

# Welcome to the 2024 Fall Forum!



#### **Today's Agenda**

(details available online at ncbch.net/forum)

7:30 AM - Networking Breakfast

8:45 AM - Welcome and Introductions

9:00 AM - Compliance/Legislative Update

10:00 AM – Navigation and Transparency Strategies for Employers

11:25 AM – Innovations in Employer Benefits

11:45 PM - Networking Lunch

12:45 PM - NCBCH and National Alliance: Strategies and Initiatives

1:00 PM - High Cost Claims Mitigation for Employers

2:00 PM – Mental Health Strategies for Employers

3:00 PM - Wrap-up (and door prizes)



#### **Our Members**

## Employer Members All sizes, all industries

(at least 25 employees based in North Carolina)

#### **Affiliate Members**

Vetted benefit/HR service providers and consultants

#### **Advisory Council Members**

Key Healthcare Stakeholders dedicated to furthering our mission



#### **Our Board of Directors**

Board Chair: Paula Stop, The Fresh Market
Secretary: Brett Henderson, Charlotte Pipe
Treasurer: Kim Davis, Alex Lee
William Howard, Bernhardt Furniture
Teresa Huffman, Culp
Leigh Keener, National Gypsum
Julie Weaver, Worldwide Clinical Trials
Danielle Santacroce, Mercer
Amy Robbins, Aon

Medical Director: Bruce Sherman, MD Legal Counsel: Erin Bailey, Tuggle Duggins



#### **ABOUT NCBCH**

Formed in 2011 as a coalition of employers using their collective voice to improve the cost quality and cost of healthcare delivery systems in North Carolina.

#### **Our Mission:**

**Educate** – Promote health and wellness education. Advocate for provider performance disclosure of both quality and outcomes to help employees become better consumers of healthcare services.

**Advocate** – Create a business community with a shared vision and message on matters of healthcare policy, regulation, and legislation based on sound fiscal principles and quality standards.

**Innovate** – Seek creative, common sense solutions to improve the overall cost and quality of our healthcare delivery system.



#### **Our National Presence...**

The North Carolina Business Coalition on Health is a member of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions,

the only nonprofit, purchaser-led organization

with a national and regional structure

dedicated to driving health and healthcare value across the country



htral Penn Business Group
ealth + Dallas/Fort Worth Business Group on Health
led Cooperative on Healthcare + Employers' Forum of Indiana + 1
thcare Value + Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health + 21 Busines
Ith Services Coalition + Houston Business Coalition on Health Kansa Inness Group
uckiana Health Collaborative + Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare + Men
on Health + MidAtlantic Business Group on Health + Midwest Business Group on Health

#### NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF HEALTHCARE PURCHASER COALITIONS

on of Health Care Purchasers + Nevada Business Group on Health + New Hambon Health + New Mexico Coalition for Healthcare Value + North Carolina P + Northeast Business Group on Health + Pacific Business Group Group on Health + Healthcare Purchaser Alliand

Group on Health + Savanne Group



#### For NC Hospital Safety, Quality and Transparency









#### **2024 Fall Forum Sponsors:**

## Platinum Sponsors:





#### **Gold Sponsors:**







# Legislative and Legal Update for Employers



Mark Holloway, J.D.

Senior VP, Director of Compliance Services

Lockton



## H&W Plan Compliance Update

North Carolina Business Coalition of Health

**September 20, 2024** 

Mark Holloway, JD, Director, Compliance Consulting



#### Agenda

#### **Congress in 2024/2025**

Presidential candidates' stances on health care

ACA: what's ahead and what you need to know

Mental health and substance abuse parity update

**Rx** update and other issues

What's Brewing in Washington?

### Congress this year and beyond

- Areas of potential bipartisan action:
  - Lower health care costs; increased transparency
  - Site neutral payment reform
  - Telehealth and HDHPs (discussion to follow)
    - Current accommodation for HDHPs ends Dec. 31, 2024
- Longer term:
  - \$4T in tax cuts expire after next year
    - Largest federal tax expenditures: employer healthcare (\$3.4T) and pensions (\$2.7T)
- Solvency of Social Security, Medicare?



#### Telehealth and HSA compatibility in 2025



- CARES Act (2020) opened the door for HDHPs to cover telehealth services predeductible, without jeopardizing HSA eligibility.
  - Twice, Congress has extended this allowance.
  - Set to expire for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2025.
  - Without another extension, HDHPs could be made to go back to pre-2020 standard and charge a fair market value assessment for telehealth services.
  - What to do while we wait?

#### While we wait, what are the options?

#1

PREPARE TO CHARGE HDHP PARTICIPANTS FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES

- Telehealth vendor will generally have a FMV assessment readily available.
- If Congress acts, employers could pivot and reimburse the FMV assessments already charged with either cash or HSA contributions as desired.

#2

ASSUME THAT CONGRESS WILL EXTEND, AND UTILIZE THE 'LAST-MONTH' RULE FOR 2025

- Reliance on 'last-month rule' could be problematic for employees who terminate mid-year in 2025, or do not continue HDHP enrollment through 2026.
- Could also create challenges for employees who wish to switch from HDHP to PPO mid-year in 2025.

#3

EXPECT CONGRESS TO ACT, BUT IMPUTE INCOME EQUIVALENT TO FMV IF NECESSARY

- Same concern with mid-year termination, as imputed income would have to be applied upon any termination in 2025.
- Ability to impute income will hinge on the telehealth provider's reporting functionality and lag times.

### Trump v. Harris health policies



#### **Harris presidency**

- Medicare for all, with insurance plans
  - But likely to support ACA, including robust premium tax credits for marketplaces
- Drug pricing reforms; antitrust enforcement



#### **Trump presidency**

- Unlikely to support ACA repeal, but promote ICHRAs and off-exchange insurance
- Expanded telehealth
- IVF
- Medicare Advantage plans

ACA: What's ahead and what you need to do

#### Preventive care update

## Preventive care (nongrandfathered, CY plans):

- HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) prevention medication, including injectable drugs (2025)
- Mammograms for women, beginning at age 40 (2026)



## ACA cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) limits for 2025

\$9,200/ \$18,400

OOP LIMIT FOR NONGRANDFATHERED PLANS

OOP limit for HSA-compatible HDHPs: \$8,300/\$16,600

9.02%\*

AFFORDABILITY THRESHOLDS
PERCENTAGE FOR SAFE HARBORS

Increased from 2024 to 2025 \*W-2, rate of pay or FPL

\$113.20\*

MAXIMUM EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION FOR FPL SAFE HARBOR

> \$15,060 FPL x 9.02% \*Single coverage

\$2,900/\$4,350

EMPLOYER MANDATE PENALTIES (TIER 1, TIER 2)

#### Other COLA limits for 2025

**\$8,300/\$16,600**OOP limit for HDHP

\$1,650/\$3,300\*
HDHP minimum
deductible

\*If deductible embedded, \$3,300 minimum required!

\$4,300/\$8,550
Annual HSA
contribution maximum

\$1,000
Annual catch-up
contribution maximum

**TBD** 

Maximum FSA contribution (est. \$3,300) Parking, commuter (est. \$325/month)

## Mental health and substance abuse parity

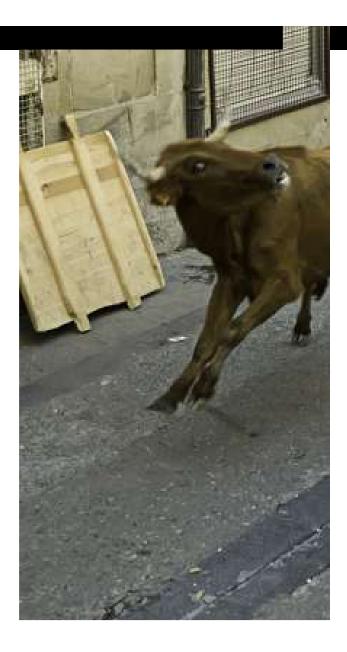
#### Mental health remains a focus

- The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA)
  requires plans that offer medical/surgical and mental
  health/substance use disorder benefits to ensure the benefits
  are treated relatively the same.
- CAA mandates that plans proactively conduct a comparative analysis of the NQTLs to demonstrate parity in written provisions and operations.
  - Most plan sponsors adopt the carrier or TPA's policies, standards and procedures when it comes to plan administration and don't have extensive (or any) knowledge of how the carrier is doing things.
- Final regulations issued last week



### Highlights of final rules

- Rules codify requirement for plans to have comparative analysis completed if Feds ask for it
  - Regs outline content requirements of analysis
    - 10 business days to respond to agency request
  - Better yet: duty to notify participants if Feds determine plan is not is compliance
  - Unclear to the extent insurers/TPAs/carveout vendors will help with required comparative analysis
- Good news: Feds punt on how parity applies to telehealth; no fiduciary certification of compliance (just prudent process in selection/analysis/ monitoring of service providers)
- Bad news: "meaningful benefit" requirement (2026); no exhaustive list of NQTLs; most requirements effective in 2025.
- Court challenge to rules very likely



## Other issues for 2025 considerations



### A focus on fiduciary governance

- Johnson & Johnson sued as health plan sponsor for allegedly failing to ensure plan costs were reasonable
  - New lawsuit against Wells Fargo
- Concern about future class action lawsuits by participants vs. employers:
- Ensuring appropriate fiduciary governance:
  - Monitoring of other fiduciaries and service providers
  - Ensuring payment of only necessary and reasonable plan expenses

## Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity

- Coverage of gender-affirming care and federal regulation:
  - U.S. Supreme Court ruled (2015) Title VII of civil rights law prohibits workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
    - Benefit-related litigation, including 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit case (AL, GA, FL), 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit (MD, NC, SC, VA, WV) case on Medicaid, state employee plans
- ACA Section 1557 regulations:
  - Prohibits discrimination on basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability in covered health programs or activities, but only applicable to covered entities.
  - New final regulations issued implementation halted due to lawsuit
- Religious Freedom Restoration Act



### Prescription weight loss drugs

- Certain diabetes drugs are FDAapproved to be prescribed and used for weight loss.
- These medications are expensive and a high percentage of people will remain on the drug indefinitely.
- There are ACA and ADAAA issues.

### Rx coupons and OOP maximums

- Coupon maximization programs:
  - Feds <u>will propose</u> that all covered drugs are considered essential health benefits (EHBs) that apply toward plan's OOP limit.
    - Would kill coupon maximization programs once implemented.
- HIV & Hepatitis Policy Institute v. HHS:
  - Struck down 2021 rule allowing group health plans and carriers from excluding copay assistance from counting toward deductible and OOP max.
  - Status quo for now.

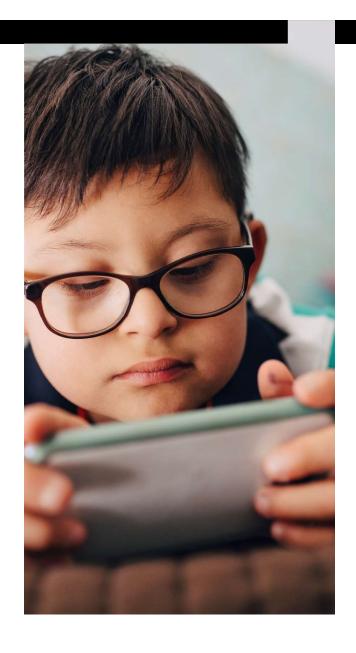


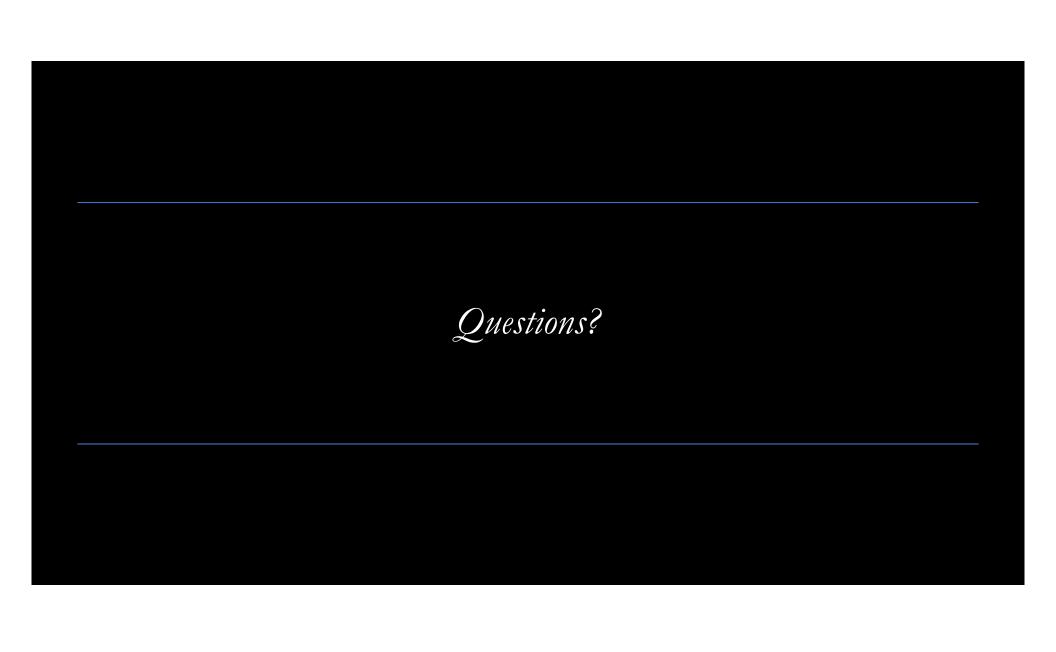
### HIPAA and reproductive rights

- <u>Final rules</u> restrict uses and disclosures of PHI for certain non-health care purposes, such as:
  - To conduct a criminal, civil, or administrative investigation into any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care.
  - To impose criminal, civil, or administrative liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care.
- Employer health plans will need to:
  - Issue updated privacy notice by February 2026.
  - Revise HIPAA training, policies and procedures to address new requirements.

#### Other issues to watch

- Chevron doctrine overturned
- 2025 Rx creditable coverage
- DOJ task force on provider consolidation
- DOL settlements with life insurers
- BCBS class action settlement
- Gag clause attestation





## Independence changes everything.



#### **Navigation and Transparency Strategies for Employers**



Moderator
William Howard,
Senior Vice President
Bernhardt Furniture Company

#### **Panelists:**



Jesse C James, MD, Chief Medical Information Officer, apree health

"Data and technology foundation, engaging navigation, and an integrated care team"



Steven Santangelo, SVP of Employer Sales, Garner Health

"Doctor analytics and innovative incentives to drive employees to bestperforming doctors"



Bill Kampine, Cofounder and SVP, Healthcare Bluebook

"Complete price and quality navigation as simple as Green-Yellow-Red"



Carolyn Riva, VP Sales Operations, Quantum Health

"Human-centered, techempowered navigation and care coordination platform"



Anoop Sangha, MD, VP Clinical Programs, Transcarent

"Instant benefits navigation, clinical guidance, and care delivery in one place via Al and clinicians."

#### Innovations in Employer Health/Wellness Benefits

## \*Quick Rounds\* 4 Innovators for Employer Health

### **Format**

Each speaker will have <u>only</u> 5 minutes to convey their innovative product/service



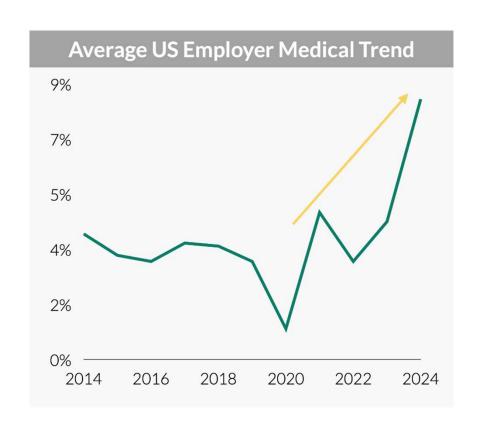
#### **Innovator #1:** Garner Health

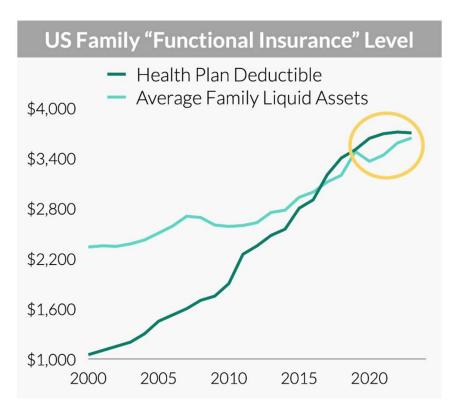
# garner





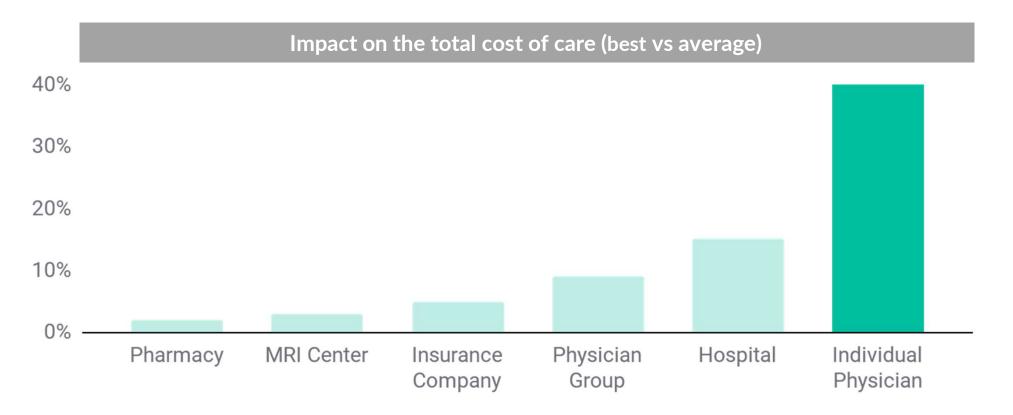
## Medical trend is accelerating and employers need new solutions that do not simply shift cost to employees





Source: Data from Aon, Kaiser Family Foundation and US Federal Reserve

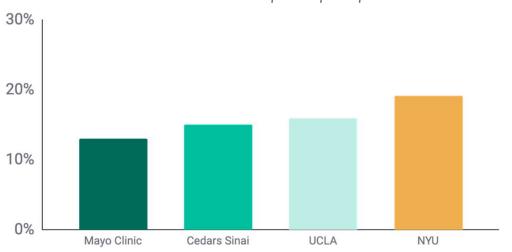
Proprietary & confidential. Do not distribute

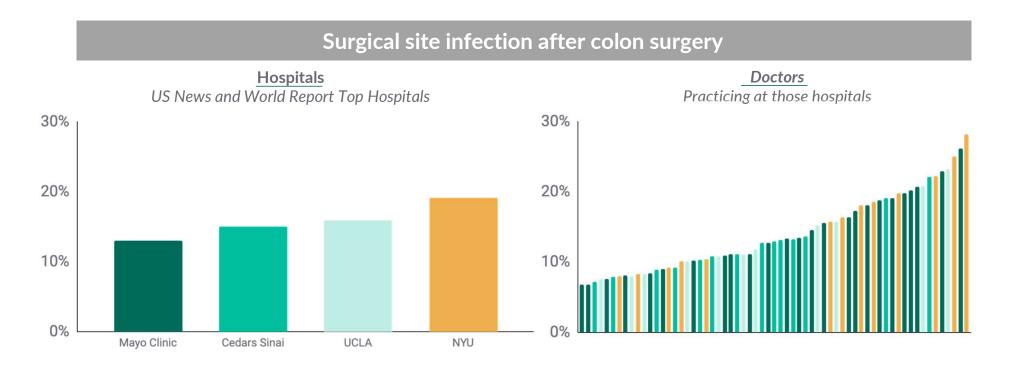


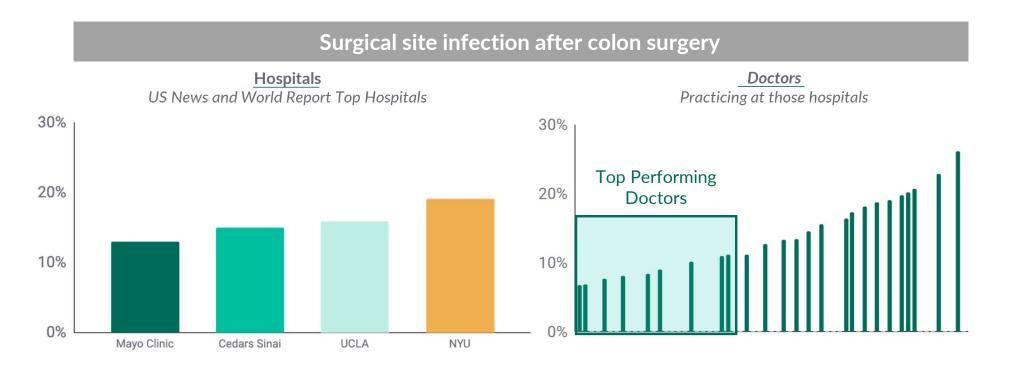
Proprietary & confidential. Do not distribute

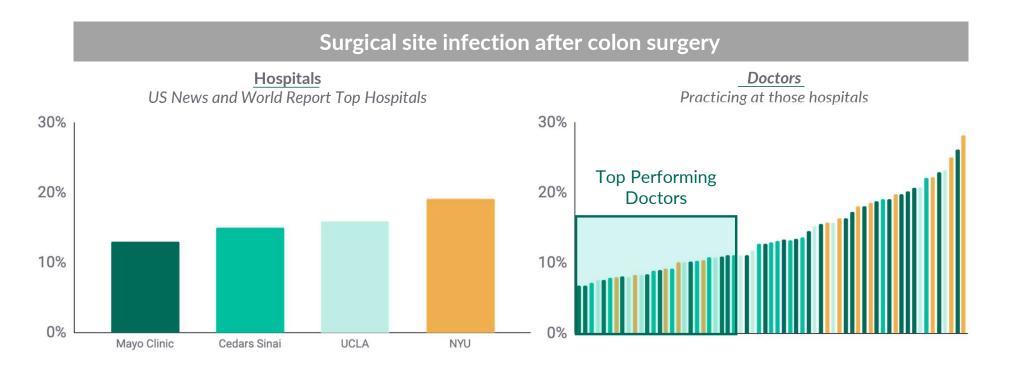
### Surgical site infection after colon surgery











Garner is a simple plan addition that uses more accurate doctor analytics and innovative incentive accounts to drive members to the best performing doctors in the existing network.

A NON-DISRUPTIVE SOLUTION WITH GAME-CHANGING BENEFITS



for fully insured and self funded employers

## Innovator #2: Progyny







North Carolina Business Coalition on Health

**Dan Ferguson** 

September 2024



# The status quo isn't working for modern workforces



### 1 in 6

People struggle with infertility and many more require family building assistance<sup>1</sup>

### 1 in 5

Women of childbearing age have 2 or more chronic conditions<sup>2</sup>

1 in 5

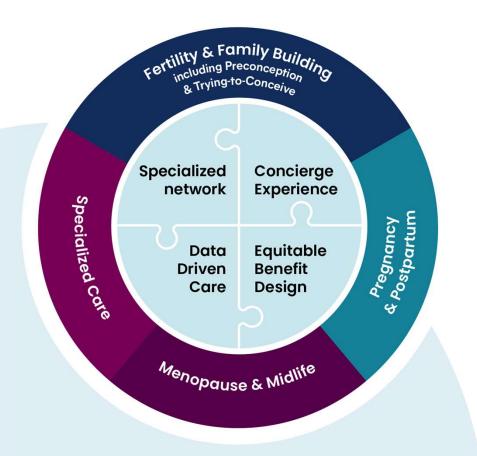
Women experience a perinatal mental health condition <sup>3</sup> 59%

Missed work due to menopause symptoms, 18% for 8 weeks or more<sup>4</sup>

Major gaps exist for priorities in their lives – impacting retention, health outcomes, DE&I and financial well-being.

1. CDC; infertility prevolence for heterosexual women, https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/what-is-infertility/index.html | 2. Commonwealth Fund, Health Care for Women of Reproductive Age | 3. BGH, 2023 Large Employers Health Care Strategy and Plan Design Survey | 4. Impact of Perimenopause and Menopause on Work - Newson Health Menopause Society (nhmenopausesociety.org)

### Driving a cohesive care experience



### Delivering superior outcomes is in our DNA



**Specialized network** of the nation's top fertility and women's health specialists



**Concierge support** 1:1 and matched to members for their entire journey, paired with robust digital experience



**Data-driven care** enabling proactive member outreach, client-level reporting with unique visibility on member outcomes



**Equitable benefit design** that enables coverage and access to evidence-based care and Rx, personal to each member

### Actively managed network delivers highest quality care, at scale



## Premier network of fertility and women's health specialists

including reproductive endocrinologists, reproductive urologists, embryology labs, menopause specialists and women's primary care

1,000+ leading reproductive specialists

50-state access to menopause specialists appts within one week

Only solution with a curated network of top Reproductive Urologists

- Progyny credentials every provider in network to ensure members see highest quality providers
- Rigorous oversight and monitoring with proprietary scorecards to ensure bestpractice care
- Direct integration with every provider enables proactive intervention, clientspecific outcomes
- Removes financial and logistical barriers with preferred scheduling, streamlined billing and EOBs
- Delivers cost control and transparency;
   Progyny negotiates discounted bundled case rates with each clinic



## What's missing in other models? **Dedicated, personalized care.**

- Members are paired to perfect dedicated Patient Care Advocate through MemberMatch
- PCAs provide culturally competent support for every journey and person, no matter sexual orientation, gender, income, relationship status, geography, family building path, life stage
- ~15+ minutes per call
- PCAs are clinically integrated into the member's journey, allowing proactive, outbound outreach at critical points of care

### **Highly Experienced Experts**













PCAs are RNs, doulas, social workers, adoption and surrogacy coaches, L&D nurses, lactation & menopause specialists, embryologists, andrologists, clinical psychologists and other trained experts

### One digital experience to communicate easily, track next steps and manage health



- Instantly connect with your dedicated care team through secure messaging and click-to-call
- Personalized next steps with curated home screen dashboard and to-do items synced with the member's journey
- Online scheduling with experts in family building, maternal health and menopause
- Approachable, on-demand education covering preconception, fertility, nutrition, pregnancy, postpartum, menopause, etc.



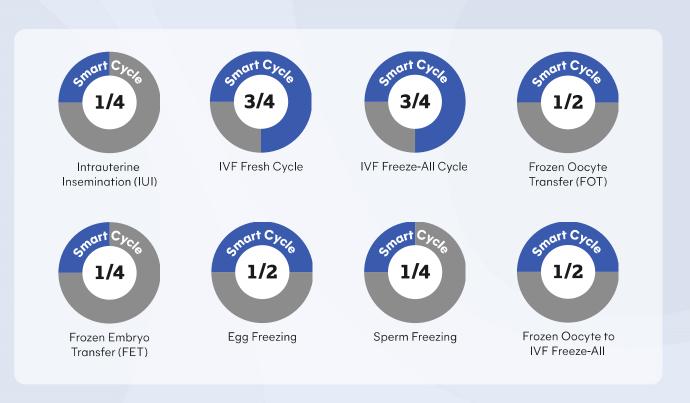
## Equitable and comprehensive benefit design

#### Meets members' needs

- Easy to understand
- Mirrors how members engage with healthcare for other medical conditions
- Works for any member, for any journey
- Alleviates member anxiety and stress

#### **Delivers what employers want**

- Ability to cap benefit without compromising care
- Ensures members aren't pushed to unnecessary treatments
- Allows for full visibility into fertility spend



## **Innovator #3: Capital Rx**













**VALUES** 

**ALIGNMENT** 

**TECHNOLOGY** 

**MISSION**: Change the way drugs are priced and patients are serviced to ensure enduring social change.

Culture of caring
Technology focused
Results driven organization

MISSION: Separate GPO Economics (making money on drugs) from Administrative Economics (cost to operate a benefit plan).

Acquisition cost-based pricing, NADAC

Eliminate MAC appeals

Strengthen pharmacy relationships

**MISSION:** Give the country the electronic infrastructure we need for the health care we deserve.

Unequaled investment

Unmatched scale & interoperability

Unrivaled in current or future capabilities



## Let Us Bring Your Pharmacy Plan Into the 21st Century standard for healthcare technology

### **LEGACY PLATFORMS**





## Capital Rx At A

Glance owing healthcare



275+ Active Clients



3 Million Member Lives



Commercial, Medicare, & Medicaid



Founded in 2017 | 700+ Employees



65,000+ Pharmacies In-Network



Next generation enterprise platform

**IMPLEMENTATION SATISFACTION** 

100% 99.6%

CLIENT **RETENTION**  130%

YOY GROWTH RATE

**88 NPS** 

PATIENT SURVEY **NET PROMOTER SCORE** 

**INDUSTRY AVERAGE: 9 NPS** 

**96 NPS** 

**CLIENT SURVEY NET PROMOTER SCORE** 

INDUSTRY AVERAGE: 14 NPS















## Capital Rx Serves Over 200 Large Commercial Plan Sponsors

LARGE EMPLOYERS



























**LABOR** 











**PUBLIC & EDUCATION** 





















**HEALTHCARE** 



















### **Innovator #4: Summus**







Better access. Better Decisions. Better outcomes.

Innovating in Clinical Navigation and Specialty Care

### The Challenge for Employers



- Complex conditions
- Specialty Rx
- Providers driving overuse of the healthcare system
- Poor treatment pathways drive longer term cost

Runaway costs, higher risk, non-optimal care pathways

- Limited access, poor experiences, lack of trust
- Low health literacy
- Avoidance of care
- Employee overuse of the healthcare system

Employees and families are confused & overwhelmed



A simple premise drives our business model

**Speed of access** to high quality medical expertise drives better decisions and fundamentally changes health outcomes.

We put high quality doctors in the middle of all questions

74% of adults rank physicians as trustworthy – the highest of all professions.

### Our marketplace model accelerates access to leading physicians across the country











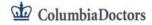


























































### Why Employers Value Summus

Summus member challenges – in their words

"I am struggling with migraines.

I don't know what to do."

"Which doctor is right for me? What tests do I need? What questions do I ask?

I don't know where to go."

"I wish I had a doctor in the family.

I have nobody I can turn to for help or guidance."

"I feel like everything is on my shoulders."

"Healthcare is so complicated. I don't know which specialist I should see."

"I wish I had more than 10 minutes with my specialist. I have so many questions."



# Expertise across the continuum of care

A platform that puts high quality doctors at the center of questions big and small. We support employees at any point in their journey.



### **Our Solutions**

Clinical Navigation + Specialty

Integrated clinical navigation with access to 120+ specialties

- Doctor-led clinical navigation and specialty care platform providing quick access to high-quality physicians across the continuum of care, driving better, more cost-efficient health outcomes.
- Access the world's best physicians across 120+ specialties and put doctors – the most trusted party in healthcare – at the center of all health journeys.
- Personalized physician referrals tied to quality and cost metrics with clinical overlay.
- A trusted guide to our members across any health journey.

2 End-to-end Condition Support Programs

**Summus Oncology** 

Comprehensive, personalized support across prevention and screening, diagnosis and treatment, and ongoing monitoring and testing phases of a cancer journey.

Summus Musculoskeletal

Best-in-class MSK program to support surgical, non-surgical, and physical therapy needs for members.

**Summus Women's Health** 

Supporting women's health across stages of life, from adolescence to child-bearing to midlife, menopause and senior adults.

**Summus Heart Health** 

Cardiovascular program with focused expert driven education, navigation and advocacy for cardiovascular disease prevention and diagnoses with a national specialist network Benefits and Plan Navigation

**Navigation and support for families** 

- Support families to navigate insurance plan and benefits offering.
- Questions surrounding plan design, copays, co-insurance, deductibles, and procedure coverage.
- Point solution integration and referrals
- Guiding to other ecosystem vendors to drive engagement and utilization with existing solutions.
- Pre-admit, post discharge planning
- Billing questions and support
- Guiding members and their families around EOB's and invoices.
- Helping to understand what to do next and steps for billing resolution.



### A Powerful Platform to Drive Better Outcomes

**9.4** Member feedback on Summus (1-10)

**9.3** Physician feedback on Summus (1-10)



98%

Better understood health concerns

**53%** 

Changed treatment paths

**51%** 

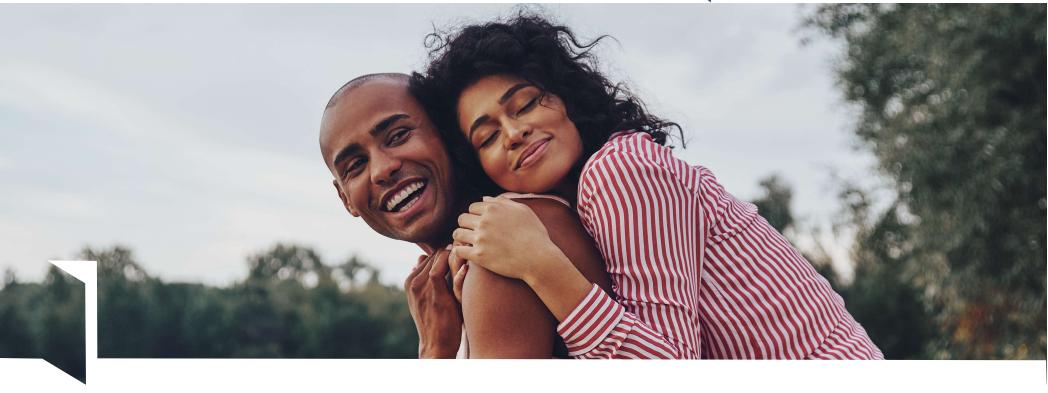
Modified diagnosis

34%

Avoided Surgeries







## Thank you

Innovating in Clinical Navigation and Specialty Care

## A Look Forward at National Alliance Strategies and Initiatives



## **Shawn Gremminger**

President/CEO
National Alliance of Healthcare
Purchaser Coalitions



### National Alliance Strategic Framework







A healthcare system that delivers affordable, high-quality, equitable care for employers, other purchasers, and the people they serve.



Empower purchasers with and through coalitions to enable effective and scalable solutions that improve access to fair-priced, high-quality, equitable care.



Partnering with like-minded groups, coalitions, employers, and purchasers, the National Alliance advocates for health policies that drive market competition, transparency, fair pricing, and affordability at federal and state levels.



Communicate the challenges and vision of healthcare purchasers in the healthcare ecosystem and demonstrate the value of the member coalitions as changemakers, working with aligned organizations to bolster the voice of coalitions, employers and purchasers.



Develop and disseminate high impact tools, resources, and best practices for coalition management, as well as opportunities for networking and sharing across coalitions. This enables a flourishing movement with existing coalitions retaining and recruiting members, and new coalitions forming in markets where they don't currently exist.

# High Cost Claims Mitigation for Employers



## Christine Hale, MD

Chief Medical Officer Lockton



## High-Cost Claims Initiative: Employer Actions to Address High-Cost Claims

September 2024



### What's Really Driving Employer Health Plan Costs?

0.6% of a population drives 35% of employers'

spend

Health care inflation is driven by price increases, not utilization, think new medical and Rx technologies



High-cost claims are different

High-cost claimants are made up of cancers, kidney failure, sepsis, complex newborns and hemophilia



Specialty Medicines, especially injectables, are the fastest-growing driver of high-cost claimants

High-Cost Claimant
Predictive Analytics can **sometimes** identify
these individuals and
target early interventions



Chronic conditions are the direct cause of less than a quarter of medical and pharmacy claims over \$50,000 (high-cost claims)



**Source:** Lockton Companies.

#### Stop Loss Market Overview 2023

Cancer has been the top condition for over a decade. This year, CV took the #2 spot for the first time ever. Neonate claims continue to rise

The top 10 conditions have contributed to 72% of total reimbursements.

87% of employers had a stop loss claim from 2019 – 2022.



Sources: Sun Life 2024 High-cost claim and injectable drug trends analysis.

#### Top 20 High-Cost Claim Conditions

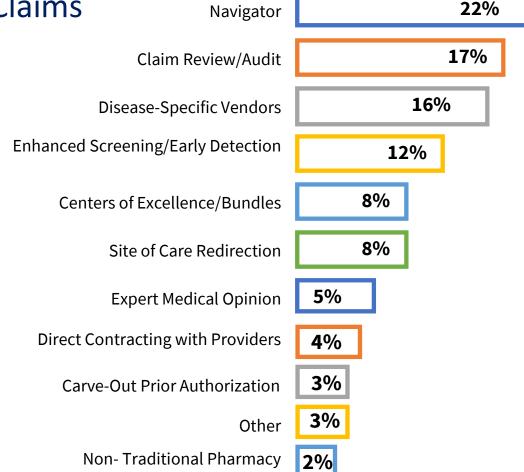
#### **STOP LOSS CLAIM REIMBURSEMENTS**

2023 rank	4 Year rank	Condition/Disease/Disorder	2023 reimbursements	2020-2023 reimbursements
1	1	Malignant Neoplasm	\$415.6M	\$1.31B
2	2	Cardiovascular	\$165.8M	\$510.4M
5	3	Leukemia, Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma	\$96.2M	\$461.2M
3	4	Newborn/Infant Care	\$140.8M	\$408.1M
4	5	Orthopedics/Musculoskeletal	\$121.8M	\$389.0M
7	6	Respiratory	\$81.6M	\$287.9M
9	7	Sepsis	\$79.4M	\$285.4M
6	8	Gastrointestinal	\$87.0M	\$273.8M
8	9	Neurological	\$79.4M	\$263.4M
12	10	Urinary/Renal	\$55.7M	\$224.1M
10	11	Physician Treatment*	\$63.7M	\$193.5M
11	12	Congenital Anomaly (structural)	\$56.8M	\$185.6M
29	13	COVID-19	\$6.8M	\$135.0M
13	14	Mental and Behavioral Health	\$38.1M	\$121.5M
15	15	Cerebrovascular	\$29.8M	\$110.5M
17	16	Hemophilia/Bleeding	\$28.8M	\$104.1M
16	17	Malnutrition	\$29.6M	\$98.9M
18	18	Transplant	\$27.3M	\$98.8M
14	19	Blood and Blood-Forming Organs	\$33.2M	\$94.7M
19	20	Immune System	\$25.0M	\$91.8M

#### Strategies to Address High-Cost Claims

How satisfied are you with your strategies?

- Not satisfied, I know there is more that can be done.
- My lack of satisfaction is with understanding how the claims are being calculated, what criteria is being used to determine the claims and how stop loss insurance is calculated.
- ... I'm disgusted at how much is being passed along to the plans regarding facility fees and medical devices.
   HCA charges an outrageous amount for implanted devices. I'd love to delve more into this because our large cost claimants have been largely due to the extreme markup on medical devices
- We are not satisfied with the current strategies we have in place to mitigate high-cost claims.
- We feel there is more that can be done at the level of care management.
- At the starting line

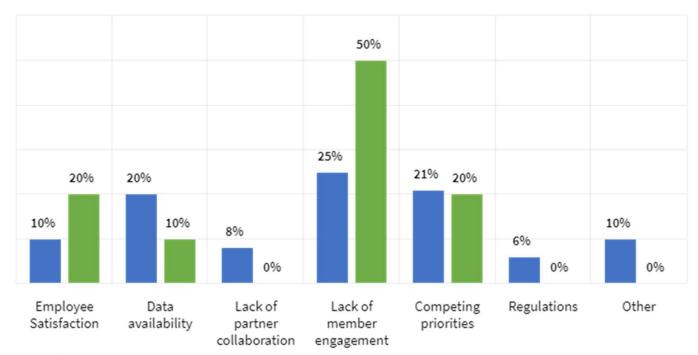




Other: Disease-specific programs through medical and Rx TPAs, such as Diabetes management, Blue Distinction Centers, etc.; On site medical clinic free for employees and their covered dependents 16+ to use; bundling stop loss w/ TPA so TPA has skin in the game

#### Barriers encountered while trying to address HCCs









# Conditions that make up your largest HCC spend

	Clinical Conditions	
Cancer	23%	
Cardiovascular	15%	
Immune conditions	13%	
Diabetes/Kidney Disease	10%	
Genetic conditions	9%	
Musculoskeletal	9%	
Infections	6%	
Neonates	5%	
Rare disease	2%	
Trauma/burns	1%	
Mental/behavioral health	1%	
Other	6%	

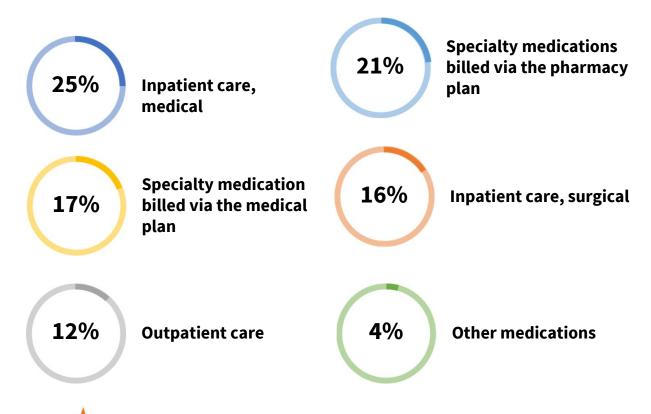
**Other Conditions:** Transplant; Neonatal; skin and subcutaneous tissue (1), ne system (2), digestive system (3); High Risk Pregnancy; Autism/Cerebral Palsy

# Secondary/co-morbid conditions that make up your largest HCC spend

	Secondary Co/morbid Conditions
Cardiometabolic	37%
Obesity	35%
Mental/behavioral health	10%
Infections	10%
Other	10%

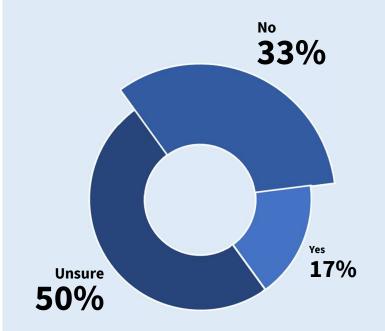
Other Secondary/co-morbid conditions: Complex GI conditions; Secondary tumors; Transplants and preemies; 57% of our HCC's have a mental health diagnosis. Number of members presenting with MH issues are going to continue to increase due to de-stigmatization of MH. We have partnered with a local MH resiliency group for first responders, and implemented a MH leave program for employee's who present with life threatening MH issues/emergencies.

#### Type of care having the greatest impact



Driving Health, Equity and Value

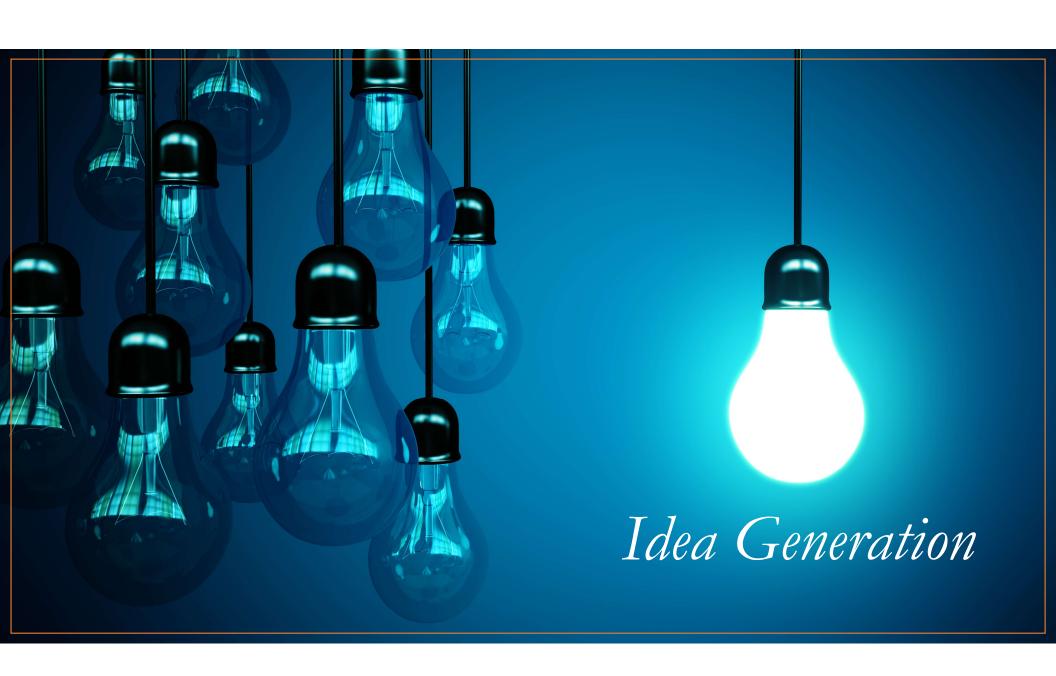
Are there certain providers contributing to disproportionate spend?



#### Concerns about future HCCs

Driving Health, Equity and Value





#### One Size Does NOT Fit All

- While there are common themes, the approach to managing high cost and clinically complex cases can **vary significantly** from employer to employer
- **Tactics range** from clinical interventions (e.g., second opinions, clinical trial access) to cost effectiveness tactics (e.g., site of care, drug formulation) to billing accuracy to plan design changes
- A combination of member-specific and program-level interventions will yield the greatest impact
- Understanding the nuances of what is driving a given plan's large claims experience is crucial to creating a plan that works.... **Data is key!**
- Employers should engage partners who are willing to collaborate. It takes a village.
- Continued vigilance, nimbleness, and innovation cannot be overlooked. New issues will continue to emerge over time

#### Sample Deep Dive Areas

- Cancer What cancer types are most common? Are they screenable? What age are the affected members? Were they early or late stage? What type of care is driving cost (Rx vs IP vs OP)? If Rx, what are the most common medications? Where is the care being rendered?
- Cardiovascular (incl stroke/peripheral) What types of cardiac cases are they (procedural vs medical)? If inpatient, what was level of care and length of stay? Payment methodology? Are they due to chronic disease or other factors (e.g., congenital, post-infectious)? What co-morbid conditions are present (e.g., obesity, tobacco use)?
- o Immune (incl GI/derm/rheum) What medications are most common? Are the running through medical or Rx plan? Where are they being administered? Are there variances/outliers in cost? Are the treatments working?



Source: Lockton Companies.

#### Trend: Cancer



Cancer is the #1 and #3 driver of highcost claims. The number of cancer claimants increased 39% from 2018 to 2021.

Due to delayed/missed screenings, we may see a 10% to 14% increase in new cancer diagnoses this year, including more late-stage cancers.<sup>4</sup>

4 Sun Life High-Cost Claims and Injectable Drug Trends Analysis 2022.



#### **Example Levers**

**PREVENTION**: Emphasis on health lifestyle (e.g., diet, exercise, smoking cessation) and risk factor (e.g., weight management).

**EARLY DETECTION**: Screening options (e.g., Cologuard, MCED tests) and accessibility (e.g., health fair, onsite clinic, mobile mammograms).

**NAVIGATION**: Emphasis on understanding goals of care and options (including palliative care), steerage to cost-effective providers.

**SECOND OPINION**: Routine vs. complex cancers, virtual vs. in person, direct to patient versus provider, triggers.

<u>SITE OF CARE</u>: Options for cancer treatments, e.g., office or private infusion center.

Source: Lockton Companies

## Trend: Sepsis



Sepsis is the #1 killer of hospital inpatients and a top ten driver of high-cost claims.<sup>4,5</sup> Sepsis claims rose dramatically during the COVID era, due to co-infection, hospital acquired infections, and delays in accessing care. Each hour sepsis treatment is delayed decreases survival by 7.6%.<sup>6</sup>

- 4 Sun Life: High-Cost Claims and Injectable Drug Trends Analysis 2022.
- 5 Sepsis Alliance 2022
- 6 PLOS One: The Golden Hour of Sepsis 2018.

Driving Health, Equity and Value

#### **Example Levers**

**ACCESS**: Ability to get timely evaluation of and treatment for predisposing conditions (e.g., other infections, immune suppression).

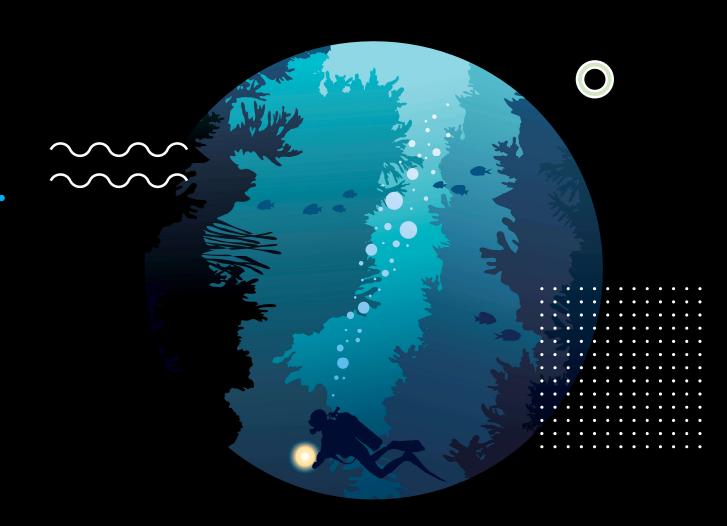
**PREVENTION**: Vaccines, masking, hand washing, isolating and other public health measures.

**EARLY RECOGNITION AND INTERVENTION**: Awareness campaigns, anti-microbials, other supportive care.

<u>CARE ESCALATION</u>: Transfer options for individuals needing a higher level of care.

**<u>DECISION SUPPORT</u>**: Understanding of patient and family goals, use of palliative care.

Deep Dive: Specialty Pharmacy



## Trend: Specialty Pharmacy



**Less than 2% of the population** uses specialty drugs, yet specialty pharmacy represents **51% of total pharmacy** spending.

Growth projected at 8% per year through 2025, largely driven by new-to-market drugs, including biosimilars, gene/cell therapies, and cancer drugs.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Example Levers**

<u>SITE OF CARE</u>: Administering medications (particularly infusions) in the most cost effective and convenient setting safely possible.

**ACQUISITION**: Procurement through pharmacy plan (vs. medical), use of 340b, drug formulation.

<u>DRUG APPROPRIATENESS</u>: Confirmation of medical diagnosis, evidence-based treatment, access to clinical trials, authorization via third party, targeted pharmacogenomics, biosimilars.

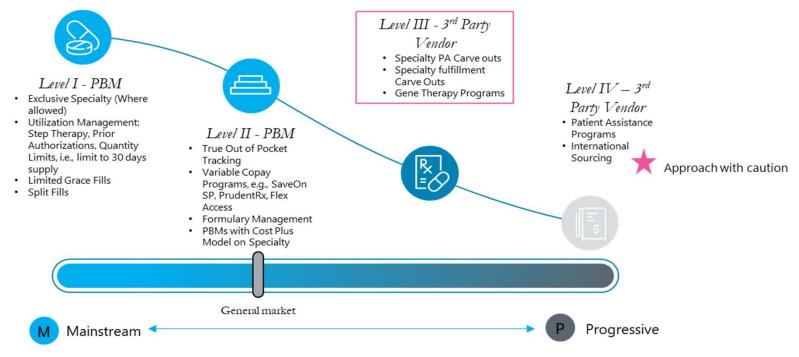
**ELIMINATION OF WASTE**: Shorter initial authorization, eliminating stockpiling, adherence management.

1 Evernorth 2022



Source: Lockton Companies

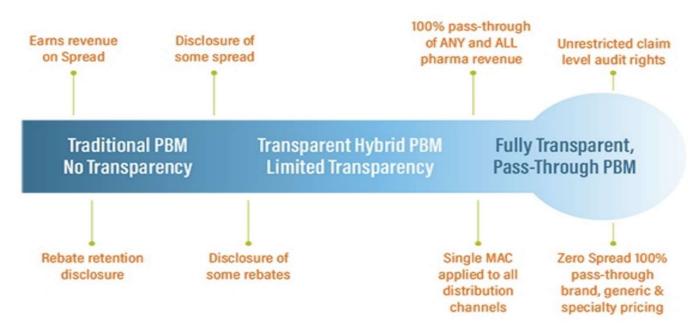
#### Specialty Pharmacy Cost Containment





Source: Lockton Companies.

#### The Difference Between Traditional and Pass-Through PBMs





Source: Navitus

#### Specialty Fulfillment Carve Out

#### **Conflict of Interest**

✓ If the PBM owns their own specialty pharmacy and profits from dispensing, can they be unbiased in decision making?

#### This strategy requires another vendor.

✓ PBM (for traditional medications), Specialty PBM (for drug management and dispensing), and TPA (for medical).

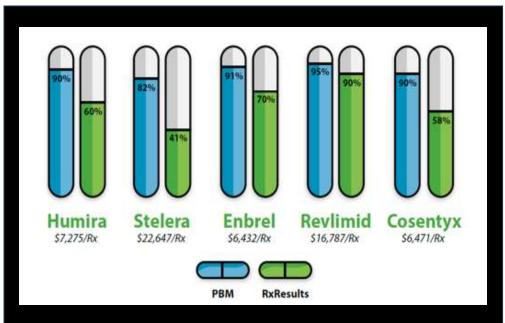
Not every PBM will allow Specialty carve-out.



Source: Lockton Companies

#### Specialty PA Carve Out

#### Comparing Initial Approval Rates of the Top 5 Specialty Drugs:





### Site of Care Opportunity

Driving Health, Equity and Value

	Hospital (-\$80B)	AIC (-\$8B)	Physician Office (-\$42B)	Home (~\$19B)
Current % of Infusion Market	~55%	~5%	~30%	~10%
Descriptions/ Key Attributes	<ul> <li>Hospital covers majority of inpatient care situations (e.g. emergencies, post operation, etc.).</li> <li>Significant site-of-care shift occurring, given cost relative to alternatives.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Treatment sent to the facility and administered/overseen by RNs on-site in an AIC.</li> <li>Continued growth in category increasing patient access points and convenience.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Treatment administered on-site and overseen by the prescribing physician's staff in a physician office infusion center (OIC).</li> <li>Increased payor focus on "buy and bill" dynamics likely to influence growth opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Medication and equipment typically sent directly to the patient's home.</li> <li>Nurse administers treatment to the patient over the length of visit and may train eligible patients for future self-administration.</li> </ul>
	Care often delivered as part of acute in-patient treatment or in hospital-owned outpatient facility	Ideal for patients receiving medication potentially not suitable for the home or by patient preference	Convenient option for patients receiving medication potentially not suitable for the home and preference for a single provider	Favored by patients who can conveniently, safely, and effectively receive treatment at home
Service and Facility Fees	Yes	No	No	No
Average Cost per Infusion	\$5,500-\$11,500	\$3,500-\$5,000	\$3,500-\$5,000	\$1,700-\$3,500
Cost to Payor	High	Low	Low	Low

- Up to 50-90%
   savings by
   eliminating
   egregious "buy and
   bill" practices
- Win-Win for patients
- Many ambulatory infusion centers (AICs) and even some home infusion providers now offer certain cancer therapies (e.g., Keytruda)
- Some plans now require this (with exceptions)
- Always run test claim to confirm pricing

Source: Houlihan Lokey (graphic), Lockton Companies

#### 340B Program Notes

- ✓ Providers can, at their discretion, extend a portion of the 340B savings to insured patients (and by extension, their health plan)
- ✓ Patients MUST have an established relationship with the provider and have received documented services consistent with the grant for which the entity is 340b certified
- ✓ Some facilities will negotiate when they are already filling the drug, but more negotiation leverage is available if it would be new business (e.g., if the drug is currently being filled via an offsite specialty pharmacy)



#### Prescription Drug Importation

- ✓ The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) prohibits the manufacture, sale, distribution or importation of unapproved drugs, adulterated drugs and misbranded drugs.
- ✓ Significantly, this prohibition relates no only to the individual receiving the drugs, but it extend to anyone involved in causing drugs to be imported into the U.S. in violation of the FDCA, even peripherally.
- ✓ Liability under the FDCA extends to an individual or business that plays a role in causing a drug to be imported.
- ✓ The FDCA provides for both civil and criminal liability for a violation in relation to prescription drug importation.





#### Pharmacogenomics PG(x)

#### Pharmacogenomic Indicators

#### **Anticoagulants**

#### **Antihyperlipidemic**

**Oncology** 

**ER Visits** 

Multiple Antidepressants

Multiple Antipsychotics

**Multiple Opioids** 



- How variations in a person's genome impacts response to certain medications.
- Creates a member-specific genetic profile that estimates a drug's efficacy, guides dosage, and improves patient safety.
- ✓ Lowers risk and wasted resources of ineffective medications for both the member and employer.
- ✓ Adverse drug reactions (ADRs):
  - -- ADRs increase exponentially with 4 or more medications<sup>1</sup>.
  - -- ADRs cost \$136B each year<sup>2</sup>.
  - -- Leading cause of hospitalization<sup>2</sup>.
  - Average length of stay, cost, mortality for hospitalized patients with ADRs double than that of patients without ADRs
- 1. Jonson JA, Bootman JL. Drug-related morbidity and mortality. A cost-of-illness model. Arch Intern med 1995; 155(18):1949-1956.
- Lazarou J, Pomeranz B, Corey PN. Incidence of adverse drug reactions in hospitalized patients: A meta-analysis of prospective studies. JAMA 1998; 279:1200-1205.
- Classen DC er al., Adverse drug events in hospitalized patients. Excess length of stay, extra costs, and attributable mortality. JAMA 1997; 288(4): 301-306.

Source: Lockton Companies.



#### Determining Priorities, Strategy Development, and Taking Action

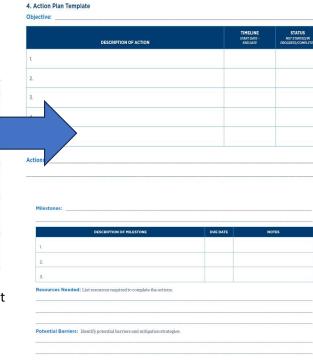
Select 2-3 priority areas (based on your data) that you would like to tackle in the coming year and begin to outline potential strategies, the rationale, and next steps

Driving Health, Equity and Value



actions you would like to take, stakeholders you will involve, and timeline (1-2 years plan)

Flush out the immediate action steps that you can take to work towards your strategy goals and priorities. Identify milestones to measure progress, determine the resources needed, and identify potential barriers.



#### **Takeaways**

- Data is key! Don't settle for high level, infrequent large claims reports that are not actionable.
- Balance "hand to hand combat" with broader plan level/programmatic solutions
- Don't go it alone Engage your advisors, vendors, and fellow employers for insights and ideas.
- Provide feedback to your coalition and the National Alliance as to where they can support



# Mental Health Strategies for Employers "Closing the Gap in Mental Health Care with Digital Therapeutics"



# Belinda Carrasco, Ph.D.

US Clinical Lead
Koa Health



Koa Health

# Closing the Gap in Mental Health Care with Digital Therapeutics

NCBCH 2024 Fall Forum September 20th, 2024

Belinda Carrasco, PhD
Belinda.carrasco@koahealth.com



## Agenda

- The State of Our Mental Health
- Mental Health Digital Therapeutics
- Digital Health Technologies and Koa Care 360
- Q&A

Sources: https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness



#### **TRENDS**

1 in 5 people experience a mental health disorder

22.8% of U.S. adults experienced mental illness in 2021

**Depression** is the leading cause of disability worldwide



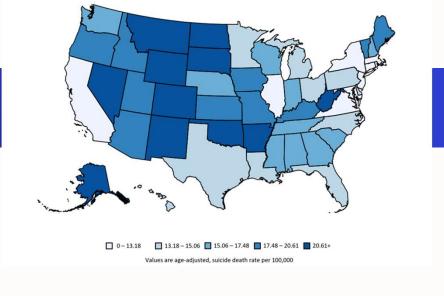
#### **TRENDS**

Suicides are up in the past 20 years.

49,000

People die from suicide in 2022 in the United States

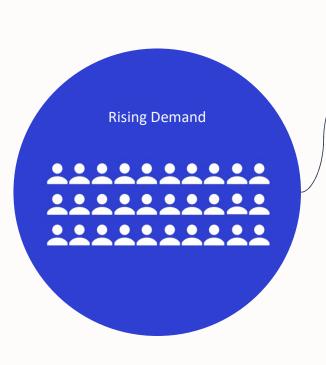
1 death
Every 11 minutes



The suicide rate in rural counties is nearly twice as high as in urban counties across the United States

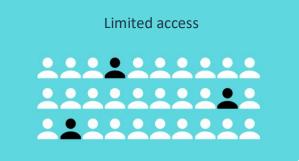


# There aren't enough clinicians to go around



Limited supply of clinicians

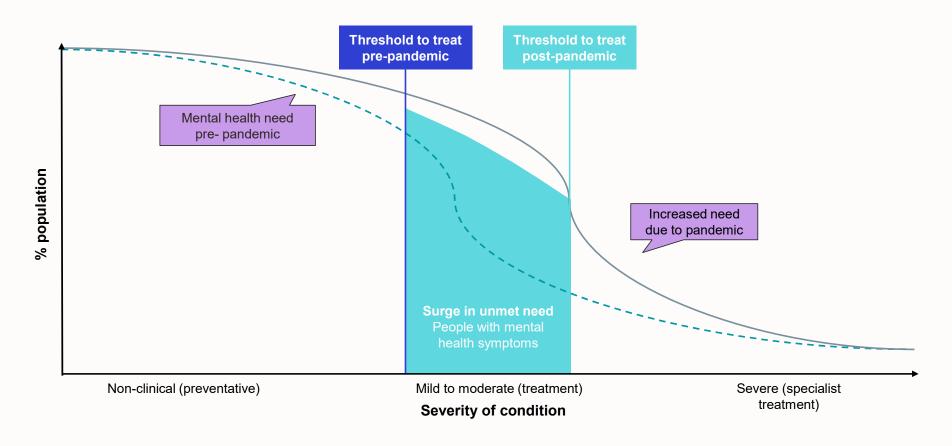




In the US, if every trained clinical psychologist worked 50 hours a week only seeing patients (no lunch) they would only meet 12% of current demand. (Wilhelm, S. et al. 2020)



# With fixed supply, many are stranded





# People with mental health conditions are going without treatment

Barriers and stigma impede access to care for majority of people with a mental illness

# 6 in 10 people

with a mental health condition don't receive treatment



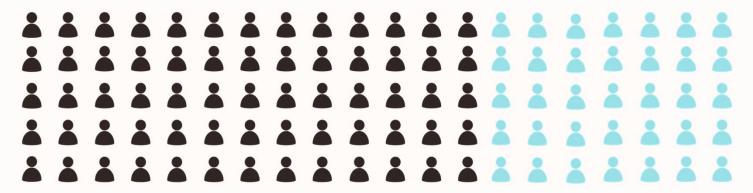
Sources: https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness

# Outside urban areas, access to care continues to present challenges

Barriers and stigma impede access to care for the majority of rural residents

# 60 in 100 people

in rural areas live in designated mental health provider shortage areas

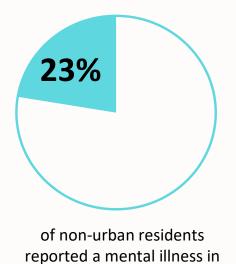


Sources: https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness

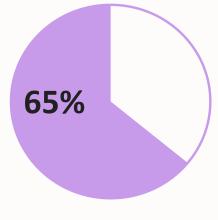


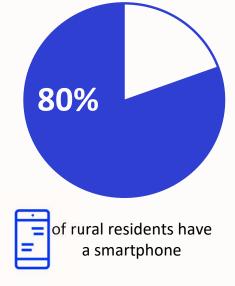
# Outside urban areas, access to care continues to present challenges

Barriers and stigma impede access to care but digital solutions could level the playing field



2021





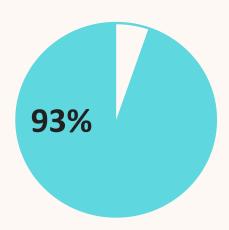
of non-urban counties don't have a psychiatrist

Sources: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7681156/, https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/08/19/some-digital-divides-persist-between-rural-urban-and-suburban-america/ft\_21-06-04\_ruralbroadband/, https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/mental-health

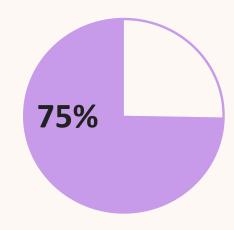


## Doctors and patients are open to digital-first care

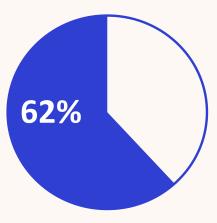
Tech-enabled options like mental health apps increase access and reduce stigma



of physicians see the advantages of digital tools for patient care



of people are willing to use digital health care



of people prefer virtual/digital options for health & wellbeing

Sources https://www.ama-assn.org/about/research/ama-digital-health-care-2022-study-findings https://www.accenture.com/id-en/insights/health/leaders-make-recent-digital-health-gains-last https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare/our-insights/healthcares-digital-future



# Digital Mental Health Technologies

Health information technology (IT)	Mobile Mental Health (mH)	
electronic health records	Digital Therapeutics	
e-faxing	Wellness Apps	
encrypted email	Wearable Devices	
secure texting/patient messaging		
Telehealth (videoconferencing) platforms		



## **Understanding Digital Therapeutics**

- Evidence-based, clinically validated
- Software driven interventions
- Aimed at treating, managing or preventing MH conditions
- Delivered via digital platforms such as mobile apps



## **Understanding Digital Therapeutics**

- Supervised by a clinician
- Automatization of some aspects of care
- Can be used independently or as an adjunct to medications or other therapies to optimize patient care
- Not intended to replace provider-led clinical services



# How Digital Therapeutics Improve Outcomes in Shorter Times

- Data-Driven Personalization
- Scalability
- Consistency in Care Delivery
- Consistent Monitoring
- Faster Treatment Cycles
- On-Demand and Continuous Access



## How Digital Therapeutics Improve Engagement

User engagement and satisfaction: Digital therapeutics have been shown to increase engagement in treatment and adherence

- On-Demand and Personalized Care
- Anonymity
- Increased autonomy
- Immediate feedback
- Interactive tools



## Addressing Access in Underserved Communities Through Digital Therapeutics

- Overcoming Geographic Barriers
- Providing Culturally Sensitive and Personalized Interventions
- Addressing stigma



# Digital Therapeutics are a Super Power for Clinicians

- Reduces Therapist Workload
- Technology does the heavy lifting; clinicians can focus on the therapeutic alliance.
- Greater levels of adherence to an evidence-based model
- Clinician optimization; allows for clinical time and effort to be offered to individuals not to the administrative tasks associated with therapy.

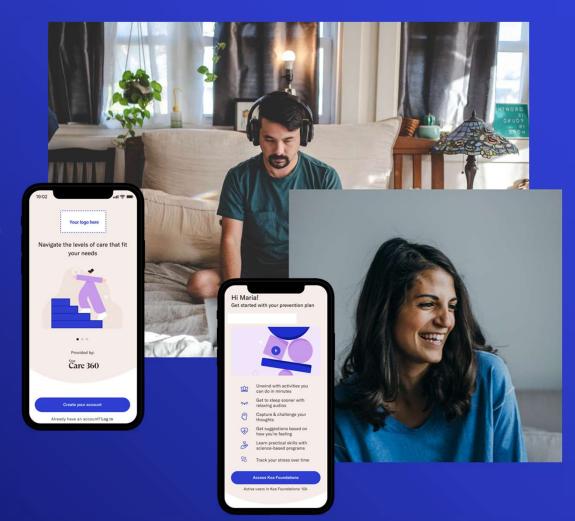




## Go beyond the session with Koa Health

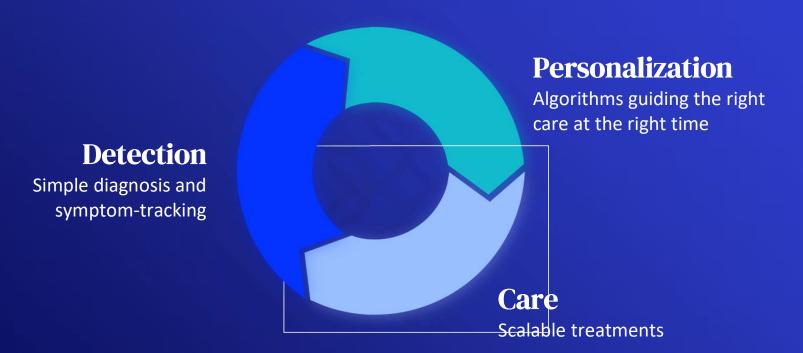
Because mental health is more than just therapy

**Koa Health** provides evidence-based mental health care that is as personal as an individual's experience and comprehensive to manage at the population level, spanning from preventative digital tools to clinical support and therapy, all within one unified platform.



### Koa Health addresses the supply-demand gap by closing the loop

Competitors typically only solve for one component

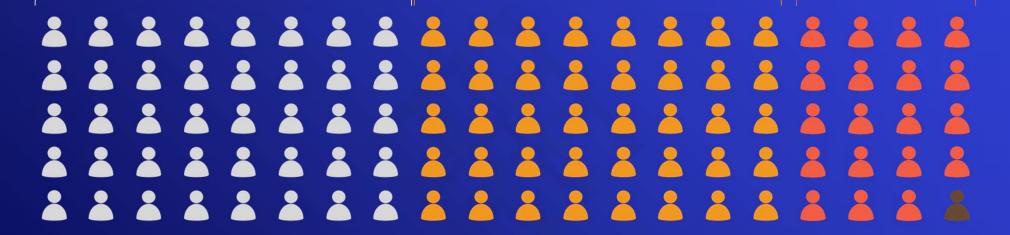


#### Koa Care 360 delivers value-based care for whole populations

**40 in 100 employees** need support for ongoing mental well-being

**40 in 100 employees** need support to manage everyday symptoms

**20 employees** need clinical care, **1 crisis** 

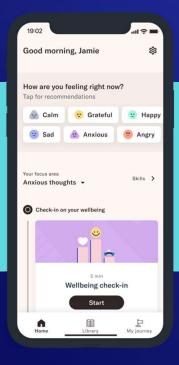


Effective universal prevention prevents symptoms

Effective symptom management prevents clinical cases

70% lower cost with hybrid care

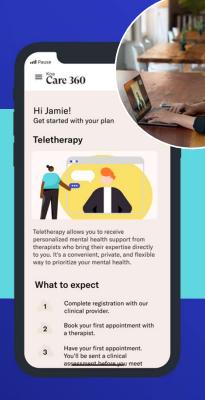
Koa Care 360: Comprehensive mental health care for your workforce



Prevention and everyday intervention

Evidence-based tools and activities to empower your employees to manage their mental health



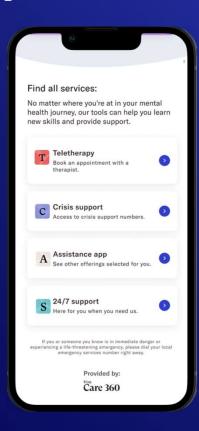


**Clinical treatment** 

Triage to guide them to the right level of care from prevention to therapy

Teletherapy with a licensed clinician

## Delivering results for individuals and organizations through a unified platform blending digital prevention and therapist-delivered support



#### **Certified Therapists**

- Strong therapeutic alliance
- Ability to treat in all 50 states

#### **Intelligent Care Navigation**

- Improved for uptake and engagement
- Driven by deep behavioral science
- Link into existing benefits, helping drive utilization and impact

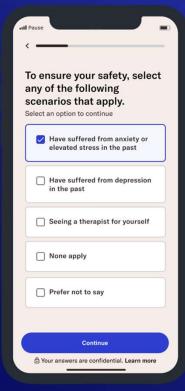
#### Digital therapy and support

- · Convenient, accessible, on demand
- Highest levels of clinical engagement and efficacy proven in clinical trials
- Available in 8 languages

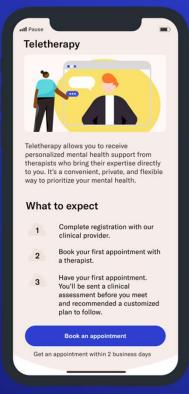
#### **Population-level insights**

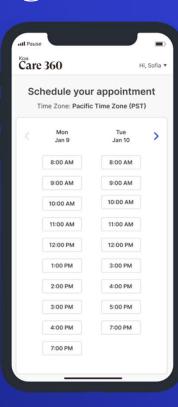
Intelligent data and analytics to guide your strategy

## The right level of care, at the right time











**Onboarding** 

**Triage** 

**Elect support** 

**Schedule** 

**Teletherapy** 

### The best clinical evidence on the market, delivering longterm sustained mental health improvement

Our people, processes and platform enable Koa Health to support a larger caseload of employees, transforming mental health across the workforce population.

#### Exceptional engagement<sup>1</sup>

**50%** reduction in clinician time to provide care<sup>2</sup>

**85-93%** program completion

90%+ would recommend to friends and family

up to 75% user uptake

90%+ clinician satisfaction

#### Superior clinical outcomes<sup>1</sup>

**70%+** symptom reduction (better than face-to-face)

**12-month follow-up** shows reliable long-term improvement

90%+ patient satisfaction

5X better utilization than EAP

Highest clinical effect sizes in the literature

Based on Koa clinical trials, e.g., https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0005789419300966?via%3Dihub; https://www.karger.com/Article/FullText/524628

<sup>2.</sup> Based on market benchmarks for typical teletherapy utilization via digital health provider within employer member population and market pricing for teletherapy sessions

Koa Health

## Thank you for your time!

Email me at <u>belinda.carrasco@koahealth.com</u> or find out more about Koa Health at koahealth.com



### 2025 Forums – SAVE THE DATES!

#### **New Location!**

#### **Greensboro-High Point Marriott Airport**

17 scenic acres with a pond near the Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO)



2025 Spring Forum: March 20-21

2025 Fall Forum: September 11-12



## 2025 Culture of Wellbeing Award



Applications now open Complete online Deadline 1/31/2025

Winners will be announced at the 2025 Spring Forum

