

# Welcome to the 2025 Spring Forum!



### **Today's Agenda**

(details available online at forum.ncbch.net)

7:30 AM - Networking Breakfast

8:45 AM – Welcome and Introductions

9:00 AM - Compliance/Legislative Update

10:00 AM - Culture of Wellbeing Award

10:30 AM – Women's Health Strategies

11:30 AM – Innovations in Employer Benefits

12:00 PM – Networking Lunch

1:00 PM - Pharmaceutical Strategies for Employers

1:00 PM - High Cost Claims Mitigation for Employers

2:00 PM – Weight Management Strategies for Employers

3:00 PM – Wrap-up (and door prizes!)



## Please provide feedback during and after the Forum...

Scan the QR Code on the back of your name badge or visit ncbch.net/forum-feedback

# The online feedback form includes "save and resume" feature so you can continue your feedback throughout the Forum!



## Link to presentation slides will be sent to all attendees following the Forum



**SHRM** and **HRCI** 



5 recertification credits available for attending today

Activity codes available at registration desk



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facebook



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## **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 & Collaborative 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 Katie Sens, Autobell Julie Weaver, Worldwide Clinical Trials Danielle Santacroce, Mercer Ben Archer, Lockton

Medical Director: Bruce Sherman, MD Legal Counsel: Melissa Weaver, Brooks Pierce



## **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



alth + Dallas/Fort Worth Business Group on Hea d Cooperative on Healthcare + Employers' Forum of indi care Value + Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Ha ckiana Health Collaborative + Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare + NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF HEALTHCARE PURCHASER COALITIONS Group on Health + Savanne



## For NC Hospital Safety, Quality and Transparency









## **2025 Spring Forum Sponsors:**

## Platinum Sponsors:





















# Legislative and Legal Update for Employers



Melissa H. Weaver, J.D., Partner, Brooks Pierce



Erin M. Barker, J.D., Associate, Brooks Pierce





## Employee Health & Welfare Benefits: Legislative Update

2025 NCBCH Spring Forum | March 21, 2025



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## **Speakers**



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#### **Disclaimer**

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## Agenda

- General Federal Updates
- Recent Executive Orders Impacting Health Plans
- ACA Updates
- Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA)
   Compliance Updates
- Focus on Cybersecurity
- Hot Topic for Employers Weight Loss Drugs



## **General Federal Updates**



## The State of the DOL/EBSA

#### Personnel

- Feb. 21 probationary employees at the Employee
   Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) were
   terminated
- March 10 probationary EBSA employees who were terminated were reinstated

#### Funding

- EBSA supplemental funding provided to implement the No Surprises Act set to run out in March 2025
- Supplemental funding unlikely to be renewed
- Loss of funding could result in layoffs of ~120 EBSA employees (out of ~1,000)

#### Impact on Employers

 In the wake of layoffs and funding deficits, it's unclear what EBSA will prioritize for enforcement



## **Recent Class Actions**

#### **Breach of Fiduciary Duty – Prescription Drug Costs**

- Increase in class actions against health plans
- Claims focused on high prescription drug costs
- Allegations include:
  - Inflated drug costs due to anticompetitive practices among top 3 PBMs
  - Failure to adequately negotiate the PBM agreement
  - Failure to monitor the PBM (such as by conducting a market check on drug prices)
  - Failure to consider alternative PBM models (such as pass-through pricing instead of spread pricing)



## **Recent Class Actions (con't)**

#### **Breach of Fiduciary Duty – Prescription Drug Costs**

#### Suggested Actions for Plan Sponsors

- Do an RFP for PBM services and repeat every 3-5 years
- Use a specialized PBM consultant, but mind who pays them
- READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTRACT
- Ask specific questions about all direct and indirect compensation received by the PBM related to the contract
- Train staff on the basics of PBM pricing issues and contract terms
- Create a H&W fiduciary committee to engage in the RFP process and to monitor the PBM
- Educate staff on fiduciary obligations for health plans
- Document the procedures taken as listed above





## **Recent Executive Orders Impacting Health Plans**



## **Healthcare Price Transparency**

Feb. 25, 2025 EO: "Making America Healthy Again by Empowering Patients with Clear, Accurate, and Actionable Healthcare Pricing Information"

#### <u>Background – Hospital Transparency Final Rule</u>

- Issued in 2019 by US Department of Health & Human Services
- Effective Jan. 2021
- Requires hospitals to publicize prices, including disclosing standard charges, including gross charges, payer-specific negotiated charges, discounted cash prices, and de-identified minimum and maximum negotiated charges, for all items and services in a machine-readable file.
- Requires hospitals to display online in a consumer-friendly manner the standard charges for 300 shoppable services that can be scheduled in advance by consumers.
- CMS amended regulations with additional, specific requirements for hospitals.





## Healthcare Price Transparency -Cont'd

#### <u>Background – Health Plan Transparency in Coverage Final Rule</u>

- For plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2022: Requires most health plans and issuers to disclose coverage and cost information to the public through machine-readable files online:
  - In-network provider rates
  - Historical out-of-network allowed amounts and billed charges
  - Negotiated rates and historical net prices for covered prescription drugs
- For plan or policy years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2024: Requires health plans and issuers to disclose cost-haring information and pricing details to participants, beneficiaries, or enrollees, including estimates of out-of-pocket costs for covered items and services from a particular provider through internet-based price comparison tools, for all covered items and services





## **Healthcare Price Transparency – Content & Impact**

#### **Content of EO**

#### Directs federal agencies to do the following w/in 90 days:

- Require the disclosure of the actual (rather than estimated) prices of items and services;
- Issue updated guidance or proposed regulatory action ensuring pricing information is standardized and easily comparable across hospitals and health plans; and
- Issue guidance or proposed regulatory action updating enforcement policies designed to ensure compliance with the transparent reporting of complete, accurate, and meaningful data.

#### **Impact**

 Health plan sponsors should prepare for rulemaking and increased enforcement action by HHS/CMS regarding health plan transparency requirements.





## **IVF Coverage & Access**

(Feb. 18, 2025 EO: "Expanding Access to In Vitro Fertilization")

#### **Background**

- EO recognized that IVF costs range from \$12,000 to \$25,000 per cycle.
- Policy statement to ensure reliable and affordable access to IVF treatment.

#### **Content of EO**

 Directs the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy to submit within 90 days a list of policy recommendations on IVF access and aggressively reducing out-of-pocket and health plan costs for IVF treatment.

#### **Impact**

- TBD no immediate impact
- EO does not establish new rights or guarantees
- Implementation will be limited by existing laws and available funding





## **ACA Updates**



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## **Furnishing ACA Forms**

- Notice 2025-15 IRS Guidance on Furnishing ACA Forms
- Reporting entities can now use an "alternative method for furnishing" Forms 1095-B and 1095-C, provided certain conditions are met.





## **Furnishing ACA Forms**

#### Those conditions are:

- The employer must provide a clear and conspicuous notice, in a location on its website that is reasonably accessible to all responsible individuals (i.e., employees and former employees), with information on how individuals may request a copy of their form upon request
- The notice must include an email address, a physical address and a telephone number where a request can be made
- The notice must be in plain, non-technical terms and visually clear
- The posted notice must be available by the due date for furnishing the statement, including the automatic 30-day extension (e.g., for 2024 statements, the notice must be posted by March 3, 2025), and stay in the same location on its website through October 15, 2025
- The employer must furnish the statement to a requesting responsible individual within 30 days of the date the request is received; to satisfy this requirement, the employer may furnish the form electronically if the recipient affirmatively consents





# Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) Compliance Updates



## MHPAEA – Background

- MHPAEA and its implementing regulations require group health plans to ensure that the following requirements or limitations applicable to mental health or substance use disorder (MH/SUD) benefits are no more restrictive than those applicable to medical/surgical (M/S) benefits:
  - Financial requirements (ex. co-pays, deductibles, and coinsurance);
  - Quantitative treatment limitations (ex. visit limits, day limits)
  - Nonquantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs) (ex. prior authorization requirements, step therapy, etc.)
- As of Feb. 10, 2021, group health plans that offer M/S benefits and MH/SUD benefits and impose NQTLs on the MH/SUD benefits must perform and document a comparative analysis of the <u>design</u> and <u>application</u> of the NQTLs.



### **MHPAEA Enforcement**

- Jointly enforced by US DOL (EBSA), Department of the Treasury (IRS), and HHS (CMS)
- Current US DOL enforcement tools:
  - Refer plans to U.S. Treasury to levy excise taxes
  - Pursue litigation through DOL Office of the Solicitor
  - Perform audits under the 21st Century Cures Act
- US DOL's Office of Inspector General is urging Congress to enact legislation to enhance DOL's enforcement authority (ex. through civil penalties)





### **MHPAEA Enforcement**

- 2023 Report to Congress found that ZERO NQTL analyses examined were sufficient/compliant
- 2024 Report to Congress
  - Since 2021, EBSA enforcement efforts have resulted in corrections benefiting directly >7.6 million participants in >72,000 plans
  - Details its review of NQTL analyses and identifies two focus areas on disparities.
  - \*No final determinations of non-compliance because plans corrected potential NQTL violations at earlier stages of EBSA inquiries





## **MHPAEA Compliance**

- Effective first day of plan year beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2025 – one or more named plan fiduciary must certify in the NQTL analysis that they engaged in a prudent process to select service provider(s) to perform and document the NQTL analysis and have monitored the service provider(s) per ERISA fiduciary responsibilities.
- At a minimum, plan fiduciaries should:
  - Review the NQTL analysis
  - Ask questions and discuss the analysis with the service provider as needed to understand the findings and conclusions
  - Ensure the service provider provided proper assurances that the NQTL analysis complies with MHPAEA





## **MHPAEA Compliance**

#### Consider taking the following steps to evaluate and improve compliance efforts:

- Review and update plan definitions of M/S and MH/SUD benefits for consistency with current International Classification of Diseases (ICD) or the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
- Review administrative services agreements with TPAs for the plan should require TPA to timely and accurately respond to requests for NQTL analysis
- Review all current NQTLs imposed under the plan
- Review most request NQTL analysis for the plan and ensure it at least contains:
  - 1. A description of each NQTL;
  - 2. The identification and definition of the factors used to design or apply each NQTL;
  - 3. A description of how factors are used in the design or application of each NQTL;
  - 4. A demonstration of comparability and stringency, as written;
  - 5. A demonstration of comparability and stringency, as applied; and
  - 6. Findings and conclusions.



## **Focus on Cybersecurity**



## **Focus on Cybersecurity**

- Why care about cybersecurity?
  - DOL clarified in late-2024 that its cybersecurity guidance applies to health and welfare plans as well as retirement plans
  - Breaches of data regarding plan assets and sensitive personal information (ex. SSNs, financial account numbers, health info) can lead to DOL investigations and participant lawsuits
  - Plan sponsor/administrator fiduciary duties under ERISA
  - Plan sponsor HIPAA, HITECH, and other privacy law compliance



# **EBSA's Cybersecurity "Best Practices"**

- Have a formal, well-documented cybersecurity program
- Conduct prudent annual risk assessments
- Have a reliable annual 3rd party audit of security controls
- Clearly define and assign information security roles and responsibilities
- Have strong access control procedures
- Ensure that any assets or data stored in a cloud or managed by a third party service provider are subject to appropriate security reviews and independent security assessments





# Cybersecurity "Best Practices" Cont'd

- Conduct periodic cybersecurity awareness training
- Implement and manage a secure system development life cycle (SDLC) program
- Have an effective business resiliency program addressing business continuity, disaster recovery, and incident response
- Encrypt sensitive data, stored and in transit
- Implement strong technical controls in accordance with best security practices
- Appropriately respond to any past cybersecurity incidents





# **Hot Topic for Employers – Weight Loss Drugs**



## To Cover or Not to Cover?

- Legislation reintroduced in 2023-2024 that would expand Medicare coverage of weight-loss drugs. No further traction on that bill in 2025.
- Plan sponsors engaged in conversations about whether to cover weight loss drugs or not.
  - Expensive to cover
  - GLP-1s generally considered effective for treating conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes
  - May reduce risks of obesity-related claims down the road with long-term use
  - Failing to cover likely <u>not</u> discrimination under ACA (as of March 6, 2025, a federal court has rejected an ACA Section 1557 discrimination claim)







# **Culture of Wellbeing Award**





# **Culture of Wellbeing Award**

A statewide award recognizing the best employer wellness & wellbeing programs

First annual award was in 2022
In honor of NCBGH's founder, Chris Coté
as the Culture of Wellness Award

In 2024:

Culture of Wellbeing Award to recognize total person health in wellness and wellbeing





# Culture of Wellness Award – past winners

**Large Employer Category** 

2024: Volvo Group NA

**2023: City of Charlotte** 

**2022: Alex Lee** 

**Small/Midsize Employer Category** 

**2024: City of Rocky Mount** 

2023: Glen Raven

**2022: Cleveland County Government** 



# **Culture of Wellbeing Award**

# Programs are evaluated across 5 primary components:

## **Culture, Foundation and Policies**

- Senior leadership involvement and support
  - Embedment in company culture

## **Progam Offerings / Tools / Incentives**

- Pillars/Dimensions of Health
- Onsite, telephonic, digital (online) programs
  - Rewards for participating/engaging

## **Strategic Planning / Communications**

- Goals and objectives/multi-year strategy
  - Channels of communication

## **Reporting Metrics & Evaluation**

- Means of evaluation
- Observed program engagement

## **Innovation**

Unique and innovative approaches to wellbeing and program success



# Culture of Wellness Award 2025 Winner



**Small/Midsize Employer** 

**Congratulations to** 

**Atlantic Packaging** 



**Becca Schusler Wellness Director** 



# ATLANTIC PACKAGING WELL-BEING JOURNEY











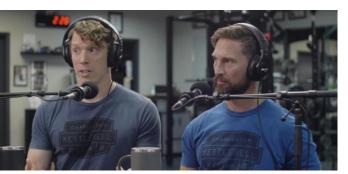
























ATLANTIC WELLNESS TAKE THE NEXT STEP





## **ATLANTIC WELLNESS**

## OVER THE YEARS

#### 2012

- Hired full-time Wellness Coordinator
- Carter Wellness Clinic in Tabor City
- First biometric screening

#### 2014

- Introduction of the incentive program tied to the medical plan
- Step challenge prize: Jeep Wrangler

#### 2016

- Step to Give program
- First onsite gym established in Wilmington branch

#### 2019

- Partnership with new vendor for clinic, health coaching and incentive management
- Company-wide blood drives initiated
- Implemented Narus Concierge services
- Tobacco cessation medication covered
- Wellness at Work with Wes podcast
- Biggest Loser competition reestablished as Work it Off, Keep it Off

#### 1 11 /

2022

- Preventive care focus
- Company-wide personal trainer
- Introduced Teladoc

#### 2024

- Cafe in Tabor City
- Social media presence
- Murals
- Integration of Sustainability Program Greenery Pollinator gardens

Bee hives

#### **2013**

- · First step challenge
- Subsidized Fitbits
- Established wellness coordinators at each location

#### 2015

- Established Wellness website
- Step challenge prize: Carolina Skiff
- First Biggest Loser competition with cash prizes
- HRA, biometrics and risk-level coaching
- First Story of Change video

#### 2020 -

- 2 fired a dedicated Behavioral Health Specialist for the Atlantic population
- Points program
- Spouse iPad raffle

#### 2023

- New Wellness Director
- Dominican Republic initiative
- Established mission, vision and guiding principles
- Wellness Webex group chat
- New benefits website











bonus nature bingo Silli (1)







WHEN:

WHERE:

Room

July 3 | 1-2 pm

Front Meeting











All sleep records must be completed by March 31 to count towards your challenge total. The challenge will remain open until April 3 to allow for final data entry.

#### 2 WAYS TO TRACK;

Connect your Filbit, Garmin, or Apple devices to Marothon Health. Your hours and minutes of sleep will be recorded in the portal each day throughout the challenge Check your data in the portal each week to ensure it is syncing correctly in addition to connecting a wearable device, the Marothon portal also allows you to self-report each day.

Self-report your total amount of sleep each night using the challenge calendar, provided by Bocca or your branch wellness coordinator. At the end of the challenge, submit your completed calendar to wellness@atlanticpkg.com. Calendars are due April 3.

of 2 Sleep Baskets, complete with a blanket, essential oil spra



month / year SOMETHING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS WEEK IS...

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

Participation in this challenge will earn you 1 ticket in the Healthy You Project raffle! That means a chance at one of the TEN \$2500 checks

REGISTER HERE BETWEEN FEB 26 - MARCH 1!

27

HOURS OF

SLEEP BASKET

TO WIN

atlantic

MONDAY-

-WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

STEP CHALLENGE

May 8 June 19

NATURE

GIVEAWAYS

RAFFLE TICKET

\$2500

ИОW MUCH DO YOU NEED?

meditation

for the busy-minded

date: August 13, 2024

time: 12:00 - 12:40pm

CHALLENGE

BONUS NATURE BINGO

THE CHALLENGE

JULY

8th - 28th







TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN



# Celebrating 11 Years



# THANK YOU!

## BECCA SCHUSLER





(atlanticpkg)





# Culture of Wellness Award 2024 Winner



# **Large Employer**

**Congratulations to** 

Reynolds American, Inc.



Debbie Allison Senior Manager, Wellbeing







#### Our purpose

Create A Better Tomorrow™ by Building a Smokeless World. Our strategic aim is to migrate adult smokers from cigarettes to smokeless alternatives and become a predominantly smokeless business by 2035.

Our **people** are at the core of our purpose.



#### **Vendor Partners**

#### **Recent Successes**







#### **Digital Benefits Platform**

- Program Savings with Health Concierge ROI = 1.8x
- 90% Program Satisfaction



#### **Onsite Fitness Centers**

- Utilization up 15%
- Group exercise class participation up 46%







#### **Onsite Health Centers**

- Visits up 23%
- 2023: ROI = 1.2x



#### **Physical Therapy Program**

- 2024: 592 PT visits
- 237 Early Intervention services

CONFIDENTIAL 58





- Smart investing (401(k) & HSA)
- Financial coaching & support
- Understanding the financial benefits of your benefits
  - Nutrition services
  - On-site fitness centers
     & gym discounts
  - Ongoing programming throughout 2025









• ERG collaborations



- Awareness & use of Behavioral Health resources
- Mental Health month campaign





- Leadership support
- Multiple offerings and programs
- Year-long cycle plan to drive awareness and utilization
- Partnerships across the organization support for all initiatives where connections make sense
- Continuous evaluation of existing and new programs for best fit with our people and culture



CONFIDENTIAL

# Women's Health Strategies for Employers

Women's Health is an Even Bigger and Broader Problem Than You Realize



# Carla L. Eckhardt Taracena, MSc Senior Vice President Clinical Operations Visana Health



# The Complexity of Women's Health:

Women-Specific Conditions			
Maternity			
Menopause			
Endometriosis			
Fibroids			
Women's Cancer (breast, ovarian, cervical, etc.)			
PCOS			
Contraception			

# **Conditions Impacting Women** Disproportionately Migraine Autoimmune **Behavioral Health** (anxiety & depression) Hypothyroidism Osteoporosis Anemia **Urinary Tract Infections**

# Conditions that Impact Women Differently

Cardiovascular Disease

Alzheimer's Disease

Chronic Pain

Sexual Health

**Behavioral Health** 

**Diabetes** 

• • •



## The Women's Journey to Care



Melly – Truck Driver

#### **Why Women Avoid Care**

Women spend 25% more of their lives in poor health compared to men, and they also face higher out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, contributing to a significant "health cost gap".

Many women avoid care due to barriers like long wait times, feeling dismissed, or not being able to find a provider they trust.



Sue – On the Go Millennial



Sandra – Mother & Caregiver



Monica – Cancer Patient



## What do women want?

# **Innovative Care & Payment Models That Include: Increased Access** Attract & Retain Talent Patients to Feel Heard **Improved Symptoms** Easy, Fast Appointments Convenience **Reduced Costs** Whole Person Care



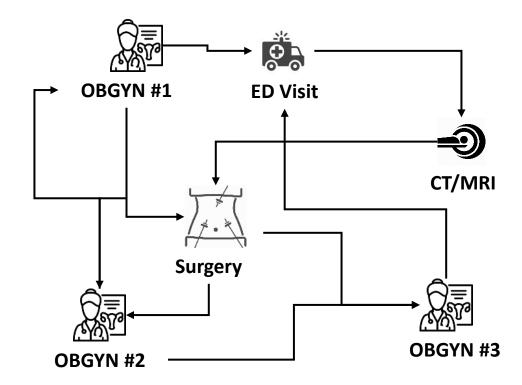


# **Audience Question:**

By a show of hands, how many of you or someone close to you have waited more than 3 months to get an appointment with a health specialist?

## **Innovative** care models – A Medical Home for Women

# **Typical Care**



**3-10 Years**Time to Treatment

60% Surgery Rate
1-year post-diagnosis

## **Innovative Care Medications Ultrasound & Mental Health** Labs **OBGYN-Led Integrated Care Team** Coaching **Pelvic Floor Exercise** Diet <1 Months **10% Surgery Rate** Time to Treatment 1-year post-diagnosis

### **How Virtual Care Can Address Women's Health**

#### Pelvic Exams

Self-collection for pap smears is on the horizon, reducing the need for inperson visits

#### **Breast Exams**

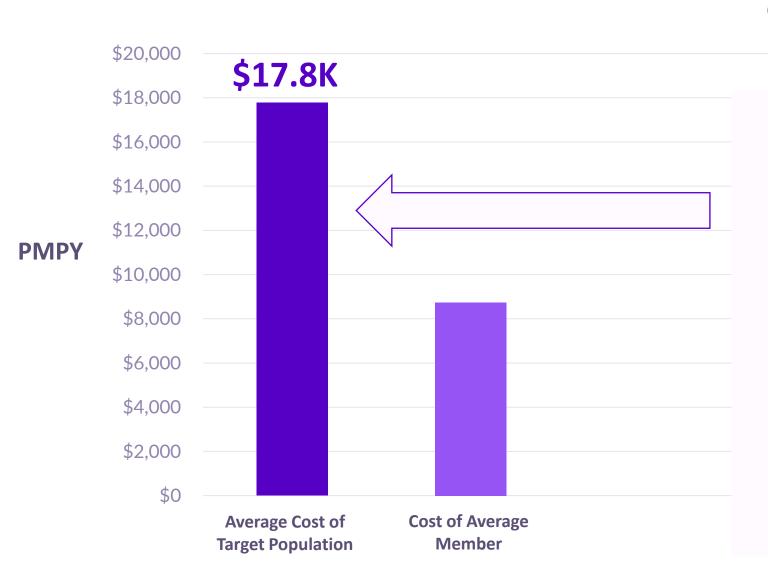
Many screenings can be coordinated virtually, with inperson follow-ups as needed

# Listening & Shared Decision Making

Virtual care allows for more frequent, valuable touchpoints and longer appointment times, ensuring women feel heard and supported

**Barriers to Care**: >30 day wait times, feeling dismissed, dissatisfied with treatment options. **Differences in Costs:** Planning for what is convenient and covered by the health plan. **Augment In-Person OBGYN:** Enhances traditional care while providing timely support.

## The Hidden Costs of Women's Health



Complex GYN conditions drive nearly ~15% of total plan spend and are ~2X as costly as an average member

Women with Complex GYN conditions: fibroids, heavy bleeding, endometriosis, PCOS, menopause

\$17,773

Total annual costs **(PMPY)** for a member with a complex GYN condition

7.6%

% of members with a complex GYN condition

**15%** 

% of plan spend driven by members w/ complex GYN

# Women's health care is wide ranging, from menstruation to menopause and beyond

Menopause & midlife

**Sexual & reproductive** 

**Complex gynecology** 

**Preventive care** 

Perimenopause

Menopause

Sexual dysfunction

Pelvic floor dysfunction

Fertility &
preconception
Postpartum depression
Birth control
STIs & UTIs

Endometriosis
Fibroids
Heavy bleeding
PCOS
Painful periods

Well woman visits

Breast health

Mammograms

Cancer screenings

Providing health equity to employees who need it most



53% of our patients don't have a PCP 3.

3.6 conditions per patient

The most comprehensive virtual women's health clinic



For more information please contact:

Matt Hodes matt@visanahealth.com



## **ASO Case Study: Creating a Medical Home for Women**

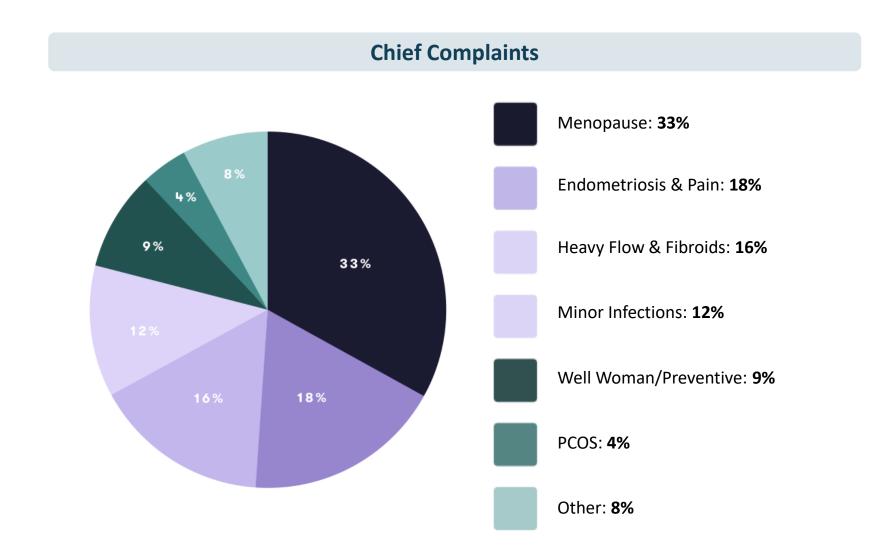


Women enrolled

3.4

Average # of comorbidities

53%
Of members without an OBGYN or PCP



# Matched based on complex GYN diagnosis (the key driver of GYN-related spend), & were well-matched on age & comorbidities

#### <u>Age</u>

Age	Control	Visana
18-29	20%	14%
30-39	23%	23%
40-49	25%	23%
50-59	23%	30%
60-64	9%	10%
Average Age	42	44

#### Geography

Single State (Florida)



#### Comorbidities

Comorbidity	Control	Visana
Anxiety	22%	27%
Depression	12%	13%
Hypertension	21%	19%
Obesity	18%	21%
Thyroid	15%	13%
Diabetes	8%	6%

#### **Excluded Conditions**

Pregnancy, cancer, sepsis, ESRD/dialysis, MSK procedures (TKA, etc.), significant heart disease (HF, AMI, etc.), etc.

We were studying **gynecology-related costs**, we **excluded members with high-cost conditions & procedures from the control group** to avoid outlier costs in the control (Visana had 0% prevalence of these comorbidities in our population).

In the complex GYN cohort, Visana delivered outstanding clinical & experience outcomes & an actuarially-proven 1 year reduction in total cost of care

Clinical & Patient Experience Outcomes

100

Net Promoter Score (NPS)

93%

achieve clinically meaningful improvement in symptoms

93%

"very satisfied"
with care

#### **GYN & Total Cost of Care**

Health plan's actuaries conducted **case match-controlled claims analysis** studying Visana vs. non-Visana controls for our complex GYN patients.

\$2,593

**GYN-related cost savings** per enrollee in 1 year

\$2,434

**Total cost of care savings** per enrollee in 1 year

# Innovator #1: ciba health







# What is Ciba Health?

**A Timely Story** 

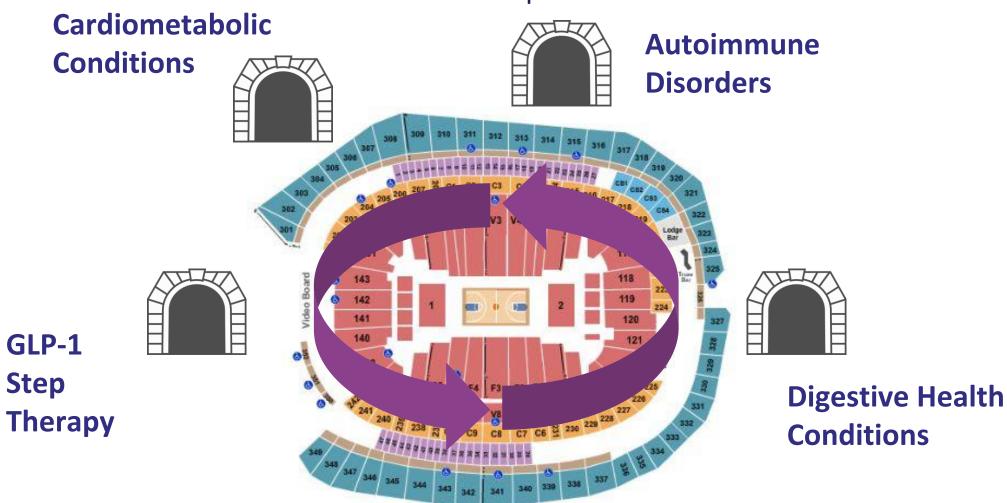
www.cibahealth.com







Arena Experience

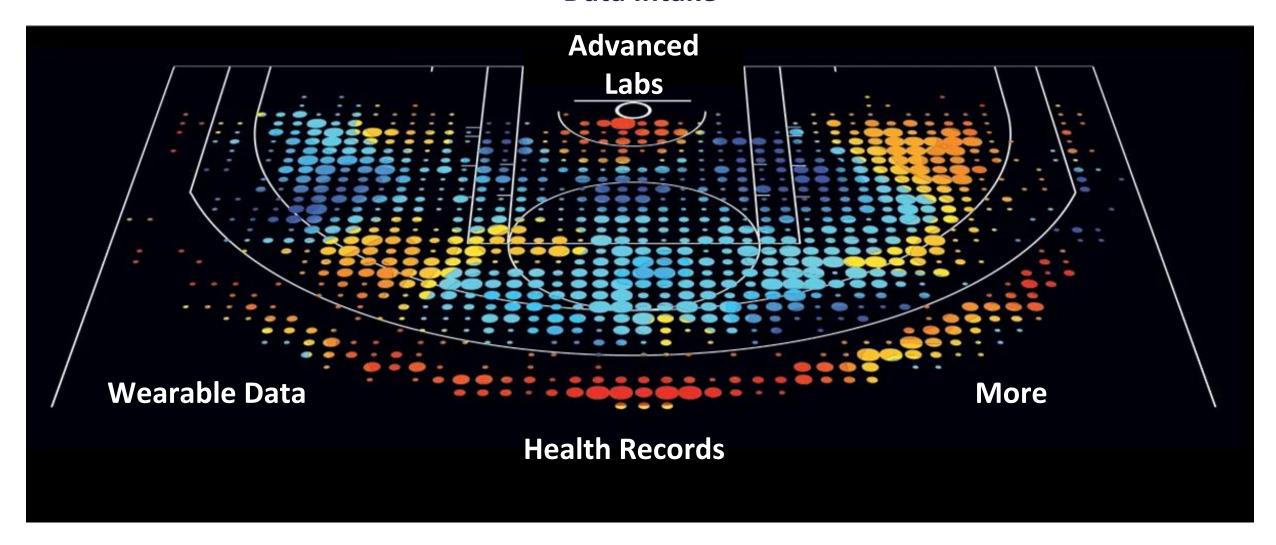






### Arena Experience:

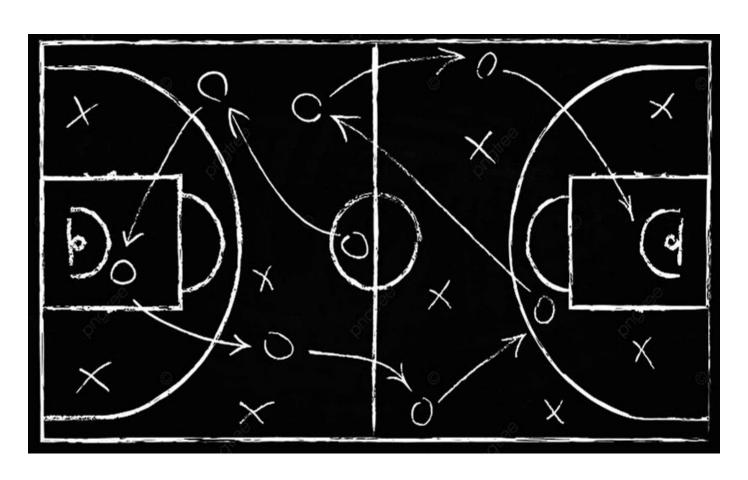
#### **Data Intake**





### Arena Experience:

### **Understand & Plan**



**Outcomes** 

**Engagement** 

**Physician** 



**Nurse Care Manager** 





Arena Experience:
The Team

Member



**Health Coach** 



**Dietician** 





Arena Experience:

**Engagement** 

The Results

**Outcomes** 





Weight Management Strategies for Employers

BEYOND GLP-1S: ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF METABOLIC DYSFUNCTION

Markyia Nichols, MD Chief Medical Officer Ciba Health

## Innovator #2: finHealth





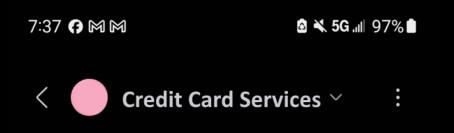


## Is Your Carrier Spending Your Dollars Wisely?

March 2025



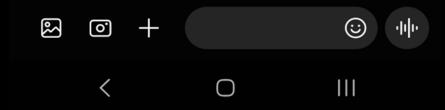
Chris Chan
Chief Value Officer
cchan@finhealth.com



Saturday, July 8

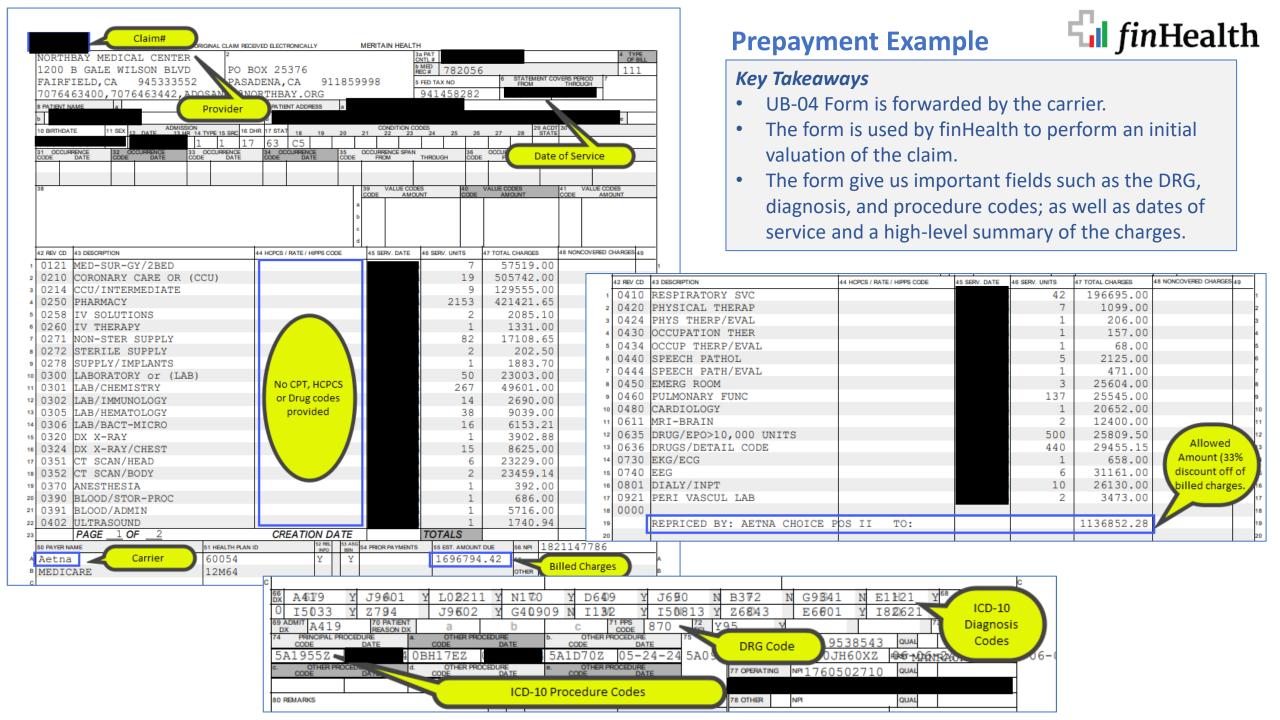
Fraud Detection: Did you just try to charge 95.70 USD on Card #29005 at ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUN? 1 if yes, or 2 to call. STOP to opt out.

5:01 PM



- Medical Coding Errors
- Missed Provider Discounts
- Duplicate Payments
- Inflated Provider Billing
- Hospital Billing Errors
- Eligibility Issues
- Subrogation
- Fraud





Run date: 15-JUL-24 North Bay Health System Page: 1

Fin Class: AETNA Insurance Name: AE1- AETNA PPO/EC/MS/POS Total Charges

Disch Date: ,696,794.42

Total Pymts: Total Adj:

0.00 0.00

Balance Due:

1,696,794.42

Post DT	Pay/Adj Description	Trans	Pmt D	ate		Pmt Amt
Chrg Date	Chrg Description	Qty	Rev	CPT		Charge Amt
	ROOM CHARGE MS TELE		0000			14,395.00
	URINALYSIS RT, AUTO		0000	301	81001	352.00
	TROPONIN	1.0	0000	301	84484	1,366.00
	Procalcitonin Level	1.0	0000	301	84145	104.00
	CBC WITH AUTO DIFF	1.0	0000	305 300	85025 36415	259.00 83.00
	NIC DOLITINE SLIDDLY	1.0	0000	279	30413	0.00
	TROPONIN Procalcitonin Level CBC WITH AUTO DIFF VENIPUNCTURE N/C ROUTINE SUPPLY N/C ROUTINE SUPPLY	1.0	0000	279		0.00
	COMPREHENSIVE METABO	1.0	0000	301	80053	529.00
	BRAIN NATRIURETIC PE		0000	301	83880	533.00
	COVID/FLU/RSV PANEL		0000	306		499.21
	PIPERACILLIN-TAZOBAC		0000	636	J2543	1,236.65
	CHEST 1 VIEW	1.0	0000	324	71045	575.00
	ACETAMINOPHEN 10MG/M	1.0	0000	636	J0131	1,715.10
	BLOOD GAS ANALYS		0000		82803	1,192.00
	ARTERIAL PUNCTURE		0000	410		247.00
	RT LACTIC ACID		0000	301	83605	333.00
	BLOOD GAS ANALYS		0000		82803	1,192.00
	EKG TRACING ONLY ROOM CHARGE MS TELE		0000	730	93005	658.00 14,395.00
	ROOM CHARGE MS TELE PARTIAL THROMBOPLAST PROTHROMBIN TIME CULTURE BLOOD CULTURE BLOOD CBC WITH AUTO DIFF VENIPUNCTURE BASIC METABOLIC PANE MAGNESIUM VANCOMYCIN BASIC METABOLIC PANE BASIC METABOLIC PANE BASIC METABOLIC PANE	1.0	0000	305	85730	297.00
	PROTHROMBINI TIME	1.0	0000	305		190.00
	CHITURE BLOOD	1.0	0000		87040	675.00
	CULTURE BLOOD	1.0	0000	306		675.00
	CBC WITH AUTO DIFF	1.0	0000	305		259.00
	VENIPUNCTURE	1.0	0000	300	36415	83.00
	BASIC METABOLIC PANE	1.0	0000	301	80048	480.00
	MAGNESIUM	1.0	0000	301	83735	295.00
	VANCOMYCIN	1.0	0000	301	80202	579.00
	BASIC METABOLIC PANE	1.0	0000	301		0.00
			0000	301	80048	480.00
	MAGNESIUM OBO MATILIA LITO DIEE		0000	301 305	83735 85025	295.00 259.00
	CBC WITH AUTO DIFF VENIPUNCTURE		0000	300	36415	259.00 83.00
	INSULIN GLARGINE 100		0000	636	J1815	2,535.25
	VANCOMYCIN 1.25GM/NS		0000	250	31013	1,283.10
	INSULIN LISPRO 100 U		0000	637	J1815	1,136.70
	ATORVASTATIN CALCIUM		0000	250	3.0.0	96.30
	ATORVASTATIN CALCIUM		0000	250		96.30
	AMLODIPINE 5MG		0000	250		240.55
	HEPARIN 5000 U/ML V		0000	636	J1644	381.55
	GABAPENTIN 100MG CAP	1.0	0000	250		35.25



#### **Prepayment Example**

#### **Key Takeaways**

- Based on an unfavorable initial valuation, finHealth asks the carrier to send an itemized bill (IB).
- The IB details by day all the charges for services.
- It includes a description, revenue code, HCPCS / CPT / Drug code and the billed charges from the hospital.
- The IB is uploaded into finHealth's application and reprices the bill compared to what is paid to peer hospitals for the same services.
- The example provided is 1 of 39 pages.



**Billed Charges:** \$1,696,794.00 | **Allowed Amount:** \$1,136,852.00 | **Medicare:** \$85,130.32 | **%age of Medicare:** 1,335%

Top Medical Codes											
Medical Code		Billed	Billed Medical Benchmark		Units	Benchmark	Market	Cost			
Code	Description	Charges	Spend	Туре	Billed (Adjusted)	Value	Value	Variance			
R210	Coronary care-g	\$505,742	\$338,847	Median (12 Data Points)	19.00 (19.00)	\$2,965.00	\$56,335	(\$282,512)			
R250	Pharmacy-genera	\$170,518	\$114,247	Median (2,626 Data Points)	364.00 (364.00)	\$22.68	\$8,256	(\$105,991)			
R214	Coronary care-p	\$129,555	\$86,802	Median (27 Data Points)	9.00 (9.00)	\$2,160.44	\$19,444	(\$67,358)			
94003	Ventilation ass	\$119,568	\$80,111	94003 Ventilation Asst and Mgmt Ea Subsequent Day (FHCB)	12.00 (12.00)	\$167.00	\$2,004	(\$78,107)			
R121	Room & Board; S	\$57,519	\$38,538	Median (129 Data Points)	7.00 (7.00)	\$2,802.84	\$19,620	(\$18,918)			
J2543	Piperacillin/ta	\$54,413	\$36,456	Drug ASP (11 Drug Prices)	31.00 (31.00)	\$1.52	\$47	(\$36,409)			
P9047	Albumin (human)	\$51,616	\$34,583	Drug ASP (11 Drug Prices)	9.00 (9.00)	\$53.08	\$478	(\$34,105)			
J2020	Linezolid injec	\$42,595	\$28,539	Drug ASP (11 Drug Prices)	10.00 (10.00)	\$4.86	\$49	(\$28,490)			
J3490	Drugs unclassif	\$31,719	\$21,252	Accepted Provider Rate(s)	35.00 (35.00)		\$21,252	\$0			
R801	Inpatient renal	\$26,130	\$17,507	Median (3 Data Points)	10.00 (10.00)	\$203.38	\$2,034	(\$15,473)			
Q5105	Inj retacrit es	\$25,810	\$17,292	Drug ASP (11 Drug Prices)	5.00 (5.00)	\$0.84	\$4	(\$17,288)			
95716	Measurement of	\$23,358	\$15,650	Median (2 Data Points)	3.00 (3.00)	\$4,971.03	\$14,913	(\$737)			
70450	CT scan head or	\$23,229	\$15,563	Median (246 Data Points)	6.00 (6.00)	\$972.40	\$5,834	(\$9,729)			
94660	Initiation and	\$21,363	\$14,313	Median (19 Data Points)	7.00 (7.00)	\$323.40	\$2,264	(\$12,049)			
36558	Insertion of ce	\$20,652	\$13,837	Average Market Price (ZIP 94533)	1.00 (1.00)	\$7,013.00	\$7,013	(\$6,824)			
Subtotal \$1,303,786 \$87		\$873,537				\$159,546	(\$713,991)				
All Other Medical Codes		\$293,049	\$196,343				\$56,351	(\$139,992)			
All Denied Codes \$		\$99,960	\$66,973				\$0	(\$66,973)			
Totals \$1,696,7			\$1,136,852				\$215,897	(\$920,956)			

Northbay Medical Center charged excessively for R210 – Coronary care-general, R250 – Pharmacy – general, R214 – Coronary Care-post CCU, and R121 – Room & Board; semi-private.





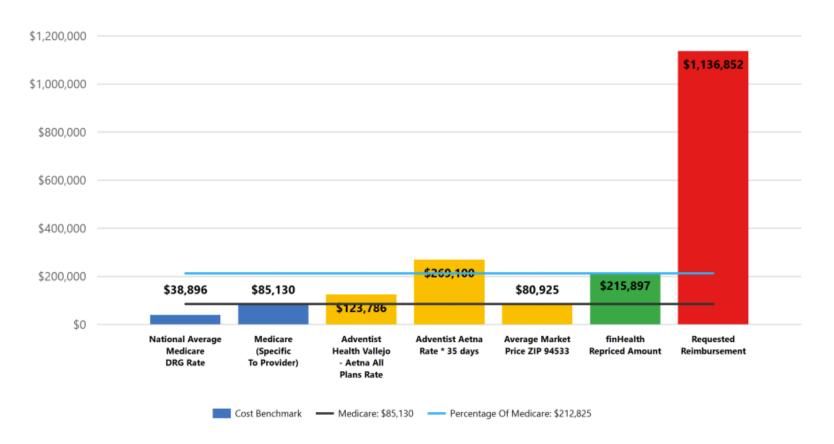
#### **Prepayment Example**

#### **Key Takeaways**

- Northbay excessively charged for the majority of services.
- There were \$67K of charges in error.
- Northbay was overpaid \$921K compared to what is paid to peer hospitals.

#### Claim #:

Billed Charges: \$1,696,794.00 | Allowed Amount: \$1,136,852.00 | Medicare: \$85,130.32 | %age of Medicare: 1,335%



This is a 68-year-old female with Septicemia or Severe Sepsis with MV > 96 Hours (DRG Code 870). The AMLOS for DRG 870 is 16.1; this was a 35-day stay. Northbay Medical Center does not publish DRG chargemaster rates. Adventist Health Vallejo's, a nearby hospital, published Aetna rate is \$123,786. Adventist Health Vallejo's maximum published charge for DRG 870 is \$144,584, while their Cash Price is \$75,392. The Average Market Price in Fairfield, CA (ZIP 94533) is \$80,925. We recommend a single case rate "Fair Price" of \$212,826, not to exceed \$269,100 (Adventist Aetna rate \* 35 days).





#### **Prepayment Example**

#### **Key Takeaways**

- This graph compares the price being requested to industry benchmarks including:
  - Medicare
  - Provider's chargemaster
  - Average market price in Fairfield, CA, ZIP 94533
  - Peer hospitals (finHealth repriced amount)
- Northbay excessively charged for the majority of services.
- Even if we extrapolate the Aetna (Meritain) chargemaster rate to 35 days, this claim was overpaid by \$868K.
- finHealth would have recommended a "Fair Pay" of \$213K not to exceed \$269K.



## finHealth's Value to Innovators and Disruptors

#### Overview

- Implement real-time capture of healthcare claims from all sources
- Prepayment review of large claims over \$100K and post-payment review of all other claims
- Conduct "weekly funding calls" to establish a recurring point of accountability for partners
- Determine types of errors / opportunities to act upon
- Free Pilot programs for prepayment and post-payment analysis
- \$1 PMPM pricing (\$5,000 monthly minimum), with 100% of fees at risk
  - 2:1 Hard Dollar ROI Guaranteed: Our performance guarantee ensures that finHealth will recover / save at least 2X our monthly subscription fees or we will reimburse the difference

#### Results

- Book-of-Business average 7.8:1 Hard Dollar ROI Achieved
- Highest level of validation achieved with the Validation Institute validation of hard dollar savings (additional \$100,000 performance guarantee)
- 15 million claims analyzed annually, representing \$5.0B+ across 700,000+ lives on platform

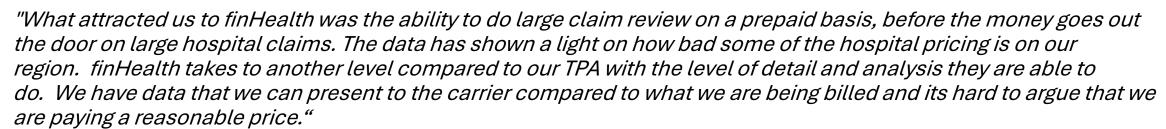


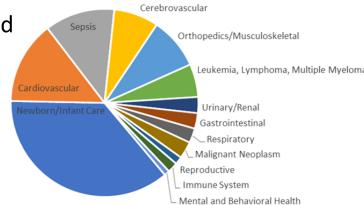
## **Case Study #1: 27:1 ROI**

• Fortune 100 financial services, with 34,000 lives

Implemented prepayment review of all high-dollar hospital bills (>\$100,000)
 for accuracy and reasonableness / post-payment review of 100% of claims paid

- After 12 months, \$8.7M actual savings achieved on 100 claims, preventing and/or recovering overpayments and inappropriate charges
  - 27:1 hard dollar ROI
  - \$809 savings per enrolled employee; shareholder value: 2.4 cents per share
  - Little to no hospital / provider pushback, no adverse member impact
- These savings were achieved by finHealth above and beyond the findings of their carrier's payment integrity program, as well as a separate carve-out FWA vendor





- Director, Corporate Employee Benefits



## No Cost, No Risk 30-Day "Test Drive"

- finHealth offers a "shield of financial protection" for our self-funded employer clients to safeguard their health plan expenditures
- At no cost to you, you can sign up for our 30-day test drive:
  - Option 1: Pre-payment analysis and intervention on 3-5 high dollar claims, before you authorize payment to your carrier
  - Option 2: Post-payment review of one year of paid claims data
    - finHealth with request the paid claims data from your carrier / TPA / PBM under your authorization
    - Within 5 to 10 business days, we will deliver back to you a sample of the highest dollar findings, showing errors & excessive charges paid out of your self-funded health plan
    - We will then share the results with your carrier and gain their alignment to pursue for recovery

"For the record, I am very impressed that your team came up with all of those opportunities and ideas based on only your preliminary data review.

Your analysis is very thorough and covered a lot of ground – quite impressive."



## Working with finHealth, You Will Find

- Widespread fraud, waste & abuse
- Vast differences and inequities in the quality of care received
- Vulnerable members in need of advocacy by a compassionate employer
- Members suffering financially, saddling many with medical debt
- An unwillingness & inability for your national carrier to fix the problems

What Are You Willing & Able To Do About It?



"America's health care system is neither healthy, caring, nor a system."

Walter Cronkite



## Thank you!



Chris Chan
Chief Value Officer
cchan@finhealth.com

## **Innovator #3: Hinge Health**







# A more effective way to manage MSK pain

Improving body, mind, and behavior through movement



## We are transforming the way pain is treated with a single solution.



**Prevention** 

Fall prevention

Acute

Chronic

**Pelvic health** 

Global access

High-risk

Pre/post surgery rehab



## Today's Goals



Why MSK is so costly

Hinge Health's market

leadership

Member experience

Outcomes and ROI

Partnerships

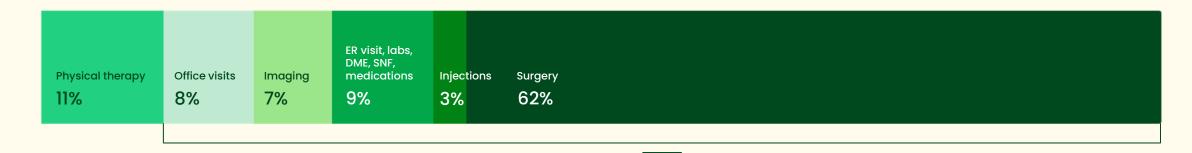
## People in pain are driven towards costly and invasive procedures

< 10%

Of adults use physical therapy in a given year<sup>1</sup>



#### People in pain are driven towards costly and invasive procedures



89%

Of MSK costs are driven by care other than PT<sup>6</sup>



Employers offer or plan to offer an MSK solution<sup>5</sup>



## Industry leading partnerships and performance

1 Million members treated<sup>6</sup>

1 in 2 MSK surgeries avoided<sup>7</sup>

health plans and PBMs choose Hinge Health

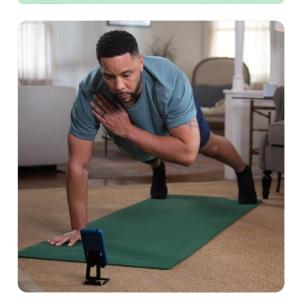
"MSK was a top 5 medical spend.

After seeing the benefits of Hinge Health, it came out of our top 5."

**VP of Benefits** 

2.4x

ROI validated by multiple 3rd parties<sup>7</sup>





98% member satisfaction8

 $4.9 \star \star \star \star \star \star$  - 77K app store reviews

#### 2,200+ customers partner with Hinge Health















































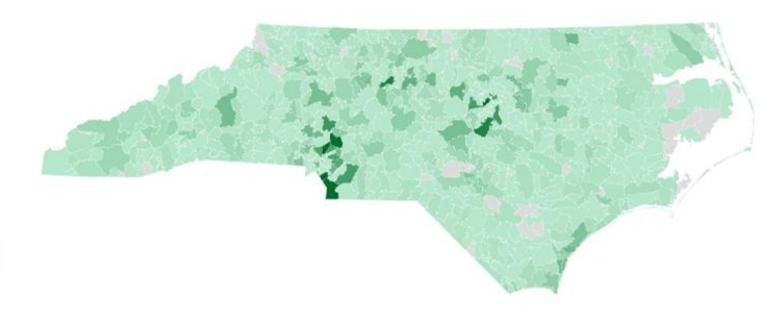


## Addressing healthcare access in North Carolina

Engaged members by zip code across North Carolina

The darker the green → the more members enrolled in a zip code

97% of Zip Codes in North Carolina have a member enrolled in Hinge Health

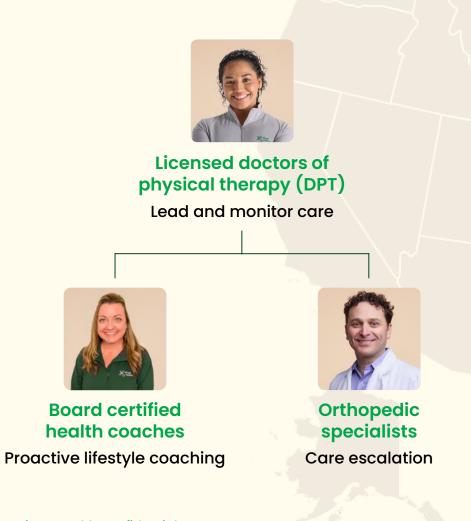


(2024) Onboarded Count by Zip 5 Dashboard, Tableau

# Member experience



## Personalized, PT-led care that adapts to members' needs

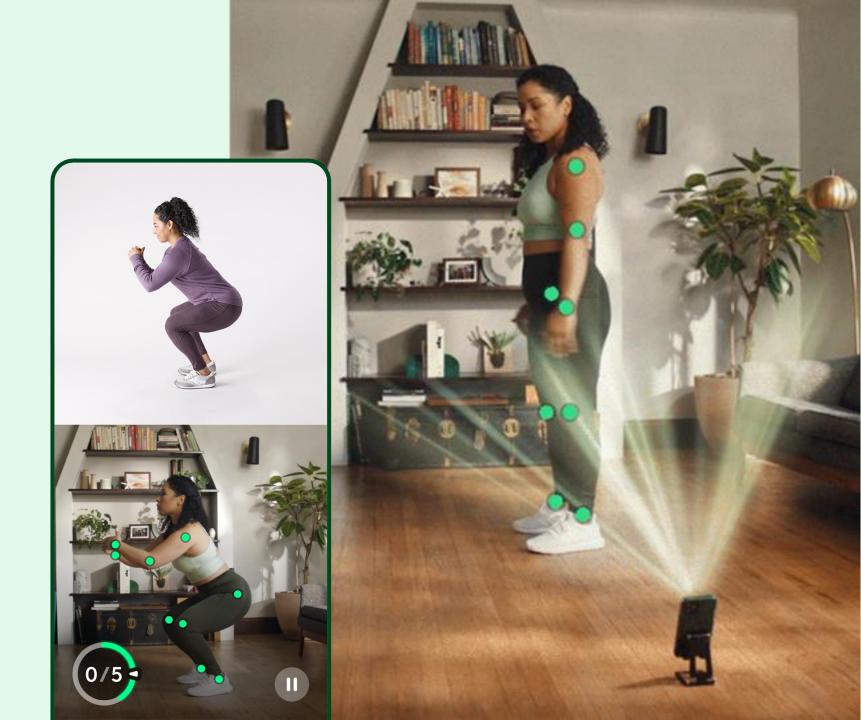


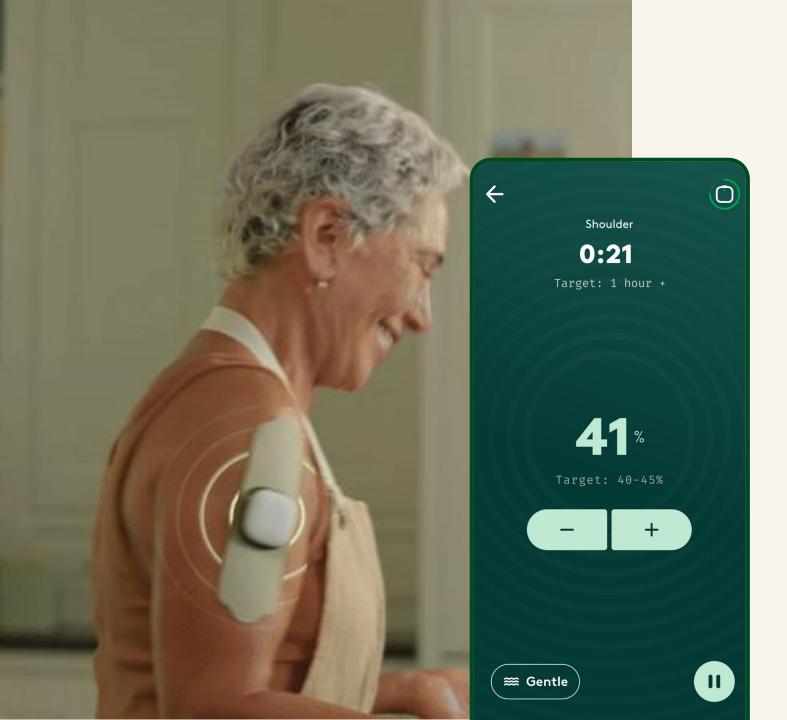




## TrueMotion® unlocks exercise guidance at home

- Tracks over 100 points on the body
- Real-time personalized feedback





## Enso® — pain relief without drugs or surgery

- Provides pain relief in minutes
- Safe, non-invasive, nonaddictive

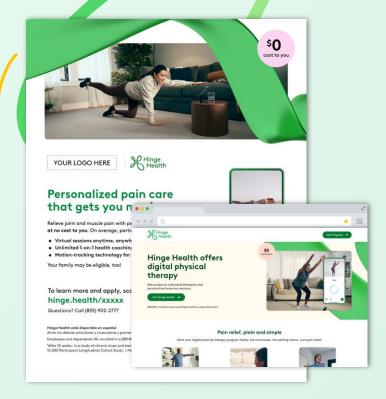
FDA-cleared device

## Engaging members, at the right time

Target
Predict costs and care



2 Awareness
Multi-channel program



3 Enrollment
Online clinical screener



# Clinical and financial outcomes

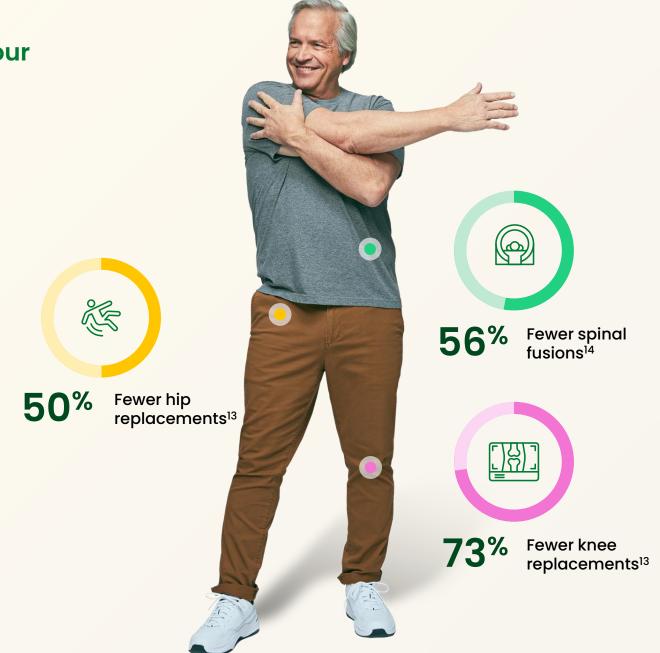
# Claims reductions lead to savings for your MSK budget

42%

Fewer participants starting opioids<sup>11</sup>

60%

Reduction in imaging at 3 months<sup>12</sup>



### Hinge Health members save \$2,387 each in MSK claims in Y1



# **\$2,387 savings**

per member per year<sup>7</sup>

136 employers, 46 industries | Third party validated methodology

© Hinge Health Confidential

# **Preferred MSK Partner of BCNC** 90% of implementation is already complete



Contract and bill through BCNC



Reporting, eligibility file transfers, data exchange — integrations in place



Enrollment communications and strategy at zero extra cost, and no lift for clients



Minimal time commitment from BCNC and the client



## "I wish all vendors could make implementation as easy as Hinge Health."

Director of Benefits
Fortune 200 Energy Company

## **1.5x ROI**

Guaranteed with up to 100% of fees at risk

- \$0 out-of-pocket member cost
- No additional cost for multiple conditions or Surgery Decision Support
- Enso and pelvic trainer included

© Hinge Health Confidential

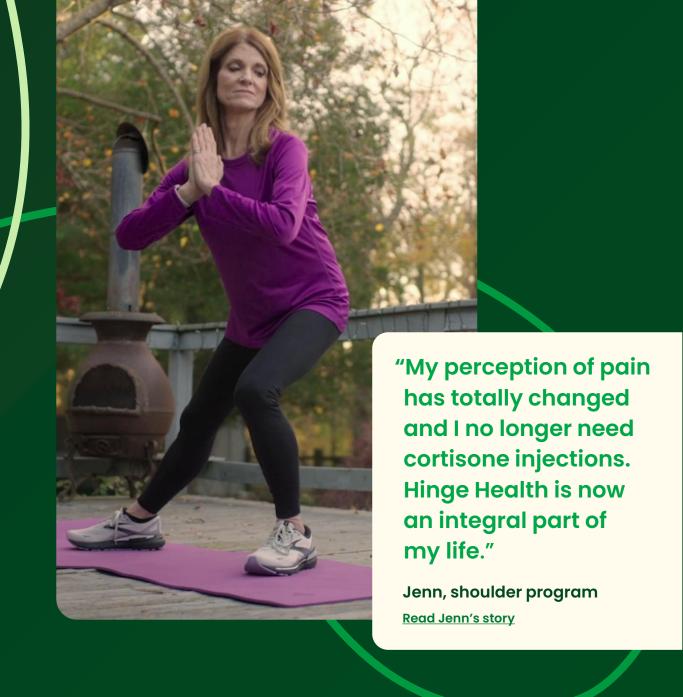
Getting members back to work — and back to their lives

98%

Member satisfaction<sup>8</sup>

**4.9** \*\*\*\*

77K app store reviews



### **Next steps**

MSK care is important. Choose any of the deep-dive discussions available below.

- Come see us at the Hinge Health table!
- Validate business case analysis and demo
- Experience complimentary trial program!



# Thankyou

Get in touch to get moving: chanel.sovine@hingehealth.com derek.birkley@hingehealth.com

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





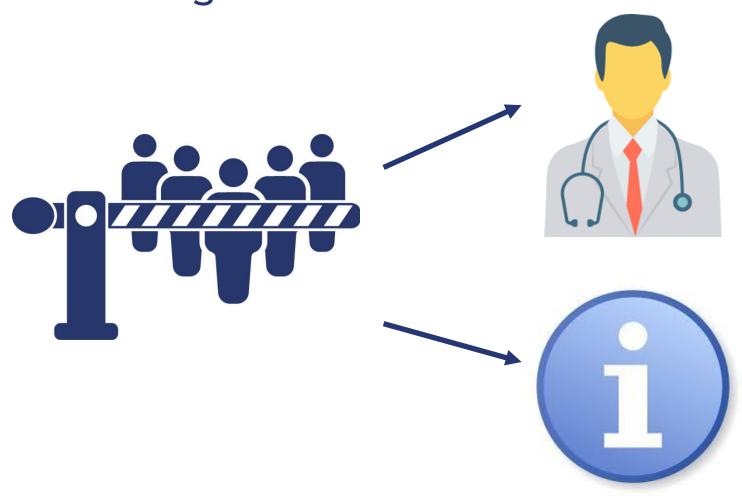




Better access. Better decisions. Better outcomes.

Innovating in Clinical Navigation and Specialty Care

## What we do: Removing barriers to access



### A Typical Healthcare Journey



### 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."

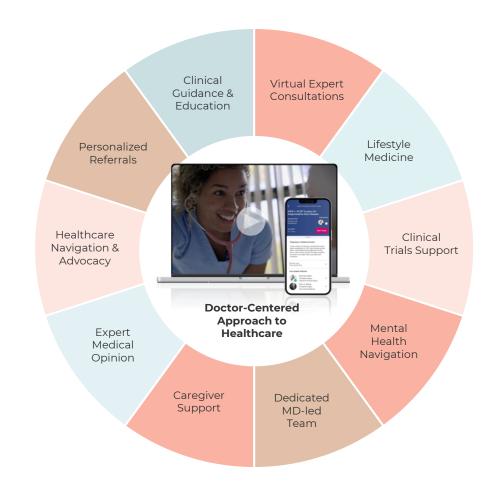
"I feel like everything is on my shoulders."

"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 marketplace model accelerates access to leading physicians across the country



5,100+ curated network of highly trained specialists from 50+ leading US hospitals







































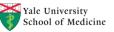






















UC San Diego Health



# 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

270%

First Year ROI Book of Business Average



### **Our Solutions**

Clinical Navigation +
Specialty Care

### 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 costefficient 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

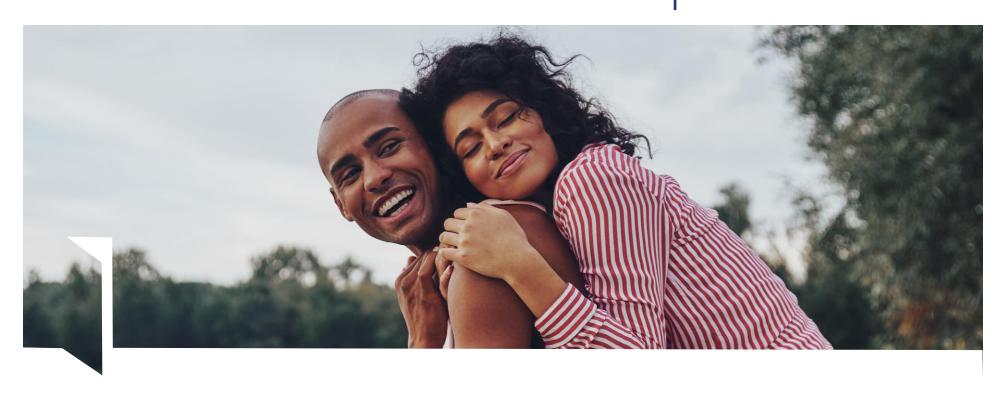
Benefits and Plan
Navigation

### **Navigation and support for families**

- Support families to navigate insurance plan and benefits offering.
- Questions surrounding plan design, co-pays, 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.







Thank you

# Innovator #5: TempoPay

# PayMedix TempoPay





# 1 in 4 adults avoid getting care when they need it, driving medical trend up year-over-year





Of hospitals collect the patient portion before care



49%

Of adults can't pay a \$500 medical bill in full



25%

Abandon their prescriptions each month due to the cost



**HEALTH CARE** 

# 31 million Americans borrowed money for health care last year: Poll

**BY LAUREN IRWIN - 03/05/25 11:30 AM ET** 

### **\$74** billion borrowed

despite most borrowers having some form of health insurance

### Ages 18-49

most borrowers are working age, only 2% were >65

Black (23%) and Hispanic (16%) Americans more likely to borrow funds for healthcare compared to White adults (9%)

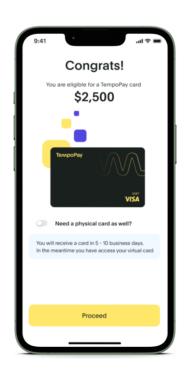
"Too many Americans are racking up medical debt whether they have health insurance or not... A high-priced healthcare system that requires Americans to take out loans or make painful tradeoffs just to stay healthy is in desperate need of policy reform or things will get even worse." —Tim Lash, West Health Policy Center president

"It is clear that high healthcare costs continue to burden the American people, and financial insecurity around care is not limited to any one demographic" –Dan Witters, Director of Wellbeing Research at Gallup,

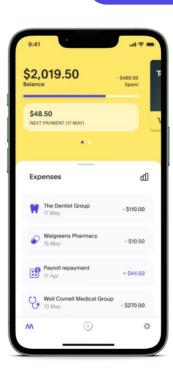
# Helping employees access the right care at the right time



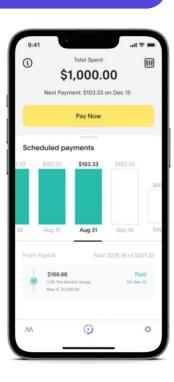
Enroll anytime



**Immediate** access to funds in a revolving account

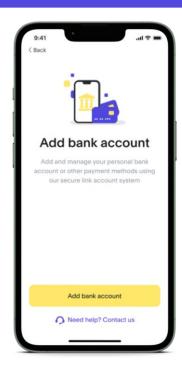


Pay for care upfront when it's needed



Interest and fee-free for employees

Repay via payroll, post-tax deduction



Employers not at risk on balances

And attach a personal account or reimburse from pre-tax

# ТемроРау

Healthcare at your rhythm, payment at your pace

Make a real impact on the financial well-being of all employees

dkinsey@hps.md



# Pharmaceutical Strategies

Accessing and Using your PBM Claims Data to Ensure Compliance with Fiduciary Duty



# **Bridget Mulvenna**

Vice President of Business Development Capital Rx

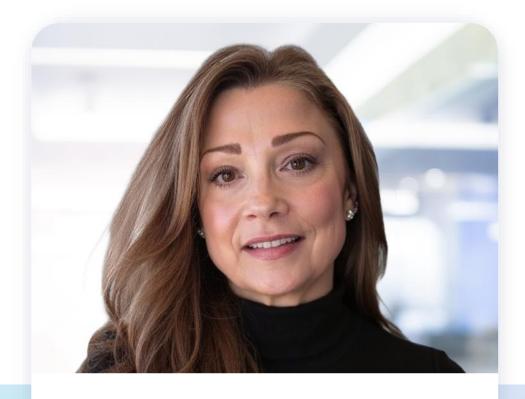


Accessing and Using PBM Claims Data to Ensure Compliance with Fiduciary Duty





# "Pharmacy Data Nerd"



Bridget Mulvenna
Vice President of Business Development
Capital Rx





### Agenda



### **DATA AND FIDUCIARY DUTY**



**REQUESTING YOUR DATA** 



**USING YOUR DATA** 



Q&A









# Class Action ERISA Lawsuits Emerge



### FEBRUARY 2024

Lewandowski v. Johnson & Johnson, et al



### **JULY 2024**

Navarro v. Wells Fargo & Company



### **MARCH 2025**

Stern v. JPMorgan Chase

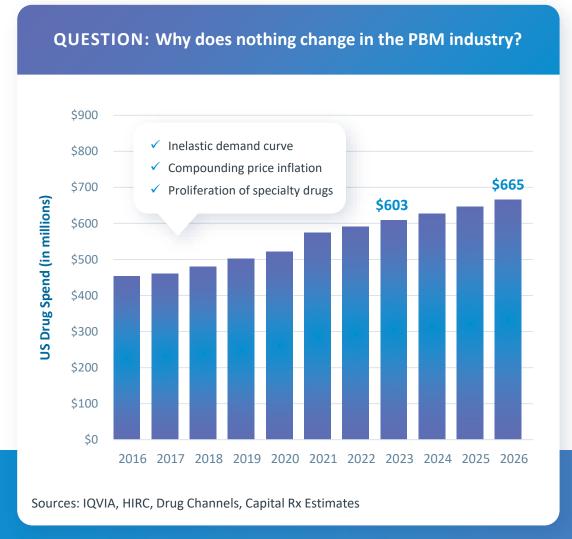
### The lawsuits allege a "failure to exercise prudence" as a fiduciary in:

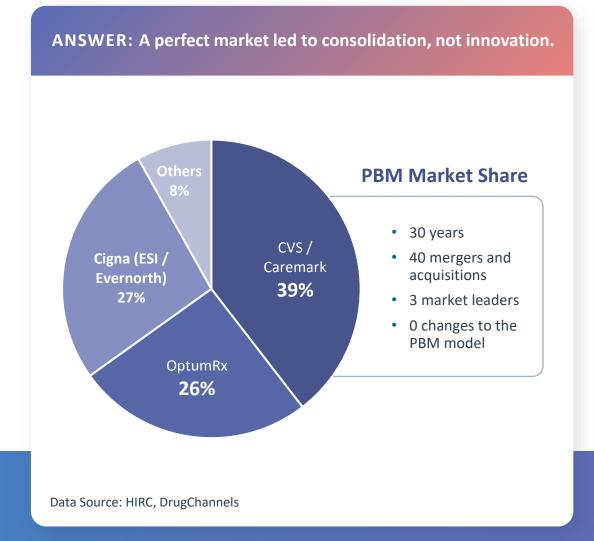
- The selection of a PBM
- Agreeing to contract terms that are detrimental to the plan/members
- Allowing the PBM to charge exorbitant prices for specific drugs
- Allowing steerage to PBM-owned pharmacies where prices were higher





### A History of Rising US Drug Spend & Consolidation







## Fiduciary Litmus Test (Rebates)

Data may reveal that your rebate-driven agreement costs you and your members MORE.







\$2.50 OF INGREDIENT COSTS

Allow data to drive your decisions and benefit from lower net costs across the entire plan.

Nephron Research. "Trends in Profitability and compensation of PBMs & PBM Contracting Entities." September 2023.







## Strategies for Requesting Claims Data



Ask about data ownership and accessibility.



Specify data format and frequency of delivery.



Request detailed claims breakdown, including rebates.



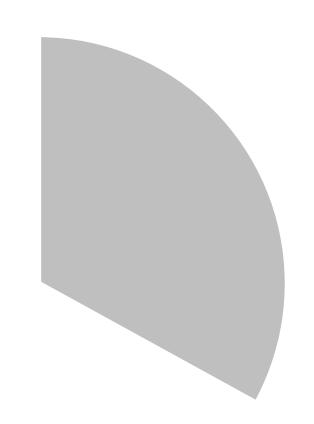
Verify contractual compliance.



# If you Only look at Unit Costs...

You are only
Assessing ~30%
of Future Costs

Spend may be higher or lower based on legacy contract and existing drug mix.

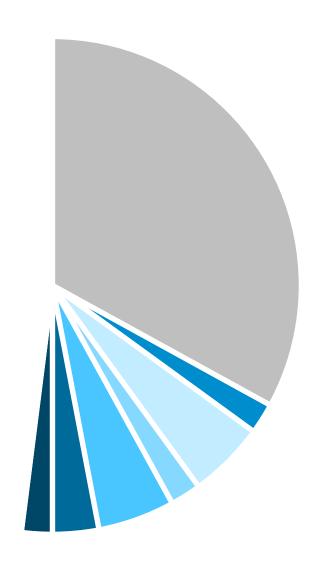




**Unit Cost Values** 

Baseline Cost
Differences, Rebate
withholding and
Other Ancillary
Fees can Impact
Total Costs by
another ~20%

Spend may be higher or lower based on legacy contract and existing drug mix.

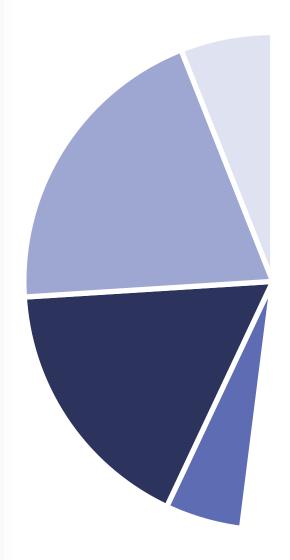


- Unit Cost Values
- White Label/
  Repackaging/
  Wholesaler
- Baseline Trend
  (AWP vs NADAC)
- AWP vs NADAC vs
  Actual Costs
- Pass Through Full
  Rebate Value
- Coupon Program Fees
- Ancillary Program Fees



# Clinical Programs Impacts the other ~50% of the Total Costs

Spend may be higher or lower based on legacy contract and existing drug mix.



**Unit Cost Values** 

White Label/ Repackaging/ Wholesaler

Baseline Trend (AWP vs NADAC)

AWP vs NADAC vs Actual Costs

Pass Through Full Rebate Value

**Coupon Program Fees** 

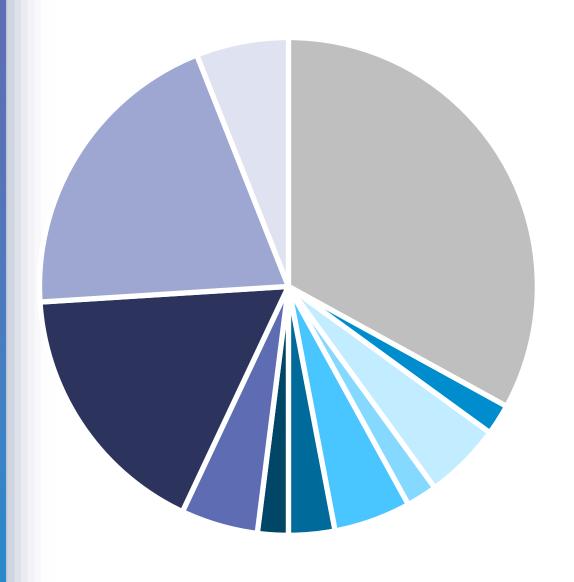
**Ancillary Program Fees** 

- Refill Logic
- Formulary
- Prior Authorization (PA)
- Clinical Programs
  Outside of PA



# The Full Picture of What Drives Total Costs for Payers

Spend may be higher or lower based on legacy contract and existing drug mix.



- Unit Cost Values
- White Label/
  Repackaging/
  Wholesaler
- Baseline Trend (AWP vs NADAC)
- AWP vs NADAC vs
  Actual Costs
- Pass Through Full Rebate Value
- Coupon Program Fees
- Ancillary Program Fees
- Refill Logic
- Formulary
- Prior Authorization (PA)
- Clinical Programs
  Outside of PA







# The Problem with Understanding Future Drug Costs

#### **Historically Highlighted**

#### **UNIT COST**

- Discounts
- Rebates
- Admin Fees
- Dispensing Fees
- Drugs Classification
- Effective Rates

#### **Historically Underweighted**

#### **DRUG MIX**

Number of brands,
specialty and generics
selected by PBM through
their formulary and
clinical programs such as
step therapy, Prior
Authorization, and
Quantity Limits

X

#### **GROSS DRUG SPEND**

Discounted ingredient costs



Admin/ancillary fees



Dispensing fees



Rebates

PMPM can be calculated by dividing the above formula by total annual membership months





# Drug Mix is the Highest Predictor of Total Plan Spend

	Legacy PBM	Capital Rx
Specialty Ingredient Cost	\$9,500	\$9,500
Specialty Rebate	\$(4,180)	\$(3,800)
Non-Specialty Ingredient Cost	\$120	\$120
Non-Specialty Rebate	\$(53)	\$(38)
Specialty PA Approval Rate	90%	67%
Total PAs (Assume 3% of drugs PA'd)	3,300	3,300
Total Approvals of Specialty Drugs	2,970	2,211
Total Ingredient Cost	\$27,968,600	\$20,849,180
Total Rebates	\$(12,147,784)	\$(8,185,672)
Total Costs Net of Rebates	\$15,820,816	\$12,642,282

Assumptions used for illustrative purposes: 10K life group with 110,000 claims/year • ~10% advantage given to Legacy PBMs on rebates





# Data Tells a Story

#### USING CLAIMS DATA TO TRACK AND TREND GROSS AND NET SPEND OVER TIME

YEAR	DRUG COSTS	% CHANGE	REBATES	REBATES AS % COST	SPEND NET OF REBATES
2015	\$9.6M	-	\$1.7M	18%	\$7.9M
2016	\$11.2M	12.0%	\$2.2M	20%	\$9M
2017	\$13.3M	16.0%	\$3M	23%	\$10.3M
2018	\$15.2M	12.0%	\$3.7M	24%	\$11.5M
2019	\$18M	16.0%	\$4.7M	26%	\$13.3M
2020	\$22M	18.0%	\$5.9M	27%	\$16.1M
2021	\$16.5M	-25.0%	\$5M	30%	\$11.5M
2022	\$14.2M	-14.0%	\$4.4M	31%	\$9.8M
2023	\$14.3M	0.5%	\$4.4M	31%	\$9.9M

Carved-in with a Big 3 PBM

Carved-out with same Big 3 PBM

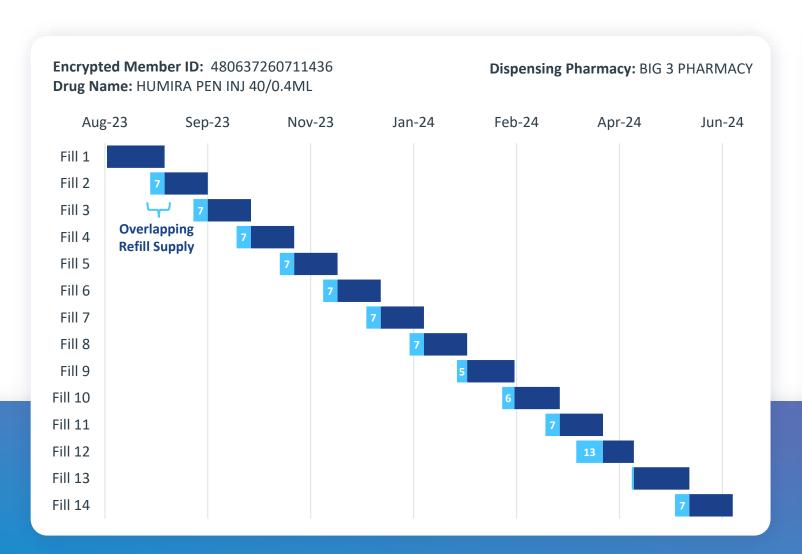
Carved-out with Passthrough PBM





# **Auto-Refill Example: Specialty**

#### PHARMACIES DISPENSE OVERLAPPING REFILL SUPPLY TO INCREASE REVENUE – AT CUSTOMER'S EXPENSE.



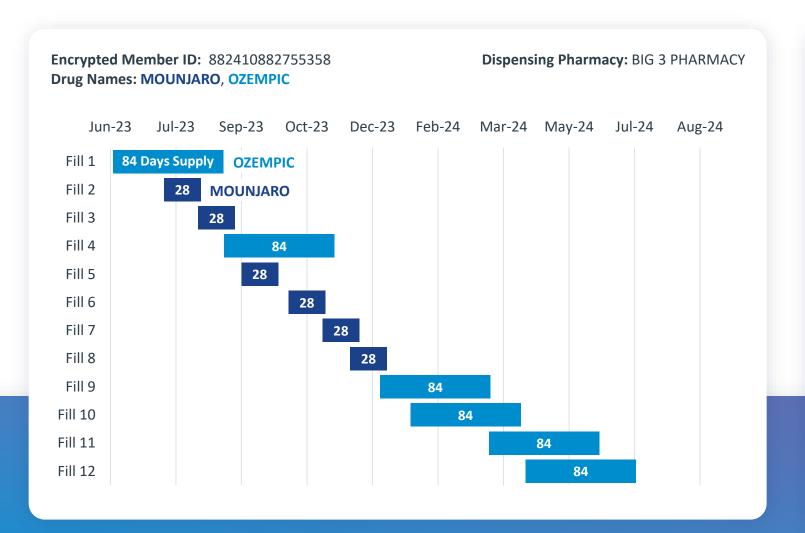
	CUMULATIVE EXCESS DAY SUPPLY	CUMULATIVE EXCESS COST
Fill 1	0	\$0
Fill 2	7	\$3,267
Fill 3	14	\$6,534
Fill 4	21	\$9,800
Fill 5	28	\$13,067
Fill 6	35	\$16,334
Fill 7	42	\$19,601
Fill 8	49	\$22,867
Fill 9	54	\$25,201
Fill 10	60	\$28,001
Fill 11	67	\$31,268
Fill 12	80	\$37,335
Fill 13	81	\$37,427
Fill 14	88	\$38,072





# **Example: Overlapping GLP-1s**

#### DIGGING INTO YOUR DATA CAN REVEAL COSTLY AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DUPLICATION OF THERAPY.



	CUMULATIVE GLP-1 DAY SUPPLY	CUMULATIVE GLP-1 COST
Fill 1	84	\$2,750
Fill 2	112	\$3,757
Fill 3	140	\$4,764
Fill 4	224	\$7,514
Fill 5	252	\$8,521
Fill 6	280	\$9,528
Fill 7	308	\$10,536
Fill 8	336	\$11,452
Fill 9	420	\$14,202
Fill 10	504	\$17,224
Fill 11	588	\$19,973
Fill 12	672	\$22,995





THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

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The Astonishing Healthcare Podcast

# Weight Management Strategies

Beyond GLP-1s:

Addressing the Root Causes of Metabolic Dysfunction



# Markyia Nichols, MD

**Chief Medical Officer Ciba Health** 

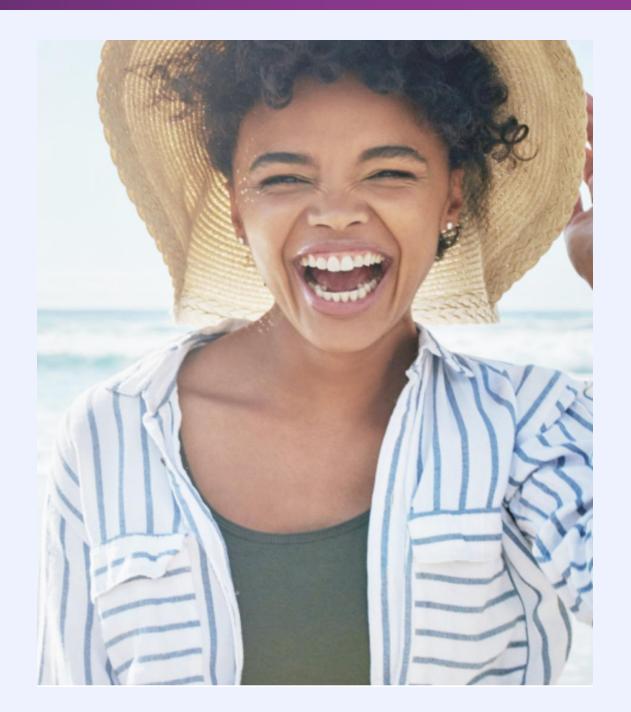




**Beyond GLP-1s: Addressing the Root Causes of Metabolic Dysfunction** 

By Dr. Markyia Nichols Chief Medical Officer Ciba Health

NCBCH Spring Forum March 2025



## The Economic Burden of Obesity



Annual medical costs for obesity in the US: \$190 billion+

\$1,800 more in medical expenses annually compared to patients who are not obese.

#### The Cost of GLP-1s

Average monthly cost without insurance: \$900 to \$1,500 for commonly prescribed GLP-1s, such as Ozempic, Wegovy, and Mounjaro.

Note: Some newer formulations exceed \$1,300 per month when paying cash

**Total spending on GLP-1 medications:** About \$30 billion in 2023, Projections suggest market could reach \$100 billion due to expanding indications and increased demand.

#### **Spending trends**

From 2020 to 2023, the total cost of GLP-1 drugs per member per month increased from \$5.29 to \$18.27.

In 2023, the average cost per prescription before rebates was over \$900.

#### **GLP-1s In Action**



GLP-1 receptor agonists mimic the incretin hormone glucagon-like peptide-1



Stimulates insulin secretion in a glucosedependent manner



Inhibits glucagon release



Slows gastric emptying



Activates satiety centers in the brain to reduce appetite

# Primary Organ Systems Impacted



Digestive system (slowed gastric emptying, intestinal effects)



Endocrine system (pancreas)

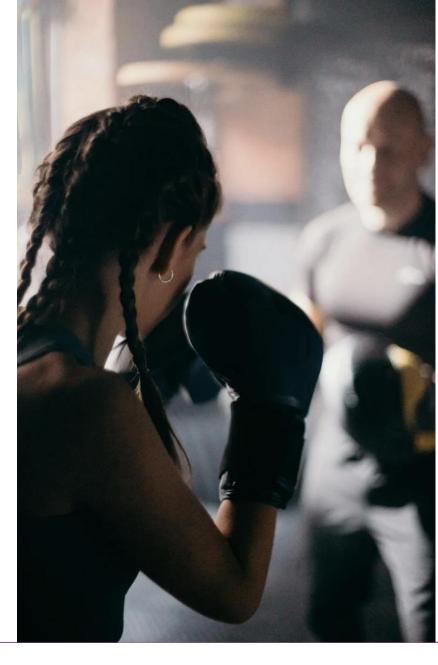


Central nervous system (appetite regulation in the hypothalamus)

### GLP-1 Results Packing a Punch

- Average weight loss: 15-20% of body weight over 68 weeks with semaglutide (Wegovy)
- Reduction in major adverse cardiovascular events by 20% in high-risk populations (indicated in trials).
- Beyond weight loss and glycemic control, GLP-1s have shown improvements in: Blood pressure, lipid profiles, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, and hold potential neuroprotective effects.

So, what's the problem???



#### Serious and Common Side Effects

- Muscle mass and bone density loss
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Abdominal pain
- Decreased appetite
- Injection side reactions

\*Side effects are often dose dependant and may improve upon discontinuation



#### More downsides...

- Rebound weight gain after discontinuation- mostly in fat
- Supply shortages
- It doesn't work for all, or many reach a plateau even at the highest dosages
- Not all "diets" and even healthy foods are for everyone
- It doesn't fix the root issue which can lead to more serious inflammation based disease

#### The Truth About Healthcare

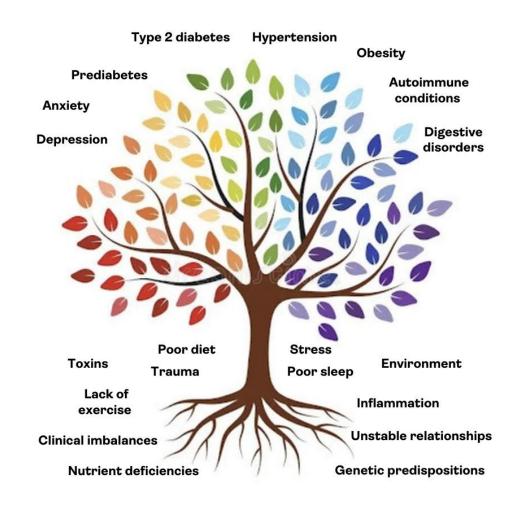
HEALTHCARE: Your body is broken. We need to fix it with medication.

REALITY: Your body is sending you important signals about your genetics, environment, lifestyle, and biochemistry. We need to get to the root cause of the issue.

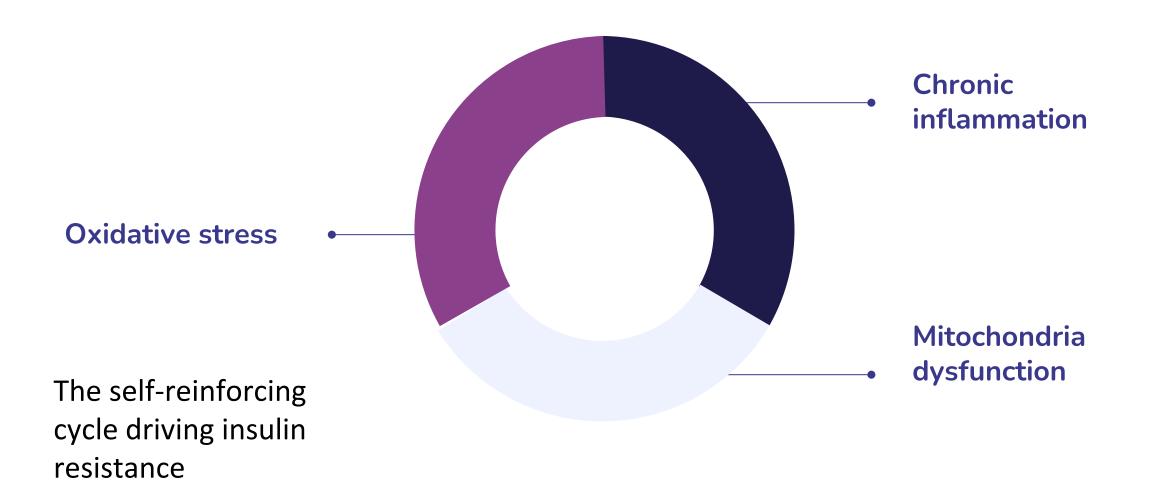
#### The truth about GLP-1s?

A "window of opportunity"

 Reduced hunger and cravings allow people to establish nutrition and activity routines <u>without</u> <u>fighting constant psychological resistance</u>



### What goes into metabolic dysfunction?



### What goes into metabolic dysfunction?

## Environmental factors beyond diet/exercise



Endocrine disruptors: Hormonal influences that negatively influence metabolic pathways.

Example: PCBs or dioxins can disrupt thyroid function, leading to changes in metabolic rate.



Altered gut microbiome: Imbalances in gut health (dysbiosis) impact the body's ability to metabolize food effectively, and contribute to inflammation, insulin resistance, and obesity.



**Chronic stress:** High cortisol levels leads to alterations in how the body processes and stores nutrients, and lead to elevated blood glucose levels.



**Poor sleep:** Lack of sleep increases cortisol levels, decreases insulin sensitivity, and affects leptin (hormone signaling fullness) and ghrelin (stimulates hunger).

### A Step Down Approach to Sustaining Metabolic Health:

Moving From Medication Support to Root-Cause Lifestyle Support

Gradual dose reduction	Root cause analysis	Biomarker monitoring	Lifestyle integration
Working with board- certified doctors to slowly reduce medication dosage, allowing the body to adjust gradually.	<ul> <li>Insulin resistance</li> <li>Chronic inflammation</li> <li>Hormonal imbalances</li> <li>Gut dysbiosis</li> <li>Environmental toxins</li> <li>Chronic stress patterns</li> <li>Sleep disruption</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fasting glucose and HbA1c</li> <li>Inflammatory markers</li> <li>Thyroid function</li> <li>Cortisol patterns</li> <li>Gut health markers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Anti-inflammatory dietary patterns</li> <li>Regular movement routines</li> <li>Stress management techniques</li> <li>Sleep hygiene protocols</li> </ul>

# Optimizing Gut Health While on GLP-1s? You bet!



#### Restore gut microbiome

- Diverse, fiber-rich diet
- Prebiotics/probiotics
- Limit processed foods/sugar
- Boost healthy fats



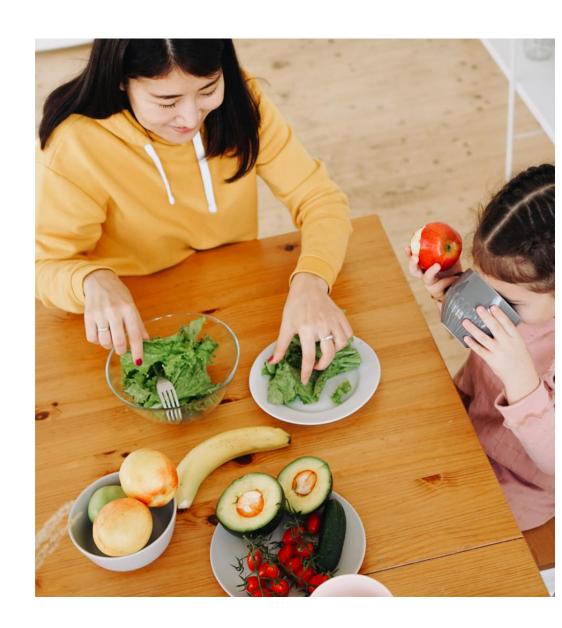
#### Heal intestinal permeability

- Incorporate gut-healing nutrients
- Prioritize anti-inflammatory diet
- Limit alcohol and environmental toxins



### Optimize dietary fiber intake

- Whole, plant-based foods
- Ensure adequate hydration
- Track fiber intake





# The Stress-Metabolism Connection

**High cortisol levels = HPA** axis dysfunction

Impacts everything from energy levels to fat storage.

#### The Solution?

Pairing targeted lifestyle interventions—based on advanced biomarker testing—alongside medication management to reduce cortisol.

For example, tailoring exercise recommendations (type/intensity based on cortisol levels and medication dosage)

# **Defining Success: Merging Lifestyle Approaches and GLP-1 Support**

Establishing clear metrics for progress beyond weight loss. This includes:

- Inflammatory markers
- Insulin sensitivity
- Energy levels
- Quality of life measures



<sup>\*</sup>Regular labs/tracking is key

### Meet Kayla

Registered Nurse 46 years old

**History:** Overweight for most of her adult life, and lived with type 2 diabetes. PCP prescribed GLP-1 two years ago.



#### Kayla's experience on a GLP-1

#### Pros

- Lost 50% of bodyweight
- HbA1c returned to normal

#### Cons

- Constant nausea and vertigo
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Abnormal GTT (still insulin resistant)
- Complained of sagging skin

#### Root-cause analysis demonstrated

- Autoimmune markers
- Gut dysbiosis
- Insulin resistance

#### The approach

- Repair gut health
- Avoid reactive foods
- Tailored nutrition based on her biochemistry.
   Plant-based/paleo

#### Results

- No longer insulin resistant
- Resolution of gut dysbiosis
- Reversal of autoimmune markers
- Weaned off GLP-1 during the process while maintaining weight loss

# Key Takeaways and/or Suggestions

# Implement strategies that...

- Prior Authorization and/or
- Root-cause approach
- Biometric/Biomarker screening
- Lifestyle coaching
- Personalization and tailored treatment plans

...control costs while allowing the potential benefit of a medication for a short period of time. Get real results for your employees, and for your bottom line!



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**Partner with Ciba Health today** 

Contact: Michael Tomback, SVP of Sales, Ciba Health

mtomback@cibahealth.com

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