

# Time Critical - Count 9

A new tool to aid the recognition of altered respiratory rate in unwell and deteriorating patients.

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Critical illness recognition simplified 

# BACKGROUND

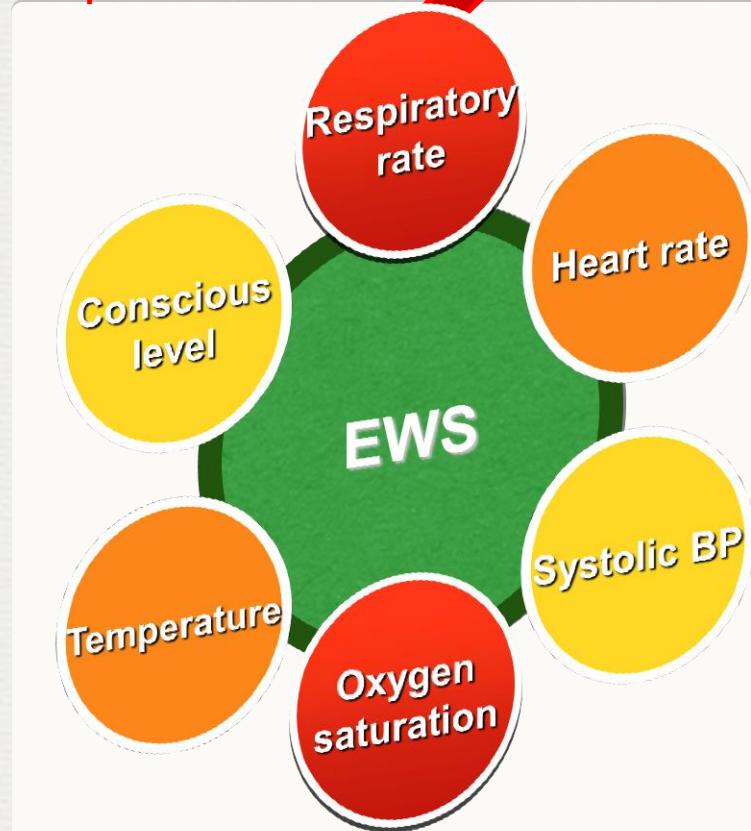
- Early recognition of critical illness is crucial to preventing avoidable death or harm. Early Warning Scores (EWS) aim to use physiological derangement to identify these patients<sup>1</sup>
- Of all the vital signs used in EWS, respiratory rate is the most sensitive indicator of critical illness yet it is frequently omitted<sup>2</sup>
- Failure to recognise critical illness may contribute to 6000 deaths each year in the UK alone<sup>3</sup>

1. <http://bit.ly/1bzO1IC> 2. <http://bit.ly/1jZB1Wd> 3. <http://bit.ly/MIx9De>



# EWS COMPONENTS

Components of EWS



The accuracy of **Respiratory rate** is completely dependent on the method used by the recorder

Inaccurate recording is likely to impact adversely on the sensitivity of EWS systems.

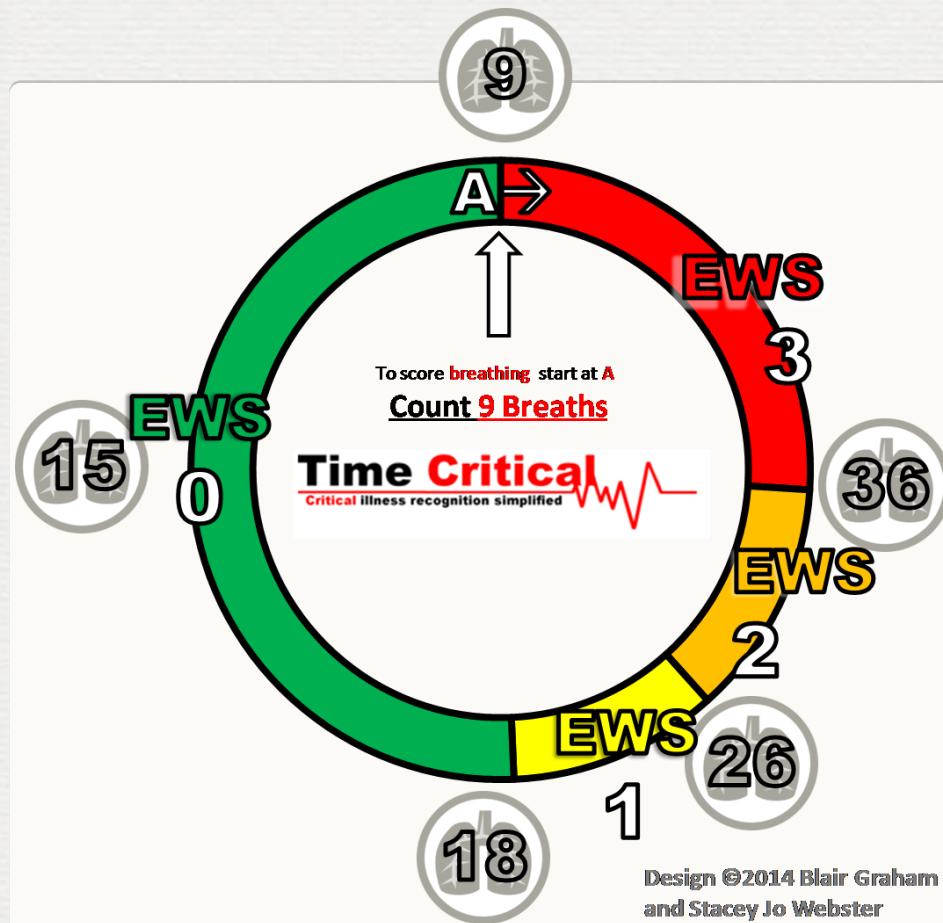
We identified a need to standardise and simplify respiratory rate recording.

# AIMS

- To **develop an innovation** that will improve the ease and compliance of calculating the respiratory rate and recognising critically ill and deteriorating patients
- To **evaluate and implement** in both developed and resource poor settings

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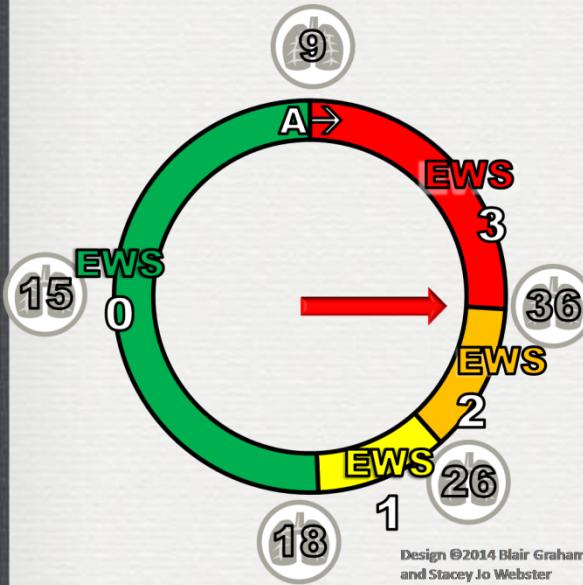
# ...Introducing COUNT 9



Count 9 is our unique clock face that allows easy calculation of the respiratory component of a patients MEWS

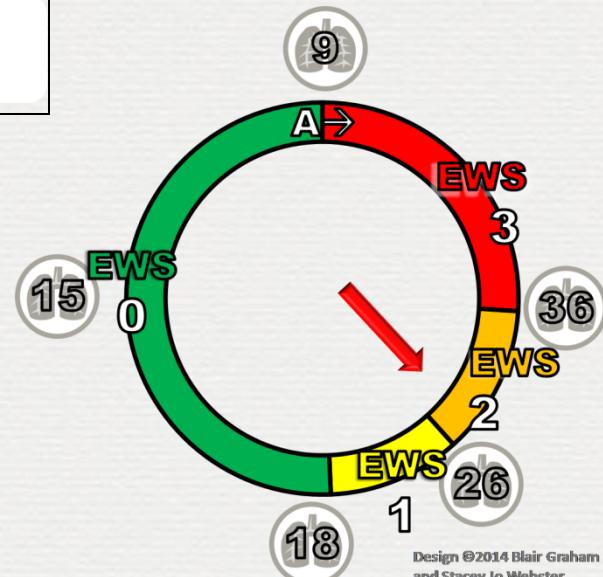
# ... The **Easy** way to score respiration rate...

To score **breathing** start at **A**  
**Count 9 Breaths**



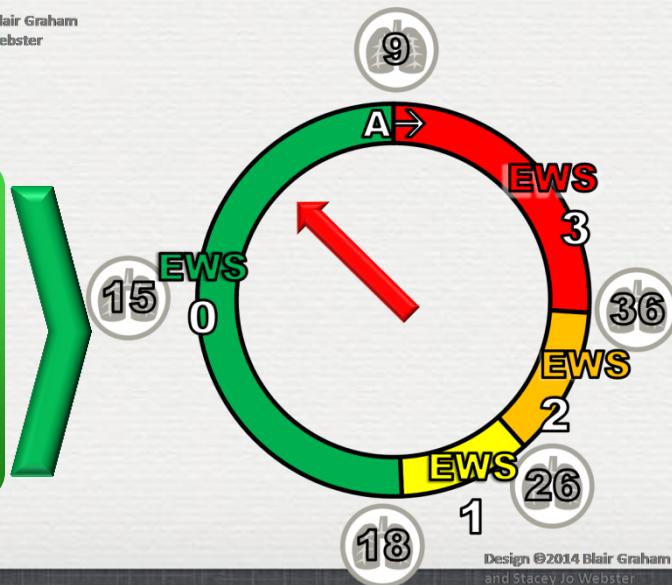
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and Stacey Jo Webster

Worked Example:  
 Start A  
 Count 9 breaths  
 $RR = 36$   
 $EWS = 3$



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Worked Example:  
 Start A  
 Count 9 breaths  
 $RR = 10$   
 $EWS = 0$



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Worked Example:  
 Start A  
 Count 9 breaths  
 $RR = 27$   
 $EWS = 2$

# Current Projects

Pilot work in the **United Kingdom** may see the clock trialled at University Hospital South Manchester.



We're also planning on piloting in a resource poor setting in **Northern Uganda**, to investigate how the clock influences respiratory rate recording in a resource constrained setting.



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# CONCLUSION

- Accurate recording of EWS allows for prompt recognition of critically ill and deteriorating patients
- Respiratory rate is the first vital sign to show derangement yet least often recorded
- Count 9 is an innovative, intuitive yet cost effective solution with the potential to save lives

**Acknowledgements** We would like to thank Nathalie May for her help with this presentation, and our partners at UHSM and the Man-Gulu link who are working with us to make time critical a reality.



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