

# Do's and Don'ts of Bayesian Dosing Webinar.

Dosing software with a human side.



1

## Today's moderator.

Kristi Kuper PharmD, BCPS, FIDSA  
Director of Clinical Pharmacy  
DoseMeRx



2



## Trusted worldwide.

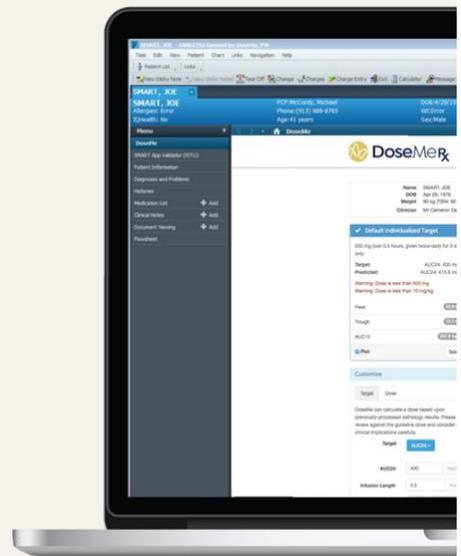
- **7,123 active** clinician users
- **1.4 million** medication doses calculated
- **10** Countries
- **42** Drug models
- HITRUST, HIPAA, ISO & FDA **compliant infrastructure**



3



## Implement Bayesian dosing without the headache.



4



## Our presenters.



**Shivani Patel, PharmD, BCPS**  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases  
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital



**Dustin Orvin, PharmD, BCPS**  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
St. Joseph's/Candler

5

# Implementing DoseMeRx across a 13-hospital system

Shivani Patel PharmD, BCPS  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases  
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital



6

## Who we are



<b>13</b> Hospitals	<b>~100,000</b> Vancomycin Days Per Year	<b>200</b> Full-time Pharmacists	
<b>6</b> Part-time Clinical Specialists	<b>7</b> Dedicated ID Clinical Specialists	 Mix of pharmacy & physician dosing	

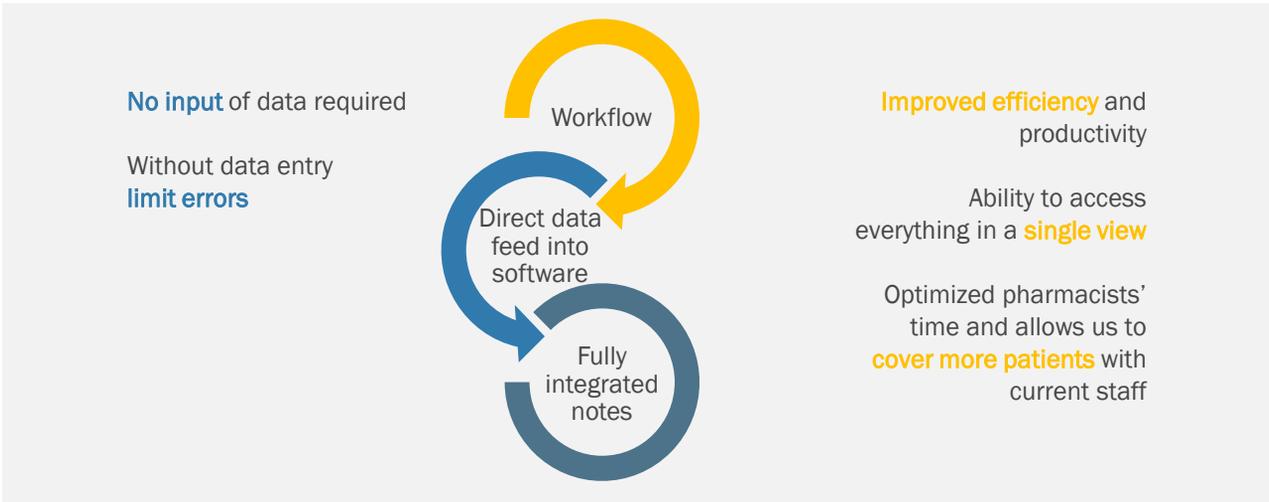
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## Why EHR integrated Bayesian dosing?



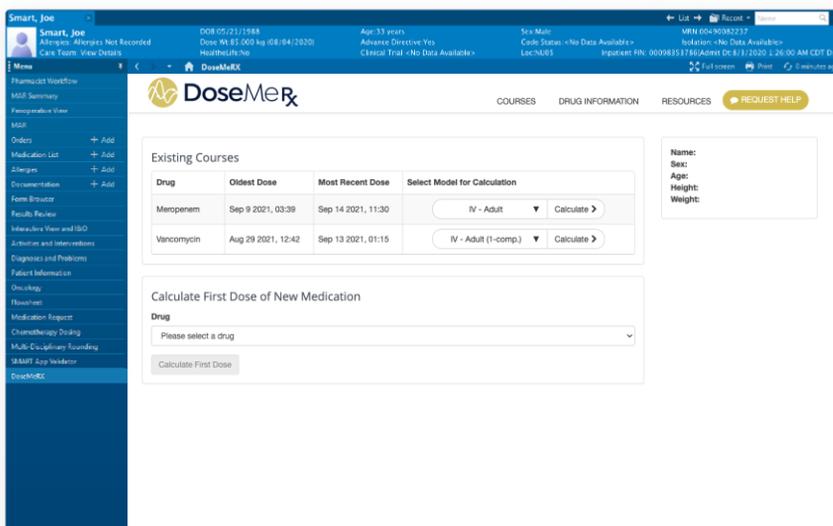
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# Benefits of integrating into our EHR



9

## 1. Workflow: Select course



10

## 2. Workflow: View recommendations



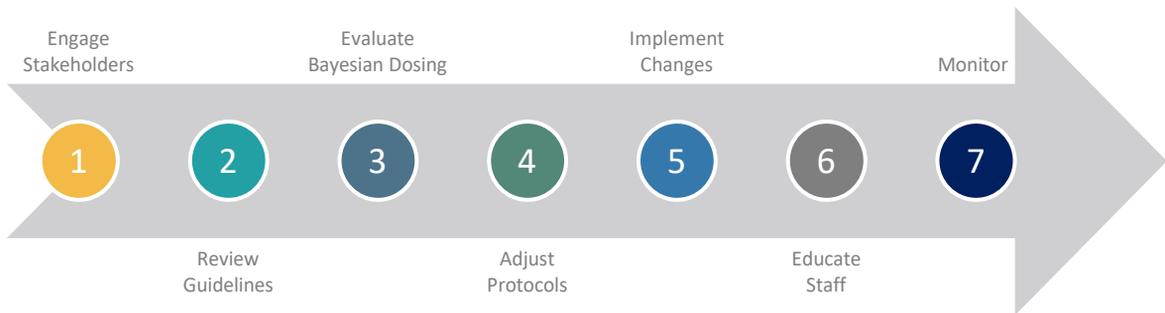
11

## 3. Workflow: Save progress note in EHR



12

## Our journey



13

## We got engaged...

### Start from the top

- Hospital Administration & C-suite
- Quality & Safety
- Pharmacy Directors: streamline process, value-add

### Get buy in

- Physicians: let us help you reduce AKI
- Nurses: reduced levels 😊
- Staff pharmacists: change is hard, prepare them

### Gain support

- IT: Stay engaged with implementation process
- Staff pharmacists again: Education, support & follow up on mental well being



14

## Review Guidelines and Clinical Data



- ASHP/IDSA/PIDS/SIDP Vancomycin guidelines
  - Provide rationale for implementing AUC dosing
  - DO NOT provide a how to actually do this
- Decide on exclusion criteria
  - Unstable renal function
  - Central nervous system infections?
  - Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT)
  - Peritoneal dialysis
- Our goal was to [maximize the number of patients](#) we could dose with DoseMeRx.

15

## Creating the protocol



- Interdisciplinary collaboration over several months
  - ID physicians
  - ID pharmacists
  - Nursing
  - Laboratory/Phlebotomy
  - IT
- Decision point
  - Will you be renal function based, disease state based, or DoseMeRx model based?



**Lesson learned:** Make sure that your protocol development and work efforts are done in parallel with IT to keep on same timeline.

16

# Creating the protocol



**AUC 400-600mcg\*h/mL (default target set at 450mcg.h/mL)**  
All indications unless part of the exception groups below

**Trough based dosing (10-20mcg/mL)**

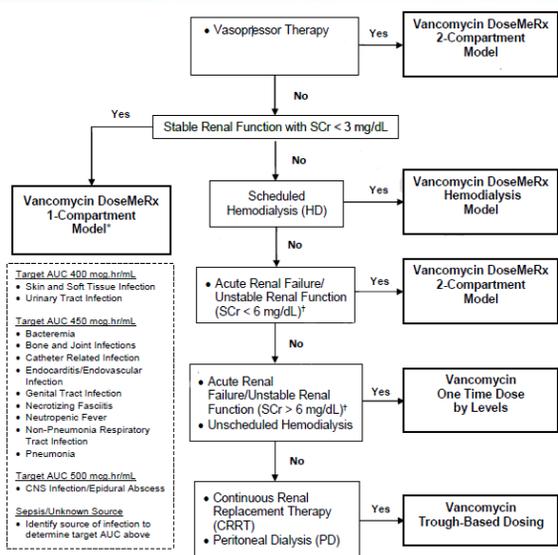
- Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT)
- Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)

**Level based dosing (<20mcg/mL)**

- Unstable renal function with a SCr of >6 mg/dL

17

# The decision tree



Carve out - managing pregnant and post partum patients

Image courtesy of Christy Su, PharmD

18

## Feedback and editing

- Staff pharmacists are invaluable
- It's the “Little Big” things
  - Understanding your serum creatinine and weight cutoffs and what patients you are eliminating
  - Implementation of the random level
    - > Holding doses and physicians discontinuing therapy
  - Keeping track of your vancomycin patients
- Handling “micro” changes in doses
- Key components of clinical notes and DoseMeRx documentation



**Lesson learned:** It took each new staff member who used DoseMeRx about 1 day to feel fully comfortable with software and 3-5 consecutive days for comfort with protocol.

19

## Educating staff



### Pharmacists

- Baseline didactic education – prerecorded as a CE for staff
- Software and protocol education
- Focus on new workflow and logistics
- Creation of sample patient cases to assess understanding
- Pharmacist competency checklist

### Physicians

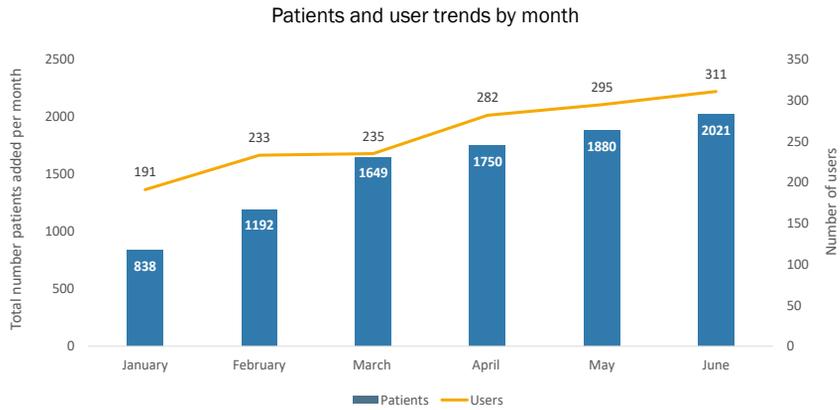
- Who will have access to DoseMeRx
- ID physicians versus everyone else
- Don't worry about the details of the protocol
- Educate on quality, safety, and interpretation of the levels

### Nurses

- Hospital wide education
- General rationale for AUC dosing
- Focus on transition from trough based dosing to AM levels
- When to draw timed levels
- Interpretation of levels – contact pharmacy with questions instead of MD

20

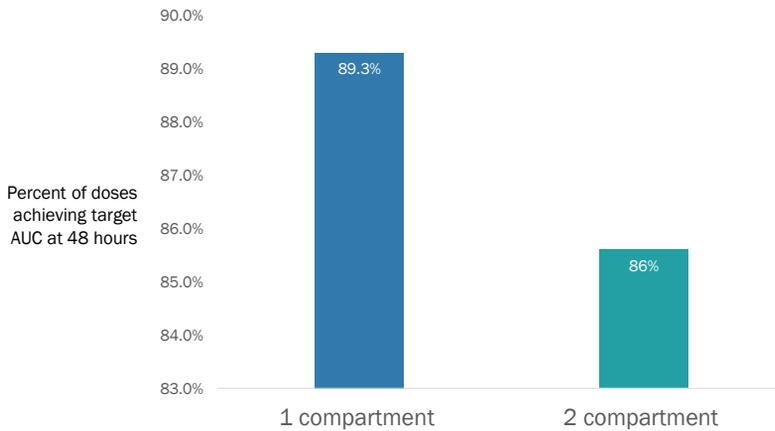
# Volume Over Time: Jan – Jun 2021



80% of patients are dosed with the standard vancomycin model

21

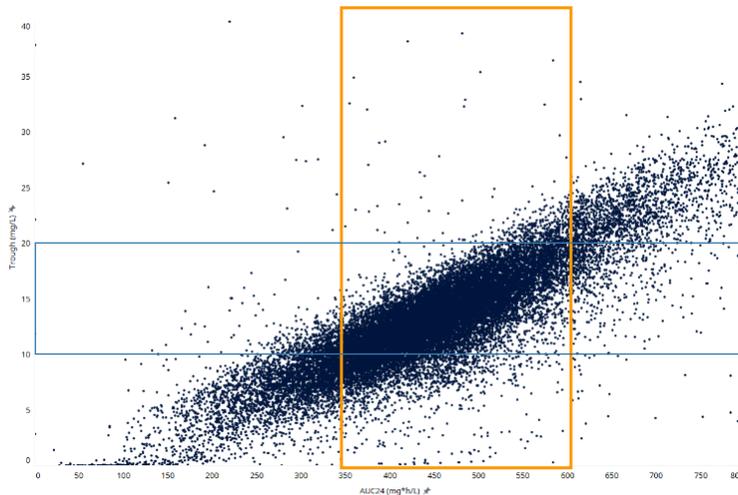
# Calculating success! January to June 2021



0-48

22

## Vancomycin Trough vs AUC24



23



**Do**

- Keep continuous lines of communication open with IT even after launch
- Be ready to be available to answer questions for the staff
- Have clinical staff/specialists “shadow” other pharmacists to confirm dose selections and protocol adherence
- Know that there will be a learning curve
- Keep a living FAQ document
- Follow discontinued vancomycin orders
- Therapy not warranted OR concern over random AM level and toxicity?

24



## Don't

MEMORIAL  
HERMANN

- Assume that the written protocol will not need to be refined post launch
- Assume that all staff will do everything exactly as you intended
- Forget to prepare for EMR downtime situations

25



## Clinical, Financial, and Operational Benefits of Bayesian Dosing

Dustin Orvin, PharmD, BCPS  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
St. Joseph's/Candler Health System

26

## St. Joseph's/Candler Health System

- Community health network
- 714 beds divided between two anchor hospitals



*Candler Hospital*



*St. Joseph's Hospital*



27

## Who we are

**2**

Hospitals

**~108**

Vancomycin days  
per 1000 patient days

Pharmacy responsible  
for all vancomycin dosing  
via automatic consult

**57**

Pharmacists

**3**

Dedicated ID  
Clinical Specialists

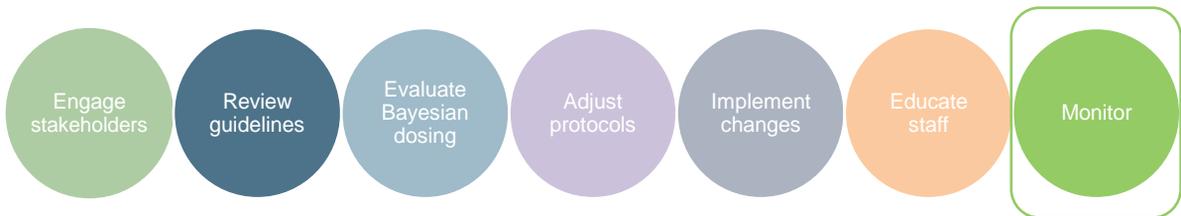
**5**

Clinical faculty from  
colleges of pharmacy



28

## Journey so far: the final stage



## How will you define success?

- Improved clinical outcomes?
- Cost avoidance?
- What metrics will you monitor?
  - Serum creatinine increase/AKI rate
  - Time to therapeutic AUC
  - Doses yielding an AUC above goal ranges
  - Length of stay
- What baseline metrics do you have already?

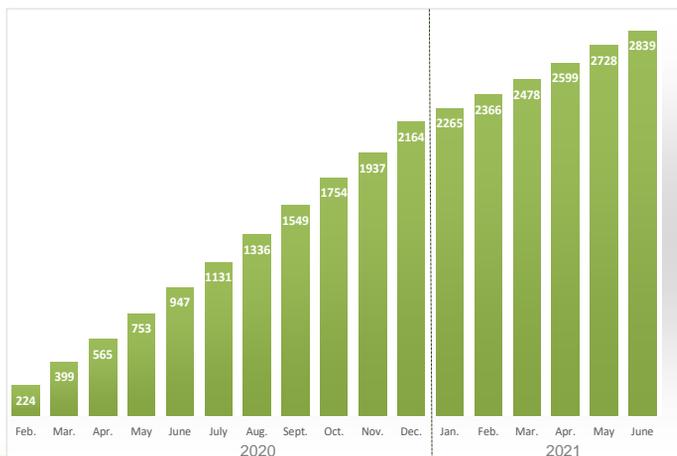


## Program structure

- Implemented AUC dosing with web-based version of DoseMeRx in February 2020
- Pharmacy responsible for 100% of dosing via automatic consult
- Utilize AUC dosing for all adult patients receiving vancomycin targeting AUC of 400-600 mg.hr/L
- Derive AUC from a single trough concentration in majority of cases

## AUC dosing program: Key facts

Cumulative vancomycin courses dosed using DoseMeRx since program inception



2,496 Unique Patients

## Why Bayesian dosing?

### Why we implemented AUC ahead of guideline recommendations?

- Reduce AKI rate  
*Presented MUE data to P&T in 2019 showing ~14% AKI rate across the board*
- Key changes to dosing were proposed & AUC dosing identified

### Why Bayesian, not first order kinetics?

- Seamless workflow integration
- Reproducibility
- Clinician confidence
- Cost effective
- Practical



33

## Our AUC dosing goals



### Clinical

Improve patient safety and maintain efficacy



### Operational

Improve standardization of dosing practices among pharmacists with minimal changes to workflow



### Financial

Implement AUC-based dosing with minimal impact on budget



34

## Clinical benefits



Clinical



Operational



Financial

### Reproducible results every time

- Improved consistency between pharmacists and care settings.
- Easily accessible dosing reports saved within the platform.

### Improved pharmacist confidence

- Accurate and reliable results allowing us to focus on executing our patient care plan.

### Increased prescriber confidence

- Physicians place more trust in pharmacy dosing plans.
- Direct correlation with AKI reduction and rare “toxic vancomycin levels.”



35



Clinical



Operational



Financial



### Safety

- Serum creatinine increases by  $\geq 0.3$  mg/dL
- Percentage of doses with AUC above 600 mg.hr/L



### Efficacy

- Percentage of courses reaching target AUC by selected time intervals
- Median time to therapeutic AUC



36

## Safety Metrics (since program inception)



Clinical



Operational



Financial

Description	Result	Interpretation
Serum creatinine increases by $\geq 0.3$ mg/dL	3.3%	Very few patients had increases in serum creatinine while on therapy
Percentage of doses with AUC above 600 mg.hr/L	5.4%	In most cases, this was only a single dose throughout the entire course



37

## Time to AUC24 of 400mg\*h/L (since program inception)



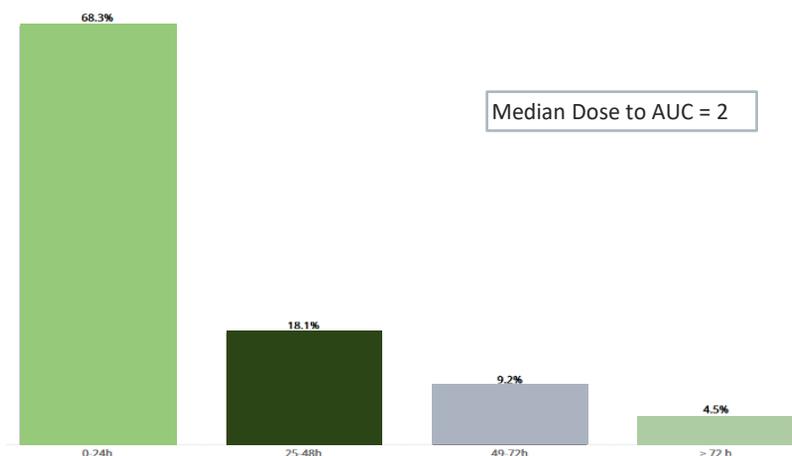
Clinical



Operational



Financial



38

## Operational benefits



Clinical



Operational



Financial

### DoseMeRx ensured all pharmacists are uniformly determining AUC

- Variety of trough-based dosing practices previously
- Anecdotal experiences greatly impacted individual practices

### Allowed for implementation of AUC with fewer vancomycin assays

- Little to no impact on nursing or lab staff
- Prescribers continued to see the customary troughs reported in EHR

### Reduced education needs during implementation process

- Allowed us to target the clinicians who needed it most



39

## Clinical and software action by day/month



Clinical



Operational



Financial



- Bayesian support software can identify top performers and facilitate reproducible results
- Track clinician specific activity data



40

## Post-launch assessment



Clinical



Operational



Financial

### Post AUC implementation assessment

- Evaluating dosing practices in a subset of case matched patients who were dosed targeting trough vs AUC

### Unexpected findings during analysis

- Clinical uncertainty in the immediate transition period
- Fewer peak concentrations used than our protocol recommended
- AUC group had more troughs in “goal range”



Don't forget differences in PK parameter estimates when providing education!

Crosby C, Bland C, Jones B, Orvin D. Poster SP-373 – ASHP Midyear 2020



41

## National survey results



Clinical



Operational



Financial

### Transitioning from guideline approval to practical implementation of AUC-based monitoring of vancomycin

- Surveyed American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Critical Care and Infectious Diseases Practice and Research Networks in May and June of 2020
- 18% of respondents stated plans to **continue trough-based** dosing. Why?



Bland C, et al. AJHP. 2021;



42

## How do you get the necessary budget support?



Clinical



Operational



Financial

1

### Determine potential safety benefit for your institution

- Determine your current AKI rate in vancomycin patients
- Estimate cost savings with a 50% AKI reduction

2

### Compare Bayesian vs first order kinetics

- Bayesian – known fixed cost regardless of patient volume
- First order kinetics –uncertain incremental costs for each treated patient



43

## The St. Joseph's/Candler Experience



Clinical



Operational



Financial

- As part of our post implementation assessment, we also conducted a financial analysis
- 100 patients in each group – equally case matched based on demographics and Charleston Comorbidity Index
- Time frame: AUC group March 2020-February 2021, Trough group Jan 2019-December 2019
- Acute kidney injury defined as a SCr increase by > to 0.3 mg/dL within 48 hours or SCr 1.5x baseline



44

## Results



Clinical



Operational



Financial

Variable	Trough group (n=100)	AUC group (n=100)
Average Duration of Therapy (days)	4.64	4.98
Average number of dose changes per patient	1.04	0.93
Troughs within range (10-20)	58.7%	63.5%
Average trough (mcg/mL)	15.59	12.91
Percentage of doses with AUC above 600 mg.hr/L	5.4%	In most cases, this was only a single dose throughout the entire course
<b>Nephrotoxicity *</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Average cost per patient day (\$)	16.56	16.21

Crosby C, Bland C, Jones B, Orvin D. Poster SP-373 – ASHP Midyear 2020



45

## Financial Implications of AKI



Clinical



Operational



Financial

- The rate of AKI in the trough-based group was six times higher than in the AUC based group (12% vs 2%, p=0.0056)
- Total excess hospitalization costs associated with one episode of AKI is \$7,928.45

Dosing methodology	Potential AKI cases (n=2496)	Total excess hospitalization costs associated with AKI
Trough based dosing	300	\$2,378,535
AUC based dosing	50	\$ 396,422

Difference: \$1,982,122



Patel N, Huang D, Lodise T. Clinical Drug Investigation 2021;

46



## Do

- Consider how Bayesian clinical decision support software can meet your dosing and monitoring needs.
- Pick metrics to monitor the most important goals of your transition.
- Communicate your success stories early and often.
- Provide open lines of communication for stakeholder feedback.
- Continuously utilize data to refine your process.



## Don't

- Take monitoring for granted when evaluating Bayesian dosing.
  - A useful monitoring program requires thoughtful consideration of your goals how to practically capture data.
- Assume AUC or Bayesian dosing is too expensive without evaluating the benefits to your patients and institution.
- Underestimate the financial impact AKI reductions can have at your institution.



From setup to what's next, we're here to answer your questions.



Dosing software with a human side.

49



## Contact us.

Start a Free Trial:

[www.doseme-rx.com/start-trial](http://www.doseme-rx.com/start-trial)

📞 Phone: +1 (832) 358-3308

✉ Email: [hello@doseme-rx.com](mailto:hello@doseme-rx.com)

