

**Strata Decision
Summit**
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Leveraging Cost Accounting at Physician Practices

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Outline

- I. Introduction / Drivers
- II. Approaches to Physician Costing Models
- III. Macro Level: Practice Costs
- IV. Micro Level: CPT and Encounter Costing

New Role of Cost Accounting

“Costing systems will have to be redesigned, repositioned, and re-implemented as providers create new, innovative organizational structures and relationships to capture market opportunities, update transactional systems, and make decisions based on data that went relatively unexamined before.”

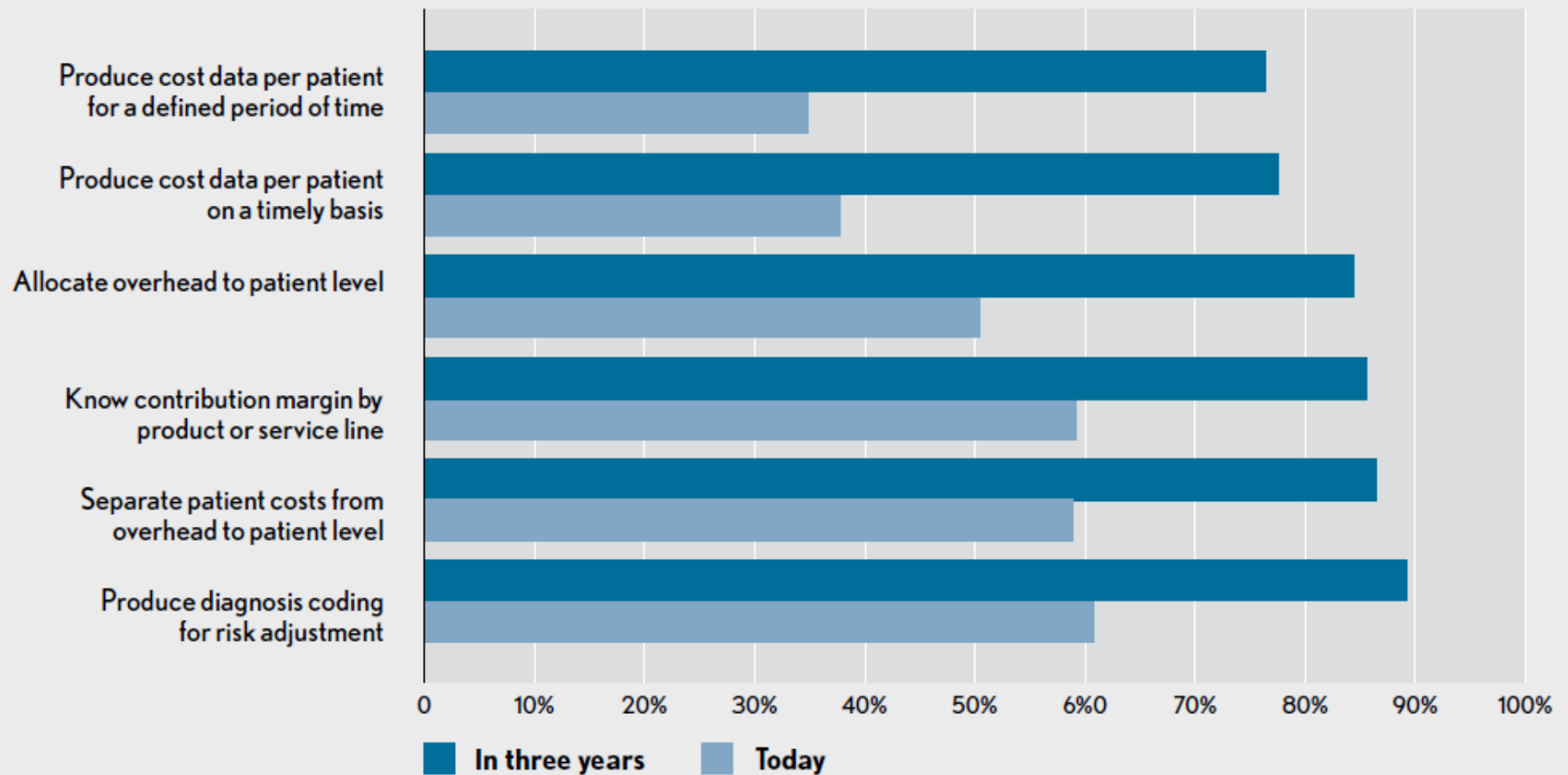
	Cost Accounting: The Present	Cost Accounting: Post Reform
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Product/Service Line . Payer . Overall Patient Population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Specific services . Specific population clusters . Specific patients, in some instances
Data Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Market volume and profit trends across several years . Strategic planning and priorities . Budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Comparing financial results of care choices . Evaluating bundled payment arrangements . Evaluating make/buy opportunities . Finding best practices . Setting tactical priorities around departmental efficiencies and/or affecting outcomes
Costing Approach (method and frequency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Ratio of cost to charge . RVUs . Limited microcosting . Annual cost finding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Enhanced RVUs . Increased microcosting . More frequent standards revisions . Monthly and/or “real time” costs

Paul Selivanoff, “The Impact of Healthcare Reform on Costing Systems”, Healthcare Financial Management, May 2, 2011.

HFMA Value Project: Survey indicates healthcare organizations will improve costing capabilities significantly over next 3 years

ANTICIPATED IMPROVEMENTS IN INPATIENT COSTING-RELATED CAPABILITIES

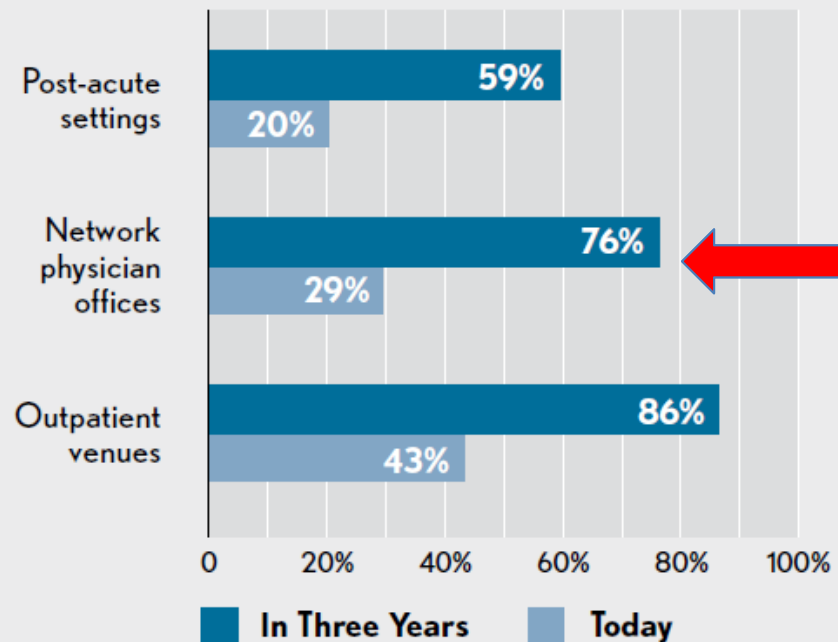
Percentage of survey respondents indicating moderate or significant capabilities today and in three years.



HFMA Value Project: Cost accounting will expand to encompass other care settings (beyond hospital)

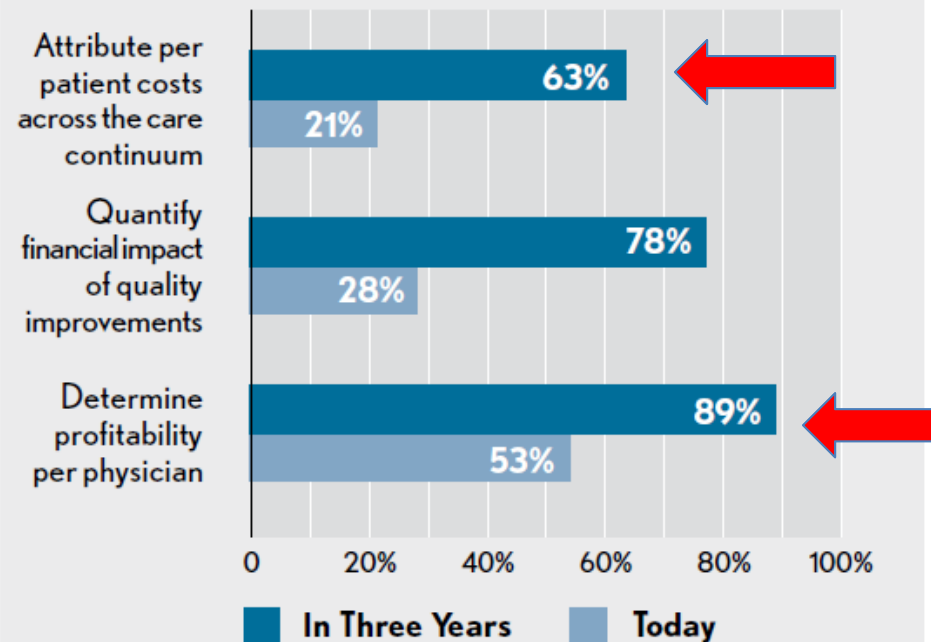
ANTICIPATED IMPROVEMENTS IN COSTING-RELATED CAPABILITIES ACROSS CARE SETTINGS

Percentage of survey respondents indicating moderate or significant capabilities today and in three years.



ANTICIPATED CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIC COSTING DATA USE CAPABILITIES

Percentage of survey respondents indicating moderate or significant capabilities today and in three years.



Source: HFMA Value Project February 2012

Drivers pushing healthcare organizations to develop physician cost data

- The now-critical need to know costs for the healthcare enterprise:
 - Hospital
 - Physician Practices
 - Nursing Home
 - Other entities
- ACO, bundled payments, and other global pricing
- Service line profitability analysis across the enterprise

How does Physician Cost Accounting differ from Hospital Cost Accounting?

- Salary costs are the area of focus because they comprise the bulk of costs. In most practices, supply and drug costs are minimal.
- Important costs include:
 - Physician salaries
 - Malpractice (considered DIRECT)
 - Space/facility costs
- **Specialty** and **location** are important in physician costing, yet general ledger structures may not break out expenses at this level.
- Depending on accounting practices, there may be minimal or no overhead costing (i.e. corporate and overhead allocations may already be taking place in the G/L via journal entries).
- In many physician costing models, the challenge is not with service-item costing, but rather, with aligning costs by practice/specialty/location (or even physician, depending on the model) even before any service item or encounter level costing.

EXAMPLE

Cost Components for a Group Practice

- **Salaries: Physician**
- **Salaries: Mid-Level Practitioners**
- Salaries: Clinical
- Salaries: Contract
- Salaries: Mgmt/Supervisory
- Salaries: Support
- **Benefits: Physician**
- Benefits: Other
- Drugs
- Medical Supplies
- Other Expenses
- Other Supplies
- Professional Fees
- Purchased Services Medical
- Purchased Services Other
- **Rent & Lease**
- **Insurance: Malpractice**
- Insurance: Other
- Interest
- Internal Purchased Services
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Bad Debt
- Depreciation
- Utilities
- *Allocated Central Admin*
- *Allocated Central Medical*
- *Allocated Corporate Services*
- *Allocated Site Specific*
- *Allocated Specialty Clinical*

How does Physician Cost Accounting differ from Hospital Cost Accounting?

SERVICE ITEM AND ENCOUNTER LEVEL COSTING

- Service item costing is at the CPT level: The charge code/service item for costing will be the CPT code with possible exceptions of “homegrown” CPT codes to capture certain non-billable activities.
- Patient care activities encompass a broad range of activities for both physician and staff.
- In addition to direct caregiver time, a multitude of other activities are necessary to coordinate the care for the patient, including;
 - Responding to phone calls
 - Reviewing results of diagnostic tests
 - Dictation

If the organization's cost accounting goals are centered on practice or physician profitability, CPT and encounter level costing may be low priority and perhaps not a part of the costing model at all!

Physician Cost Accounting CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the type of physician practice model in determining the costing approach. There are various models under which a physician practice may conduct business (e.g., a traditional medical group, a hospital-owned clinic, a professional corporation/management services organization, and more). Each of these models has different systems setups that dictate the way in which the costing model is to be built and implemented. These setups heavily influence how the feeder systems are interfaced and how costing and activity (billed and nonbilled) structures are to be built.

“5 Ways to Better Understand Costing for Physician Practices”

David Clingo and Cesar Fernández-Mansilla

<http://www.hfma.org/Content.aspx?id=3326>

Cost Accounting of Physician Practices

Macro Level

Department / Practice Costing

Approach	Pro (Advantage)	Con (Disadvantage)
By Practice	<p>Uses existing expense structures in the GL or accounting system</p> <p>Costs of a CPT (e.g. 99201 New Patient Visit) will vary by each individual practice</p>	Does not reflect unique cost of each physician
By Provider	More granular, reflects unique cost of each physician (compensation, staffing, other costs)	Will involve assignments and allocations of shared costs, including RN's and other Clinical Staff, Admin Staff, and Mid-Level Practitioners.

Example: Costing by Practice

DERMATOLOGY

	<u>\$ Month</u>
NET REVENUE	\$122,669
<u>DIRECT EXPENSES</u>	
SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$69,916
OTHER EXPENSE (MALPRACTICE, SUPPLY, ETC).	<u>\$3,388</u>
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$73,304
SUPPORT COSTS	<u>\$60,637</u>
TOTAL PRACTICE COSTS	\$133,941
DIRECT MARGIN	(\$11,272)
<u>INDIRECT COSTS (Allocation Statistic)</u>	
CLINICAL FLOATS (Provider FTE's)	\$1,182
FINANCE (Provider FTE's)	\$763
CODING/CHARGE (Gross Rev)	\$1,765
PRE REGISTRATION (Gross Rev)	\$514
CASH/CENTRAL REGISTRATION (Gross Rev)	\$1,166
TRANSCRIPTION (Gross Rev)	\$251
TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Provider FTE's)	\$1,115
INFO SYSTEMS (Provider FTE's)	\$1,243
ADMINISTRATION (Provider FTE's)	\$3,594
FACILITIES (Provider FTE's)	\$8,864
REFERRAL MGMT (Gross Rev)	\$889
PURCHASING (Provider FTE's)	\$1,841
HUMAN RESOURCES (Provider FTE's)	<u>\$419</u>
SUBTOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	\$23,606
PROFIT (LOSS)	(\$34,878)

Physician-Specific Costing Models



IMPLICATIONS

- Cost accounting systems are generally *not* structured to accept this detail.
- A physician-specific department would need to be created within the encounter data, via the data integration from the practice management system.
- Assuming that expenses are not detailed by provider in the general ledger, detailed breakouts of expenses by provider will need to be developed and then maintained.
- The organization needs to consider whether, philosophically, physician-specific costing makes sense and is aligned with its goals and incentives.

Physician Cost Accounting

Approach: Physician-Specific Costing

Type of Cost	Strategy
Physician Salary & Benefits	Break out by individual physician (create physician “cost centers” within the cost model)
Clinical Salaries & Benefits (RN & Other)	Assign to physician level based on a time study or staffing schedules
Mid-Level Practitioners	Assign to individual physicians based on time study or other allocation assumptions
Malpractice	Use physician-specific amounts
Education / Travel	Use physician-specific amounts
Supplies & Other	Allocate across physicians based on RVU’s, physician FTE’s, or another statistic
Support & Overhead Costs	Allocate to practices first (using relevant statistic), then to physician level using an MD-specific statistic such as RVU’s, physician FTE’s, or billed charges

Cost Reclassifications and Allocations

Reclassifications will need to be set up to realign costs across practices and/or locations:

Provider Costs with Non-Provider costs: In some multi-specialty practices, Provider costs may be centralized while Non-Provider costs are not (or vice versa)

Practice Support: includes Primary Care and Specialty Administration and Support departments; e.g.

- OB/Gyn Support
- Surgical Specialty Support
- Behavioral Health Admin

*By reassigning these costs via reclassifications, they are treated as **direct** costs in the cost model rather than indirect.*

Overhead Allocation

Compile Statistics: The list of necessary overhead allocation statistics within a physician costing model is typically shorter than a hospital's:

- Total FTE's
- Physician/Provider FTE's *
- RVU's
- Square footage
- Revenue

* *Physician/Provider FTE's are often selected as the "default" statistic for fixed costs; those costs that the physicians feel should be borne equally by all.*

Examples: Allocation Statistics

Statistic	Cost to Allocate
Physician FTE's	I.T. Finance Admin and General Physician Recruitment Other Fixed Costs
Work RVU's	Specialty Support Services Other types of Practice Support Medical Records Care Coordination
Total FTE's	Human Resources Payroll
Square Footage	Rent/Occupancy Costs Facilities Management
Revenue	Billing / Revenue Operations Contracting Payor Relations
Clinical Equipment – Estimated Value	Biomedical Engineering

Overhead Allocation

Categorize Indirect Costs: If practice support costs are part of the overhead allocation process (vs. being reclassified), it will be important to categorize indirect costs into reporting categories: (see sample definitions below)

Category of Overhead	Definition
Practice Support	Costs not incurred directly by the practice that are related to (a) the provision and care or services at the practice location and/or (b) could be reasonably expected to be a cost a practice would have to incur to conduct business as a standalone practice.
Corporate Overhead	Centralized costs/functions that (a) enhance the service, value and efficiency of the practice and/or (b) provide necessary legal, regulatory, and policy consistency across the organization.

Cost Accounting of Physician Practices

Micro Level

CPT & Encounter Costing

Approach	Pro (Advantage)	Con (Disadvantage)
Medicare RBRVS Values	Industry standard, explainable to physicians	Not customized to the individual practice or organization RVU values not available for any “homegrown” codes used in billing
RVU Studies (practice-specific)	Specific to the practice Buy-in from physicians	Requires significant resources for implementation as well as maintenance on an ongoing basis

Cost Accounting of Physician Practices

Approach	Pro (Advantage)	Con (Disadvantage)
Activity Based Costing (ABC)	<p>Views costs by activity rather than financial category</p> <p>Activity-based approach can result in more accurate assignment of costs to service item/CPT level</p>	<p>Activity breakout introduces more complexity</p> <p>Potentially significant time to implement</p>
Time-Driven Activity Based Costing (TDABC)	<p>“Pull” or bottom-up methodology identifies unused efficiency and/or unused capacity cost variance</p>	<p>Requires developing time standards or collecting actual times (vs. using RVU’s)</p> <p>Quest for perfect cost drivers will have impact on implementation timeline, and ongoing maintenance</p>

RBRVS (Resource-Based Relative Value Scale)

Types of RVU's

- **Work RVU's:** Measures the work effort of a physician to complete the procedure.
- **Practice RVU: Non-Facility:** Measures the cost of the practice to complete the procedure in a physician's office.
- **Practice RVU: Facility:** Measures the cost of the practice to complete the procedure in a non physician office setting.
 - Hospital
 - ASC – Ambulatory Surgery Center
 - CORF – Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility
 - IDTF – Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility
- **Malpractice RVU:** Measures the cost of the Malpractice for the procedure.

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/PFS-Relative-Value-Files.html>

ACTIVITY-BASED COSTING

- Definition: A method of measuring cost and performance of activities and products. ABC assigns costs to activities based on their use of resources, and assigns costs to products based on their use of activities.



Activity-Based Costing

- How does ABC differ from traditional costing?
 - Costs traditionally treated as fixed or overhead receive more attention in ABC, and are assigned on a true “cause-and-effect” basis.
 - Views costs by activity rather than financial category.
- ABC introduces a language that can be used by the cost accountant and the clinician, who already views costs by activity.
- “An activity-based system aligns organizational information with the business mission and operations rather than financial transactions. It tears down the barriers that segregate financial information from other information.”

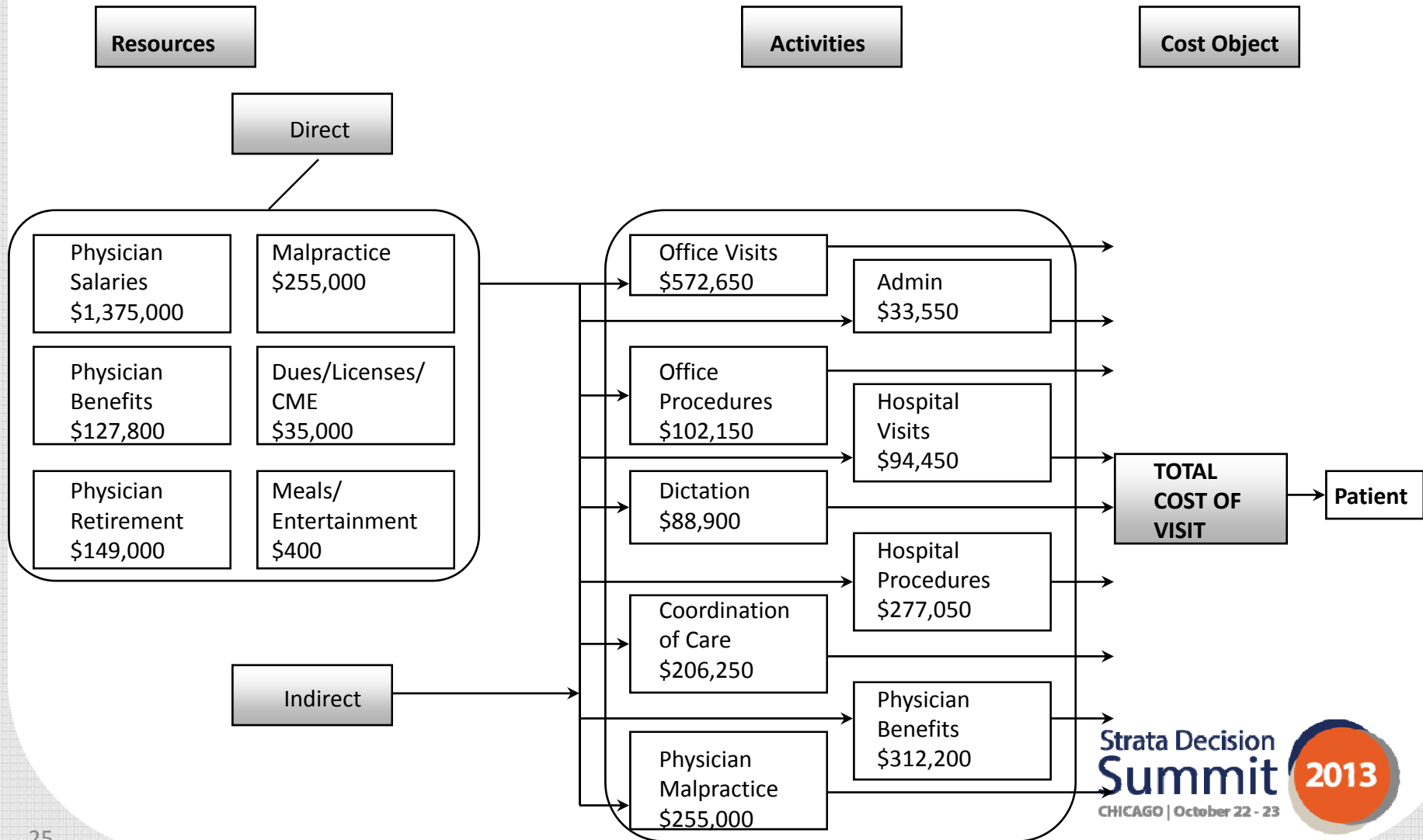
Mary Lee Geishecker
“New Technologies Support ABC”
Management Accounting, March 1996

Benefits of Activity-Based Costing

- Leads to an increased understanding of the chain of activities that help determine costs.
- Helps organizations obtain better information about their existing processes and activities so the efficiency of operations can improve continuously.
- An organization is able to rationalize and optimize its deployment of people, capital and other assets.

Activity-Based Flow Chart

Step 1: Assign Costs to Activities



ABC Example

Step 2: Assign Activities to Products

Compile RVU's (Medicare RBRVS Values)

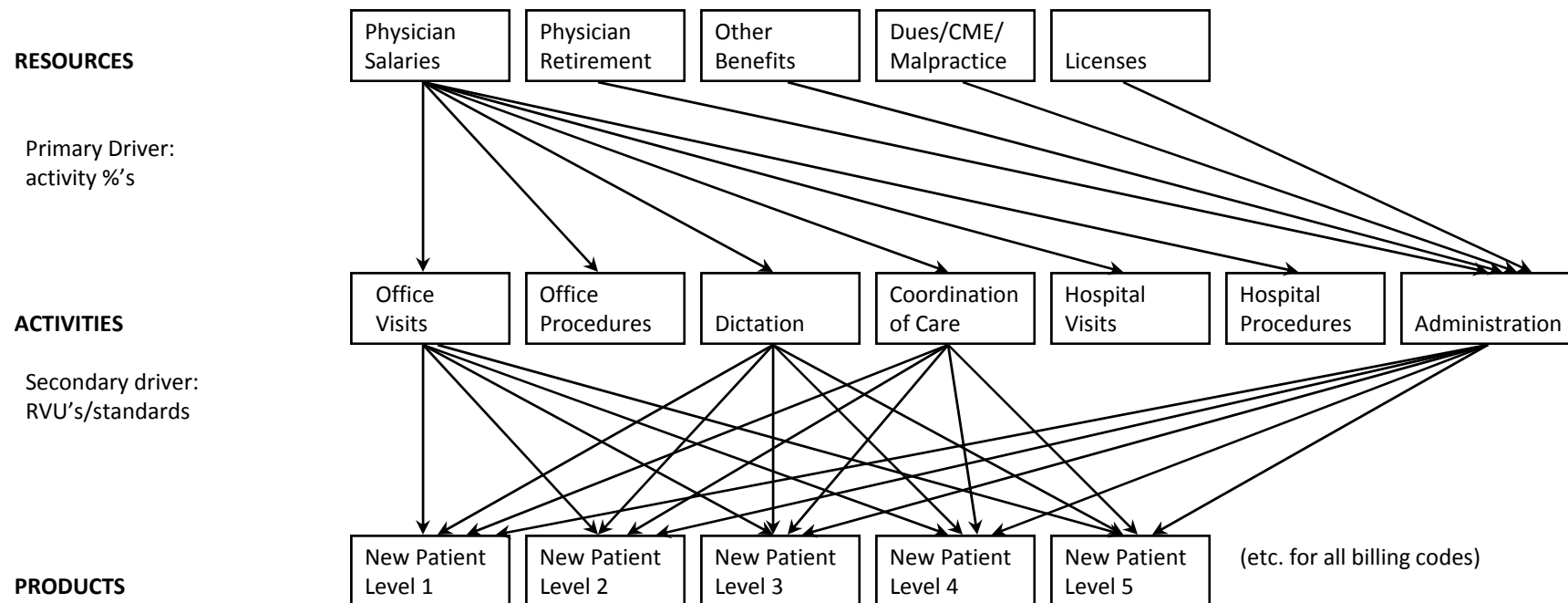
CPT	CPT Name	Volume	RVU Values						Weighted RVU's					
			Work	Work: Office Visits	Work: Office Procedures	Work: Hosp Procedures	Practice Expense	Malpractice	Work	Work: Office Visits	Work: Office Procedures	Work: Hosp Procedures	Practice Expense	Malpractice
99201	New Patient Level 1	4	0.48	0.48			0.77	0.04	1.92	1.92			3.08	0.16
99202	New Patient Level 2	6	0.93	0.93			1.19	0.07	5.58	5.58			7.14	0.42
99203	New Patient Level 3	70	1.42	1.42			1.61	0.14	99.40	99.40			112.70	9.80
99204	New Patient Level 4	225	2.43	2.43			2.18	0.23	546.75	546.75			490.50	51.75
99205	New Patient Level 5	25	3.17	3.17			2.55	0.27	79.25	79.25			63.75	6.75
99211	Est Patient Level 1	550	0.18	0.18			0.41	0.01	99.00	99.00			225.50	5.50
99212	Est Patient Level 2	870	0.48	0.48			0.77	0.04	417.60	417.60			669.90	34.80
99213	Est Patient Level 3	410	0.97	0.97			1.09	0.07	397.70	397.70			446.90	28.70
99214	Est Patient Level 4	180	1.50	1.50			1.53	0.10	270.00	270.00			275.40	18.00
99215	Est Patient Level 5	10	2.11	2.11			1.95	0.14	21.10	21.10			19.50	1.40
99384	Prev visit new age 12-17	5	2.00	2.00			1.82	0.13	10.00	10.00			9.10	0.65
99385	Prev visit new age 18-39	35	1.92	1.92			1.79	0.13	67.20	67.20			62.65	4.55
99386	Prev visit new age 40-64	10	2.33	2.33			1.95	0.15	23.30	23.30			19.50	1.50
99394	Init pm e/m new pat 65+ yrs	15	1.70	1.70			1.57	0.10	25.50	25.50			23.55	1.50
99395	Prev visit est age 18-39	2250	1.75	1.75			1.59	0.10	3,937.50	3,937.50			3,577.50	225.00
99396	Prev visit est age 40-64	830	1.90	1.90			1.65	0.12	1,577.00	1,577.00			1,369.50	99.60
99397	Per pm reeval est pat 65+ yr	60	2.00	2.00			1.83	0.13	120.00	120.00			109.80	7.80
59400	Obstetrical Care	880	32.16			32.16	22.07	8.96	28,300.80			28,300.80	19,421.60	7,884.80
59510	Cesarean delivery	425	35.64			35.64	24.05	10.15	15,147.00			15,147.00	10,221.25	4,313.75
54150	Circumcision	775	1.90			1.90	2.46	0.23	1,472.50			1,472.50	1,906.50	178.25
59400	Amniocentesis	260	32.16		32.16		22.07	8.96	8,361.60		8,361.60		5,738.20	2,329.60
59025	Non-Stress Test	1030	0.53			0.53	0.79	0.13	545.90			545.90	813.70	133.90
58100	Endometrial Biopsy	70	1.53			1.53	1.49	0.26	107.10	-		107.10	104.30	18.20
Total Weighted RVU's									61,633.70	7,698.80	9,014.60	44,920.30	45,691.52	15,356.38

ABC Example: Determine Per Unit Cost, by Activity

CPT	CPT Name	Per Unit Cost							
		Office Visits (Work RVU's)	Office Procedures (Work RVU's)	Dictation (PE RVU's)	Coord of Care (PE RVU)	Admin (PE RVU)	Hospital Procs (Work RVU's)	Physician Benefits (Work RVU's)	Malpractice (Malpractice RVU's)
99201	New Patient Level 1	\$35.70	\$0.00	\$1.50	\$3.48	\$0.57	\$0.00	\$2.43	\$0.66
99202	New Patient Level 2	\$69.18	\$0.00	\$2.32	\$5.37	\$0.87	\$0.00	\$4.71	\$1.16
99203	New Patient Level 3	\$105.62	\$0.00	\$3.13	\$7.27	\$1.18	\$0.00	\$7.19	\$2.32
99204	New Patient Level 4	\$180.75	\$0.00	\$4.24	\$9.84	\$1.60	\$0.00	\$12.31	\$3.82
99205	New Patient Level 5	\$235.79	\$0.00	\$4.96	\$11.51	\$1.87	\$0.00	\$16.06	\$4.48
99211	Est Patient Level 1	\$13.39	\$0.00	\$0.80	\$1.85	\$0.30	\$0.00	\$0.91	\$0.17
99212	Est Patient Level 2	\$35.70	\$0.00	\$1.50	\$3.48	\$0.57	\$0.00	\$2.43	\$0.66
99213	Est Patient Level 3	\$72.15	\$0.00	\$2.12	\$4.92	\$0.80	\$0.00	\$4.91	\$1.16
99214	Est Patient Level 4	\$111.57	\$0.00	\$2.98	\$6.91	\$1.12	\$0.00	\$7.60	\$1.66
99215	Est Patient Level 5	\$156.95	\$0.00	\$3.79	\$8.80	\$1.43	\$0.00	\$10.69	\$2.32
99384	Prev visit new age 12-17	\$148.76	\$0.00	\$3.54	\$8.22	\$1.34	\$0.00	\$10.13	\$2.16
99385	Prev visit new age 18-39	\$142.81	\$0.00	\$3.48	\$8.08	\$1.31	\$0.00	\$9.73	\$2.16
99386	Prev visit new age 40-64	\$173.31	\$0.00	\$3.79	\$8.80	\$1.43	\$0.00	\$11.80	\$2.49
99394	Init pm e/m new pat 65+ yrs	\$126.45	\$0.00	\$3.05	\$7.09	\$1.15	\$0.00	\$8.61	\$1.66
99395	Prev visit est age 18-39	\$130.17	\$0.00	\$3.09	\$7.18	\$1.17	\$0.00	\$8.86	\$1.66
99396	Prev visit est age 40-64	\$141.33	\$0.00	\$3.21	\$7.45	\$1.21	\$0.00	\$9.62	\$1.99
99397	Per pm reeval est pat 65+ yr	\$148.76	\$0.00	\$3.56	\$8.26	\$1.34	\$0.00	\$10.13	\$2.16
59400	Obstetrical Care	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.94	\$99.62	\$16.21	\$265.97	\$162.90	\$148.79
59510	Cesarean delivery	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46.79	\$108.56	\$17.66	\$294.75	\$180.53	\$168.55
54150	Circumcision	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.79	\$11.10	\$1.81	\$15.71	\$9.62	\$3.82
59400	Amniocentesis	\$0.00	\$364.42	\$42.94	\$99.62	\$16.21	\$0.00	\$162.90	\$148.79
59025	Non-Stress Test	\$0.00	\$6.01	\$1.54	\$3.57	\$0.58	\$0.00	\$2.68	\$2.16
58100	Endometrial Biopsy	\$0.00	\$17.34	\$2.90	\$6.73	\$1.09	\$0.00	\$7.75	\$4.32
Total Weighted RVU's		7,698.80	9,014.60	45,691.52	45,691.52	45,691.52	44,920.30	61,633.70	15,356.38
Total Costs		\$572,650	\$102,150	\$88,900	\$206,250	\$33,550	\$371,500	\$312,200	\$255,000
Cost per RVU		\$74.38	\$11.33	\$1.95	\$4.51	\$0.73	\$8.27	\$5.07	\$16.61



Activity Based Costing Process View



COSTING GOALS FOR PHYSICIAN PRACTICES

- Approach must support goals of:
 - Analyzing managed care contracts and pricing proposals
 - Providing costs-of-care information for the healthcare enterprise
 - Managing group practice profitability
- System must be maintainable.
- System should not be overly complex: “Be directionally right, not precisely wrong!”
- Approach should recognize uniqueness of each specialty and practice, yet achieve consistent results to the extent possible.

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