



Coming Soon: Three New Epic Tools to Support Length of Stay Improvements and End-of-Life Care

An R³ (Right Care, Right Place, Right Time) Update from

Victor Filadora, II, MD, MBA

Executive Vice President/Chief Physician Executive

Brian Snyder, MD

Medical Director, Home & Community Based Care, Palliative Care, and Research

Kathleen Donaldson, MSCSH, RN, NI-BC

Director, Clinical Navigation Center

April 23, 2026

As part of our **R³ (Right Care, Right Place, Right Time)** Length-of-Stay initiative, three new Cognitive Computing (AI) Modules are coming to Epic:

- **Likelihood of Discharge Today/Tomorrow** – April 28
- **Life Index** – April 28
- **Predictive Discharge Disposition** – June 16 (following the Epic upgrade)

These modules are designed to improve length of stay, support early discharge planning for patients with complex needs, and ensure appropriate access to palliative care services. Used along with providers' professional judgment, they help ensure patients are meeting expected goals for discharge to home, post-acute care, or palliative care.

Likelihood of Discharge Today/Tomorrow

In combination with Epic's **Cosmos Expected Date of Discharge**, the **Discharge Today/Tomorrow Module** provides a percentage score indicating a patient's likelihood of discharge. This information helps the care team better plan and streamline the discharge process to meet the desired goals.

Within the **MedSurg Discharges Patient List**, discharge likelihood is displayed as a percentage score (see below). The crystal ball icon identifies patients likely to be discharged today, while the arrow indicates those likely to be discharged tomorrow.

Tip: Documentation must be completed in real time for accurate scoring. Predictions are based on all available documentation in the patient's record.

Green Location	Patient	Attending	Room	Medically Ready?	Expected Discharge Date	DC Today or Tomorrow	Up Disch Preparation	Hospital In Home Candidate	DC Lounge	DC Voucher	DC Order	Disch Outstanding	PT Sign-off	OT Sign-off	Case Mgr Sign-off	DC Case Mgr
527-2	Taylor, Evelyn 81 y.a. / F	Stan Lapina, MD	304	35%	08/04	Crystal Ball	0%									
541-2	Reyes, Walter 77 y.a. / M	Pat Cooper, MD	304	35%	08/04	Crystal Ball	0%									
536-2	Watson, Barbara 81 y.a. / F	Stan Lapina, MD	304	35%	1 post 08/05	Crystal Ball	71%									
622-2	Stovin, Margaret 71 y.a. / F	Tary Clamann, MD	304	35%	1 post 08/05	Crystal Ball	47%									
536-1	Bartine, Luther II 84 y.a. / M	Tary Clamann, MD	304	35%	08/01	Crystal Ball	42%									
534-1	Roberts, Cindy H 88 y.a. / F	Van Patten, MD	304	35%	1 before 08/05	Crystal Ball	38%									
631-1	Loonin, Peter S 81 y.a. / M	Anneli Sanchez, MD Pat Cooper, MD	304	35%	08/01	Crystal Ball	30%									
521-1	Steen, Kevin 84 y.a. / M	Pat Cooper, MD	304	35%	08/01	Crystal Ball	0%									
631-2	Shelton, Ray S 82 y.a. / M	Pat Cooper, MD	304	35%	1 before 08/05	Crystal Ball	0%									

Discharge Monitor

Incomplete Milestones

12	9
PT Sign-off	OT Sign-off
8	34
Case Mgr	Transport
35	27
Med Rec	Discharge Order

Discharge Watchlist

9	3
EDD of Today	Post EDD
7	1
Auxiliary Orders	Discharge Delay

Tip: Hover over the **Crystal Ball** icon to view factors contributing to the percentage score.

The screenshot displays two main widgets on the left side of the dashboard:

- Predicted Discharge Today:** Features a circular progress indicator at 60%. It lists 8 milestones left, with three visible: Med Rec, Medication Received, and Post-Acute Destination Selection. There are also five more milestones not shown.
- ADT IP LIKELIHOOD TO BE DISCHARGED TODAY:** Shows a large green box with '83%' in white. Below this is a table titled 'Factors Contributing to Score' with columns for Factor, Contribution, and Most Recent Value.

Factor	Contribution	Most Recent Value
Remaining Time in Day	28%	16 hours 50 minutes 52 seconds
Discharge Order Placed?	16%	Yes
Number of IV Medications Last 24 hr?	6%	0

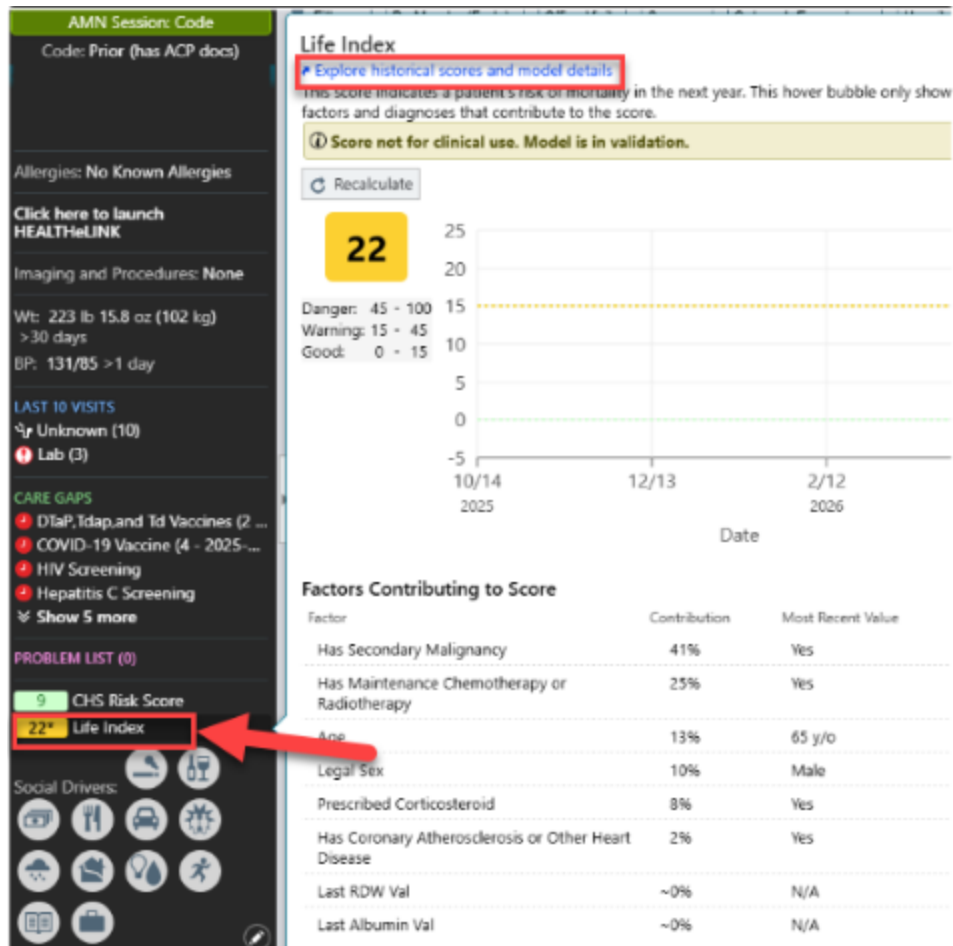
On the right side of the dashboard, there is a 'Reports' dropdown menu with 'Patient Report' selected. Below this is a section titled 'Predicted Discharge Today or Tomorrow' with a magnifying glass icon over a search bar.

Life Index

The **Life Index Module** is a predictive tool that helps identify patients who may benefit from advanced care planning and supports early identification of palliative care needs. The module is continuously updated using data from the medical record.

Tip: Hover over the **Life Index** on the Epic storyboard (see below) to view a patient's risk of mortality within the next year, along with contributing risk factors and diagnoses.

Please Note: Providers should not convey a "chance of dying" message to patients when discussing the plan of care. Conversations should focus on palliative care options and patient-centered goals.



Predictive Discharge Disposition

The **Predictive Discharge Disposition Module** supports earlier care coordination for complex discharges by prioritizing patients who are **likely to require post-acute placement**. Using the **Most Likely Discharge Disposition** column in Epic's **Patient Lists** (see below), clinicians can sort patients into the following categories based on their expected discharge disposition:

- **Unsure** – Patients with social or clinical factors that may affect discharge placement (e.g., inadequate housing) or when the model is unable to predict a likely discharge disposition.
- **Long-Term Acute Care (LTAC)**
- **Inpatient Rehab Facility (IRF)**
- **Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)**
- **Home Health**
- **Home**

Patient Lists

[Edit List](#) |
 [Tx Team](#) |
 [Open Chart](#) |
 [Flowsheets](#) |
 [Quick Doc](#) |
 [Update Encounter](#) |
 [Event Mgmt](#) |
 [Request Outside Records](#) |
 [Sign In](#)

My Patients 18 Patients

Patient Name	Admit Date	Patient Class	Bed	Exp Disch Date	Most Likely Discharge Disposition
White, Alice	04/28/2025	Inpatient	MS 150-1	🟢 05/19	⚠️ Unsure
Deveraux, Skylar	05/14/2020	Inpatient	MS Pool	🟡 05/18	🏠 LTAC
Parker, Alec	09/24/2024	Inpatient	MS 201	🟢 05/27	📊 LTAC
Spencer, Elton	04/24/2025	Inpatient	MS Pool	🟢 05/23	📊 LTAC
Smith, John	10/25/2024	Inpatient	MS 130-01	🟡 05/19	👤 Skilled Nursing
Graham, Kaoru	03/10/2025	Inpatient	130-02	🟢 05/20	📊 SNF
Hunt, Rupert	10/27/2024	Inpatient	135-01	🟢 05/19	🏠 Home
Parson, Lee	05/01/2025	Inpatient	MS 136-02	🟢 05/21	🏠 Home

Tip: Hover over the **Most Likely Discharge Disposition** column to view factors contributing to a patient's predicted discharge disposition. Click on the column to update the expected disposition in the Discharge Planning sidebar.

Likely Discharge Disposition

No user entered discharge disposition

High likelihood
LTAC

Low likelihood
HH Services or Home

PREDICTED DISCHARGE DISPOSITION
[Explore historical scores and model details](#)

Factors Contributing to Score

Factor	Contribution	Most Recent Value
Accommodation Code	46%	N/A
Age	25%	53
Past Max Inpatient LOS	24%	5 days
Admission LOS	4%	23h 7m
Level Of Care Grouper	~0%	Acute

55 more factors not shown

outside Records | [Sign In](#)

Most Likely Discharge Disposition

Unsure

LTAC

LTAC

LTAC

Skilled Nursing

SNF

10/27/2024
Inpatient
135-01
 05/19
 Home

Working Together to Improve Length-of-Stay

Together, these tools provide actionable, data-driven insights that support more informed decision-making, improved care coordination, and timely, appropriate discharge planning. By integrating predictive analytics into daily workflows, clinicians can proactively address patient needs, reduce delays, and improve overall outcomes.

Questions

If you have any questions about these Epic modules, please contact Kathleen Donaldson, Director Clinical Navigation Center, at kdonaldson3@chsbuffalo.org.

