Recognising the Patient who is Deteriorating (and then acting on it....)

Perhaps easier said than done
Measure

- Observe Patient
  - Sick or well? Alive or dead?
  - Take measurements
    - Which parameters?
      - PR, BP, RR, Temp, LOC, Sat
    - Manual or electronic?
    - How often?
    - Back to basics?
Document (Chart) Findings

- Paper or electronic documentation
- Single or multiple charts
- Transcription errors
- ‘Appears to be sleeping’
- Recognise Trends
Call Criteria

- Balance between sensitivity and specificity
  - Set trigger too low - constant review of many patients who will be OK
  - Set trigger too high - miss some patients who will deteriorate

- Place of clinician discretion?

- Balance safety / cost / workforce
Escalation

- Documented simple system to get help
- Operational 24/7
- Appropriate staff funded to be available

- Fire station analogy