

The Productivity Requirements of Implementing a Medical Scribe Program

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Background: Economic analyses of medical scribes have been limited to individual, specialty-specific clinics.

Objective: To determine the number of additional patient visits various specialties would need to recover the costs of implementing scribes in their practice at 1 year.

Design: Modeling study based on 2015 data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. Scribe costs were based on literature review and a third-party contractor model. Revenue was calculated from direct visit billing, CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) billing, and data from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Data Sources: 2015 data from CMS and the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Target Population: Health care providers.

Time Horizon: 1 year.

Perspective: Office-based clinic.

Outcome Measures: The number of additional patient visits a physician must have to recover the costs of a scribe program at 1 year.

Results of Base-Case Analysis: An average of 1.34 additional new patient visits per day (295 per year) were required to re-

cover scribe costs (range, 0.89 [cardiology] to 1.80 [orthopedic surgery] new patient visits per day). For returning patients, an average of 2.15 additional visits per day (472 per year) were required (range, 1.65 [cardiology] to 2.78 [orthopedic surgery] returning visits per day). The addition of 2 new patient (or 3 returning) visits per day was profitable for all specialties.

Results of Sensitivity Analysis: Results were not sensitive to most inputs, with the exception of hourly scribe cost and inclusion of CPT revenue.

Limitation: Use of Medicare data and failure to account for indirect costs, downstream revenue, or changes in documentation quality.

Conclusion: For all specialties, modest increases in productivity due to scribes may allow physicians to see more patients and offset scribe costs, making scribe programs revenue-neutral.

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Electronic health record documentation has replaced paper records for most physicians (1). However, electronic health records present notable disadvantages, including decreased face-to-face interaction time with patients, increased documentation burden, and increased burnout (2-8). Medical scribe programs are an increasingly common strategy to counteract burdensome documentation requirements, decrease physician documentation time, and increase workplace satisfaction (9-13).

However, integration of scribes into clinical care represents a new cost to the health care system, and whether practices can justify the additional expense remains unclear. Preliminary evidence from single specialties provides some justification. For example, studies in family medicine and emergency medicine have demonstrated that scribes can increase productivity (14-20), which could lead to increased revenue from visit billing, laboratory tests, and radiology. In addition, reports from cardiology, gastroenterology, and urology have described increased revenue after implementation of scribe programs (14, 21-24). For primary care, Basu and colleagues (25) developed a simulation model to analyze the cost-benefit ratio for scribes employed and trained by primary care clinics. This model found that primary care physicians could recover the costs of a scribe program after 1 year if each physician scheduled 351 additional visits. However, most physi-

cians will find it infeasible to train scribes, and the financial impact of implementing scribe programs remains unknown for many specialties.

To obtain more generalizable findings, we estimated the number of additional patient visits needed to recover the costs of hiring scribes via a third-party contractor for 32 provider types designated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), comprising 30 physician specialties, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. We hypothesized that scribes can recover costs for all provider types through modest increases in daily patient visits.

METHODS

We used an economic analysis from the office-based clinic perspective, calculating changes to costs and fee-for-service revenues for 1 year after the implementation of a scribe program. Both costs and revenues were calculated for 1 full-time scribe working with 1 full-time health care professional (HCP) (physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner).

Scribe Costs

We chose to evaluate the third-party contractor model for scribes—as opposed to HCPs employing and training scribes directly or training medical assistants to act as scribes—because it can be more readily imple-

Table. Costs of Medical Scribe Program and Revenue for New Visits for Selected Specialties*

| Variable | Value |
|---|-----------------|
| Scribe program costs, \$ | |
| 1-time initial cost per health care professional | 3000 |
| Human resources onboarding cost per scribe | 400 |
| Hourly cost | 25 |
| Mean scribe hires per year (SD), n | 1.49 (0.75) |
| Mean total cost at 1 y (SD), \$ | 47 594 (301.02) |
| Mean revenue per new visit, \$ | |
| Evaluation and management codes | |
| Cardiology (SD) | 163.99 (31.28) |
| Internal medicine (SD) | 152.60 (37.20) |
| Orthopedic surgery (SD) | 120.37 (28.99) |
| CPT codes | |
| Cardiology | 84.52 |
| Internal medicine | 31.81 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 2.24 |
| Mean total revenue per new visit (SD), \$ | |
| Cardiology | 248.51 (31.28) |
| Internal medicine | 184.41 (37.20) |
| Orthopedic surgery | 122.61 (28.99) |
| Additional new visits at 1 y needed to recover costs of scribe program with 90% confidence, n | |
| Cardiology | 195 |
| Internal medicine | 263 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 395 |
| Additional new visits per day needed to recover costs of scribe program with 90% confidence, n | |
| Cardiology | 0.9 |
| Internal medicine | 1.2 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 1.8 |

CPT = Current Procedural Terminology.

* A simplified example of the calculations used to estimate the number of additional visits needed to recover the costs of a scribe program for 3 specialties. The number of additional visits needed to recover the costs at 1 y is approximately the total costs of the scribe program divided by the total revenue per visit.

mented, especially in non-primary care specialties. In this model, a contractor is paid by a clinic to hire, train, and manage scribes, who act as clerical documentation assistants (26). Unexpected costs are limited because the contractor absorbs these costs (26, 27). In addition, with the third-party contractor model, scribes receive training in medical terminology and billing procedures, as well as practice shifts. Clerical documentation assistants can document both inside and outside a clinic room (28).

In our economic analysis, clinics had 3 costs when implementing a scribe program (Table). Our assumptions were based on previously reported scribe costs, which parallel costs our institution faced when we contracted to hire scribes for a previous study (11, 21, 29). First, clinics paid a 1-time, initial cost of \$3000 that included the per-HCP fee to the third-party contractor and the cost of a laptop computer for the scribe. Second, there was a \$400-per-scribe onboarding cost for human resources and information technology support in providing electronic health record access. Third, clin-

ics paid a \$25 hourly rate for the scribe. Although exact rates vary by contract and location, published rates for third-party contractors and total costs for practices training their own scribes exist in a tight range around \$25 per hour (21, 24, 29).

Because scribe programs face turnover, which increases the number of times a clinic pays the onboarding cost, we developed a Monte Carlo model for scribe turnover. On the basis of previous work, we assumed that 25% of new hires would quit at 1 month or fail initial training (30). Scribes who remained after 1 month were assumed to work for a mean of 15 months (SD, 3), in line with the 1-year minimum term many companies require (31). We assumed that service would be continuous, so that a scribe leaving would be immediately replaced, as stipulated by the contract with the third-party company. We also assumed that scribe quality would be continuous and that the third-party contractor would fully train each scribe before they worked on their own, which is usual practice. We ran 1000 simulations using the @Risk Excel plugin, version 7.6 (Palisade), to calculate the mean and SD for the number of scribes a clinic would need to hire per HCP in the first year of the program.

Scribe Revenue

We estimated gross revenues from both direct visit billing and CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes for each additional patient visit for each medical specialty. To estimate billing revenue, we used 2015 CMS national billing data from the Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data files for 32 provider types (32). We limited our analysis to evaluation and management (E/M) level-of-service billing codes for new and established outpatient visits (99201-99205 and 99211-99215), representing approximately 210 million visits. For each provider type, we calculated the percentage of new and returning visits that were billed to Medicare at each E/M level of service nationally. Each code was matched with its corresponding 2015 nonfacility price E/M reimbursement rate (Appendix Table 1, available at Annals.org). Using the percentage of visits billed for each reimbursement rate, we calculated a mean and SD for the billing revenue received from each new and returning visit for each provider type. To account for revenue from laboratory tests and radiology services ordered during visits, we used specialty-specific data from the 2012-to-2016 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. These data provided the percentage of 24 laboratory tests and radiology services (designated by CPT codes) ordered at new and returning visits for each specialty (the footnote of Appendix Table 2, available at Annals.org, gives the full list). The percentage of visits with each individual service was multiplied by the mean revenue per CPT code from 2015 CMS billing data to derive estimates of mean CPT revenue by provider type. Specialties as listed in National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data did not align perfectly with CMS provider types and required some extrapolation (for example, internal medicine data were used for geriatrics). The revenue from billing by provider type was

then added to the mean CPT revenue for each provider type, resulting in specialty-specific data on total revenue per visit (Table and Appendix Table 2). We could not include revenue for downstream procedures or operations because literature to support the rate of specialty visits that lead to such events is scant.

Data and Sensitivity Analysis

We calculated the additional number of patient visits needed to have 90% confidence (margin of safety) that scribe revenues would be at least equal to scribe costs after 1 year. We assumed that HCPs would work 220 eight-hour clinic days per year (5 clinic days per week for 44 weeks per year) and that scribe shifts would match this schedule (25). Our model's output was the number of additional visits in the first year needed to recover costs, which we divided by 220 clinic days to calculate daily additional visits. The scribe program was defined to have recovered its costs if gross revenue from additional patient visits was equal to total cost (that is, net revenue was \$0) and to be profitable if gross revenue exceeded cost.

Sensitivity analyses were done on the percentage of scribes who leave after 1 month, the mean length of scribe tenure, each of the 3 scribe costs, and the number of clinic days per year. We also did sensitivity analyses on the distribution of E/M level-of-service codes, which might be higher on average in our Medicare data set than in the overall population, and examined how a change in CPT revenue affected results. In addition, we used our scribe cost data alongside the monthly capitation payment assumed by Basu and colleagues (25) (\$19.43 per person per month; 2.2 average patient visits per year) to calculate the number of additional patients who would need to be empaneled under a capitated payment model for primary care. The University of Chicago Institutional Review Board deemed this study secondary research exempt from approval under protocol IRB19-0761.

Role of the Funding Source

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RESULTS

Base-Case Analysis

The mean cost of implementing a scribe program was estimated to be \$47 594 (SD, \$301) for the first year. For all provider types, the implementation of scribes was profitable at 1 year using our model when HCPs saw an additional 2 new or 3 returning patients each day (the Table gives specific examples). Averaging among provider types, we found that the mean number of additional new visits needed to recover costs was 1.34 per day or 295 per year. The mean number of additional returning visits needed to recover costs was 2.15 per day or 472 per year. The exact number of additional visits varied between provider types

by only about 1 additional visit per day (Figure 1). Cardiology required the fewest new or returning visits to recover costs (an additional 0.89 new or 1.65 returning visits per day or 195 new or 364 returning visits per year).

Procedural and surgical specialties tended to have lower E/M codes and less CPT revenue, leading to more visits needed to recover costs, when procedural or surgical revenue streams were not considered. Of note, orthopedic surgery required the most new or returning visits: an additional 1.80 new or 2.78 returning visits per day (395 new or 612 returning visits per year). Excluding procedural and surgical specialties (radiation oncology; otolaryngology; ophthalmology; and general, vascular, and orthopedic surgery) reduced the mean number of new visits needed to recover costs by 9 per year (286 per year or 1.30 per day) and the mean number of returning visits needed by 21 per year (451 per year or 2.05 per day).

Sensitivity Analysis

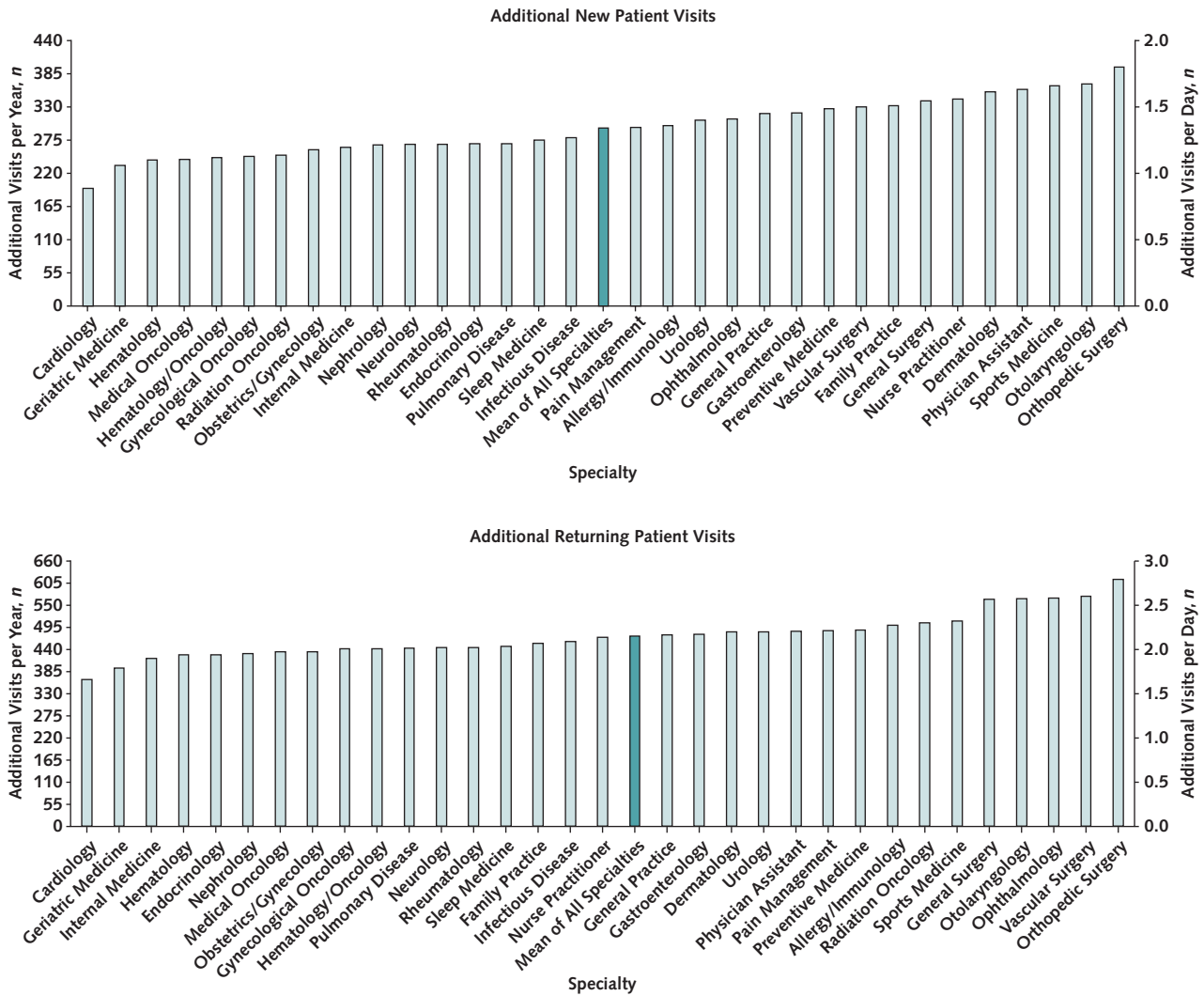
Results were not sensitive to changes in scribe turnover or tenure (Appendix Table 3, available at [Annals.org](#)). Increasing the scribe turnover rate (that is, decreasing scribe tenure to 9 months and increasing the percentage of scribes who leave after 1 month to 35%) increased results by about 1%. Also, a lower scribe turnover rate (that is, increasing the mean scribe tenure to 21 months and decreasing the percentage of scribes who leave after 1 month to 15%) changed results by less than 1%.

Results were sensitive to changes in hourly scribe cost (Figure 2). Changing the hourly cost by \$5 per hour changed the number of visits needed to recover costs by about 18% across provider types (Appendix Table 4, available at [Annals.org](#)). Results were less sensitive to other changes in scribe costs. Changing the 1-time initial cost of starting the scribe program by \$2000 changed the number of additional visits required to recover costs by about 4% across provider types (Appendix Table 5, available at [Annals.org](#)). Decreasing the onboarding cost per scribe to \$100 resulted in a decrease of approximately 1% in additional visits required to recover costs across provider types; in contrast, tripling the onboarding cost to \$1200 increased the number of visits needed by about 3% (Appendix Table 6, available at [Annals.org](#)).

Our initial assumption was that each HCP worked full time (220 clinic days per year). We reduced this effort to 75% (165 days per year) and 50% (110 days per year) (Appendix Table 7, available at [Annals.org](#)). Compared with an HCP working at 100% of full time, an HCP working at 75% of full time would have to increase the number of additional visits per day by about 3% to recover scribe costs. Similarly, an HCP working at 50% of full time would have to increase the number of additional visits per day by about 9%, regardless of their specialty.

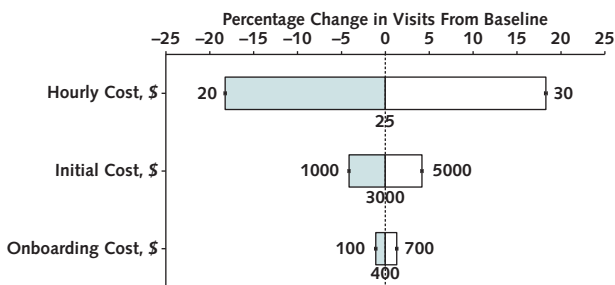
We created adjusted distributions by moving 10% of the codes originally billed at each E/M level of

Figure 1. Additional number of patient visits to recover costs after implementation of medical scribes.



Reported values are the number of additional visits required to have 90% confidence that the costs of implementing a medical scribe program will be recovered at 1 y.

Figure 2. Sensitivity analyses of input costs.



There is a small amount of variation in the percentage change in visits between provider types due to rounding because our model requires the number of visits to be an integer. As such, we report a mean and SD (error bars).

service per provider type down (or up) 1 level (for example, 10% of codes originally billed at level 5 became level 4 codes) (Appendix Table 8, available at Annals.org). For all provider types, this led to a change of only 2% to 4% in the number of additional visits needed to recover the costs of a scribe.

Results were sensitive to decreasing the laboratory and radiology revenue generated from CPT codes (Appendix Table 9, available at Annals.org). Cardiology, dermatology, obstetrics and gynecology, and internal medicine were the specialties most sensitive to changes. For example, removing all CPT revenue increased the number of additional visits for internal medicine by 21% for new visits and 27% for returning visits.

Using capitation in place of fee-for-service would require an HCP to empanel 206 additional patients, resulting in approximately 453 additional visits per year (2.06 visits per day).

DISCUSSION

We found that a scribe program would likely break even or be profitable for all Medicare-billing provider types when HCPs have 2 additional new patient visits or 3 additional returning patient visits each clinic day. For HCPs seeing an average of 20 patients per day, this represents a 10% to 15% increase in visits, which approximates the 10% to 20% average productivity increases reported by previous studies of scribe programs (14, 15, 18). Applying our results to this previous work suggests that the increase in productivity due to scribes should generally offset the costs of starting a scribe program. However, past studies have found large variations in the productivity increase with a scribe between specialties and even between individual physicians within a specialty (14, 15, 18, 21, 33). Taking this variability into account, our findings suggest that most, but not necessarily all, practices would be able to recover costs 1 year after the implementation of a scribe program. However, even slight increases to patient volume may not be practical or possible for every practice, and some HCPs may not want to change their documentation workflow.

Our results for primary care specialties were similar to the findings of Basu and colleagues (25), who examined scribe programs for only primary care. Their study found that a physician in a fee-for-service primary care clinic would need to schedule 351 additional visit slots over the course of the program's first year to recover the costs of using full-time scribes. This finding is similar to our result for family medicine, in which an HCP would need an additional 331 new patient visits or 454 returning patient visits to recover costs. Although the models yielded similar results, our approaches had important differences. Basu and colleagues used scribe wages as the basis for scribe costs and assumed an initial, temporary loss of productivity. In contrast, we used the third-party contractor model, which requires a higher annual scribe salary (\$44 000 vs. \$26 741) and requires that scribes be fully trained and competent before being allowed to work independently, thereby reducing the likelihood of major productivity decreases (28). Although Basu and colleagues modeled an initial period of decreased productivity with scribes, other studies have shown that productivity does not decrease as a scribe starts training and that physician satisfaction with a scribe does not change over time (12, 34). Still, some HCPs may find that scribes help them become more productive only over time. Because our model does not assume any specific amount of increased productivity due to a scribe and instead reports average productivity requirements, our results would not change if scribes initially decreased productivity.

Basu and colleagues' study also examined the use of medical assistants as scribes, which we did not examine because we assumed that many clinics, especially among non-primary care specialties, would not be interested in providing the additional training and supervision needed for such a model. It is also notable that the outcome of Basu and colleagues' model is ad-

ditional scheduled patient visit slots, which could be affected by no-show visits. Because no-show rates differ widely by specialty and individual HCP, we report an outcome of additional patient visits, not visit slots. To apply our results to a scheduling template, it would be necessary to account for the expected no-show rate.

A strength of our model was its applicability to physicians in various clinics. Not only were we able to show specialty-specific data, but because the largest cost in our model is the hourly scribe cost, our results scaled well even for physicians who are not in the clinic full time. This finding is likely to be of special interest to procedural and surgical specialties where HCPs frequently work outside the clinic. Moreover, by separating new and returning patient visits, we could account for specialties and individual clinics that see different ratios of new and returning patients. We also showed that the number of additional visits needed to recover the costs of a scribe was sensitive to CPT revenue, such that clinics that do not receive revenue from these sources may not find a scribe program to be as financially sustainable.

Although we accounted for possible variations from our assumptions with sensitivity analyses, our approach still had some limitations. Our model did not account for downstream revenue from future appointments, tests, procedures, or operations because extant literature could not provide estimates for most specialties and revenue likely varies between HCPs within a specialty. The potential effect of downstream revenue could be large, especially for procedural and surgical specialties. For example, past work in cardiology has shown that indirect and downstream revenues from additional patients seen with a scribe can be more than 10 times the additional revenue from direct visit billing (21). Individual HCPs can estimate their potential downstream revenue and then adjust down the number of visits they would need to accommodate the cost of a scribe. Although some studies have shown increased per-patient revenue with scribes due to improved documentation (35), other studies have shown no significant change (15, 18, 36, 37). As such, we did not assume changes to per-patient revenue, although some clinics may benefit from this additional revenue as well. To our knowledge, no study to date has reported decreased per-patient revenue after scribe implementation.

The importance of CPT and downstream revenue complicates decisions for administrators who may be debating whether to implement a scribe program. Large health care systems are much more likely to capture these streams of revenue from additional patients because revenue from laboratory tests and referrals is more likely to be contained within the health system. Larger clinics also may be more equipped to train their own scribes directly. In doing so, they would face larger startup costs but could pay scribes less than the hourly fee charged by third-party contractors (34, 37). However, the third-party model will likely persist because of the upfront expense and resources required to maintain a scribe training program (26, 27). Another limitation is that our model did not account for indirect costs:

More patient visits may require a clinic to use more supplies and hire more clinic staff. Because both indirect costs and revenues are likely to vary greatly between individual clinics, attempting to model them was beyond this study's scope.

Our model's use of Medicare fee-for-service data to help determine average visit revenue was a limitation and strength. Because Medicare patients are likely to be on average older and sicker than non-Medicare patients, their visits are more likely billed at higher E/M levels of service, possibly inflating average revenue per patient across all specialties. However, when we adjusted the distribution of the E/M level-of-service codes of each provider type as part of our sensitivity analysis, the effect was minimal, suggesting that our results would not change appreciably if we considered non-Medicare patients. In addition, many practices are moving away from fee-for-service payments toward value-based systems like bundled payments and capitation. Because the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative predates our CMS data, our results already included some effects of bundled care payments on reimbursement (38).

Regarding capitation, our cost model predicted that HCPs would need 453 additional visits per year to recover scribe costs, which was higher than Basu and colleagues' estimate (317 additional patient visit slots) (25). Although we used the same capitation assumptions as Basu and colleagues, our estimates were higher because we modeled a higher scribe cost. In addition, we required 90% certainty of breaking even, which translated to higher costs to accommodate the uncertainty. This analysis showed that practices can recover costs with reasonable adjustments under value-based payment systems as well.

Acknowledging our model's limitations, we found that only a modest increase in patient visits per day was needed to recover costs in all specialties—an important argument for the implementation of scribe programs. Although not every clinic may profit from scribe implementation, scribes repeatedly have been shown to increase physician satisfaction and face-to-face time between physicians and patients without decreases in patient satisfaction (9, 11, 12). It is difficult to economically quantify scribes' positive effect on physician satisfaction, but previous work has shown that there is a societal economic cost attributable to burnout (39, 40). Future work to predict the economic impact of scribes on mitigating physician burnout would be important.

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Appendix Table 1. Prevalence and Reimbursement of E/M Billing Levels, by Provider Type, Using 2015 Data From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

| Provider Type | New Patients | | | | | Returning Patients | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
| Direct clinical revenue, \$ | 43.98 | 75.08 | 109.05 | 165.90 | 208.45 | 20.02 | 43.98 | 72.94 | 108.34 | 146.24 |
| Allergy/immunology | 0.04 | 1.30 | 31.57 | 59.50 | 7.58 | 2.63 | 4.31 | 53.83 | 37.02 | 2.22 |
| Cardiology | 0.06 | 1.27 | 15.88 | 63.17 | 19.61 | 6.35 | 1.82 | 28.14 | 57.95 | 5.75 |
| Dermatology | 4.61 | 43.11 | 50.21 | 1.97 | 0.10 | 0.49 | 22.09 | 61.09 | 16.16 | 0.16 |
| Endocrinology | 0.03 | 0.42 | 12.67 | 64.07 | 22.81 | 0.60 | 1.04 | 24.37 | 66.85 | 7.14 |
| Family practice | 0.27 | 11.99 | 53.07 | 31.22 | 3.45 | 2.08 | 2.42 | 43.69 | 49.14 | 2.67 |
| Gastroenterology | 0.36 | 6.94 | 38.00 | 49.16 | 5.55 | 0.52 | 4.89 | 48.30 | 42.00 | 4.29 |
| General practice | 0.27 | 11.23 | 46.73 | 34.98 | 6.80 | 2.11 | 5.84 | 50.64 | 38.43 | 2.98 |
| General surgery | 1.66 | 12.20 | 43.57 | 33.98 | 8.59 | 1.29 | 20.29 | 50.69 | 24.04 | 3.69 |
| Geriatric medicine | 0.06 | 1.78 | 12.49 | 39.55 | 46.12 | 3.08 | 1.96 | 25.80 | 59.52 | 9.65 |
| Gynecological oncology | 0.17 | 1.26 | 9.05 | 33.85 | 55.67 | 0.36 | 2.60 | 37.38 | 47.72 | 11.94 |
| Hematology | 0.22 | 0.36 | 5.61 | 33.33 | 60.48 | 1.05 | 1.97 | 27.70 | 55.17 | 14.11 |
| Hematology/oncology | 0.03 | 0.46 | 7.24 | 36.38 | 55.90 | 2.09 | 2.45 | 32.17 | 52.24 | 11.05 |
| Infectious disease | 0.17 | 2.29 | 20.58 | 52.98 | 23.98 | 1.51 | 4.23 | 38.84 | 47.42 | 8.00 |
| Internal medicine | 0.16 | 3.85 | 28.82 | 51.26 | 15.91 | 2.64 | 2.59 | 40.77 | 49.65 | 4.35 |
| Medical oncology | 0.16 | 0.55 | 6.82 | 30.99 | 61.48 | 1.81 | 2.12 | 30.16 | 52.64 | 13.26 |
| Nephrology | 0.01 | 0.78 | 12.69 | 59.09 | 27.43 | 0.94 | 1.12 | 27.13 | 62.14 | 8.67 |
| Neurology | 0.15 | 0.85 | 8.94 | 52.32 | 37.75 | 0.29 | 1.75 | 28.57 | 54.95 | 14.44 |
| Nurse practitioner | 1.14 | 18.14 | 49.61 | 27.13 | 3.98 | 1.64 | 5.42 | 48.88 | 41.44 | 2.62 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 0.38 | 8.21 | 38.95 | 40.95 | 11.50 | 0.78 | 9.30 | 54.53 | 31.31 | 4.08 |
| Ophthalmology | 0.13 | 1.99 | 18.46 | 74.86 | 4.56 | 0.65 | 11.86 | 51.60 | 33.12 | 2.77 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 0.37 | 7.15 | 69.21 | 21.50 | 1.78 | 0.28 | 13.23 | 62.52 | 22.83 | 1.14 |
| Otolaryngology | 0.40 | 6.95 | 66.44 | 24.68 | 1.54 | 0.38 | 9.97 | 62.39 | 26.18 | 1.08 |
| Pain management | 0.13 | 1.42 | 28.19 | 63.01 | 7.25 | 1.23 | 4.02 | 50.42 | 42.71 | 1.63 |
| Physician assistant | 1.55 | 21.31 | 53.35 | 22.07 | 1.72 | 0.65 | 8.19 | 54.28 | 35.23 | 1.65 |
| Preventive medicine | 0.82 | 5.27 | 47.03 | 38.02 | 8.87 | 0.48 | 7.35 | 50.22 | 37.45 | 4.50 |
| Pulmonary disease | 0.05 | 0.81 | 13.58 | 60.05 | 25.50 | 0.54 | 1.27 | 35.80 | 55.20 | 7.20 |
| Radiation oncology | 0.16 | 1.46 | 9.06 | 36.55 | 52.76 | 1.05 | 11.39 | 53.93 | 26.14 | 7.49 |
| Rheumatology | 0.12 | 0.54 | 12.20 | 63.33 | 23.80 | 0.56 | 1.87 | 33.26 | 59.85 | 4.46 |
| Sleep medicine | 0.23 | 1.62 | 15.87 | 61.41 | 20.87 | 0.60 | 2.26 | 35.86 | 55.18 | 6.11 |
| Sports medicine | 0.09 | 3.17 | 74.25 | 22.06 | 0.43 | 0.16 | 7.76 | 58.97 | 32.07 | 1.04 |
| Urology | 0.31 | 4.55 | 35.86 | 53.55 | 5.73 | 1.69 | 7.20 | 52.13 | 35.85 | 3.12 |
| Vascular surgery | 1.05 | 8.77 | 42.88 | 39.17 | 8.13 | 1.53 | 19.48 | 53.28 | 23.27 | 2.44 |

E/M = evaluation and management.

* Values are percentages unless otherwise indicated. Sum of prevalence across billing levels may not equal 1 due to rounding.

Appendix Table 2. Direct Visit Revenue, by Provider Type, Using 2015 Data From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

| Provider Type | Mean Billing Revenue (SD), \$ | | Current Procedural Terminology Revenue, \$* | | Mean Total Revenue (SD), \$ | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | New Patient | Returning Patient | New Patient | Returning Patient | New Patient | Returning Patient |
| Allergy/immunology | 149.94 (32.04) | 85.04 (23.49) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 161.93 (31.88) | 97.28 (23.38) |
| Cardiology | 163.99 (31.28) | 93.79 (28.17) | 84.52 | 39.32 | 248.51 (31.28) | 133.11 (28.17) |
| Dermatology | 92.63 (22.28) | 72.12 (20.24) | 43.86 | 28.20 | 136.49 (22.28) | 100.32 (20.23) |
| Endocrinology | 167.98 (29.28) | 101.22 (21.15) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 179.97 (29.28) | 113.46 (21.15) |
| Family practice | 125.99 (34.83) | 90.49 (23.02) | 20.52 | 16.01 | 146.51 (34.83) | 106.51 (23.02) |
| Gastroenterology | 149.92 (35.77) | 89.27 (23.36) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 151.91 (35.77) | 101.51 (23.36) |
| General practice | 131.71 (37.81) | 85.92 (24.11) | 20.52 | 16.01 | 152.23 (37.81) | 101.93 (24.11) |
| General surgery | 131.68 (40.57) | 77.60 (26.16) | 12.04 | 8.60 | 143.22 (40.57) | 86.20 (26.16) |
| Geriatric medicine | 176.73 (35.74) | 98.88 (26.34) | 31.81 | 24.51 | 208.54 (35.74) | 123.39 (26.34) |
| Gynecological oncology | 183.09 (33.67) | 97.64 (25.72) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 195.08 (33.67) | 109.88 (25.72) |
| Hematology | 187.85 (29.28) | 101.68 (25.87) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 199.84 (29.28) | 113.93 (25.87) |
| Hematology/oncology | 185.12 (30.31) | 97.72 (26.71) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 197.11 (30.31) | 109.96 (26.71) |
| Infectious disease | 162.12 (36.05) | 93.57 (26.01) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 174.11 (36.05) | 105.81 (26.01) |
| Internal medicine | 152.60 (37.20) | 91.55 (24.60) | 31.81 | 24.51 | 184.41 (37.20) | 116.06 (24.60) |
| Medical oncology | 187.48 (30.61) | 99.72 (26.90) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 199.47 (30.61) | 111.96 (26.90) |
| Nephrology | 169.64 (30.96) | 100.47 (22.85) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 181.63 (30.96) | 112.72 (22.85) |
| Neurology | 175.93 (31.05) | 102.32 (24.98) | 5.14 | 6.87 | 181.07 (31.05) | 109.20 (24.98) |
| Nurse practitioner | 121.52 (37.04) | 87.09 (23.48) | 20.52 | 16.01 | 142.04 (37.04) | 103.11 (23.48) |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 140.73 (39.59) | 83.91 (24.31) | 46.87 | 27.95 | 187.60 (39.59) | 111.85 (24.31) |
| Ophthalmology | 155.38 (27.43) | 82.92 (24.13) | 0.54 | 2.76 | 155.91 (27.43) | 85.68 (24.13) |
| Orthopedic surgery | 120.37 (28.99) | 77.87 (21.02) | 2.24 | 1.22 | 122.61 (28.99) | 79.10 (21.02) |
| Otolaryngology | 122.00 (29.65) | 79.91 (20.78) | 10.28 | 5.89 | 132.27 (29.65) | 85.81 (20.78) |
| Pain management | 151.52 (31.17) | 87.44 (21.92) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 163.51 (31.17) | 99.69 (21.92) |
| Physician assistant | 115.06 (34.05) | 83.90 (22.29) | 20.52 | 16.01 | 135.58 (34.05) | 91.92 (22.29) |
| Preventive medicine | 137.16 (37.55) | 87.12 (24.19) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 149.15 (37.55) | 99.36 (24.19) |
| Pulmonary disease | 168.23 (31.14) | 97.10 (22.81) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 180.22 (31.14) | 109.35 (22.81) |
| Radiation oncology | 181.67 (33.82) | 83.83 (27.13) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 193.66 (33.82) | 96.07 (27.13) |
| Rheumatology | 168.45 (29.70) | 96.56 (21.52) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 180.44 (29.70) | 108.80 (21.52) |
| Sleep medicine | 164.00 (32.48) | 95.98 (22.90) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 175.99 (32.48) | 108.23 (22.90) |
| Sports medicine | 120.89 (25.61) | 82.72 (20.78) | 11.99 | 12.24 | 132.88 (25.61) | 94.97 (20.78) |
| Urology | 142.44 (34.35) | 84.94 (24.10) | 14.11 | 15.62 | 157.55 (34.35) | 100.56 (24.10) |
| Vascular surgery | 135.74 (38.77) | 76.51 (24.82) | 12.04 | 8.60 | 147.78 (38.77) | 85.11 (24.82) |

* Included revenue from the following laboratory tests, radiology services, and procedures: complete blood count, comprehensive metabolic panel, basic metabolic panel, renal function panel, hepatic function panel, glycohemoglobin, serum glucose, thyroid-stimulating hormone, vitamin D, human immunodeficiency virus, gonorrhea, chlamydia, human papillomavirus DNA, blood culture, pregnancy human chorionic gonadotropin, prostate serum antigen, rapid strep, urinalysis, urine culture, pelvic examination, bone mineral density, biopsy, echocardiography (for cardiology only), and audiometry (for otolaryngology only).

Appendix Table 3. Sensitivity Analysis to Scribe Turnover and Tenure, Additional Visits per Year

| Provider Type | Higher Scribe Turnover* | | | | Lower Scribe Turnover† | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, n | Return Visits, n | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, n | Return Visits, n | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 302 | 503 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 298 | 496 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Cardiology | 197 | 368 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 194 | 363 | -0.5 | -0.3 |
| Dermatology | 358 | 487 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 353 | 480 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Endocrinology | 272 | 430 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 268 | 424 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Family practice | 335 | 459 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 330 | 452 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Gastroenterology | 323 | 482 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 319 | 475 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| General practice | 323 | 480 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 318 | 473 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| General surgery | 342 | 569 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 338 | 561 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Geriatric medicine | 235 | 397 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 232 | 391 | -0.4 | -0.3 |
| Gynecological oncology | 251 | 445 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 248 | 439 | 0.0 | -0.5 |
| Hematology | 245 | 430 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 241 | 423 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Hematology/oncology | 248 | 445 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 245 | 439 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Infectious disease | 282 | 463 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 278 | 456 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Internal medicine | 266 | 421 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 262 | 415 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Medical oncology | 245 | 437 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 242 | 431 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Nephrology | 269 | 434 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 266 | 427 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Neurology | 270 | 448 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 266 | 442 | -0.7 | -0.2 |
| Nurse practitioner | 346 | 474 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 341 | 468 | -0.3 | -0.2 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 262 | 437 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 258 | 431 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Ophthalmology | 314 | 571 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 309 | 564 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 400 | 618 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 394 | 610 | -0.3 | -0.3 |
| Otolaryngology | 370 | 570 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 365 | 562 | -0.5 | -0.4 |
| Pain management | 299 | 490 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 295 | 483 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Physician assistant | 362 | 489 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 357 | 482 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Preventive medicine | 329 | 492 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 325 | 486 | -0.3 | -0.2 |
| Pulmonary disease | 272 | 447 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 268 | 441 | -0.4 | -0.2 |
| Radiation oncology | 253 | 510 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 249 | 503 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Rheumatology | 271 | 449 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 267 | 443 | -0.4 | -0.2 |
| Sleep medicine | 278 | 452 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 274 | 445 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Sports medicine | 368 | 514 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 363 | 507 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Urology | 311 | 487 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 307 | 480 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Vascular surgery | 332 | 576 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 328 | 568 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Average | 298 | 477 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 294 | 471 | -0.4 | -0.4 |

* Mean scribe tenure is 9 mo (vs. 15 mo), and 35% of scribes leave at 1 mo (vs. 25%).

† Mean scribe tenure is 21 mo (vs. 15 mo), and 15% of scribes leave at 1 mo (vs. 25%).

Appendix Table 4. Sensitivity Analysis: Scribe Hourly Salary, Additional Visits per Year

| Provider Type | \$30 per Hour (vs. \$25) | | | | \$20 per Hour (vs. \$25) | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 354 | 589 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 245 | 407 | -18.1 | -18.3 |
| Cardiology | 230 | 430 | 17.9 | 18.1 | 159 | 297 | -18.5 | -18.4 |
| Dermatology | 419 | 570 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 289 | 394 | -18.4 | -18.3 |
| Endocrinology | 318 | 504 | 18.2 | 18.3 | 220 | 348 | -18.2 | -18.3 |
| Family practice | 392 | 537 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 271 | 371 | -18.1 | -18.3 |
| Gastroenterology | 378 | 564 | 18.1 | 18.2 | 261 | 390 | -18.4 | -18.2 |
| General practice | 378 | 562 | 18.5 | 18.3 | 261 | 388 | -18.2 | -18.3 |
| General surgery | 401 | 666 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 277 | 460 | -18.3 | -18.3 |
| Geriatric medicine | 275 | 464 | 18.0 | 18.4 | 190 | 321 | -18.5 | -18.1 |
| Gynecological oncology | 294 | 521 | 18.5 | 18.1 | 203 | 360 | -18.1 | -18.4 |
| Hematology | 286 | 503 | 18.2 | 18.4 | 198 | 347 | -18.2 | -18.4 |
| Hematology/oncology | 290 | 521 | 17.9 | 18.1 | 201 | 360 | -18.3 | -18.4 |
| Infectious disease | 330 | 542 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 228 | 374 | -18.3 | -18.3 |
| Internal medicine | 311 | 493 | 18.3 | 18.2 | 215 | 341 | -18.3 | -18.2 |
| Medical oncology | 287 | 512 | 18.1 | 18.2 | 198 | 354 | -18.5 | -18.2 |
| Nephrology | 315 | 508 | 18.0 | 18.4 | 218 | 351 | -18.4 | -18.2 |
| Neurology | 316 | 525 | 17.9 | 18.5 | 219 | 362 | -18.3 | -18.3 |
| Nurse practitioner | 405 | 555 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 280 | 384 | -18.1 | -18.1 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 306 | 512 | 18.1 | 18.2 | 212 | 354 | -18.1 | -18.2 |
| Ophthalmology | 367 | 669 | 18.4 | 18.2 | 254 | 462 | -18.1 | -18.4 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 468 | 724 | 18.5 | 18.3 | 323 | 500 | -18.2 | -18.3 |
| Otolaryngology | 434 | 667 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 300 | 461 | -18.3 | -18.3 |
| Pain management | 351 | 574 | 18.6 | 18.4 | 242 | 396 | -18.2 | -18.4 |
| Physician assistant | 424 | 573 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 293 | 396 | -18.2 | -18.2 |
| Preventive medicine | 385 | 577 | 18.1 | 18.5 | 266 | 398 | -18.4 | -18.3 |
| Pulmonary disease | 318 | 523 | 18.2 | 18.3 | 220 | 361 | -18.2 | -18.3 |
| Radiation oncology | 296 | 597 | 18.4 | 18.2 | 205 | 413 | -18.0 | -18.2 |
| Rheumatology | 317 | 526 | 18.3 | 18.5 | 219 | 363 | -18.3 | -18.2 |
| Sleep medicine | 326 | 529 | 18.5 | 18.3 | 225 | 365 | -18.2 | -18.3 |
| Sports medicine | 431 | 602 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 298 | 416 | -18.1 | -18.3 |
| Urology | 364 | 570 | 18.2 | 18.3 | 252 | 393 | -18.2 | -18.5 |
| Vascular surgery | 389 | 674 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 269 | 466 | -18.2 | -18.2 |
| Average | 349 | 559 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 241 | 386 | -18.2 | -18.3 |

Appendix Table 5. Sensitivity Analysis: Initial 1-Time Cost, Additional Visits per Year

| Provider Type | \$5000 (vs. \$3000) | | | | \$1000 (vs. \$3000) | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, n | Return Visits, n | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, n | Return Visits, n | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 312 | 518 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 287 | 477 | -4.0 | -4.2 |
| Cardiology | 203 | 379 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 187 | 349 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Dermatology | 369 | 502 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 339 | 462 | -4.2 | -4.1 |
| Endocrinology | 280 | 444 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 258 | 408 | -4.1 | -4.2 |
| Family practice | 345 | 473 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 318 | 435 | -3.9 | -4.2 |
| Gastroenterology | 333 | 497 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 306 | 457 | -4.4 | -4.2 |
| General practice | 333 | 495 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 306 | 455 | -4.1 | -4.2 |
| General surgery | 353 | 586 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 325 | 540 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Geriatric medicine | 242 | 409 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 223 | 376 | -4.3 | -4.1 |
| Gynecological oncology | 259 | 459 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 238 | 423 | -4.0 | -4.1 |
| Hematology | 252 | 443 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 232 | 407 | -4.1 | -4.2 |
| Hematology/oncology | 256 | 459 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 235 | 422 | -4.5 | -4.3 |
| Infectious disease | 290 | 477 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 267 | 439 | -4.3 | -4.1 |
| Internal medicine | 274 | 434 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 252 | 400 | -4.2 | -4.1 |
| Medical oncology | 253 | 451 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 233 | 415 | -4.1 | -4.2 |
| Nephrology | 278 | 447 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 256 | 411 | -4.1 | -4.2 |
| Neurology | 279 | 462 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 256 | 425 | -4.5 | -4.1 |
| Nurse practitioner | 357 | 489 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 328 | 450 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 270 | 451 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 248 | 415 | -4.2 | -4.2 |
| Ophthalmology | 323 | 589 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 298 | 542 | -3.9 | -4.2 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 412 | 637 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 379 | 586 | -4.1 | -4.2 |
| Otolaryngology | 382 | 587 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 351 | 540 | -4.4 | -4.3 |
| Pain management | 309 | 505 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 284 | 465 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Physician assistant | 373 | 504 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 343 | 464 | -4.2 | -4.1 |
| Preventive medicine | 339 | 508 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 312 | 467 | -4.3 | -4.1 |
| Pulmonary disease | 280 | 461 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 258 | 424 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Radiation oncology | 261 | 526 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 240 | 484 | -4.0 | -4.2 |
| Rheumatology | 279 | 463 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 257 | 426 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Sleep medicine | 287 | 466 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 264 | 428 | -4.0 | -4.3 |
| Sports medicine | 379 | 530 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 349 | 488 | -4.1 | -4.1 |
| Urology | 321 | 502 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 295 | 462 | -4.2 | -4.1 |
| Vascular surgery | 343 | 593 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 316 | 546 | -4.0 | -4.2 |
| Average | 307 | 492 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 283 | 453 | -4.1 | -4.2 |

Appendix Table 6. Sensitivity Analysis: Change in Onboarding Costs, Additional Visits per Year

| Provider Type | \$1200 (vs. \$400) | | | | \$100 (vs. \$400) | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 310 | 516 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 296 | 492 | -1.0 | -1.2 |
| Cardiology | 202 | 377 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 192 | 360 | -1.5 | -1.1 |
| Dermatology | 367 | 500 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 350 | 476 | -1.1 | -1.2 |
| Endocrinology | 279 | 442 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 266 | 421 | -1.1 | -1.2 |
| Family practice | 343 | 471 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 328 | 449 | -0.9 | -1.1 |
| Gastroenterology | 331 | 494 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 316 | 471 | -1.3 | -1.3 |
| General practice | 330 | 492 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 316 | 470 | -0.9 | -1.1 |
| General surgery | 350 | 583 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 335 | 557 | -1.2 | -1.1 |
| Geriatric medicine | 241 | 407 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 230 | 388 | -1.3 | -1.0 |
| Gynecological oncology | 257 | 457 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 246 | 436 | -0.8 | -1.1 |
| Hematology | 251 | 441 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 239 | 420 | -1.2 | -1.2 |
| Hematology/oncology | 255 | 457 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 243 | 436 | -1.2 | -1.1 |
| Infectious disease | 289 | 474 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 276 | 453 | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| Internal medicine | 273 | 432 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 260 | 412 | -1.1 | -1.2 |
| Medical oncology | 252 | 448 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 240 | 428 | -1.2 | -1.2 |
| Nephrology | 276 | 445 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 264 | 424 | -1.1 | -1.2 |
| Neurology | 277 | 460 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 264 | 438 | -1.5 | -1.1 |
| Nurse practitioner | 354 | 487 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 339 | 464 | -0.9 | -1.1 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 268 | 449 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 256 | 428 | -1.2 | -1.2 |
| Ophthalmology | 322 | 586 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 307 | 559 | -1.0 | -1.2 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 410 | 634 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 391 | 605 | -1.0 | -1.1 |
| Otolaryngology | 380 | 584 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 362 | 557 | -1.4 | -1.2 |
| Pain management | 307 | 503 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 293 | 480 | -1.0 | -1.0 |
| Physician assistant | 371 | 502 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 354 | 479 | -1.1 | -1.0 |
| Preventive medicine | 337 | 505 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 322 | 482 | -1.2 | -1.0 |
| Pulmonary disease | 279 | 459 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 266 | 437 | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| Radiation oncology | 259 | 523 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 248 | 498 | -0.8 | -1.4 |
| Rheumatology | 278 | 461 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 265 | 439 | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| Sleep medicine | 285 | 463 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 272 | 442 | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| Sports medicine | 378 | 528 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 360 | 503 | -1.1 | -1.2 |
| Urology | 319 | 499 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 305 | 476 | -1.0 | -1.2 |
| Vascular surgery | 341 | 590 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 326 | 563 | -0.9 | -1.2 |
| Average | 305 | 490 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 291 | 467 | -1.1 | -1.1 |

Appendix Table 7. Sensitivity Analysis: Full-Time Equivalents, Additional Visits per Day

| Provider Type | 0.75 Full-Time Equivalents (vs. 1.00) | | | | 0.50 Full-Time Equivalents (vs. 1.00) | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 9.0 | 8.4 |
| Cardiology | 0.9 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 8.7 | 8.8 |
| Dermatology | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 8.5 | 8.3 |
| Endocrinology | 1.3 | 2.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 8.6 | 8.5 |
| Family practice | 1.6 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 8.8 | 8.4 |
| Gastroenterology | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 8.8 | 8.6 |
| General practice | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 9.1 | 8.6 |
| General surgery | 1.6 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 2.8 | 8.6 | 8.7 |
| Geriatric medicine | 1.1 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 8.2 | 8.7 |
| Gynecological oncology | 1.2 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 8.9 | 8.4 |
| Hematology | 1.1 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 8.3 | 8.7 |
| Hematology/oncology | 1.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 8.1 | 8.4 |
| Infectious disease | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 8.2 | 8.7 |
| Internal medicine | 1.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 8.7 | 8.4 |
| Medical oncology | 1.1 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 8.6 | 8.5 |
| Nephrology | 1.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Neurology | 1.2 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 8.2 | 8.8 |
| Nurse practitioner | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 1.2 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 8.9 | 8.5 |
| Ophthalmology | 1.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 2.8 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 1.8 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 8.9 | 8.5 |
| Otolaryngology | 1.7 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Pain management | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 8.8 | 8.5 |
| Physician assistant | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 8.9 | 8.7 |
| Preventive medicine | 1.5 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 8.6 | 8.4 |
| Pulmonary disease | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Radiation oncology | 1.2 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 8.8 | 8.5 |
| Rheumatology | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 9.0 | 8.6 |
| Sleep medicine | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 9.1 | 8.3 |
| Sports medicine | 1.7 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 8.8 | 8.4 |
| Urology | 1.4 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 8.4 | 8.3 |
| Vascular surgery | 1.5 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 8.8 | 8.4 |
| Average | 1.4 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 8.7 | 8.5 |

Appendix Table 8. Sensitivity Analysis: Evaluation and Management Codes, Additional Visits per Year

| Provider Type | Lower Distribution of Codes | | | | Higher Distribution of Codes | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 309 | 514 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 292 | 481 | -2.3 | -3.4 |
| Cardiology | 199 | 373 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 192 | 355 | -1.5 | -2.5 |
| Dermatology | 363 | 496 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 343 | 466 | -3.1 | -3.3 |
| Endocrinology | 277 | 439 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 264 | 414 | -1.9 | -2.8 |
| Family practice | 341 | 469 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 321 | 440 | -3.0 | -3.1 |
| Gastroenterology | 330 | 493 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 311 | 462 | -2.8 | -3.1 |
| General practice | 329 | 490 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 310 | 460 | -2.8 | -3.2 |
| General surgery | 349 | 583 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 329 | 542 | -2.9 | -3.7 |
| Geriatric medicine | 238 | 403 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 230 | 382 | -1.3 | -2.6 |
| Gynecological oncology | 255 | 455 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 246 | 429 | -0.8 | -2.7 |
| Hematology | 248 | 438 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 240 | 414 | -0.8 | -2.6 |
| Hematology/oncology | 252 | 455 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 243 | 428 | -1.2 | -2.9 |
| Infectious disease | 287 | 473 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 273 | 444 | -2.2 | -3.1 |
| Internal medicine | 270 | 429 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 258 | 405 | -1.9 | -2.9 |
| Medical oncology | 249 | 446 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 241 | 421 | -0.8 | -2.8 |
| Nephrology | 275 | 443 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 262 | 417 | -1.9 | -2.8 |
| Neurology | 275 | 458 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 263 | 431 | -1.9 | -2.7 |
| Nurse practitioner | 352 | 484 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 332 | 454 | -2.9 | -3.2 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 265 | 445 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 253 | 420 | -2.3 | -3.0 |
| Ophthalmology | 322 | 587 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 302 | 544 | -2.6 | -3.9 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 409 | 637 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 380 | 587 | -3.8 | -4.1 |
| Otolaryngology | 378 | 585 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 353 | 542 | -3.8 | -3.9 |
| Pain management | 306 | 501 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 289 | 469 | -2.4 | -3.3 |
| Physician assistant | 369 | 500 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 347 | 468 | -3.1 | -3.3 |
| Preventive medicine | 336 | 504 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 317 | 472 | -2.8 | -3.1 |
| Pulmonary disease | 277 | 457 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 264 | 429 | -1.9 | -2.9 |
| Radiation oncology | 257 | 522 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 248 | 489 | -0.8 | -3.2 |
| Rheumatology | 276 | 459 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 263 | 431 | -1.9 | -2.9 |
| Sleep medicine | 284 | 461 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 270 | 434 | -1.8 | -2.9 |
| Sports medicine | 376 | 527 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 351 | 491 | -3.6 | -3.5 |
| Urology | 318 | 497 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 300 | 466 | -2.6 | -3.3 |
| Vascular surgery | 339 | 590 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 320 | 549 | -2.7 | -3.7 |
| Average | 303 | 488 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 288 | 457 | -2.3 | -3.1 |

Appendix Table 9. Sensitivity Analysis: Current Procedural Terminology Revenue, Additional Visits per Year*

| Provider Type | 50% (vs. 100%) | | | | 0% (vs. 100%) | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % | New Visits, <i>n</i> | Return Visits, <i>n</i> | Change in New Visits, % | Change in Return Visits, % |
| Allergy/immunology | 311 | 531 | 4.0 | 6.6 | 323 | 570 | 8.0 | 14.5 |
| Cardiology | 235 | 427 | 20.5 | 17.3 | 296 | 518 | 51.8 | 42.3 |
| Dermatology | 422 | 561 | 19.2 | 16.4 | 523 | 671 | 47.7 | 39.2 |
| Endocrinology | 278 | 450 | 3.3 | 5.6 | 288 | 478 | 7.1 | 12.2 |
| Family practice | 357 | 491 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 386 | 535 | 16.6 | 17.8 |
| Gastroenterology | 333 | 508 | 4.1 | 6.5 | 347 | 543 | 8.4 | 13.8 |
| General practice | 343 | 516 | 7.5 | 8.6 | 369 | 564 | 15.7 | 18.7 |
| General surgery | 354 | 593 | 4.4 | 5.3 | 370 | 626 | 9.1 | 11.2 |
| Geriatric medicine | 252 | 436 | 8.2 | 11.2 | 275 | 490 | 18.0 | 25.0 |
| Gynecological oncology | 256 | 467 | 3.2 | 5.9 | 265 | 496 | 6.9 | 12.5 |
| Hematology | 250 | 449 | 3.3 | 5.6 | 258 | 477 | 6.6 | 12.2 |
| Hematology/oncology | 253 | 467 | 2.8 | 5.9 | 262 | 496 | 6.5 | 12.5 |
| Infectious disease | 289 | 486 | 3.6 | 6.1 | 300 | 518 | 7.5 | 13.1 |
| Internal medicine | 288 | 467 | 9.5 | 12.0 | 319 | 529 | 21.3 | 26.9 |
| Medical oncology | 250 | 458 | 2.9 | 5.8 | 258 | 486 | 6.2 | 12.2 |
| Nephrology | 276 | 454 | 3.4 | 5.8 | 286 | 482 | 7.1 | 12.4 |
| Neurology | 271 | 458 | 1.1 | 3.4 | 275 | 473 | 2.6 | 6.8 |
| Nurse practitioner | 369 | 509 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 401 | 556 | 17.3 | 18.6 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 296 | 495 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 346 | 578 | 33.6 | 33.5 |
| Ophthalmology | 311 | 575 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 312 | 585 | 0.6 | 3.4 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 399 | 617 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 403 | 622 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| Otolaryngology | 381 | 584 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 398 | 606 | 8.4 | 7.4 |
| Pain management | 308 | 517 | 4.1 | 6.6 | 320 | 554 | 8.1 | 14.2 |
| Physician assistant | 388 | 527 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 423 | 577 | 18.2 | 19.2 |
| Preventive medicine | 340 | 520 | 4.3 | 6.8 | 355 | 556 | 8.9 | 14.2 |
| Pulmonary disease | 278 | 469 | 3.3 | 6.1 | 288 | 498 | 7.1 | 12.7 |
| Radiation oncology | 258 | 516 | 3.2 | 2.2 | 267 | 534 | 6.8 | 5.7 |
| Rheumatology | 278 | 471 | 3.7 | 6.1 | 288 | 501 | 7.5 | 12.8 |
| Sleep medicine | 285 | 474 | 3.6 | 6.0 | 296 | 504 | 7.6 | 12.8 |
| Sports medicine | 381 | 544 | 4.7 | 6.9 | 400 | 585 | 9.9 | 14.9 |
| Urology | 323 | 522 | 4.9 | 8.3 | 339 | 571 | 10.1 | 18.5 |
| Vascular surgery | 343 | 600 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 359 | 634 | 9.1 | 11.2 |
| Average | 311 | 505 | 5.6 | 7.1 | 331 | 544 | 12.6 | 15.8 |

* Included revenue from the following laboratory tests, radiology services, and procedures: complete blood count, comprehensive metabolic panel, basic metabolic panel, renal function panel, hepatic function panel, glycohemoglobin, serum glucose, thyroid-stimulating hormone, vitamin D, human immunodeficiency virus, gonorrhea, chlamydia, human papillomavirus DNA, blood culture, pregnancy human chorionic gonadotropin, prostate serum antigen, rapid strep, urinalysis, urine culture, pelvic examination, bone mineral density, biopsy, echocardiography (for cardiology only), and audiometry (for otolaryngology only).