

# *The Second Victim Experience: Train-the-Trainer Workshop*



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# Today's Objectives

1. Describe the 'second victim' phenomenon and high risk clinical events.
2. Describe the evidence based process used to design and deploy the forYOU team at University of Missouri Healthcare.
3. Describe the six stages of second victim recovery.
4. Understand components of the Scott Three tier model of support to design a plan to support personnel.
5. Review key steps to implementing peer support team training.

## Successful Learning Tips

This is your day, make it count

Ask questions as they arise

Share experiences and examples

Respect the sharing

Avoid case specific information

Facility, Clinician, Patient

Tough discussions = Non-judgmental



HELLO

My Name Is...

# WARNING

Rated

**E**

**Professional Rating**

**This content may contain Emotional  
Labor!!!!!!**

# Today's Health Care: The Facts

44,000–98,000 deaths/year in U.S. due to preventable adverse events (Kohn et. al, 2000).

Revised estimates at least 210,000 (and possibly more like 400,000) die in U.S due to preventable harm (James, 2013).

With revised estimates: At least 4 clinicians/patient = 840,000 to 1.6 million clinicians impacted

Could this represent the next healthcare crisis?

“Medicine used to be simple, ineffective and relatively safe..... now it is complex, effective, and potentially dangerous”

Sir Cyril Chantler



# History of the PROBLEM

Adverse event reviews – individuals at the ‘sharp end’ noted to be experiencing ‘predictable’ behaviors post event





# Review of the Literature

## Medical error: the second victim

Albert Wu, MD

*The doctor who makes the mistake needs help too*

When I was a house officer another resident failed to identify the electrocardiographic signs of the pericardial tamponade that would rush the patient to the operating room late that night. The news spread rapidly, the case tried repeatedly before an incredulous jury of peers, who returned a summary judgment of incompetence. I was dismayed by the lack of sympathy and wondered secretly if I could

improvements that could decrease errors. Many errors are built into existing routines and devices, setting up the unwitting physician and patient for disaster. And, although patients are the first and obvious victims of medical mistakes, doctors are wounded by the same errors: they are the second victims.

Virtually every practitioner knows the sickening realization of making a bad mistake. You feel singled

*“Virtually every practitioner knows the sickening realization of making a bad mistake. You feel singled out and exposed..... You agonize about what to do..... Later, the event replays itself over and over in your mind”*

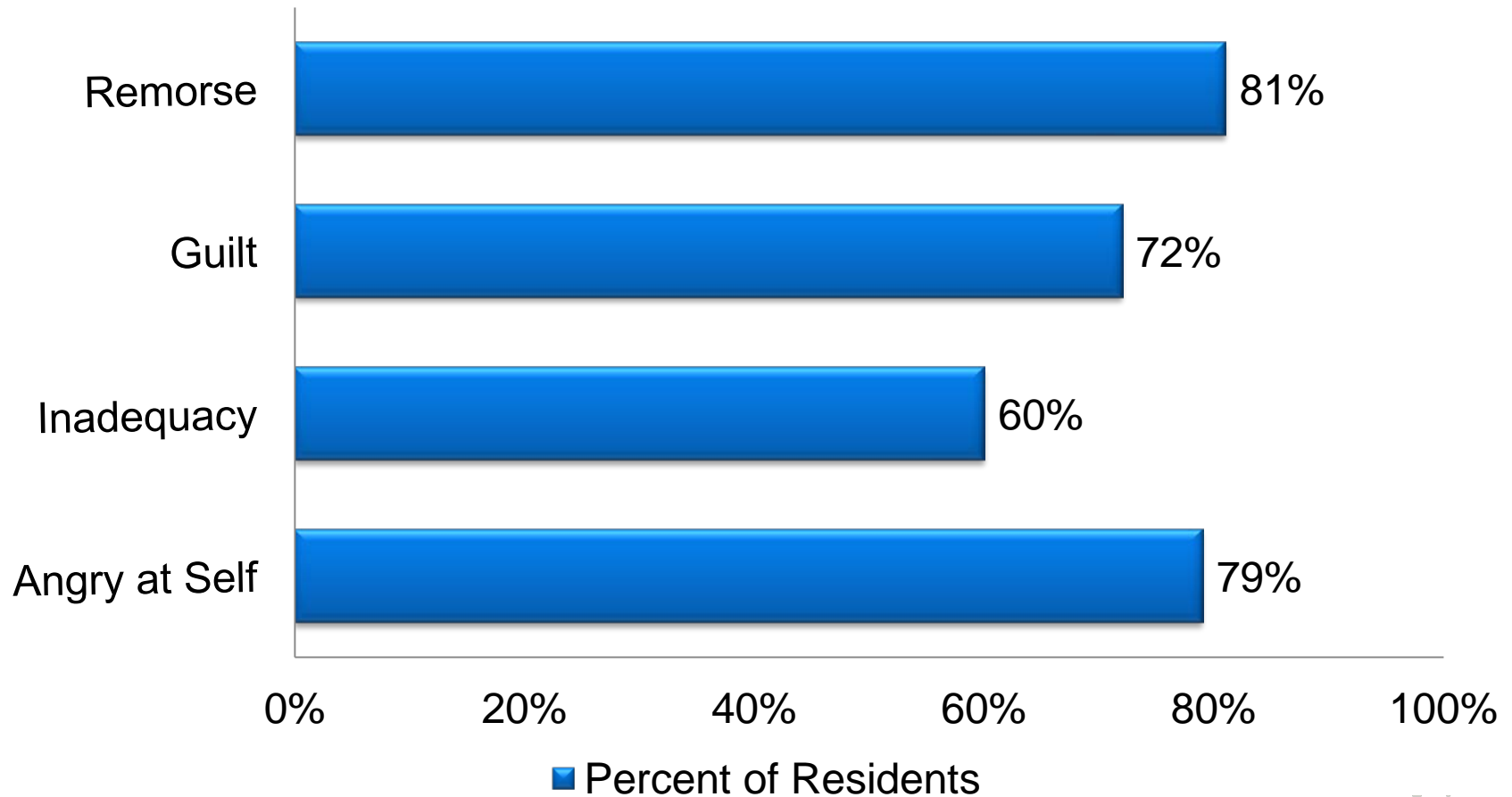
laboratory tests, and innovations that present daunting images of illness have in fact created an expectation of perfection. Patients, who have an understandable need to consider their doctors infallible, have colluded with doctors to deny the existence of error. Hospitals react to

every attentive to the patient or family, lamenting the failure to do so earlier and, if you haven't told them, wondering if they know.<sup>1-3</sup>

Sadly, the kind of unconditional sympathy and support that are really needed are rarely forthcoming.



# Resident Responses to Errors



# Health Care

## Commonly Heard Phrases

This event shook me to my core."

"This has been a turning point in my career."

"It just keeps replaying over and over in my mind."

"I'll never be the same."

I'm going to check out my options as a Walmart greeter. I can't mess that up."

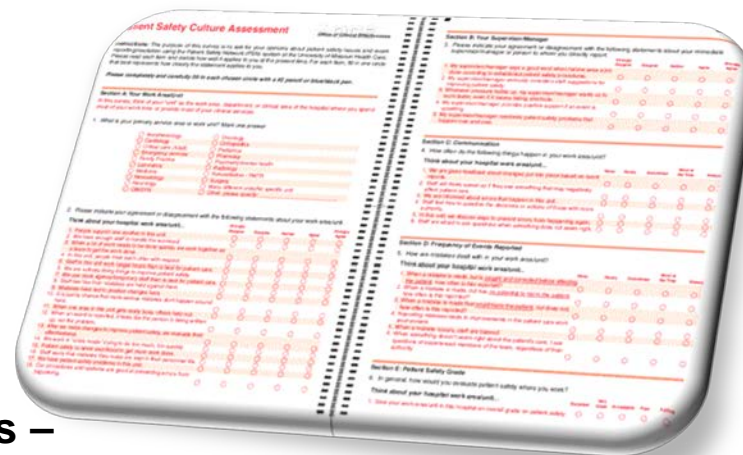


# Safety Culture Survey

Agency for Health Care  
Research and Quality  
(AHRQ)

[www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov)

Patient Safety Culture  
Survey



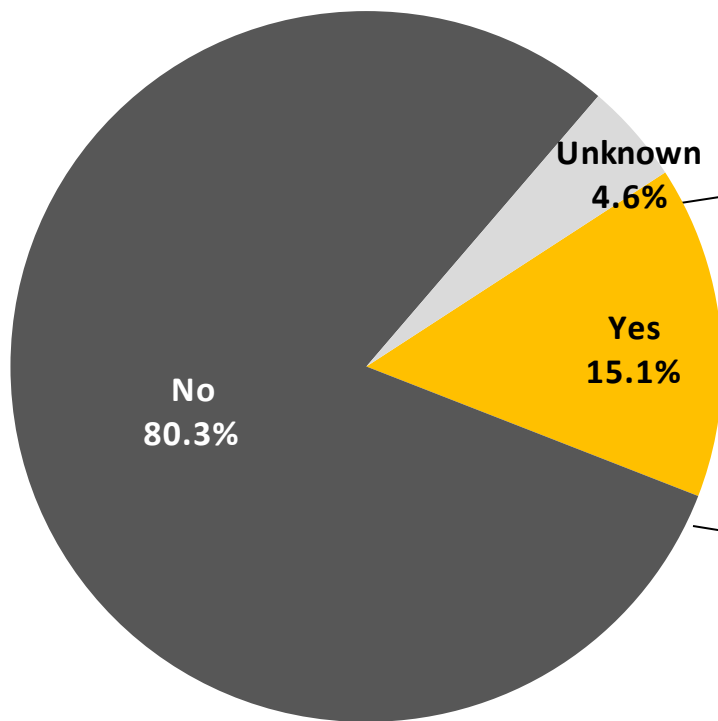
2 Questions –

- 1) Within the past year, did a patient safety event cause you to experience anxiety, depression, or wondering if you were able to continue to do your job?”
- 2) Did you receive support from anyone within our health care system?”

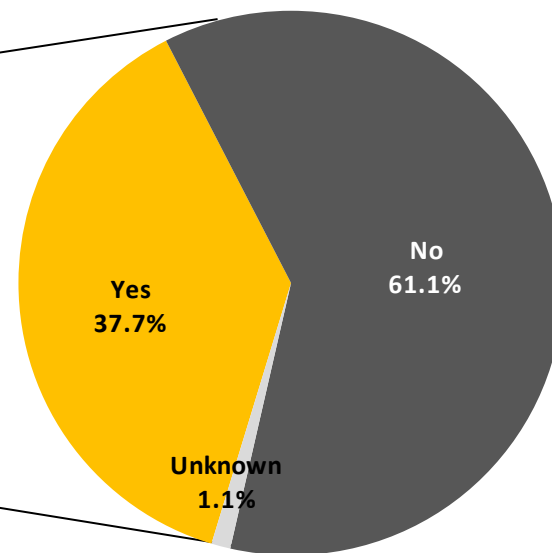
# Initial Survey Results (2007)

Staff experienced: **(n=1,160)**

- Anxiety
- Depression



Received support



# Second Victim Task Force

## Project Leads – Patient Safety and Risk Management

### Team Members

- Case Manager
- Chaplain
- Chief Medical Officer
- Clinical Educator
- EAP
- Employee Wellness
- Health Psychologist
- House Manager/Supervisor
- Nursing Department Managers
- Quality Improvement Specialist
- Researcher - Nursing
- Respiratory Care Manager
- Social Service
- Staff Nurses



## Second Victim Defined.....

*“Second victims are health care providers who are involved in an unanticipated adverse patient event, in a medical error and/or a patient related injury and become victimized in the sense that the provider is traumatized by the event.”*



Scott, S. D., Hirschinger, L. E., Cox, K. R., McCoig, M. M., Brandt, J., & Hall, L. W. (2009). The natural history of recovery for the healthcare provider second victim after adverse patient events. *Journal of Quality and Safety in Health Care*, 18, 325-330.

# What is a Second Victim?



A Qualitative Research Project is Initiated.....



# Qualitative Research Overview

Participants = 31

Females 58%

Average Years of Experience

- MD 7.7
- RN 15.3
- Other 17.7



Average Time Since Event = 14 months

- Range – 4 weeks to 44 months

# High Risk Scenarios

- Patient 'connects' staff member to family
- Pediatric cases
- Medical errors
- Failure to rescue cases
- First death experience
- Unexpected patient demise



# Staff Tend To 'Worry'...

## Patient

- Is the patient/family okay?

## Me

- Will I be fired?
- Will I be sued?
- Will I lose my license?

## Peers

- What will my colleagues think?
- Will I ever be trusted again?

## Next Steps

- What happens next?



# Commonly Reported Symptoms

- Extreme Fatigue
- Sleep Disturbances
- Rapid Heart Rate
- Increased Blood Pressure
- Muscle Tension
- Rapid Breathing
- Frustration
- Decreased Job Satisfaction
- Difficulty Concentrating
- Flashbacks
- Loss of Confidence
- Grief / Remorse



***“ I will never forget this experience.....This patient will always be with me – I think about her often..... Because of this, I am a better clinician! ”***

# SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

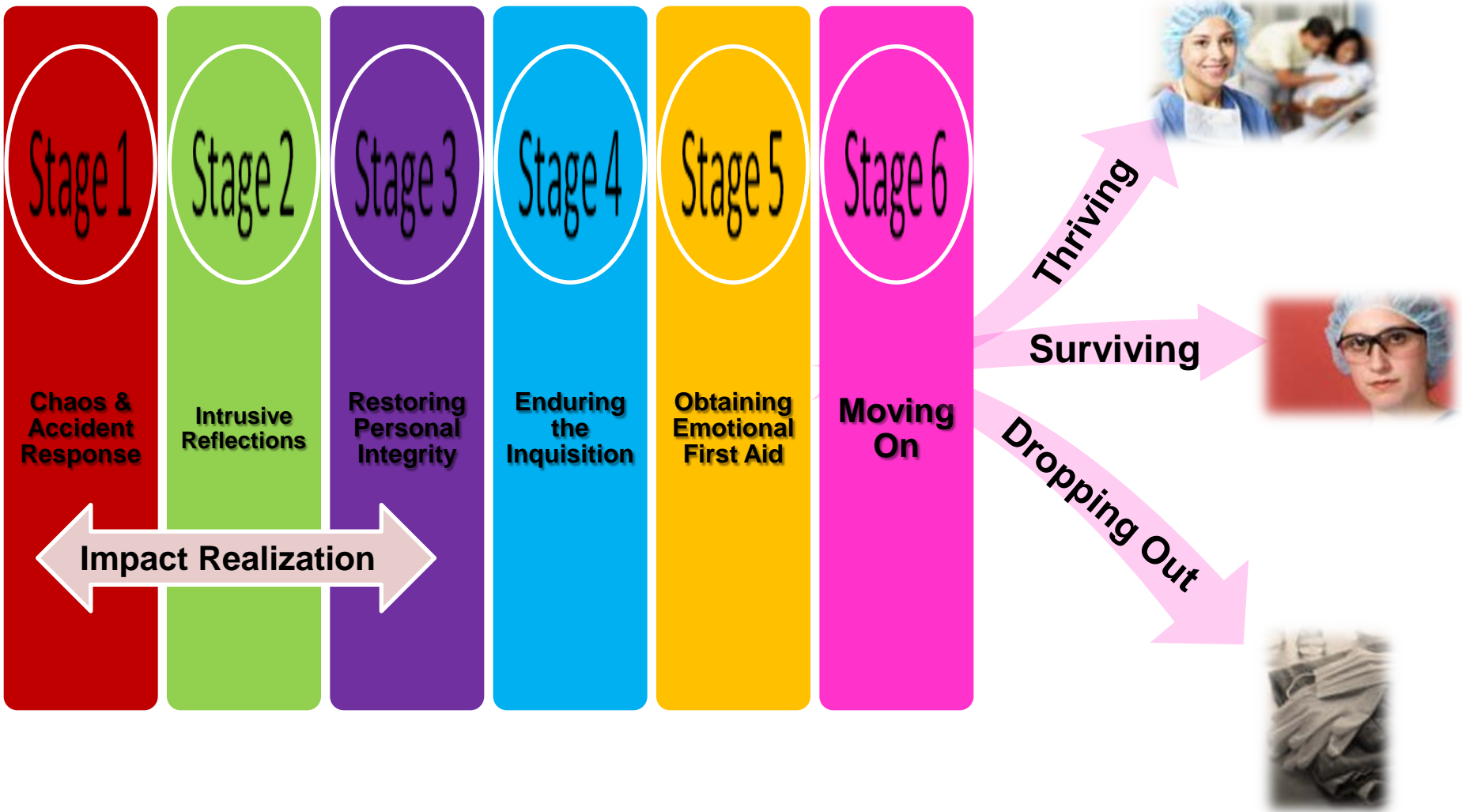
Share a clinical experience when you were personally distressed by an unanticipated patient outcome **OR** describe an event that created distress in a professional colleague.



## Report out

- Describe one of your compelling stories...
- Include:
  - De-identified patient overview
  - What happened?
  - What kind of reactions were identified?
  - What feelings/emotions were expressed?

# Second Victim Recovery Trajectory

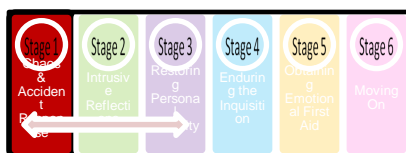




# Chaos and Accident Response



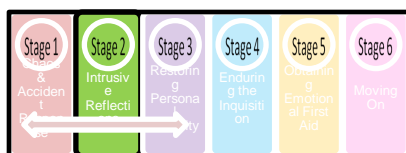
*“Right after the... code, I was having trouble concentrating. It was nice to have people take over...that I trusted. I was in so much shock I don’t think I was useful.”*



# Intrusive Reflections



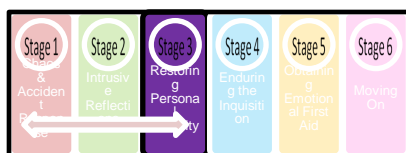
*“I started to doubt myself... There were some things that I thought maybe if I’d have done it this way it wouldn’t have happened...but everything was more clear looking at things in retrospect. I lost my confidence for some time.”*



# Restoring Personal Integrity



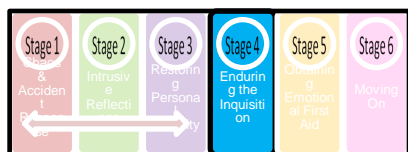
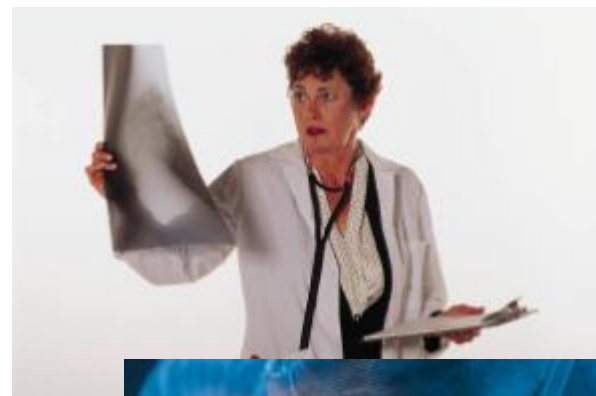
*“I thought every single day for months I’d walk in and think everyone knows what happened... I thought these people are never going to trust me again.”*



# Enduring the Inquisition

*“I didn’t know what to do or who to talk to professionally or legally.”*

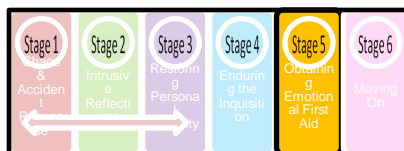
*“Clearly, I know we needed to keep that quiet - it might have been helpful to be able to talk to someone else but I couldn’t do that.”*



# Obtaining Emotional First Aid



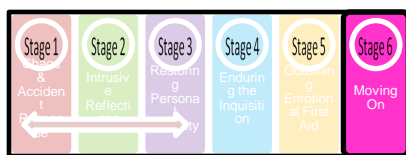
*“There was nobody I could tell, not even my husband. All I could say is I’ve had a really horrible day.”*



# Moving On....Thriving



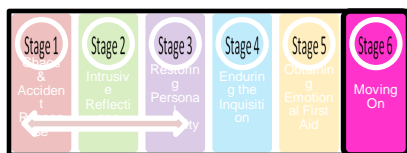
*“I was questioning myself over and over again...but then I thought ... I’ve just had this experience in my life where I had to encounter this tragedy but it made me a better person. It really did, and it gave me insight.”*



# Moving On....Surviving



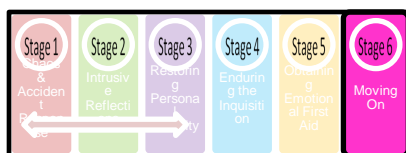
*“I figured out how to cope and how to say yes, I made a mistake. And that mistake caused a bad patient outcome but I haven’t figured out how to forgive myself for that or forget it. It’s impossible to let go.”*



# Moving On....Dropping Out

*“A fresh start was good for me.”*

*“I actually ended up moving to a different floor. My new supervisor who oriented me expressed confidence and belief in me and helped me re-grow my own sense of confidence and self belief.”*







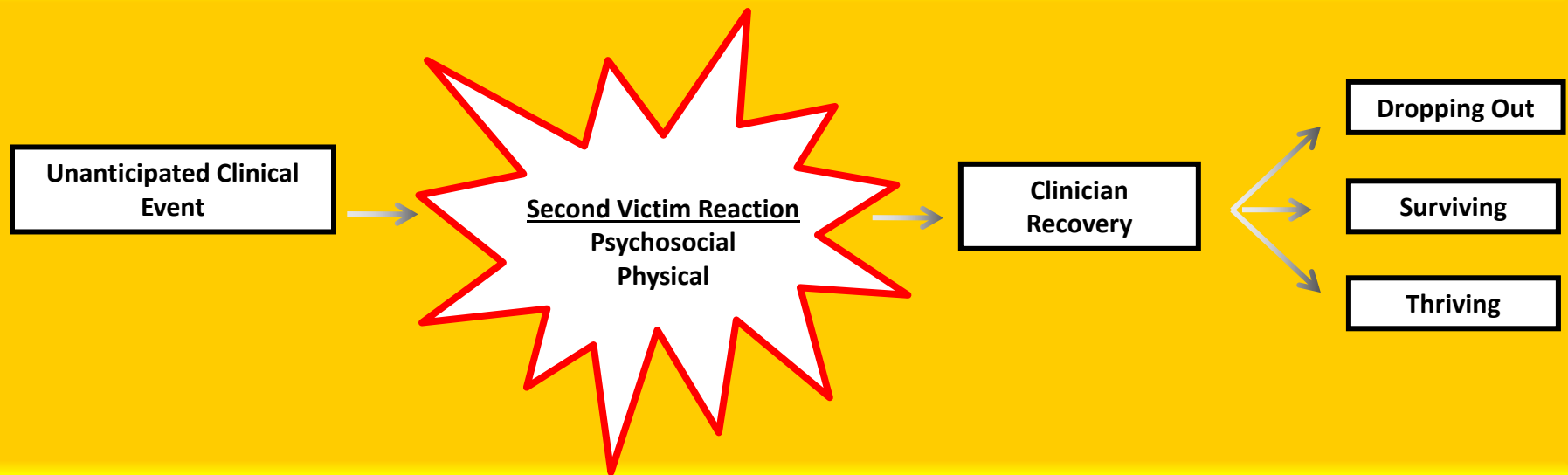
Kim Hiatt, RN

## Tripping or Triggering



Reliving the 'initial' event when an external stimulus, such as a similar clinical situation, is presented.

# Second Victim Conceptual Model



# A Second Victim Case Study



## Group Discussion.....

List potential staff member(s) that could potentially be a second victim.

What type of interventional support do you recommend (individual or team)?

When would you have the conversation?

Any special considerations?

# Questions.....

*“ I’ve seen this frequently during my 30 plus years of clinical work. How come I didn’t see it until today?”*

*Pediatric Oncologist, 2017*



# Break

