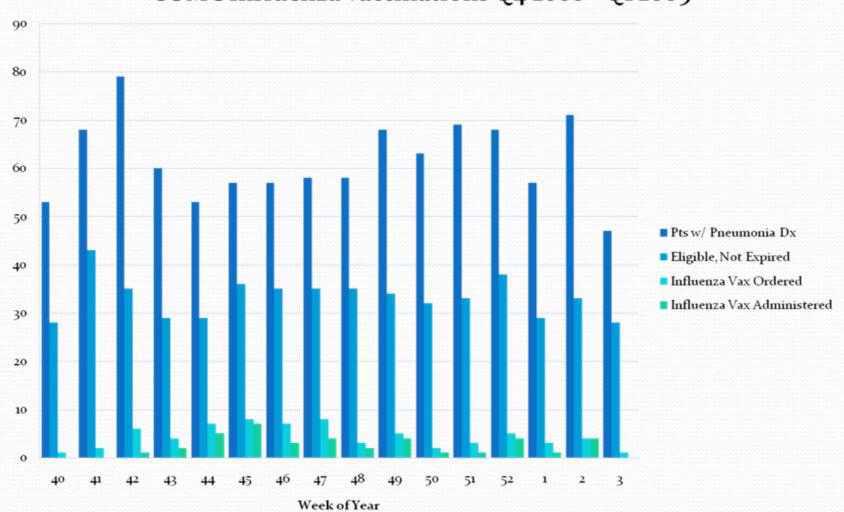
#### Pneumonia Core Measures

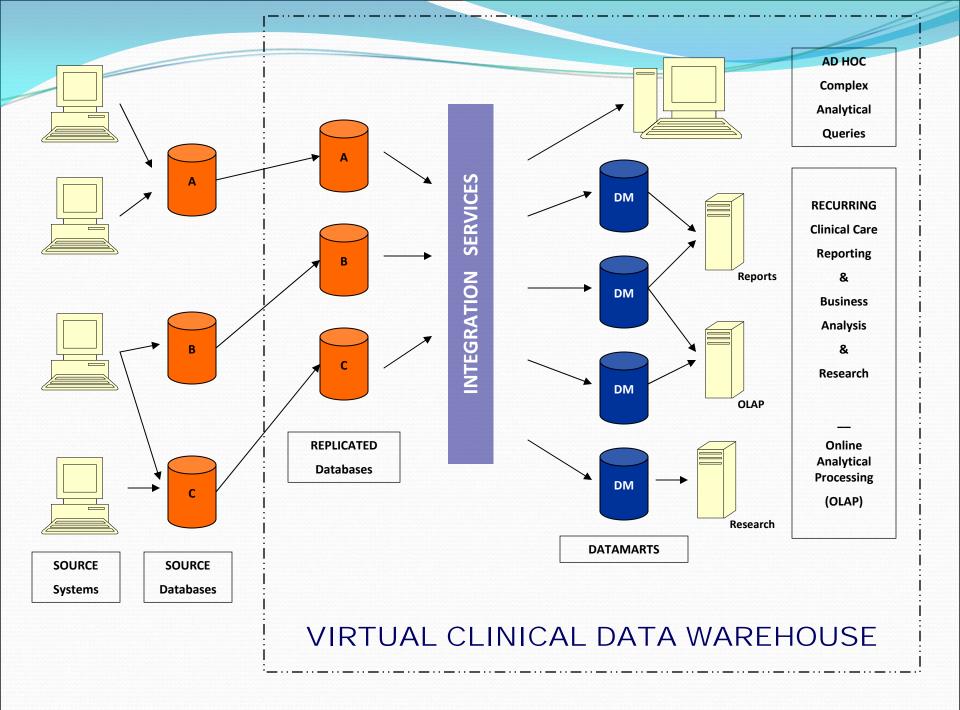
CUMC Influenza Vaccinations Q4 2008 - Q1 2009



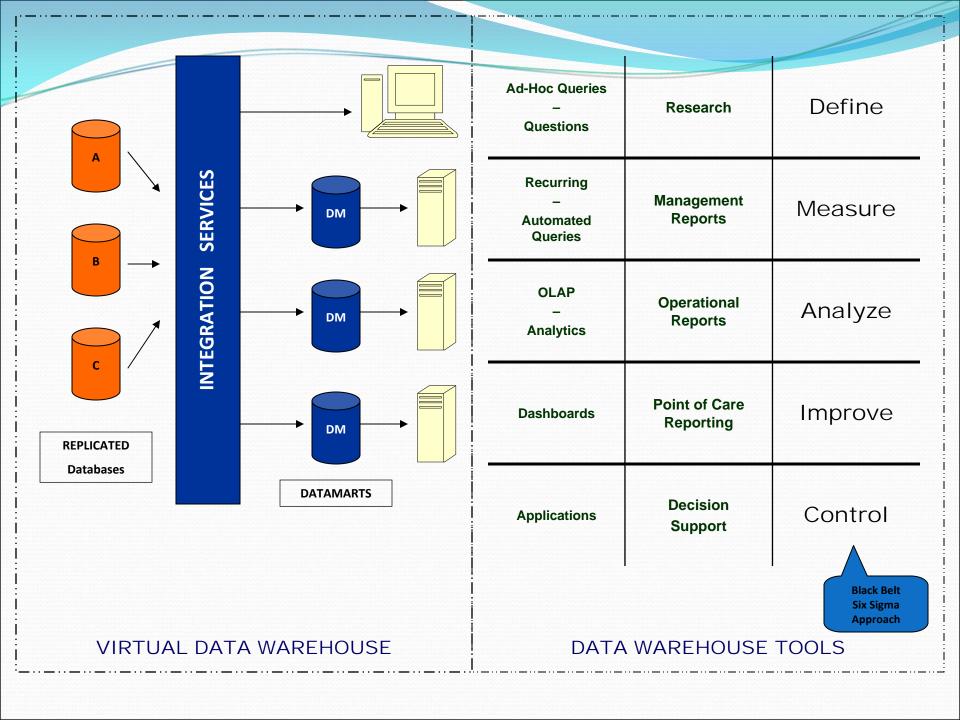
#### Pneumonia Core Measures

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Goal	Task	Use	User	Tool	Six Sigma	Cost/ Instance	Instances	Required
Answer a specific question	Ad hoc query	Research	Researcher	SQL	Define			Defined request
Observe trends	Recurring query	Management reports	Manager	Reporting application	Measure			Available owner
Identify dependencies	OLAP	Operational analysis	Analyst	Analytics / Data cubes	Analyze			Content expert/ analyst
Assist decision making	Dashboard display	Point of care	Clinical team	Registries	Improve			Pilot site
Automate processes	Application	Decision support	Clinician/ Role	EMR application	Control			Institutional sponsor
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#### Conclusion

- Integrating clinical data repository view into workflow applications can improve use
- Access policies need to isolate data to reassure data use from different stakeholders
- Data access tools need to account for users' evolving data needs along the quality improvement life cycle