

From CTSA Pilot Funding to Health System-Wide Impact: Translating the Electronic Frailty Index (eFI) into Clinical Practice

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The eFI: from EHR data to Better Care for Older Adults

THE CHALLENGE

Frailty is a powerful predictor of adverse outcomes in older adults, but traditional assessments are time-intensive and difficult to scale.

THE INNOVATION

The eFI uses routinely collected electronic health record (EHR) data to rapidly identify frailty and enable proactive care for vulnerable older adults.

THE TRANSLATION

- **2017:** CTSI Pilot Award
- **2019:** EHR Integration
- **Today:** Embedded across the Atrium Health Southeast Market Epic Environment

IMPACT A CTSA Investment that Translates into Real-World Benefits



Improved care accessibility for vulnerable older adults



Enhanced quality of care and coordination



Better patient outcomes and quality of life



Data-driven decision making to inform population health strategies and resource allocation

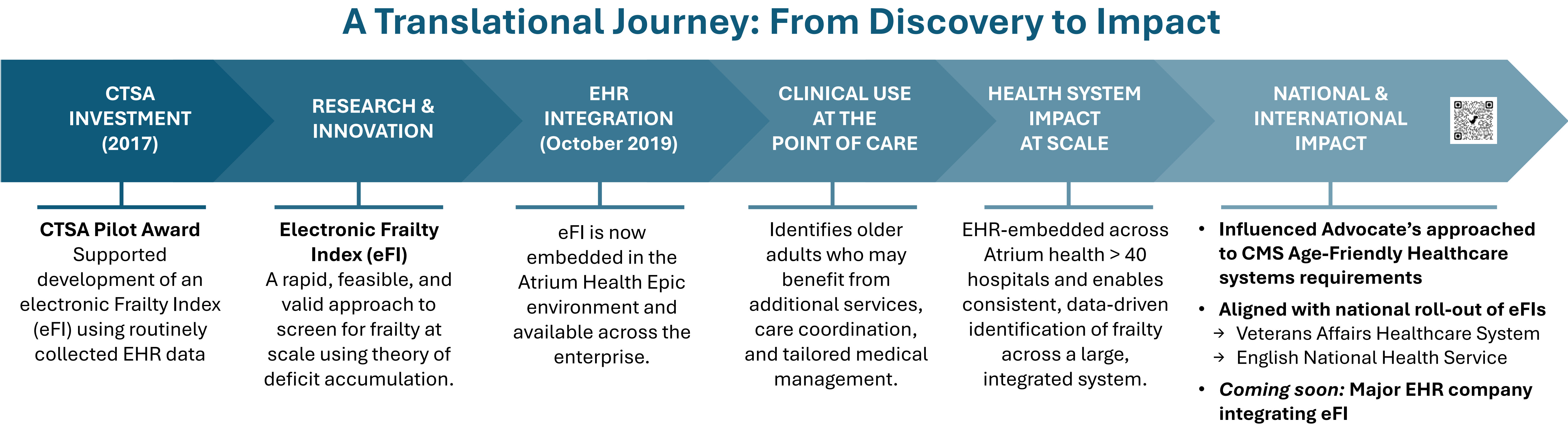


Scalable software technology driving clinical care, policy, and international impact

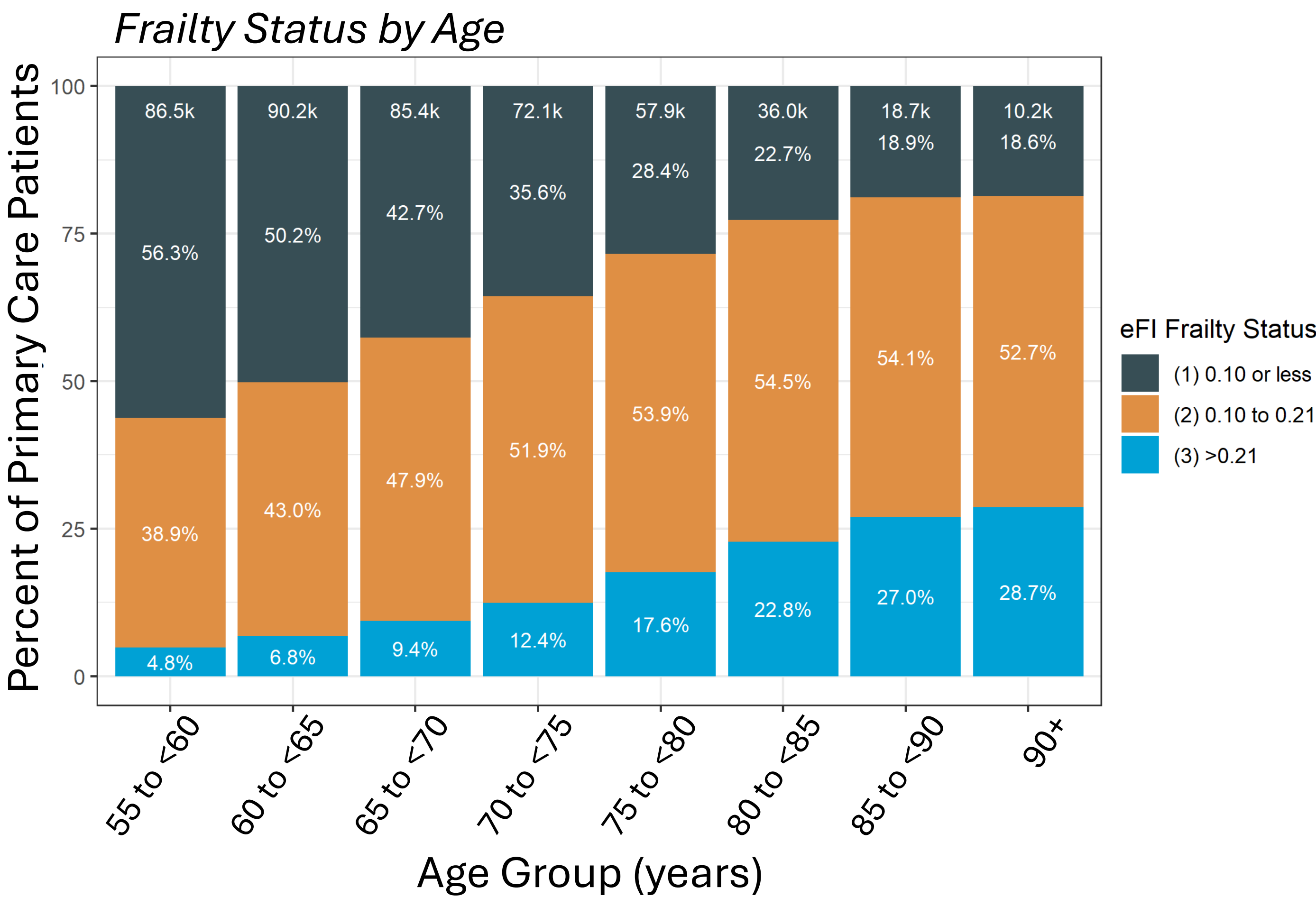


CLINICAL & MEDICAL Software Technologies

Computer programs/software used for clinical care, including software that support diagnosis, treatment, and patient care.



Snapshot of Frailty Across Atrium Health Primary Care Practices



Productivity from CTSI Pilot Award



\$2.2 Million in subsequent grant awards from the NIH, Duke Endowment, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and other sources



25+ peer-reviewed publications (400+ citations)

SELECTED eFI-RELATED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS		
Year	Journal	Citations*
2019	J Gerontology Series A	165
2021	JAMA Intern Med	103
2021	J Am Geriatric Soc	82
2021	Age Ageing	34
2021	Ann Am Thorac Soc	9
2023	JAMA Network Open	36
2024	J Gen Intern Med	14
2025	J Am Med Inform Assoc	4

*Citations according to Google Scholar (August 2026)

eFI Helps Connect Vulnerable Older Adults to the Right Services at the Right Time



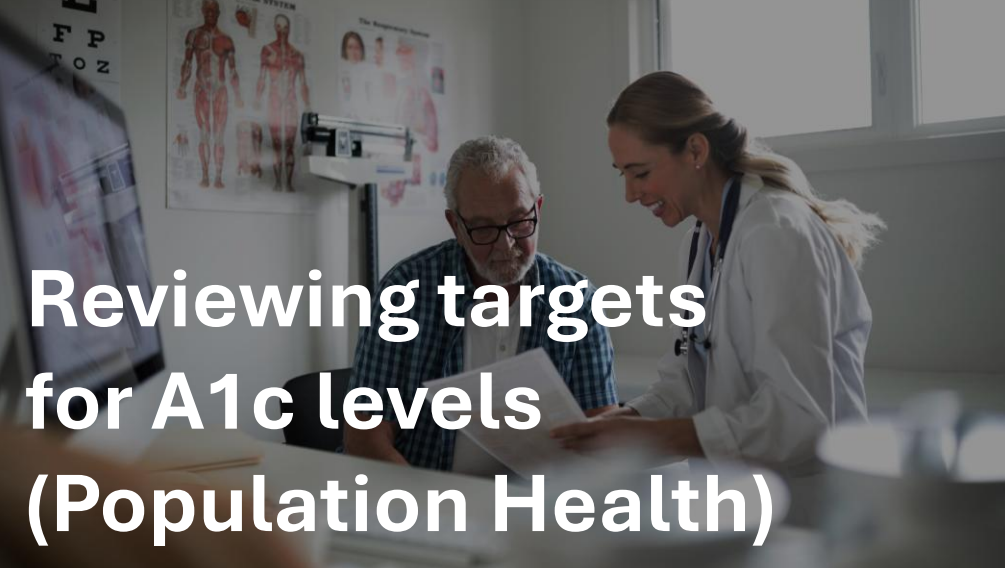
Nurse navigators for at-risk patients for readmission (Population Health)



In-person pre-operative visits (Pre-anesthesia clinic)



Post-SNF house calls



Reviewing targets for A1c levels (Population Health)



Enrollment in studies for nurse navigation in oncology, advance care planning



Outreach visits in ICU from nurses in palliative care