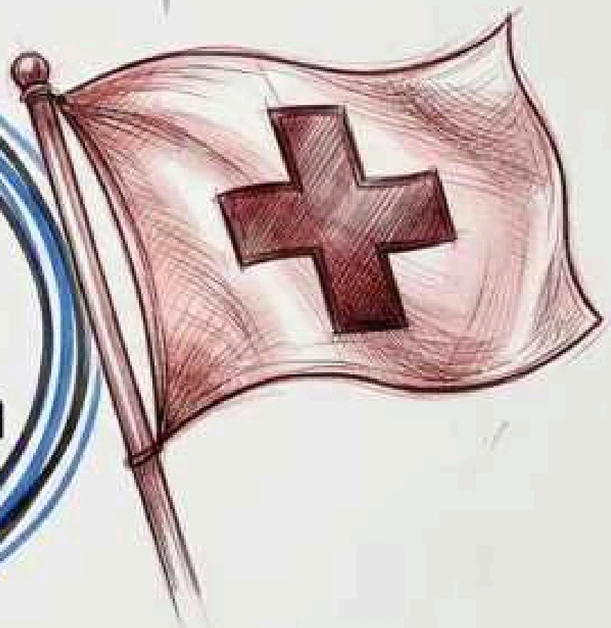
Arrival & The Acute Priority

¶ 1.1

Emergency Department

Family Doctor Referral

Acute Recognition & Stabilization



Treatment begins before the full picture is clear.

First Rule of Admission:
Recognize and treat anything immediately life-threatening.

$$Priority = f(LifeThreat) > f(FullHistory)$$

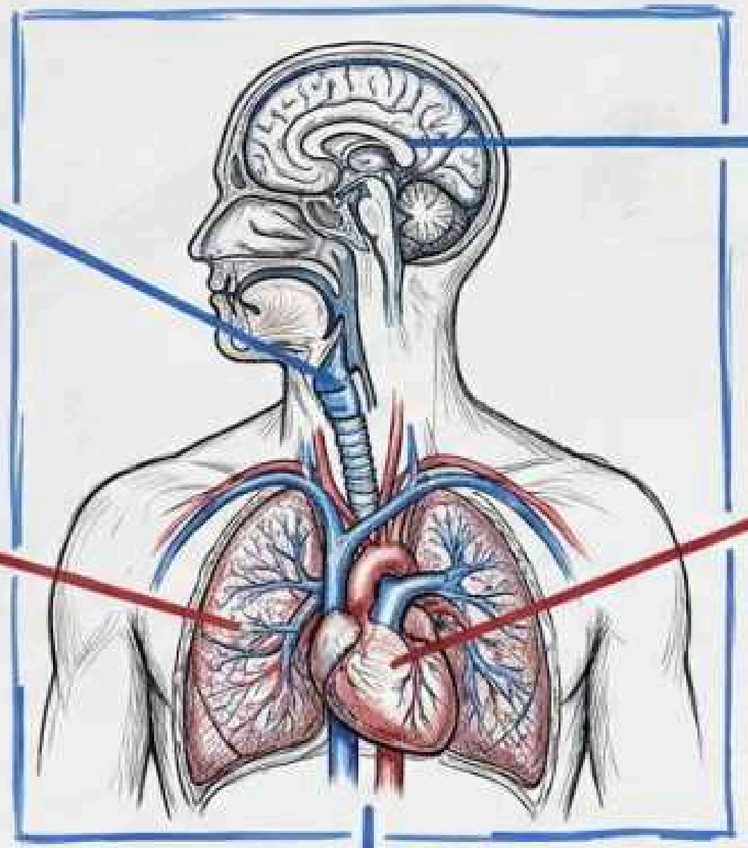
Gemini Notebook

The ABCDE Assessment Protocol

¶ 1.2



A - Airway







D - Disability
(Consciousness & Blood Sugar)



B - Breathing





C - Circulation

E - Exposure
(Full Body Exam)



Core Principle:
Each problem is treated exactly as it is found before moving to the next letter.

$$\sum(A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow E) = \text{Survival First}$$

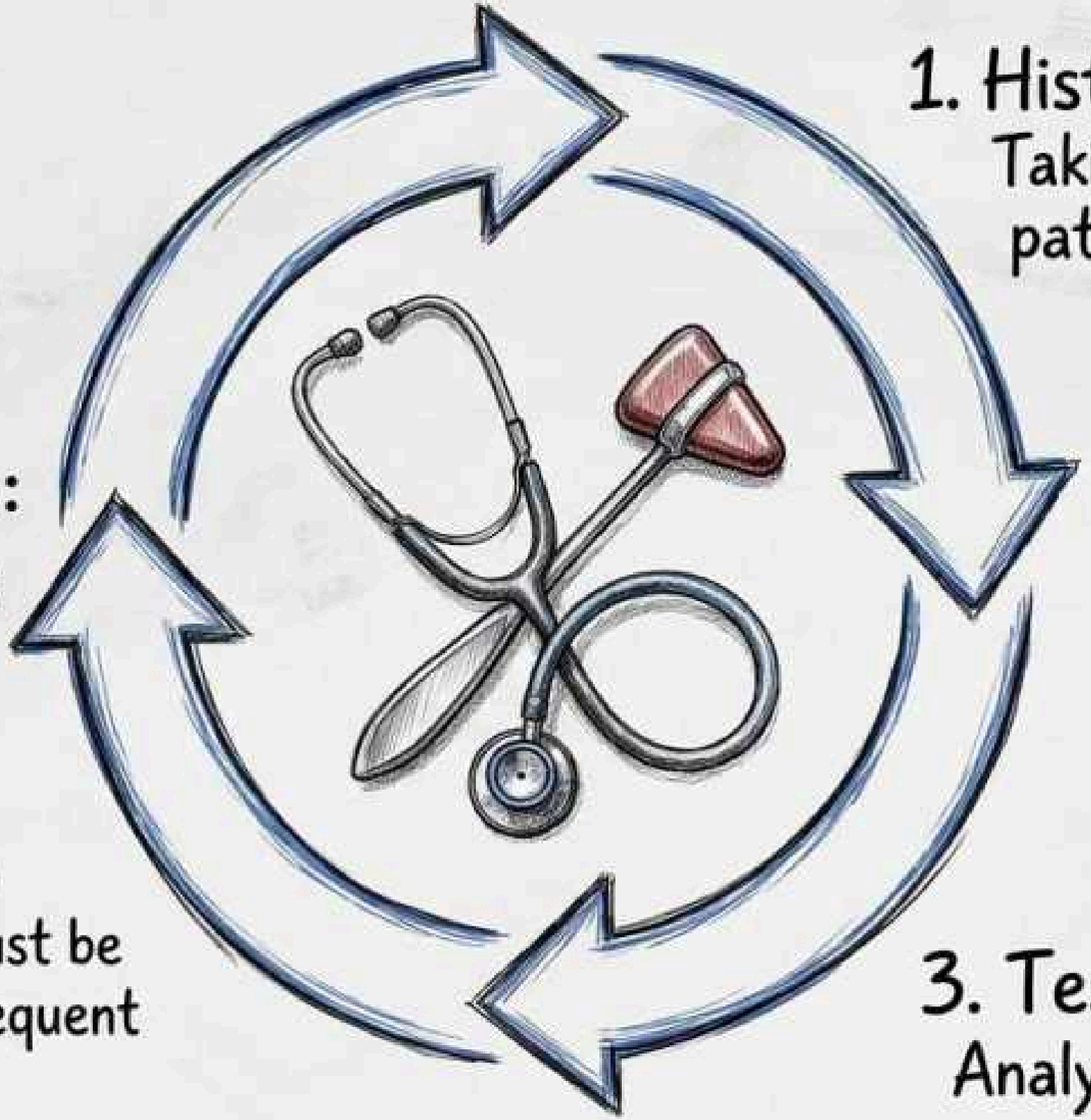
Used worldwide: Simple. Prioritizes what kills first.

Gemini Notebook

Clerking the Stable Patient

¶ 1.3

> The foundation for the whole team.



1. History:
Taking the full patient narrative.

2. Examination:
Detailed physical assessment.

3. Test Review:
Analyzing labs and imaging.

4. Differential & Plan:
Forming the diagnosis and next steps.

Once stable, the focus shifts to comprehensive clerking. This must be recorded clearly, as every subsequent decision relies on this baseline.

Gemini Notebook

Structured Presentation: The SBAR Framework

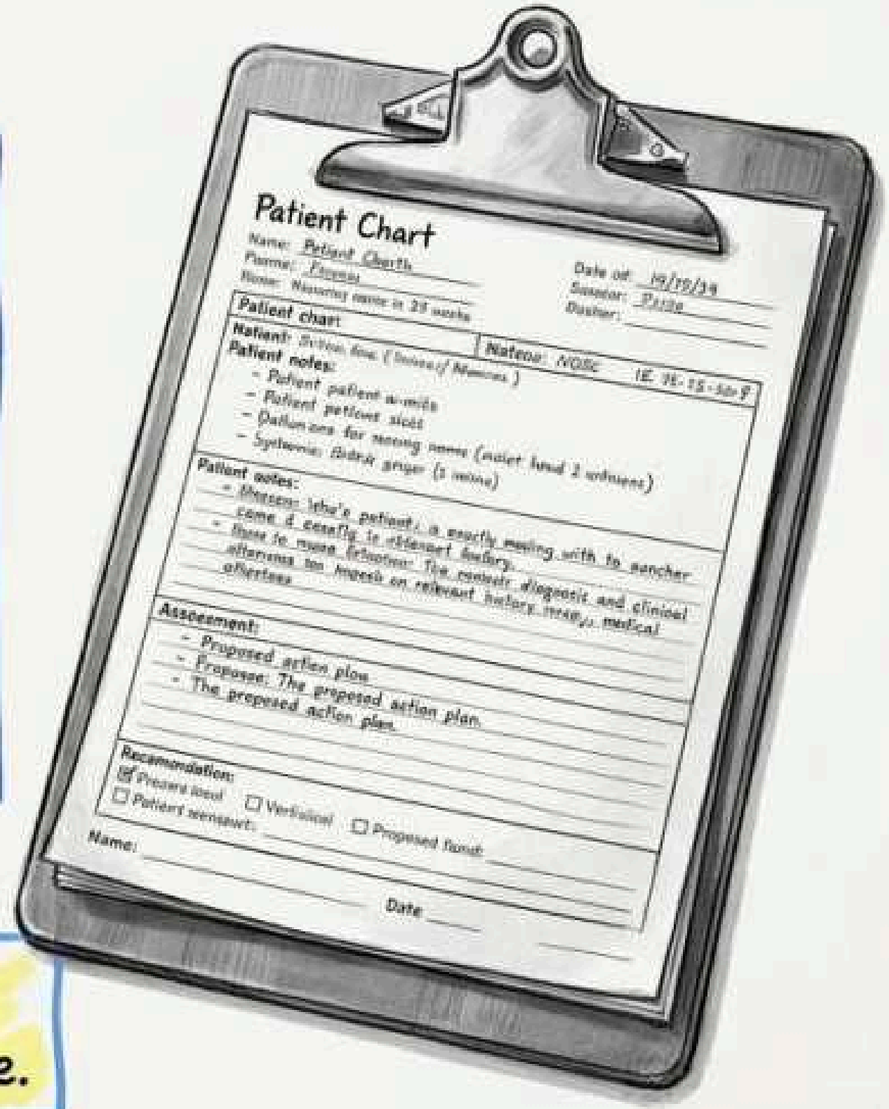
¶ 1.4

S — **Situation**: Who the patient is and exactly why they came.

B — **Background**: The key clinical findings and relevant history.

A — **Assessment**: The most likely diagnosis + clinical alternatives.

R — **Recommendation**: The proposed action plan.

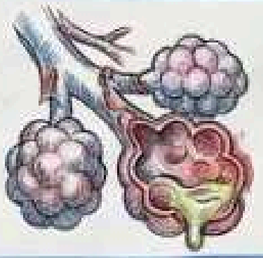
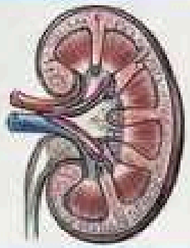
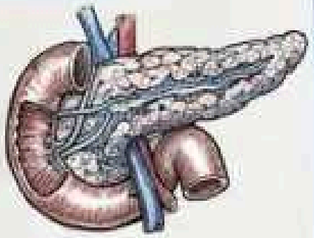


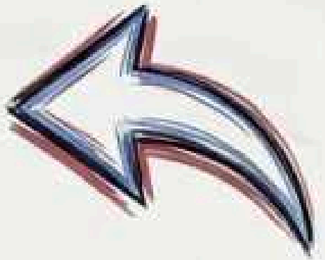
Core Principle: Presenting to a senior is a core skill.
Urgent communication requires concise, predictable structure.

Gemini Notebook

The Active Problem List

¶ 1.5

Active Issue	Action Plan
Pneumonia 	
Acute Kidney Injury 	
Poorly Controlled Diabetes 	



Updating =

Zero forgotten problems
+
Clear handovers.

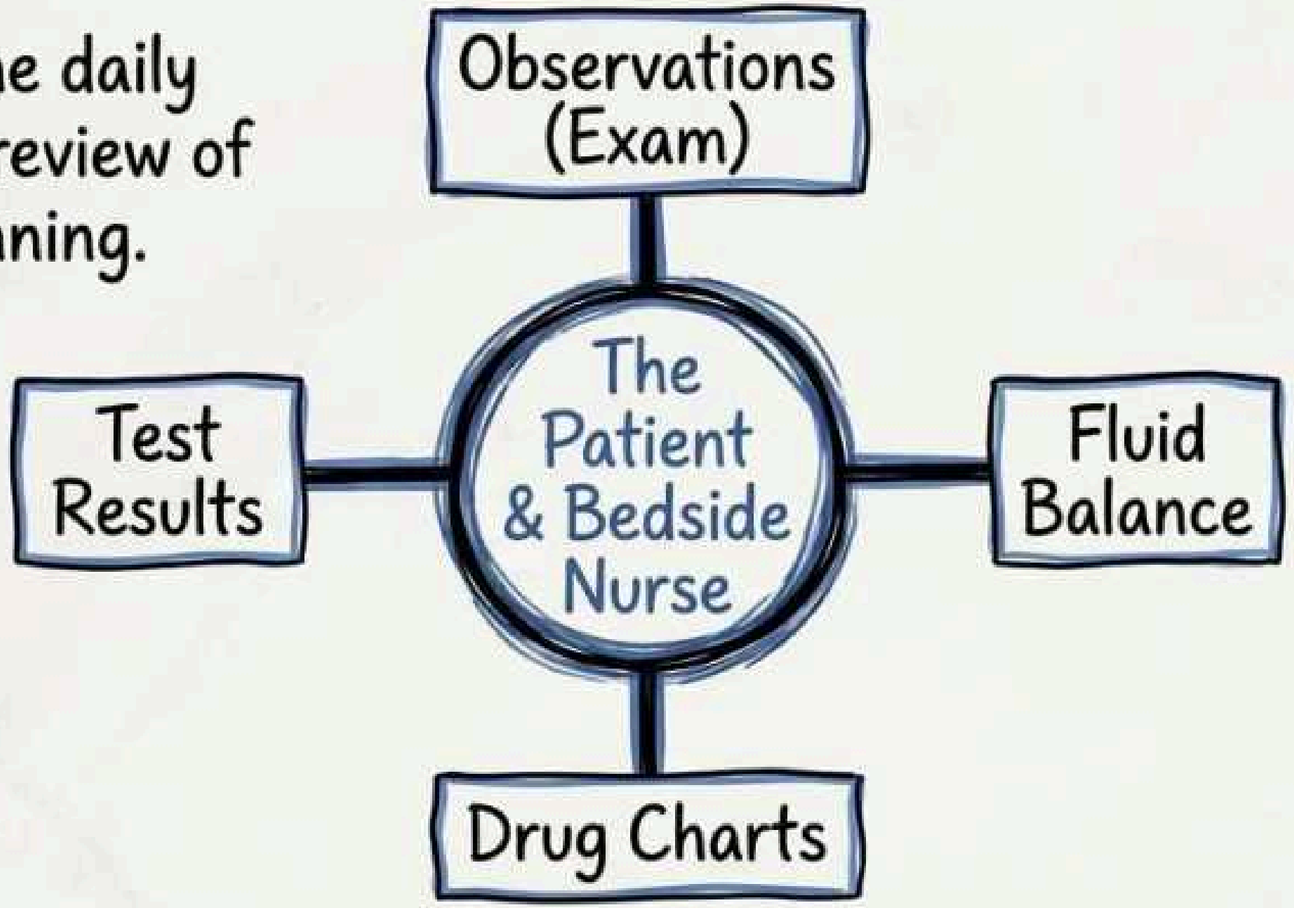
The problem list sets out each active issue alongside a specific plan to address it.

Gemini Notebook

The Daily Ward Round

¶ 1.6

Core Principle: The daily multidisciplinary review of progress and planning.



$$\frac{V_{in}\ (\text{IV} + \text{Oral}) - V_{out}\ (\text{Urine} + \text{Insensible})}{= \text{Net Fluid Balance}}$$

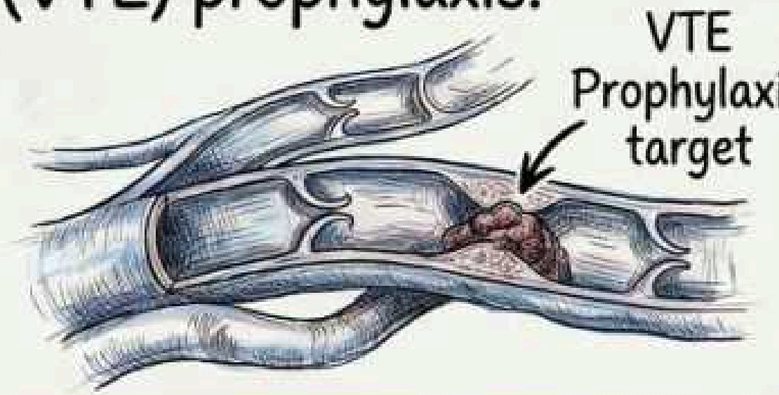
Including the patient and the nurse who knows them best directly improves clinical decisions.

Gemini Notebook

Medication Review & Prophylaxis

¶ 1.7

Stop & Watch	Adjust & Prevent
Ceasing unneeded drugs and watching for complex interactions.	Renal dose adjustments and Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis.



Hospital admission is a discrete intervention point to optimize prescriptions.

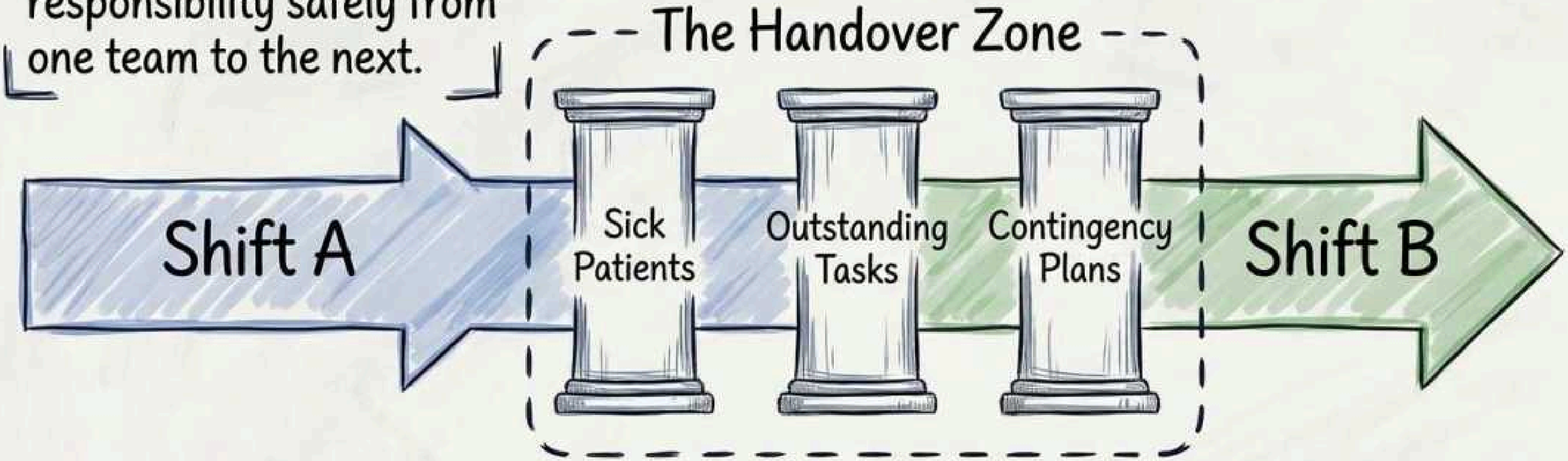
$$CrCl = \left[\frac{(140 - Age) \times Weight}{72 \times S_{Cr}}\right] \times (0.85 \text{ if female})$$

Gemini Notebook

Clinical Handover

¶ 1.8

Core Principle: Passing responsibility safely from one team to the next.



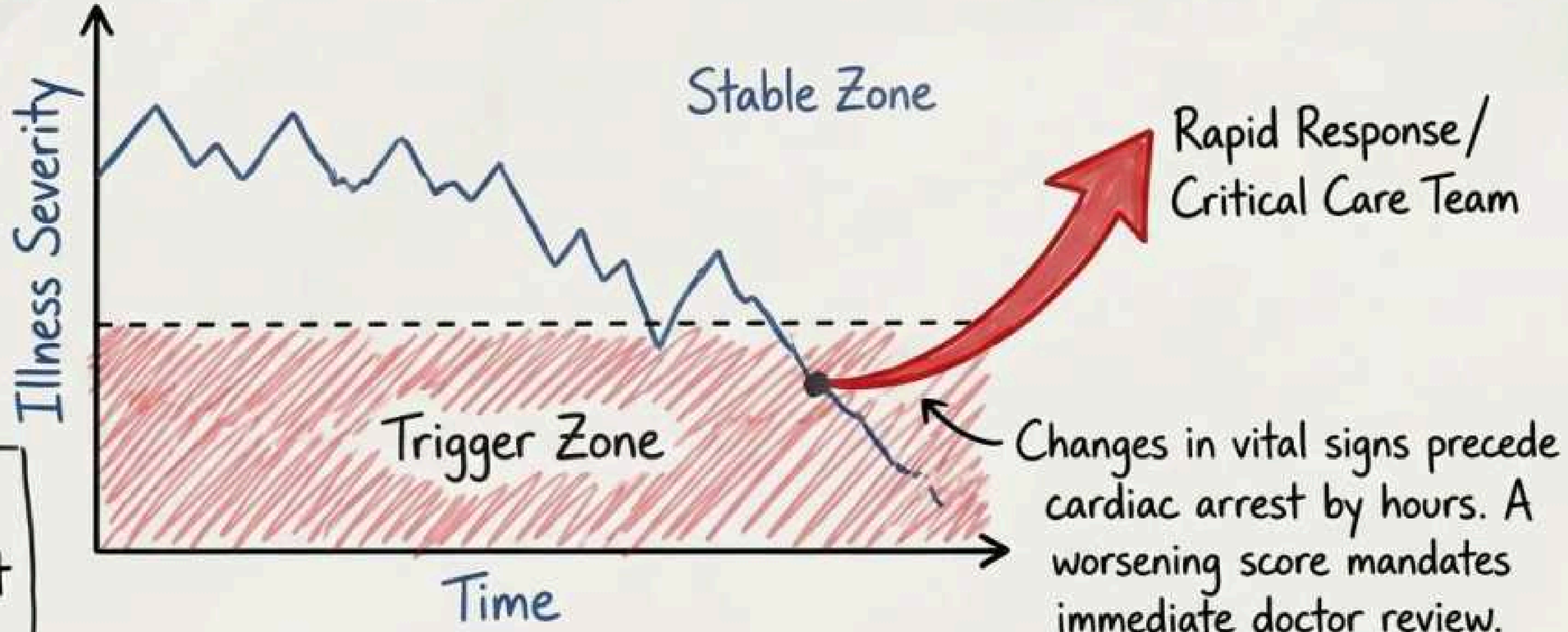
WARNING: Poor handovers are a major source of error. Structured handovers reduce harm.

Gemini Notebook

Recognizing Deterioration

¶ 1.9

$$EWS = \sum (HR_{score} + BP_{score} + RR_{score} + Temp_{score} + SpO_{2\,score})$$



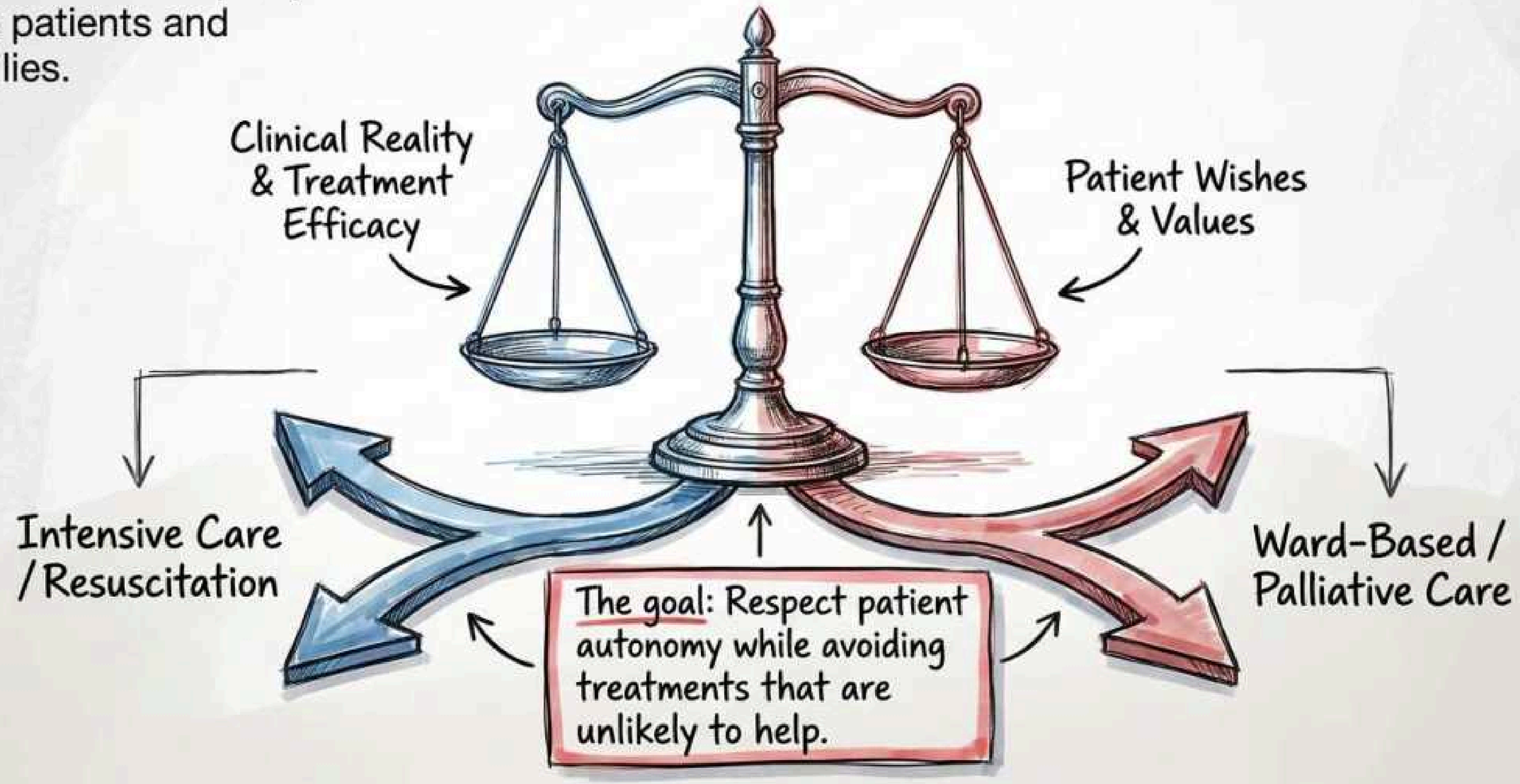
Core Principle:
The most important skill on the ward.

Gemini Notebook

Escalation Decisions

¶ 1.10

Escalation decisions must be made early and discussed openly with patients and families.



Gemini Notebook

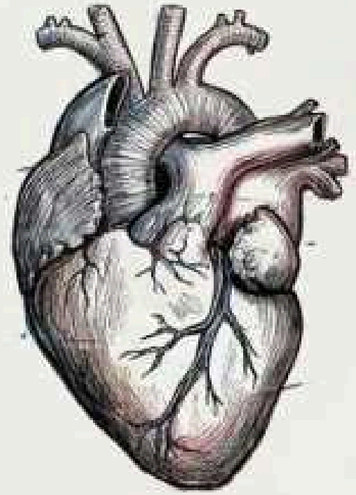
Synthesis & The Road Ahead

¶ 1.11

ABCDE → Clerking & Problems → Ward Rounds & Handover → Escalation

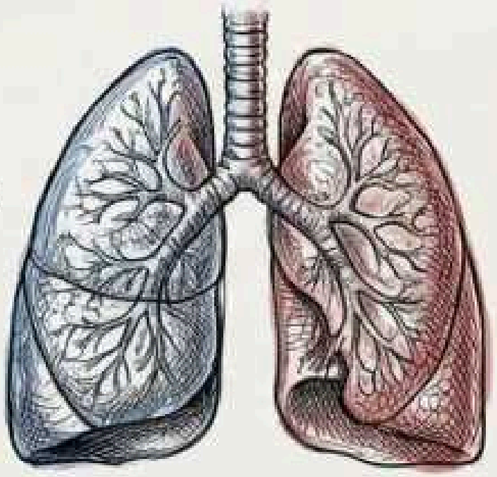
Medical care depends on early stabilization, structured organization, and rapid recognition of deterioration.

Next Lecture:



Chest Pain

Next: Applying this framework to the two most common acute presentations.



Breathlessness

Gemini Notebook