# Healthcare Challenges and Opportunities

Graham Billingham, MD, FACEP, FAAEM



#### **Challenges facing healthcare**



#### **Healthcare delivery changes**



Corporatization of medicine

Including private equity investments



#### **CV19 impact on** population health

Deferred care, missed care, etc.



# Healthcare consolidation

Larger, more complex healthcare systems



# Healthcare staffing

Contract staffing, provider burnout, turnover, violence



Physician employment

Less private practice, more corporate/hospital



#### Scope of practice

Expanding for PAs, NPs, CRNAs, etc.

# Shifting environment of care

More outpatient, home health, telehealth, etc.



Technology innovations

Artificial intelligence (AI), genetics, etc.

#### **Deteriorating loss environment**



**Close Year** 

### Severity and social inflation: \$10+ shock verdicts

As courts reopen, US HCL verdicts \$10+ returning to, and passing, pre-pandemic levels ... nationwide





#### Losses shifting from healthcare providers to healthcare entities



#### **Economic inflation above historical norms**



ᆋ

#### Major allegation categories and financial severity



### **Claimant type and location**

Ambulatory 50%

> Inpatient 40%



| Emergency |  |
|-----------|--|
| 10%       |  |



| <b>Top locations</b> | % of case volume |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Office/clinic        | 26%              |
| Patient room/ICU     | 17%              |
| Inpatient surgery    | 15%              |
| Ambulatory surgery   | 11%              |
| Emergency department | 10%              |

### **Primary responsible services**



#### Most common contributing factor categories

100%





Not unexpectedly, more than **three-fourths of all cases note clinical judgment factors.** These cases reflect provider clinical decision-making (patient assessments, obtaining consults, etc.). Also of note, an increasing (but still few) number of cases are **beginning to reflect COVID-related influences**,\* most often treatment and/or access to care that was affected by pandemic conditions.



#### For the love of technology



"To err is human, to really foul things up takes a computer."

— Paul Ehrlich, *The Farmers' Almanac* (1978)





### Artificial intelligence: pros and cons

#### Pros

- Operational efficiency
- Care transition coordination
- Cost reduction
- Medical diagnostics
- Simulation training
- Population health management
- New drug discovery
- Documentation efficiency
- Medical decision-making support
- Error and adverse event reduction
- Disease surveillance
- Image and speech recognition
- Blackbox OR

#### Cons

- Shows promise, but lacks expertise
- New standards of care
- Steep learning curve
- Patient's expectations
- Opportunities for error
- Consultant vs. replacement
- Biased data
- Privacy and security
- Legal concerns
- Ethical and morality issues
- Informed consent concerns
- Indemnification clauses
- Liability exposure

## **Emerging risks**

| Workforce shortages          | Batch or class action claims      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Telemedicine                 | Scope of practice                 |
| Burnout                      | Climate change                    |
| AI                           | Supply chain/medication shortages |
| Antibiotic resistance        | Credentialing and privileging     |
| Opioid crisis                | Sexual misconduct and abuse       |
| Cyber liability/cyberattacks | Aging population                  |
| EHR and forensic audits      | Future pandemics                  |



#### The cost of technology

A PIECE OF MY MIND

#### The Cost of Technology



@ 2011 Thomas G. Murphy, MD.