

# STROUDWATER

# REVENUE CYCLE MEASUREMENT & MANAGEMENT

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## **OBJECTIVES**

What is Revenue Cycle?

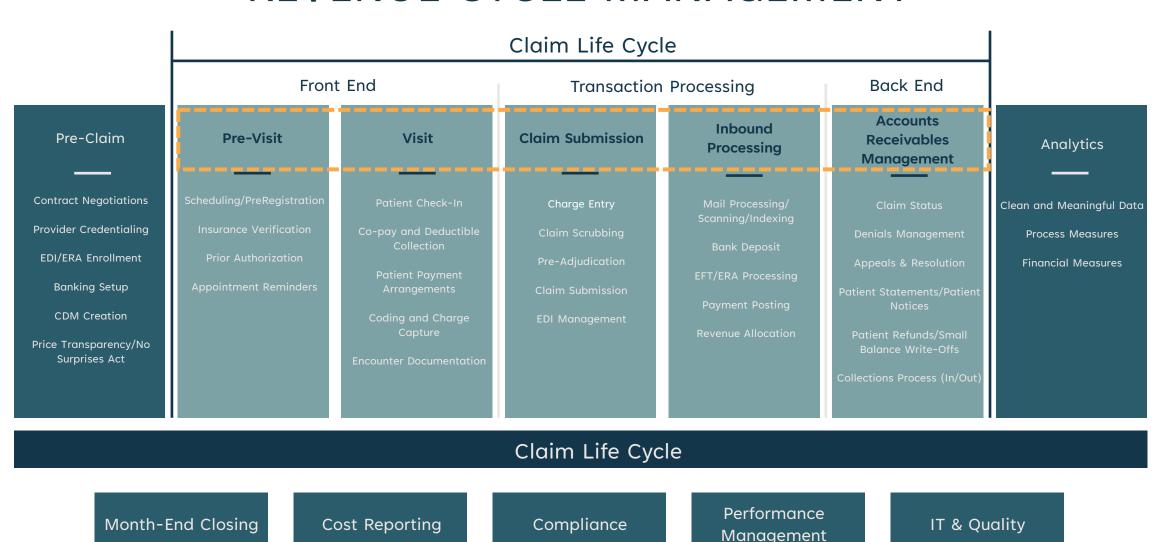
#### Pre-claim activities

- What are they?
- > Why are they important?

#### **Analytics**

- Clean and meaningful data is important
- Key indicators to monitor revenue cycle management (RCM) performance
- How to spot trends and anomalies





#### Claim Life Cycle

#### Front End

Pre-Visit

EDI/ERA Enrollment

**Banking Setup** 

Pre-Claim

**Contract Negotiations** 

Provider Credentialing

**CDM Creation** 

Price Transparency/No Surprises Act

Co-pay and Deductible

**Encounter Documentation** 

Transaction Processing

Claim Submission

Charge Entry

Revenue Allocation

**Back End** 

Patient Statements/Patient

Balance Write-Offs

**Analytics** 

Clean and Meaningful Data

**Process Measures** 

Financial Measures

Claim Life Cycle

Month-End Closing

Cost Reporting

Compliance

Performance Management



#### Claim Life Cycle **Back End** Front End Transaction Processing Pre-Claim Pre-Visit Claim Submission **Analytics Contract Negotiations** Charge Entry Clean and Meaningful Data Provider Credentialing Co-pay and Deductible **Process Measures** EDI/ERA Enrollment Financial Measures **Banking Setup** Patient Statements/Patient **CDM** Creation Revenue Allocation Patient Refunds/Small Price Transparency/No Balance Write-Offs Surprises Act **Encounter Documentation**



**Month-End Closing** 

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# PRE-CLAIM ACTIVITIES

What are they? Why are they Important?

#### Claim Life Cycle Front End Transaction Processing Back End **Pre-Claim** Pre-Visit Claim Submission **Analytics Contract Negotiations** Charge Entry Clean and Meaningful Data . \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Provider Credentialing Co-pay and Deductible **Process Measures** EDI/ERA Enrollment Financial Measures **Banking Setup** Patient Statements/Patient **CDM Creation** Revenue Allocation Price Transparency/No Balance Write-Offs Surprises Act **Encounter Documentation**

#### Claim Life Cycle

Month-End Closing

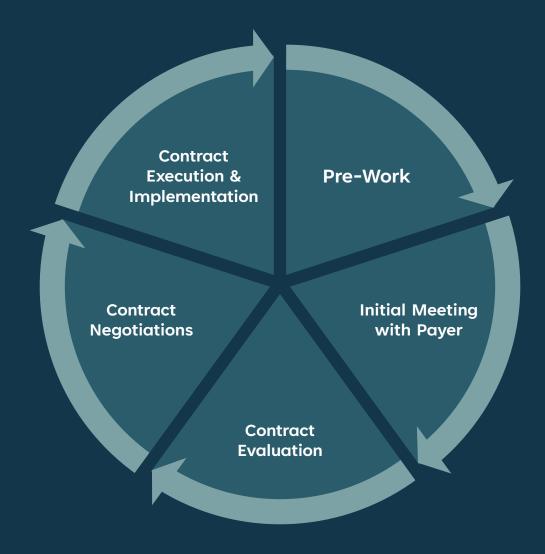
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## PAYER CONTRACTING LIFECYCLE



## CONTRACT STATUS - BEST PRACTICES

#### Agreement Management

Keep copies of all agreements

Be aware of all amendments

Review all fee schedules and "missing" codes

Understand how new codes will be handled/paid

#### **Special Clauses**

Understand "lesser of" payment clauses

Be aware of price change notifications

Understand the handling of unlisted CPT codes

# Timely Filing Deadlines

Expected payment windows

Claim and appeals must be filed in XXX days

Methodology to recognize when time limits are approaching

#### Accountability

Recognize when contract is not being followed

Understand audit or review processes

Know your provider rep or contact person



## EVALUATE FINANCIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Comparison to hospital's other payer contracts

#### Assessment of reimbursement rates

- > Review of top 50 CPT codes by revenue and 50 CPT codes by volume
- > Review of top 10 DRGs by volume

Comparison to Medicare rates

Comparison to cost-based reimbursement

Comparison to chargemaster

Comparison to other hospitals' published rates under pricing transparency (if available)

#### **Evaluate remittances**

- > Assess prior 6-12 months billed and paid charges relative to contracted reimbursement rates
- > Identification and quantification of top 10 claim denial reasons

## PAYER CONTRACTING – THINGS TO REMEMBER



Increase to Gross Charges do not always fall to the bottom line

- Modeling to project the impact of CDM price changes by payor



Payor contracts may contain reimbursement methodology language:

-excluded charges or clauses that limit annual increase percentages



Renegotiate Existing Contract

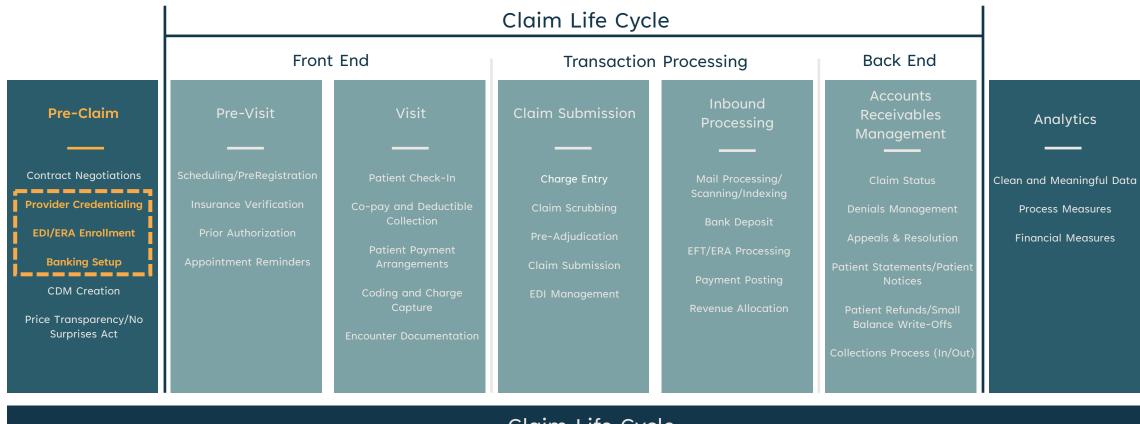
-voluntarily reduce overall charges to get a higher percent of charge reimbursement



Evaluation of payor's adherence to contract

variation from contract usually favors the payor; the sooner identified the better





Claim Life Cycle

Month-End Closing

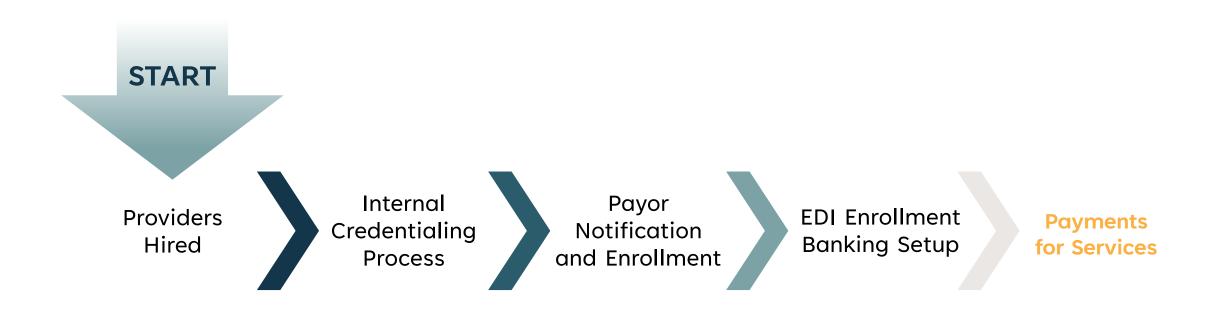
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## PROVIDER CREDENTIALLING & EDI ENROLLMENT



#### Claim Life Cycle Front End Transaction Processing Back End **Pre-Claim** Pre-Visit Claim Submission **Analytics Contract Negotiations** Charge Entry Clean and Meaningful Data **Provider Credentialing** Co-pay and Deductible **Process Measures** EDI/ERA Enrollment Financial Measures Banking Setup Patient Statements/Patient **CDM Creation** Revenue Allocation Price Transparency/No Balance Write-Offs **Surprises Act Encounter Documentation**

Claim Life Cycle

Month-End Closing

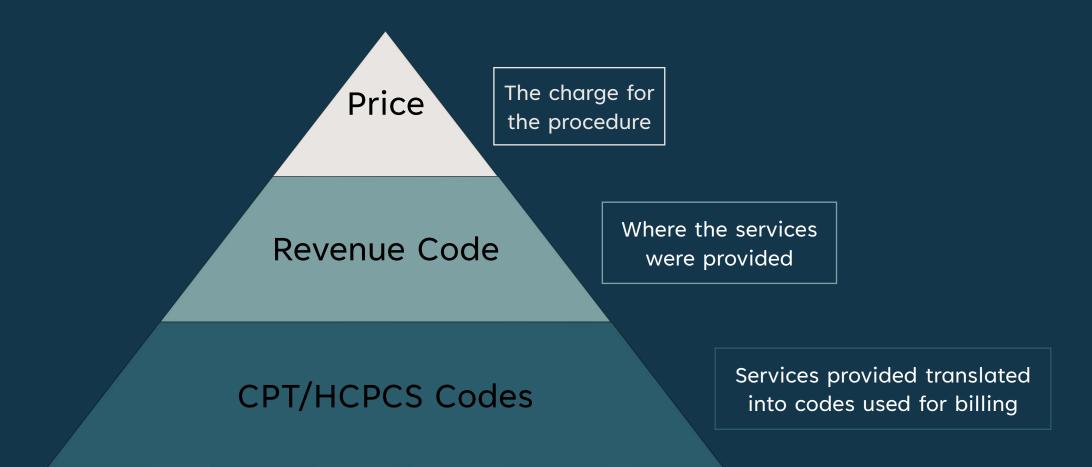
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# CHARGEMASTER (CDM) FOUNDATIONAL ITEMS



## CHARGEMASTER BEST PRACTICES



#### Remember:

Errors within chargemaster means manual intervention later in the claim life cycle



#### Claim Life Cycle

Transaction Processing

#### Front End

**Back End** 

Accounts
Receivables
Management

Claim Statu

Denials Managemen

Appeals & Resolutio

Patient Statements/Patient

Patient Refunds/Smal Balance Write-Offs

Collections Process (In/Out

#### ----

Pre-Claim

**Contract Negotiations** 

**Provider Credentialing** 

EDI/ERA Enrollment

Banking Setup

**CDM Creation** 

Price Transparency/No Surprises Act Pre-Visit

Scheduling/PreRegistration

Insurance Verification

Prior Authorizatior

Appointment Reminder

Visit

Patient Check-Ir

Co-pay and Deductible

Patient Payment

Coding and Charge

**Encounter Documentation** 

Claim Submission

Charge Entry

Claim Scrubbin

re-Adjudication

Claim Submission

EDI Management

Inbound Processing

Mail Processing/ Scanning/Indexing

Bank Deposit

EFT/ERA Processir

Payment Postino

Revenue Allocation

Analytics \_\_\_\_

Clean and Meaningful Data

Process Measures

Financial Measures

Claim Life Cycle

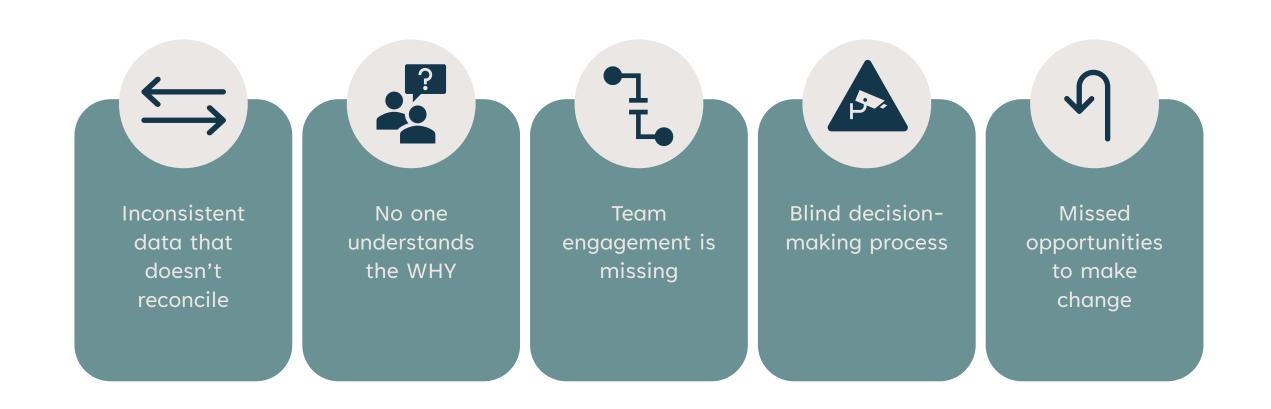
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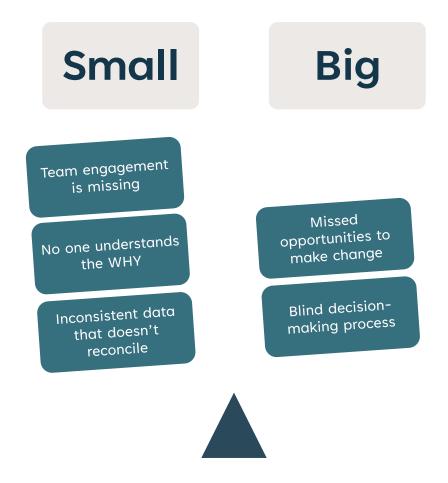
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## WITHOUT CLEAN AND MEANINGFUL DATA, PROBLEMS ARISE



# WITHOUT CLEAN AND MEANINGFUL DATA, SMALL PROBLEMS BECOME BIGGER PROBLEMS, LEADING TO COSTLY SITUATIONS



### WITHOUT CLEAN AND MEANINGFUL DATA, SMALL PROBLEMS BECOME BIGGER PROBLEMS, LEADING TO COSTLY SITUATIONS



#### Small Problem

- Staffing metrics aren't monitored
  - No one notices that the coding department needs an additional FTE based on current volumes

#### Big Problem

- Over time, this leads to an erosion of culture exhibited through
  - > Turnover expenses
  - Lack of provider/team engagement

#### Costly Situation

- Training breaks down and key elements are missed, resulting in
  - Potential Medicare false claims

## WITH CLEAN AND MEANINGFUL DATA, ACTIONS HAPPEN

- > Reporting is replicated on a standard cadence
- > One version of the truth
- > Everyone is provided a consistent roadmap to follow
- > Focus shifts from questioning the data to addressing problems
- > Problems identified quicker
- > Utilization and throughput can be assessed
- > Short and long-term efficiency improvements
- > Opportunities for engagement across departments





## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR REVENUE CYCLE

### **Account Resolution**

- > Aged A/R as a % of total billed AR
- > Aged A/R as a % of billed A/R by payer
- Aged A/R as a % of total AR
- > Remittance denial rate
- Denials as % of net patient service revenue
- > Bad debt
- > Charity care
- > Net days in credit balance

#### **Patient Access**

- > Percentage of patient schedule occupied
- > Pre-registration rate
- > Insurance verification rate
- Service authorization rate inpatient and/or observation
- Service authorization rate outpatient encounter
- Conversion rate of uninsured patient to third-party funding source
- Point-of-service (POS) cash collections



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR REVENUE CYCLE (CONT.)

## Financial Management

- Net days in accounts receivable
- Cash collection as % of net patient service revenue
- > Uninsured discount
- > Case mix index
- > Cost to collect
- Cost to collect by functional area

### Pre-Billing

- Days in total discharged not final billed
- Days in total discharged not submitted to payer
- > Days in final billed not submitted to payer
- > Total charge lag days

#### Claims

- > Clean claim rate
- Late charges as % of total charges



## REPORTS TO MONITOR RCM KEY INDICATORS

Claim Life Cycle

## **Process Measures**

How is the hospital / clinic AR process performing?

## Financial Measures

How is the hospital / clinic performing financially related to AR?

**General Ledger/P&L** 

## REVENUE CYCLE MEASURES: PROCESS REPORTS

PRE-CLAIM THROUGH FRONT END



Registration % correct



Clean claim rate (from Billing Editor)



Point-of-service (POS) collections



Claim Acceptance Rate



Pre-registration rate



Self-pay patients receiving financial counseling education



## REVENUE CYCLE MEASURES: FINANCIAL MEASURES

TRANSACTION PROCESSING AND AR MANAGEMENT



Gross (or Net) days in accounts receivables



Accounts receivable (AR) >90 days as a % of total AR



Cash collections as a % of net patient service revenue



Bad debt as a % of net revenue



Denial write-offs as a % of net patient revenue



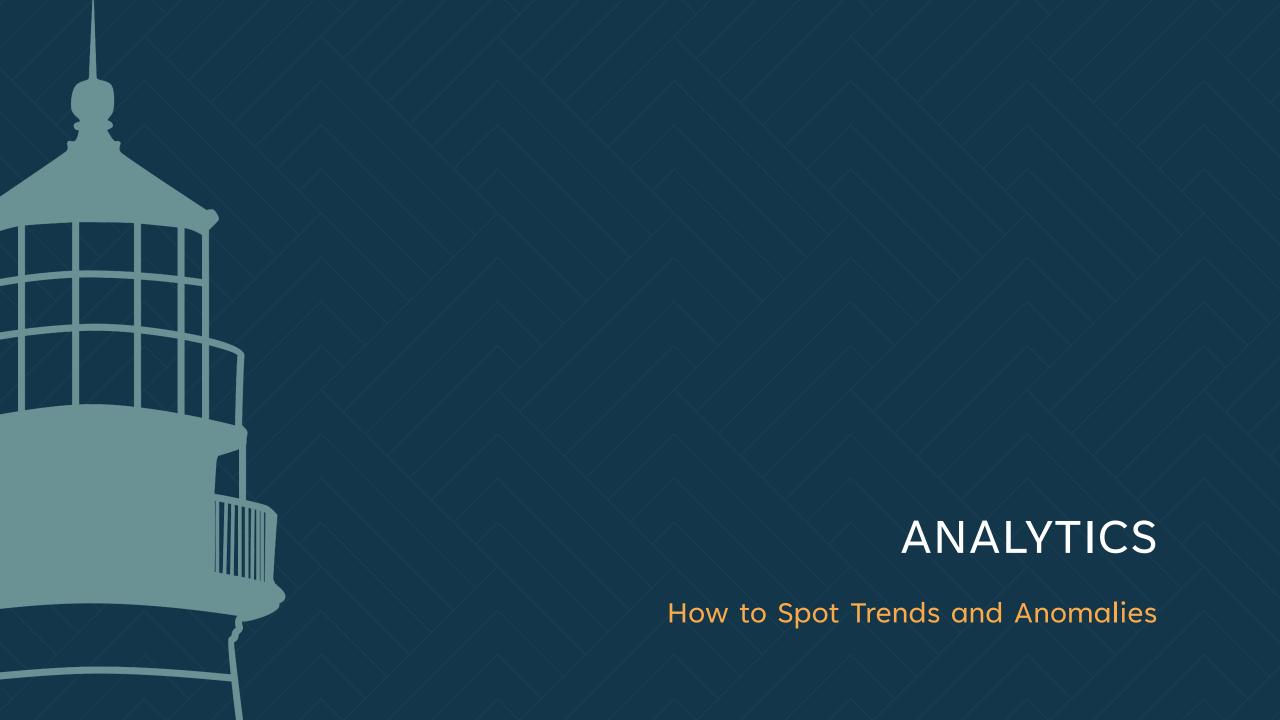
Charity write-offs as a % of net revenue



## CALCULATIONS

Revenue Cycle Financial Measures	Calculation:			
Days in Gross Accounts Receivable	Total Gross AR / (Total Gross Revenue/# of Days)			
Days in Net Accounts Receivable	Net AR / (Net Patient Revenue / # of Days)			
Accounts Receivable > 90 Days	\$ Value of AR>90 days / Total Gross AR			
Gross Cash Collections to Total Gross Revenue	Cash Collected / Total Gross Revenue			
Percentage of Unbilled Receivables	Gross Unbilled Accounts Receivable / Total Gross AR			
Bad Debt % to Gross Revenue	Bad Debt / Total Gross Revenue			
Charity % to Gross Revenue	Charity Care / Total Gross Revenue			
Revenue Cycle Process Measures	Calculation:			
Registration % Correct	1 - (Registration Errors / Patients Registered)			
Clean Claims From Bill Editor	Clean Billed Claims / Total Billed Claims			
Up-front Deductible and Co-pay Collections (Point of Service				
Collections)	Point of Service Collections			
Claim Acceptance Rate	Dollar Value of Denials / Total Gross Revenue			
	Dollar Value of Claims Discharged but not Submitted to			
Days in total discharged not submitted to Payer	Payer / Average Gross Patient Revenue			
Scheduled OP Services that are Pre-registered	# of Pre-Registered OP / Total Scheduled OP Patients			
Self-pay Patients that Receive Education on Charity Care and	Self Pay Pts Received Education on Charity Care and			
Financial Counseling	Financial Counseling / Total Self-Pay Patients			





# HOW TO SPOT TRENDS AND ANOMALIES: ESTABLISH REPORTING CADENCE

- > Establish reporting cadence
  - > Daily
  - > Weekly
  - > Monthly
  - **>** Quarterly
  - Yearly
- > Stick to the established cadence
  - > Some reports CANNOT be reproduced



## HOW TO SPOT TRENDS AND ANOMALIES: BASELINES

#### **Current Period vs Prior Period**

Key Indicator	Jun-22	Jul-22	Variance	% Change
Net Days in Accounts Receivable	17	17	-	0%
Accounts Receivable (AR) >90 days as a % of Total AR	13%	13%	-	0%
Days in Total Discharged not Submitted to Payer	5	5	-	0%
Cash Collections as % of Net Patient Service Revenue	47%	40%	(7)	-15%
Bad Debt % of Net Revenue	19%	20%	(1)	-5%
Charity Write offs % of Net Revenue	13%	12%	1	8%

#### **Current Period vs Current Period Prior Year**

Key Indicator	Jul-21	Jul-22	Variance	% Change
Net Days in Accounts Receivable	18	17	1	6%
Accounts Receivable (AR) >90 days as a % of Total AR	14%	13%	1	7%
Days in Total Discharged not Submitted to Payer	5	5	-	0%
Cash Collections as % of Net Patient Service Revenue	38%	40%	2	5%
Bad Debt % of Net Revenue	13%	20%	(7)	-54%
Charity Write offs % of Net Revenue	15%	12%	3	20%

#### **Current Period vs Prior Year End**

Key Indicator	Dec-21	Jul-22	Variance	% Change
Net Days in Accounts Receivable	16	17	(1)	-6%
Accounts Receivable (AR) >90 days as a % of Total AR	21%	13%	8	38%
Days in Total Discharged not Submitted to Payer	6	5	1	17%
Cash Collections as % of Net Patient Service Revenue	32%	40%	8	25%
Bad Debt % of Net Revenue	15%	20%	(5)	-33%
Charity Write offs % of Net Revenue	13%	12%	1	8%

### HOW TO SPOT TRENDS AND ANOMALIES: INVESTIGATE



**Ask questions** 

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How >Ask Why THREE times



Look at the information differently

Aging buckets that are increasing or decreasing

Is there a specific payor that stands out?

Is this an annual trend for the payor?



Don't just focus on financial areas

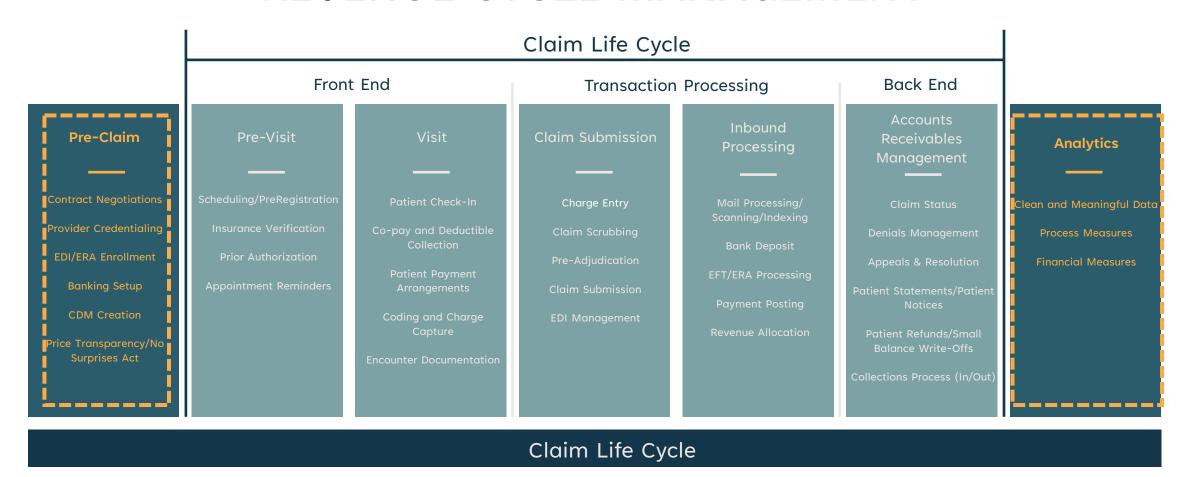
Sometimes you need to look at the *entire* process to identify the root cause

>Have there been operational changes?



The first answer isn't the only answer

Multiple factors are at play which means there can be multiple answers



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#### COMMITTED TO INCREASING THE IMPACT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE.

Our team of rural and community healthcare experts support the leadership of hospitals, health systems with a rural footprint, and the groups and clinics that form an essential care network across the 97% of the US that is defined as rural.



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## THANK YOU

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