



## CAH HOT TOPICS

# STRATEGIC, FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

October 2024



# PRESENTER



**Ralph Llewellyn**

Partner/Critical Access Hospitals Industry Leader  
Fargo, ND



## **DISCLAIMER**

This presentation is presented with the understanding that the information contained does not constitute legal, accounting or other professional advice. It is not intended to be responsive to any individual situation or concerns, as the contents of this presentation are intended for general information purposes only. Viewers are urged not to act upon the information contained in this presentation without first consulting competent legal, accounting or other professional advice regarding implications of a particular factual situation. Questions and additional information can be submitted to your Eide Bailly representative, or to the presenter of this session.

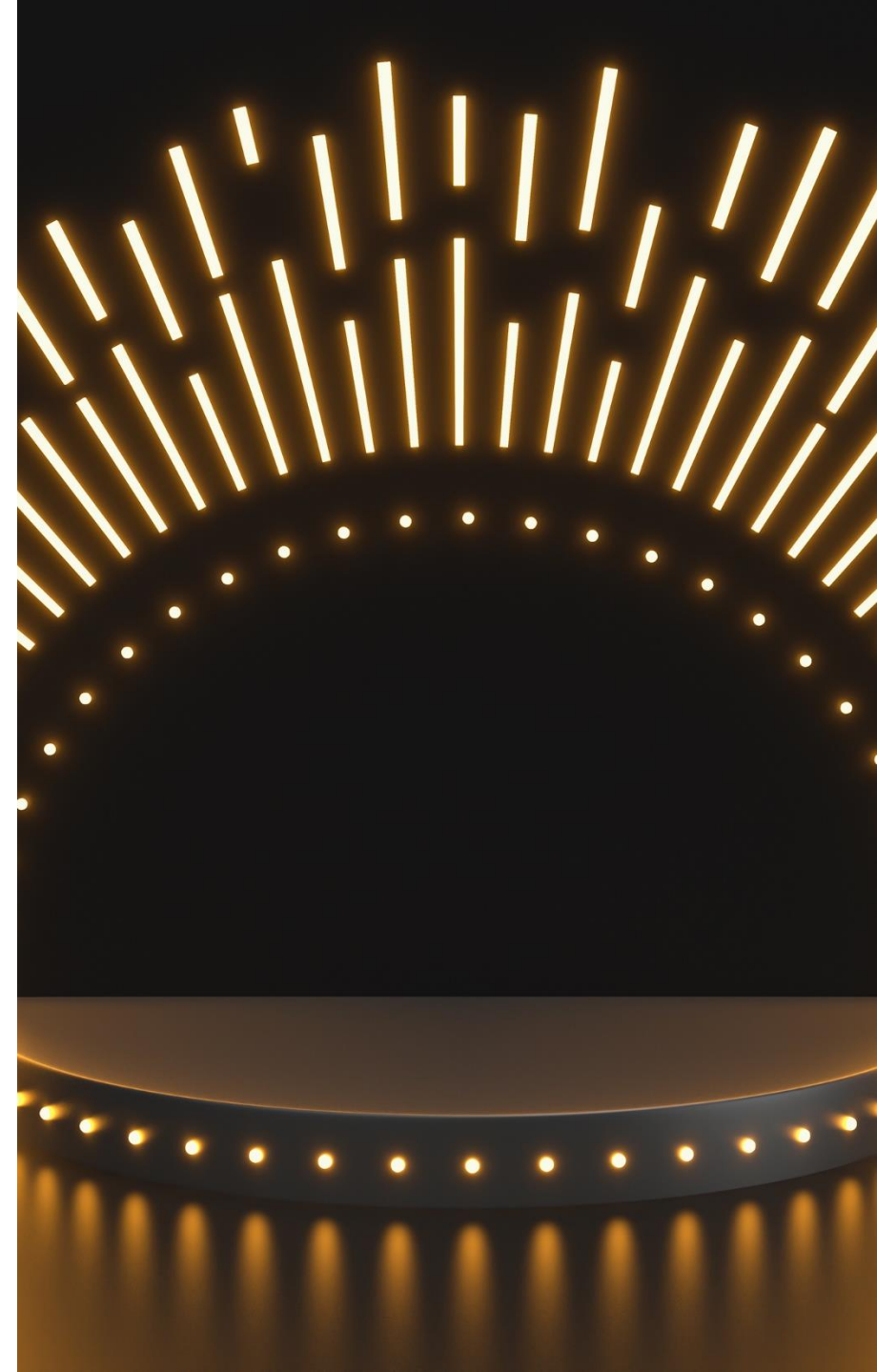


**CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS**

# SETTING THE STAGE

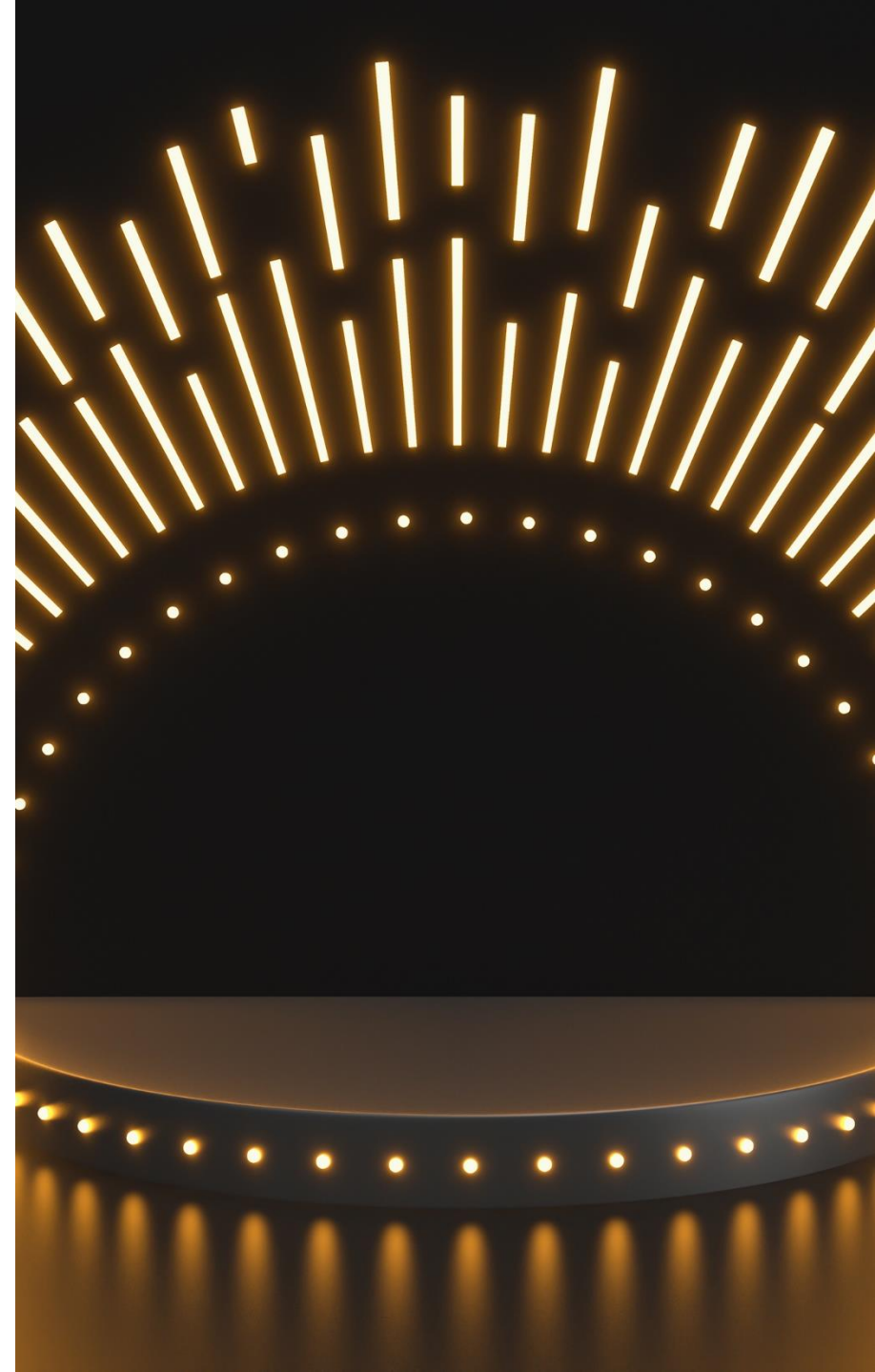
---

- There are increasing challenges being encountered in managing rural healthcare operations
  - Payor
  - Regulatory
  - Competitors
  - Technology
  - Staffing
- Seeing an increased number of rural healthcare organizations engaging in strategic, finance and operational assessments
  - Preventative
  - Crisis driven
  - Mandated
  - Various funding mechanisms



# SETTING THE STAGE

- While findings will vary amongst facilities, there are common themes
- This session is designed to share lessons learned from the field....



# AGENDA

- Introduction
- Patient volumes
- Clinics
- Revenue cycle
- Productivity
- Cost reports
- Strategic planning
- Summary



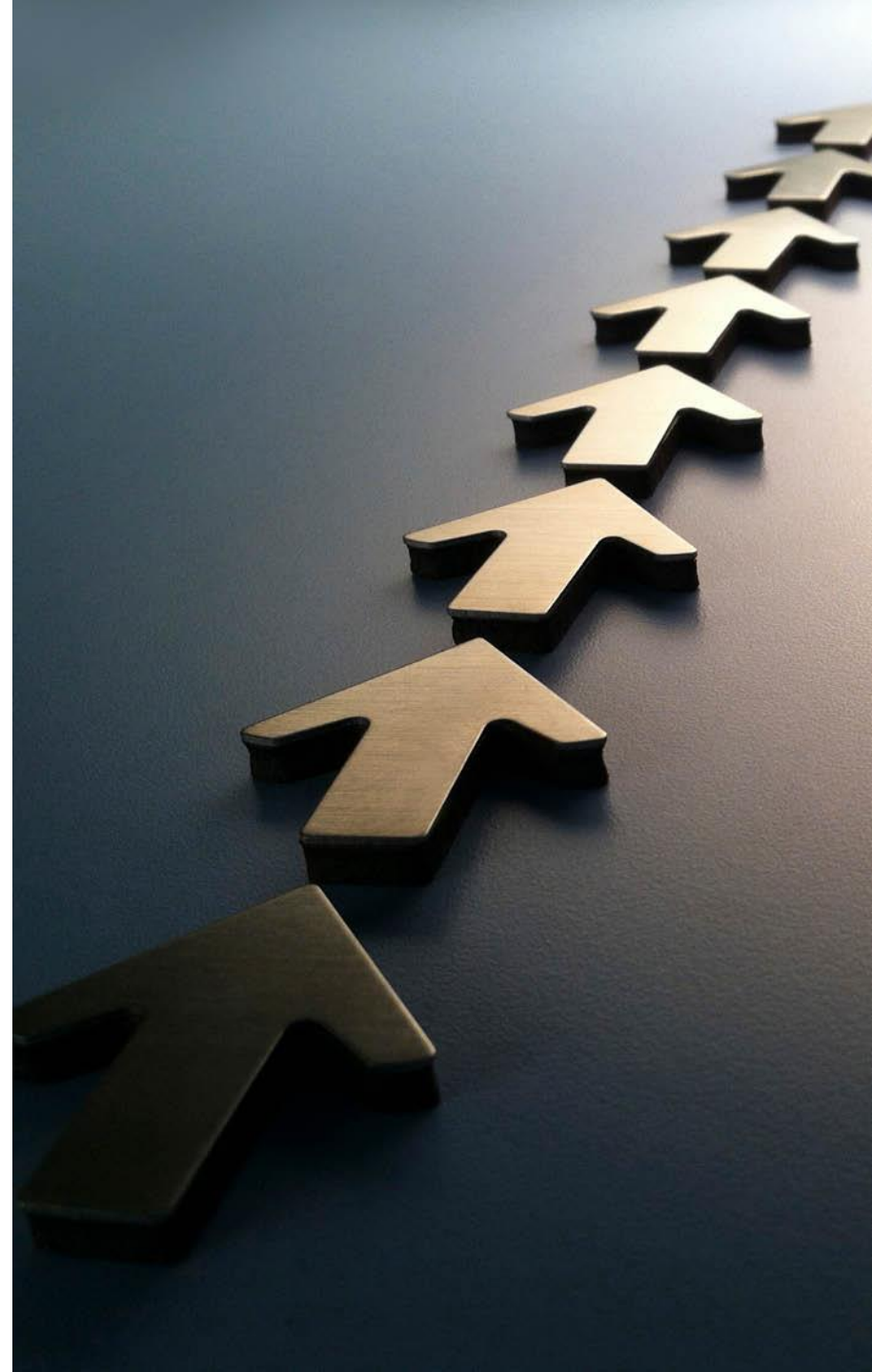


# INTRODUCTION

# THERE IS OPPORTUNITY!

---

- An SFOA is not all about doom and gloom
  - Focus not on scaling back and cutting costs
  - Focus on growth and maximizing utilization of fixed investments
- Cannot focus on cost cutting with an expectation on creating prosperity
- Improvements are achievable by all organizations
- A change in results requires a change in organizational actions







# PATIENT VOLUMES

# GROWTH DRIVES OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- Organizational financial improvement occurs as:
  - Revenues increase
  - Costs decrease
  - Combination
- Increase in reimbursement derives from:
  - Increasing market share
  - Addition of services
  - Improvement in revenue cycle



# UNDERSTANDING MARKET SHARE

---

- Facilities frequently lack an understanding of their current market
  - Where do patients in their market receive services?
  - Why do patients seek care else where?
  - What are existing and projected volumes in the market by service area?
  - What services do their competitors offer?



# MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

---

- Better understanding of where patients get services
  - State resources
  - Medicare files
  - Proprietary sources
  
- Why patients go elsewhere
  - Consider surveys
  - Findings
    - Lack of awareness
    - Lack of access
    - Real or perceived quality issues
    - Other

# UNDERSTANDING VOLUMES

- Understanding current and future volumes can provide significant insight into future needs and strategies
- Variety of sources of data

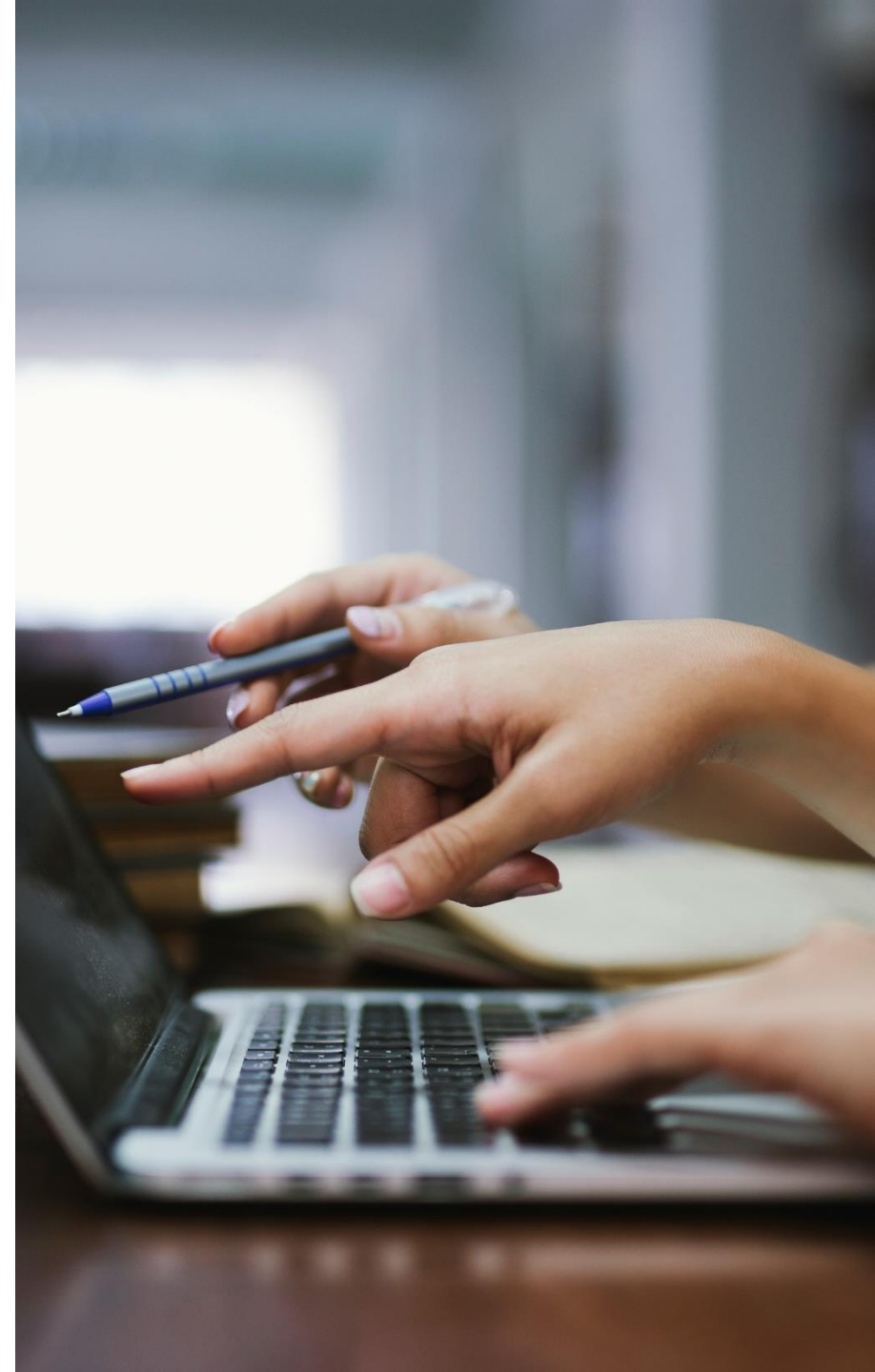
**Data and Analytics | Market Scenario Planner - Outpatient**

Service Line	2023 Volume	2028 Volume	2033 Volume	5 Yr Growth	10 Yr Growth
Endocrinology	49	55	59	14.1%	22.1%
Psychiatry	2,500	2,743	2,753	9.7%	10.1%
Spine	52	55	54	5.5%	4.8%
Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation	5,537	5,798	6,439	4.7%	16.3%
Vascular	487	495	498	1.8%	2.3%
Lab	11,143	11,342	11,313	1.8%	1.5%
Orthopedics	765	777	805	1.6%	5.2%
Cardiology	2,840	2,875	2,837	1.2%	-0.1%
Miscellaneous Services	5,294	5,331	5,408	0.7%	2.2%
ENT	728	731	725	0.3%	-0.5%
Ophthalmology	2,628	2,634	2,613	0.2%	-0.6%
Pain Management	308	307	303	-0.2%	-1.4%
Evaluation and Management	24,310	24,076	23,522	-1.0%	-3.2%
Nephrology	144	142	138	-1.8%	-4.4%
Trauma	201	197	193	-2.0%	-4.3%
Neurology	381	372	368	-2.2%	-3.4%
Radiology	7,431	7,234	7,035	-2.6%	-5.3%
Neurosurgery	20	19	20	-2.8%	-0.7%
Dermatology	1,081	1,050	1,018	-2.9%	-5.9%
Thoracic Surgery	15	14	13	-3.3%	-9.2%
Podiatry	542	523	509	-3.5%	-6.2%
General Surgery	146	139	135	-4.3%	-7.4%
Oncology	427	405	392	-5.1%	-8.2%
Cosmetic Procedures	159	150	145	-5.5%	-8.8%
Gynecology	168	159	155	-5.5%	-7.7%
Gastroenterology	648	609	576	-6.0%	-11.1%
Urology	291	269	257	-7.6%	-11.8%
Pulmonology	329	295	259	-10.3%	-21.1%
Obstetrics	56	50	46	-10.6%	-17.8%

# UNDERSTANDING THE COMPETITION

---

- What do competitors offer for services/access
  - Websites
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Etc.



# UNDERSTANDING THE COMPETITION

---

- Strategically adding services
  - Based on current volumes in market
  - Based on projected growth in market
- Monitoring other providers
  - Mental health
  - Geriatric services
  - Wellness services



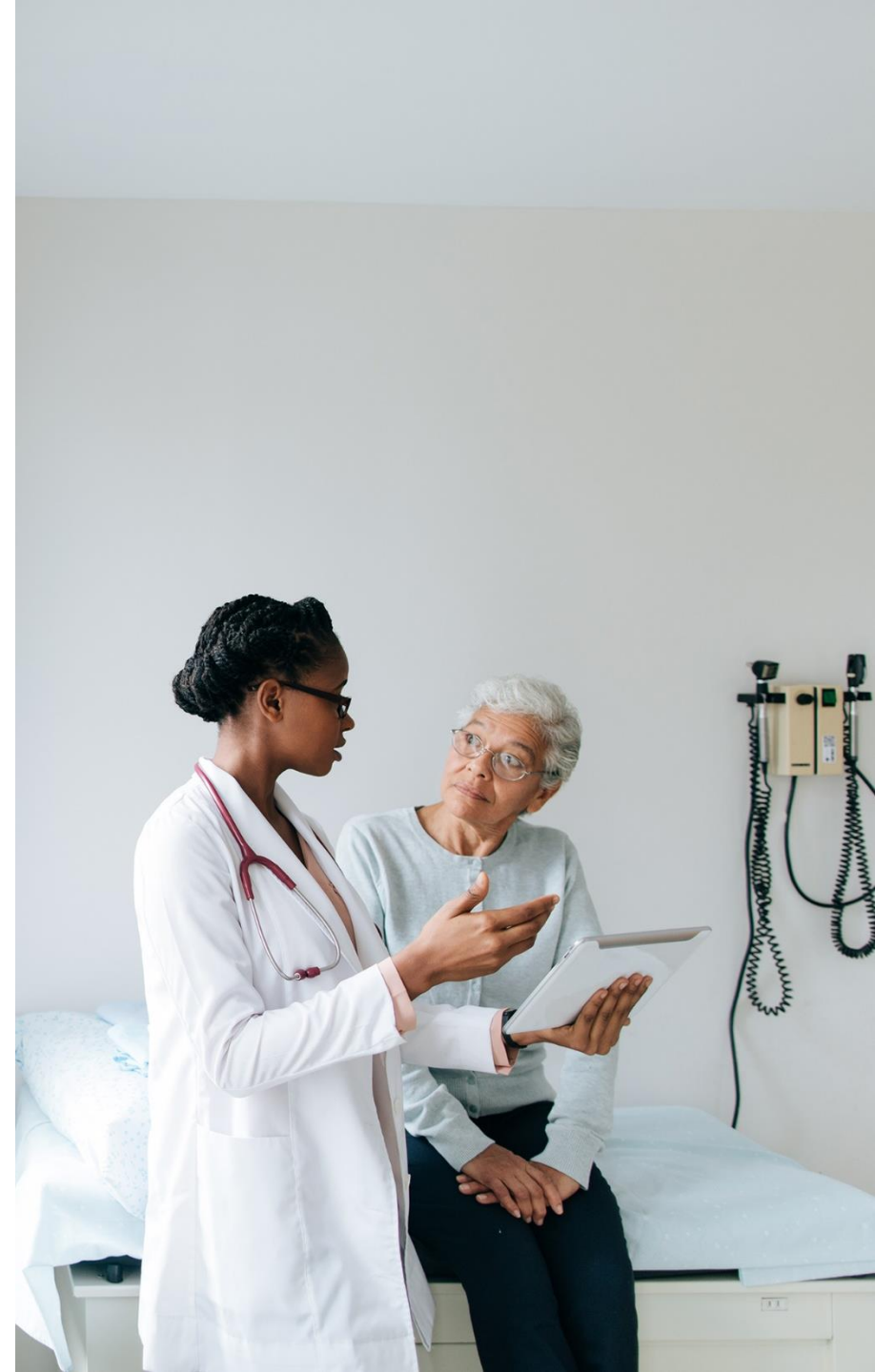


**CLINICS**



# CLINIC PERFORMANCE

- Seeing large variation in clinic practices
  - Expectation of clinic hours
  - Scheduling practices
  - Effective use of technology
  - Effective use of staff
  - Adequacy of documentation, coding and billing
  - Hours/days of operation
  - Telehealth adoption



# CLINIC OPPORTUNITIES

---

- Significant opportunities
  - Increase total volumes with same or less total staffing
  - Increase market share
  - Increase patient satisfaction
  - Increase provider satisfaction
  - Drive patient volume increases for other services



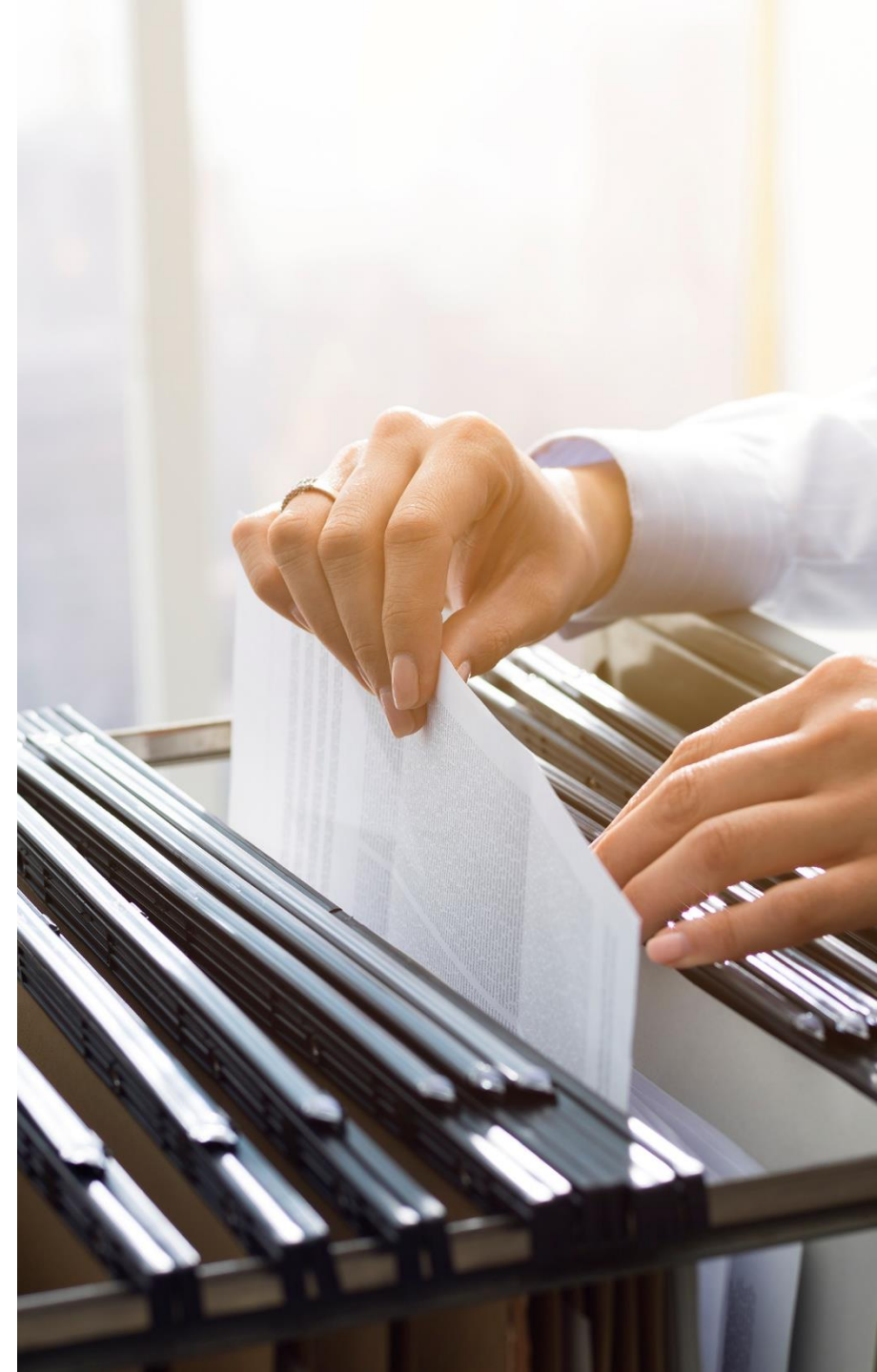


# REVENUE CYCLE

# CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES IN REVENUE CYCLE

---

- Ongoing challenge for all healthcare providers
  - Regardless of size
  - Regardless of type of facility
  - Regardless of system
  - Regardless of location
  - Regardless of in-house or outsourced
- Getting paid for the work you have already provided



# OPPORTUNITIES IN REVENUE CYCLE

- **Front End**
  - Improvement in capture of demographics
  - Pre-authorization effectiveness
  - Financial counseling
- **Mid Cycle**
  - Chargemaster accuracy/effectiveness
  - Coding reviews / charge capture assessments
  - Denial management



# OPPORTUNITIES IN REVENUE CYCLE

- Back End
  - Improving effectiveness of insurance and self pay follow up.
- Outsourcing effectiveness
  - Front End
  - Mid Cycle
  - Back End





**PRODUCTIVITY**

# PRODUCTIVITY MANAGEMENT

- Productivity management is not just about minimizing costs.
- Small number of rural hospitals have a productivity management process in place.
- Great variation in productivity performance.
- Varying definitions of minimum staffing.





# PRODUCTIVITY MANAGEMENT

- There is often an opportunity to add services/volumes without increases in staffing (capacity).
- A review of productivity typically uncovers opportunities to improve processes and the patient experience.



# PRODUCTIVITY MANAGEMENT

- A productivity management process may help identify opportunities to reduce current recruitment needs.





# **COST REPORTS**



# OPPORTUNITIES/RISKS

---

- Varying levels of attention being paid to the preparation and strategy related to the Medicare cost report
  - Preparers
  - Facilities
- Opportunities
  - Capture allowed reimbursement that is being missed
- Risk
  - Improvement in compliance

# OPPORTUNITIES/RISKS

---



- Reporting of days
- Reporting of revenues
- Revenue and expense matching

# OPPORTUNITIES/RISKS

---



- **Overhead allocations**
  - Methodologies
  - Accuracy of data collection
- **Allowability of cost**
  - Availability
  - Benefits
- **Appropriateness of reimbursement methodologies**

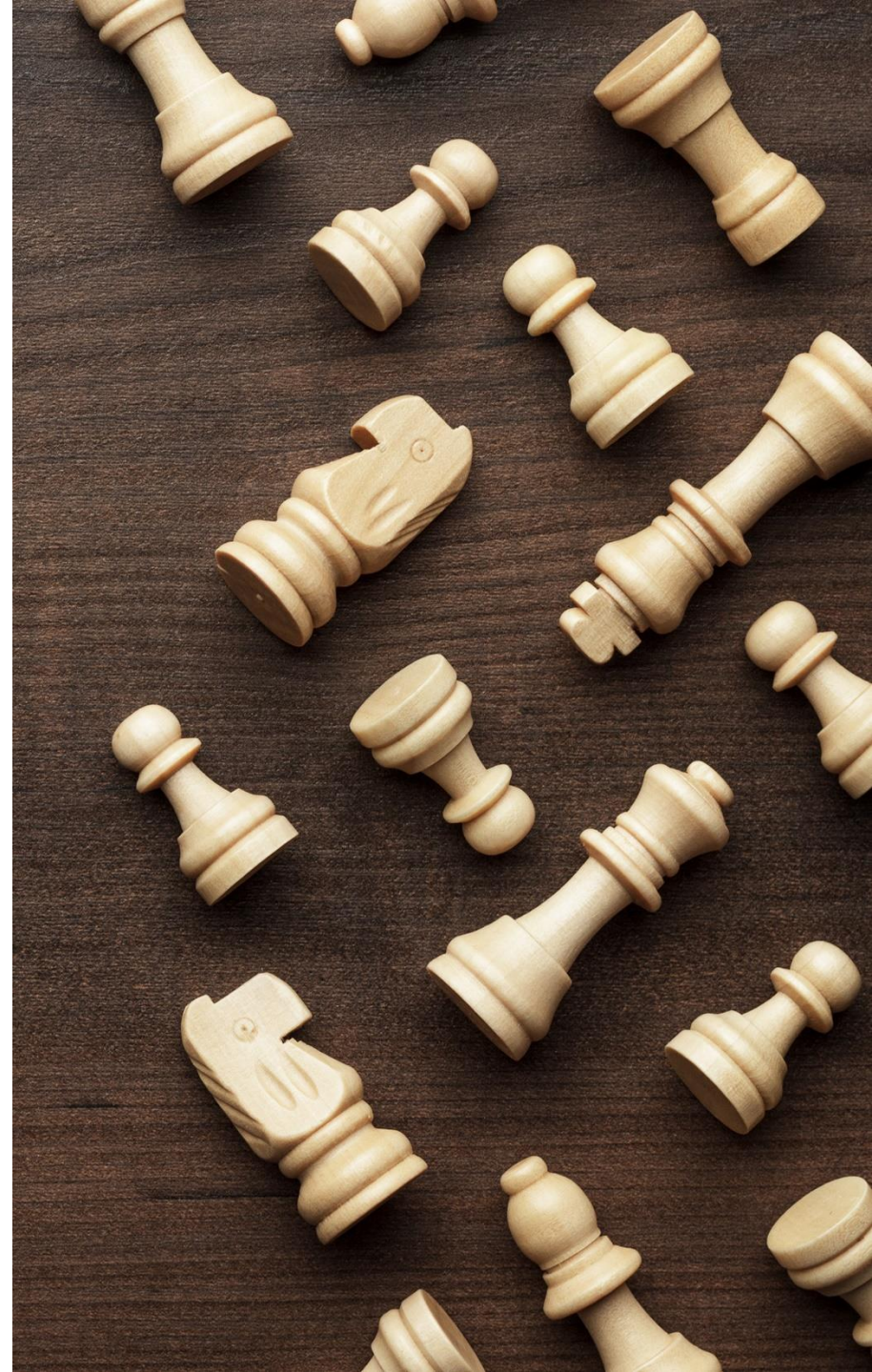


# STRATEGIC PLANNING

# STRATEGY PLANNING

---

- Varying states of strategic planning
  - Very robust
  - Minimal activity
  - Many outdated
  - Varying monitoring/reporting of activity





# STRATEGY PLANNING

---

- Opportunities
  - Frequency
  - Inclusion of market assessments
    - Services
    - Competitors
    - Market share
    - Projected changes in service area demographics
    - Future volume projections
  - Ongoing reporting/monitoring





# SUMMARY

# OPPORTUNITIES EXIST

---

- Deep dive within your organization
- Challenge the status quo / past decisions
- Focus on growth/expansion versus retraction



# OPPORTUNITIES EXIST

---

- Develop an action plan
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting
- A change in results requires a change in your organization





**QUESTIONS?**

# THANK YOU!

Ralph J. Llewellyn, CPA

Partner

[rllewellyn@eidebailly.com](mailto:rllewellyn@eidebailly.com)

701.239.8594



**CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS**



EideBailly®

**CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS**

Find us online:



[eidebailly.com](http://eidebailly.com)