# Maintaining Automation during EHR Conversion

Alexandra Koffman, MSN, RN, BC ; Ann Cooney, MBA, RN
Brigham and Women's Faulkner  Hospital, Quality Department

**BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S Faulkner Hospital**

## Issue

BWFH has been a member of NSQIP since 2004, and developed automation in 2007.  Since automation SCR efficiency and satisfaction increased as well as reliability. The Access NSQIP Database has evolved and grown with the changes the ACS has promoted and w*ith a change from the legacy sy*stem in Meditech to Epic there was concern that the process would change and the SCR would revert to hand abstraction.
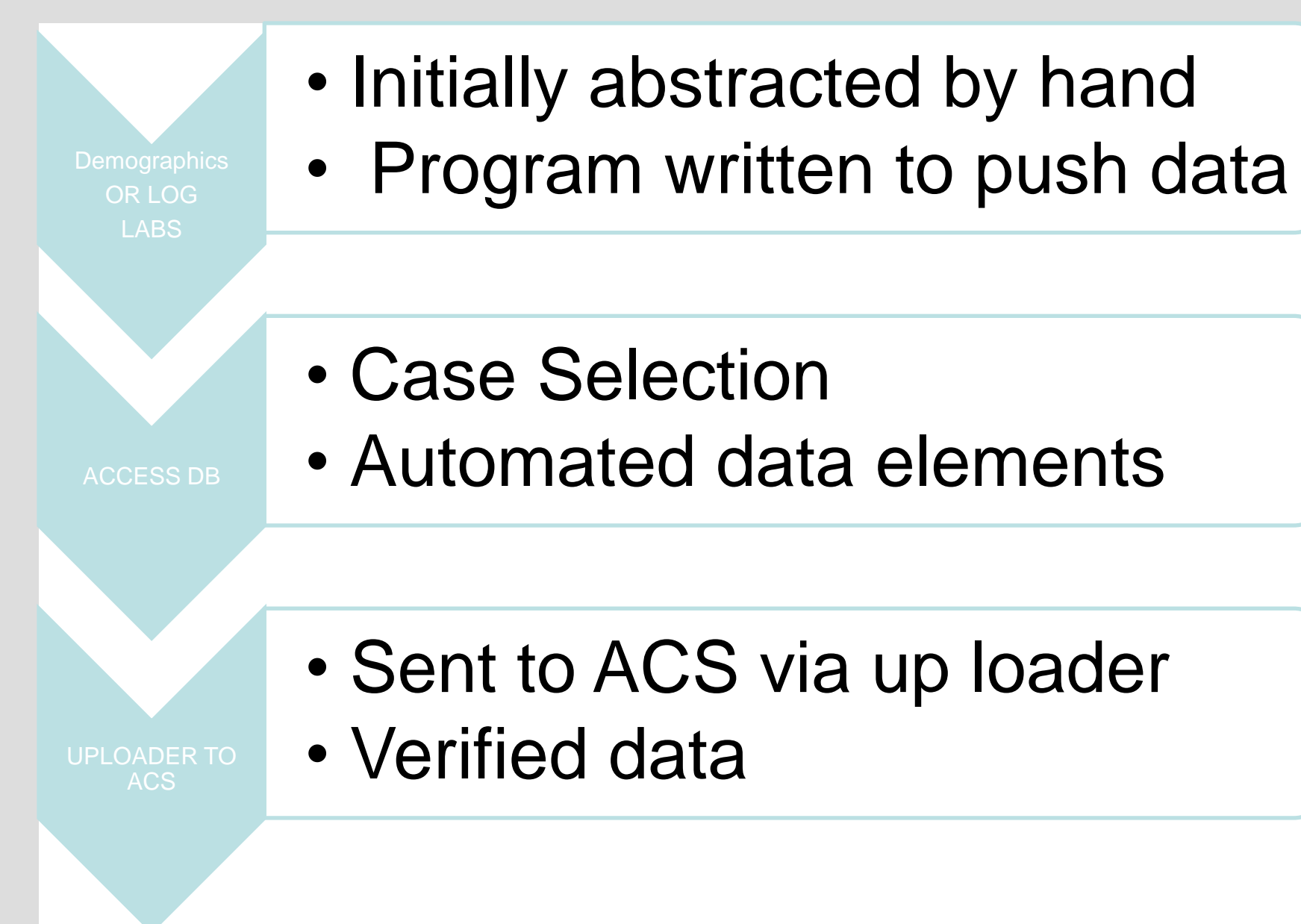
The concern was that rewriting the initial program would be too time consuming during the EHR implementation.

 With proper time and preparation automation can be preserved.

## Initial  Process

Using Meditech BWFH was able to maintain automation from 2007 to 2015.  The process was importing demographics, OR Log, and Labs into a self-developed  Access Database.

The data was scrubbed and cases were selected by the SCR. Data was converted to XML and then sent up the ACS via the uploader provided by the ACS.

- Demographics OR LOG LABS
  - Initially abstracted by hand
  -  Program written to push data
- ACCESS DB
  - Case Selection
  - Automated data elements
- UPLOADER TO ACS
  - Sent to ACS via up loader
  - Verified data

## TRANSITION PLAN

Developed a wish list of current and new items to be added to the automation process. Reviewed the spec manual due to changes since 2006.

Reviewed developers notes from 2006.

Reviewed what Epic currently offered.

Planned time off during data conversion.

Surveyed other Epic/NSQIP hospitals to see how they managed the conversion.

Cultivated relationships with Epic Programmers.

Meetings and timelines set.

## Development

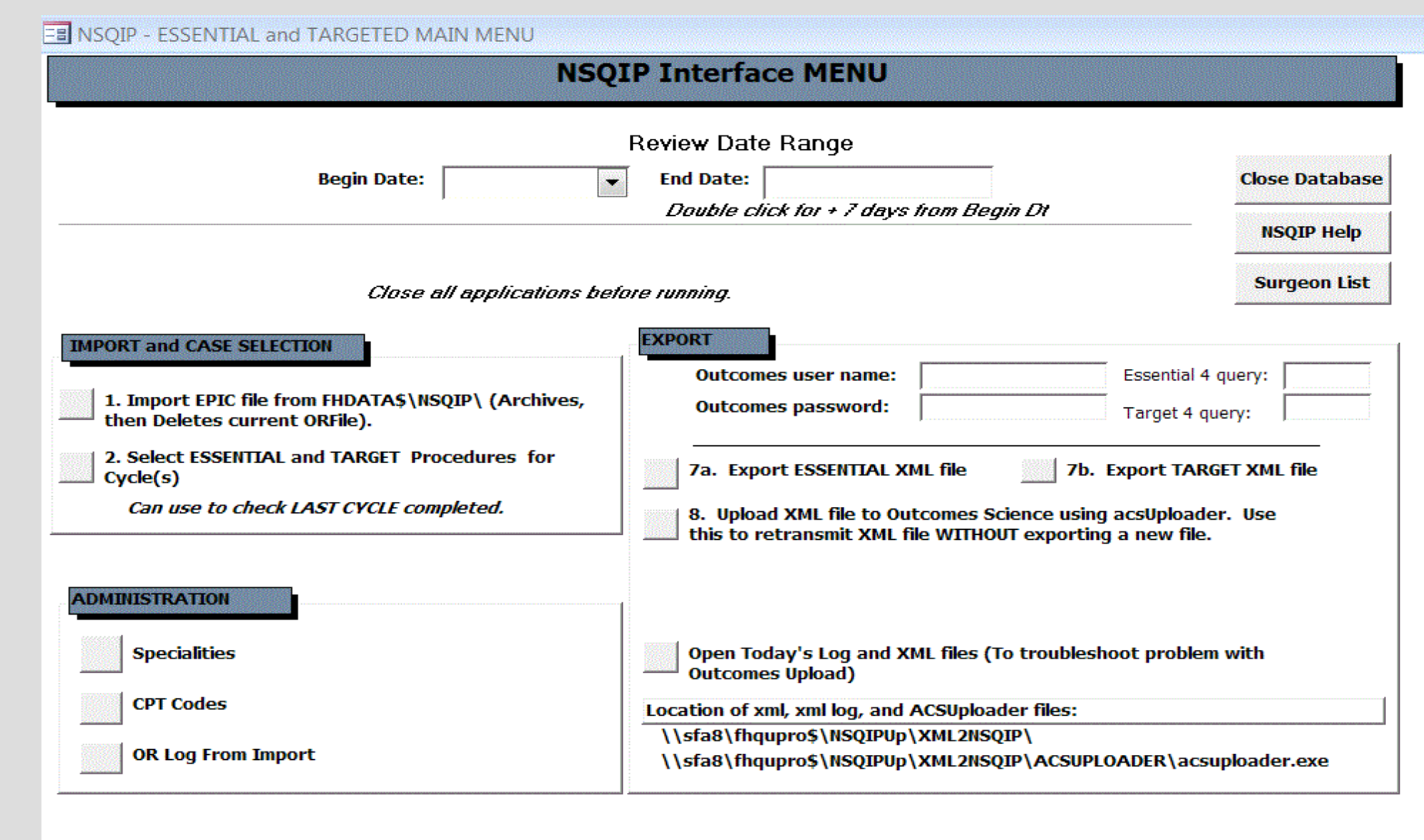Gaining agreement for mapping of fields from Epic to the Access data base.

Attended and obtained Epic certification.

Developed a system to manipulate data while maintaining HIPPA compliance.

Validate the data once Epic went live.

Tweaked the existing Access Database allowing  Epic data to follow.

Below is the Access Database Menu:



Some adjustments had to be made to the database, such as changing deleting second import, which was done for labs and has been eliminated now.



## DISCUSSION

While there were some issues the process has matured into a dependable system of uploading.

Work flows had to be altered, from upload every 8 days to one day a month for example.

Patience is needed during this time, often had to do rework.



## CONCLUSIONS

Preserving automation is worth it.

Explore what is needed for your organization.

No matter how much you pre plan, there will be hiccups with live data.

Develop a good relationship with Extract writers.

Plan lots of time for verifying the data.

## CONTACT

Alexandra Koffman, RN
BWFH
Email: akoffman@partners.org
Phone:617-983-7833