

# Episode-Based Payment: What's Happening and the Path to Scale

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# Topics

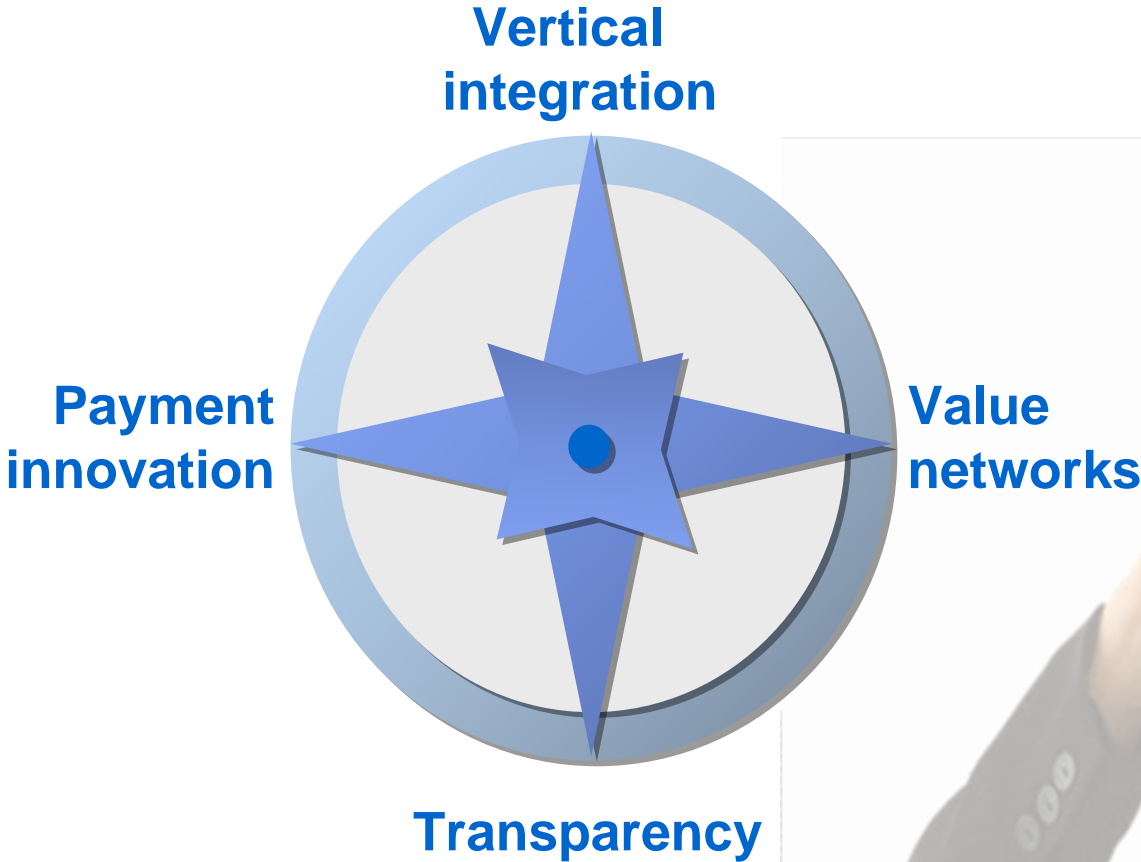
- **Broader context: the new normal in payment models**

- Where we stand on episode payment approaches and lessons learned

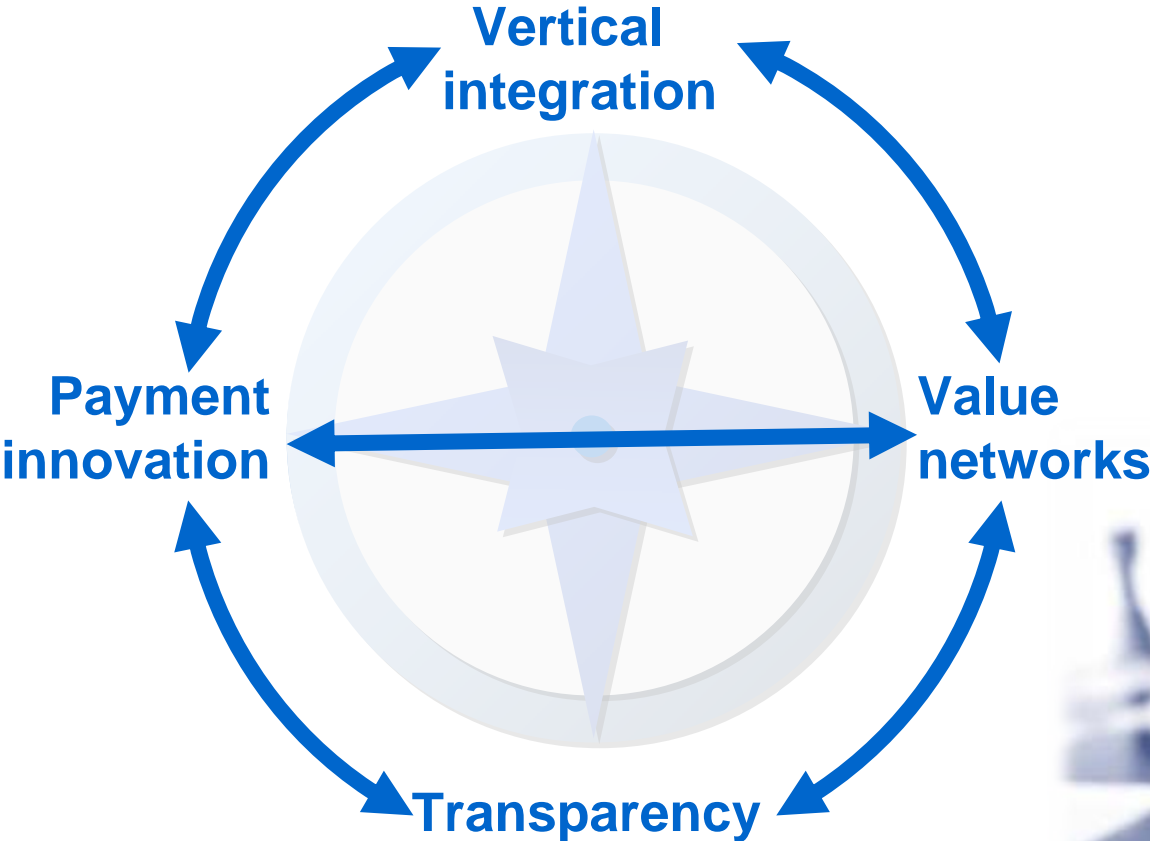
- Q&A: group discussion



**Context: health care value creation strategies**



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***AS OBSERVED OVER  
THE PAST 3 YEARS***

# Beliefs about payment innovation

## Old School

- Payment innovation has the potential to disrupt sources of competitive advantage
- Payment innovation must be multi-payer to change behavior
- Doctors treat all patients alike; payment/clinical innovation lifts all boats
- Payment innovation can (not) be a differentiator

## New School

- Payment innovation can either disrupt or stabilize competitive advantage
- Multi-payer alignment is not necessary to capture low-hanging fruit, though may be necessary for business model transformation
- Doctors don't discriminate in medical decisions; however, providers can and do differentiate clinical operations by payer
- Early adopters have opportunity to shape key design decisions to their advantage; long-term, key differentiators will be superior insights and engagement

# End-state for value-based payment (at least in our lifetime)

## Population-based payment

### Episode-based payment

#### Encounter-based FFS or P4P

### Most applicable to improvements in

- Chronic medical care (e.g., diabetes)
  - Shared decision making
  - Referrals for elective acute care
- 
- Acute procedural episodes (e.g., joints)
  - Acute medical episodes (e.g. CHF, AMI)
  - Behavioral health episodes (e.g., ADHD)
- 
- Discrete services correlated with favorable outcomes or lower cost

# Are we approaching a tipping point in adoption?

## Pay-for-performance



Many payers placing  
**3-5%** of hospital  
payments  
at risk for quality

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**5%** bump to  
specialists and **10%**  
bump to PCPs

## Episode-based payment



**500** hospitals in  
Medicare Bundled  
Payment Initiative

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AR, OH, TN on path to  
statewide, multi-  
payer adoption of  
**50-75** episodes

## Population-based payment



Both regional and national  
payers with goals to  
achieve  
**50-80% adoption**  
over the coming 1-3 years

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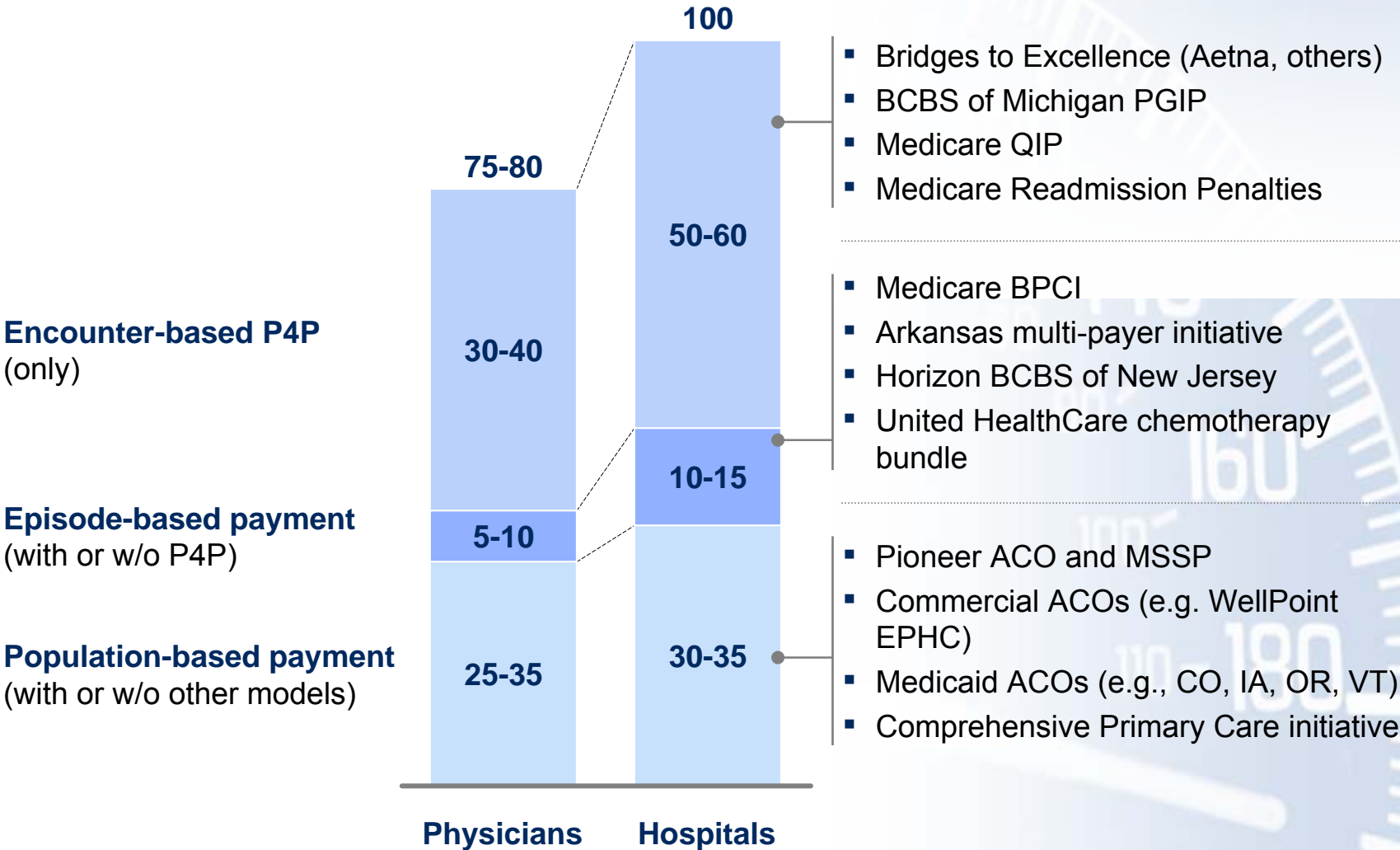
More than a dozen  
Governors have made  
public commitments to  
drive multi-payer tran-  
sition to population-based  
payment

# Are we approaching a tipping point in adoption?

ESTIMATES

Percent of providers participating in value-based payment

Select examples

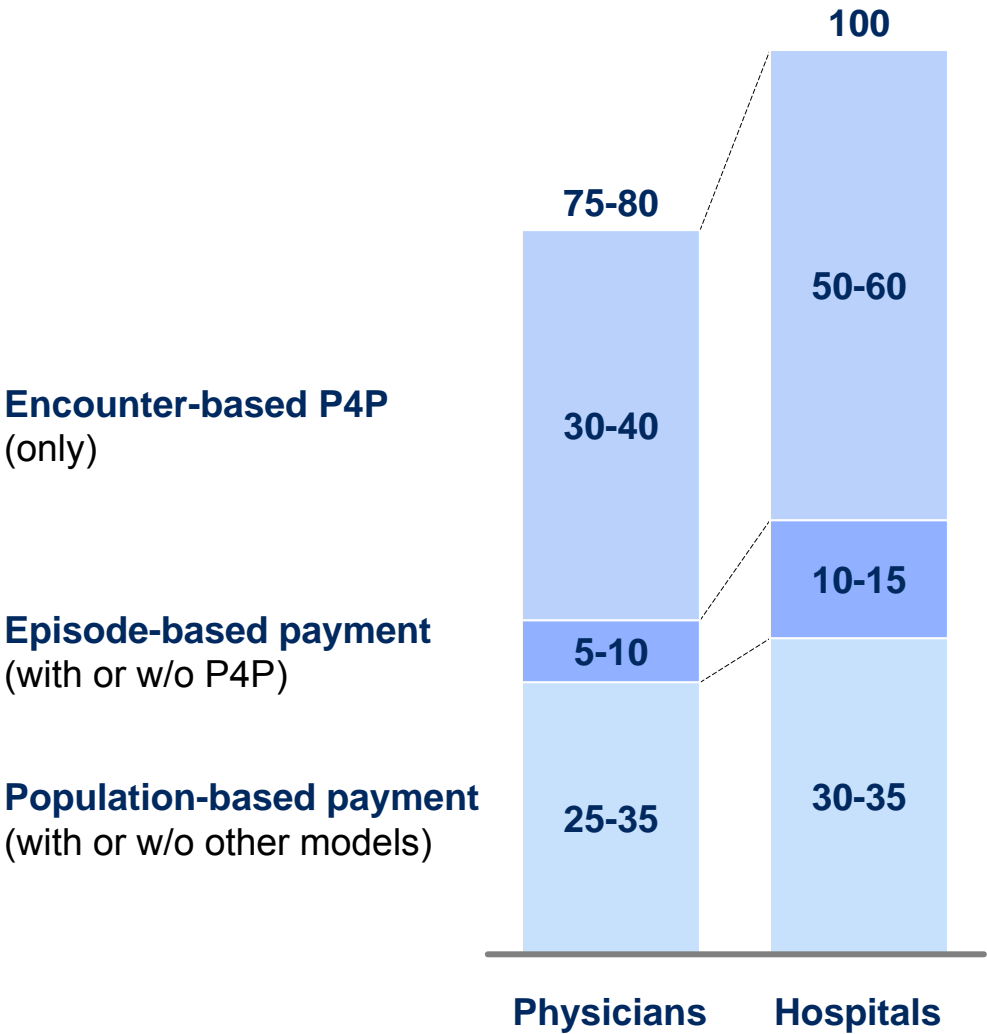




# Are we approaching a tipping point in adoption?

ESTIMATES

Percent of providers participating in value-based payment



Percent of payments that are value-based



# Topics

- Broader context: the new normal in payment models
- **Where we stand on episode payment approaches and lessons learned**
- Q&A: group discussion




## Three themes/ reflections from our work in multiple markets



**We are seeing four general approaches to episode-based payment across markets**



**Episode based-payment is working where the right conditions are in place**



**Four dimensions of uncertainty will shape which models prevail and the path to scale**

## Three themes/ reflections from our work in multiple markets



**We are seeing four general approaches to episode-based payment across markets**



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**Four dimensions of uncertainty will shape which models prevail and the path to scale**

# We are seeing four approaches to episode adoption across markets

## State-led/ statewide

- Strong policy impetus; Medicaid as lead
- Significant multi-payor involvement (multiple MCOs, Commercial)
- Typical: mandatory model, fixed thresholds for performance rewards



## Payor-led, voluntary for providers

- Payor developed program/ framework
- Providers choose to voluntarily participate
- Incentives typically based on shared savings and/ or network benefits



## Provider-led

- Providers initiate (e.g., competitive adv.)
- May establish rewards with payors or relationships with providers/ ACOs
- Service lines with attractive economics (e.g., orthopedics, cardiac)



*Range of health systems*

## Employer-led

- Employers initiate episode performance framework
- Sometimes involve strong network incentives ("centers of excellence")
- May be prospective payment model



## Example: state-led, statewide episodes

### Arkansas



- Statewide (Medicaid + commercial payors)
- Mandatory provider participation
- 13 episodes launched, others about to launch (range of procedural, acute medical, and BH)
- > 1,000 providers with gain/ risk sharing

### Tennessee



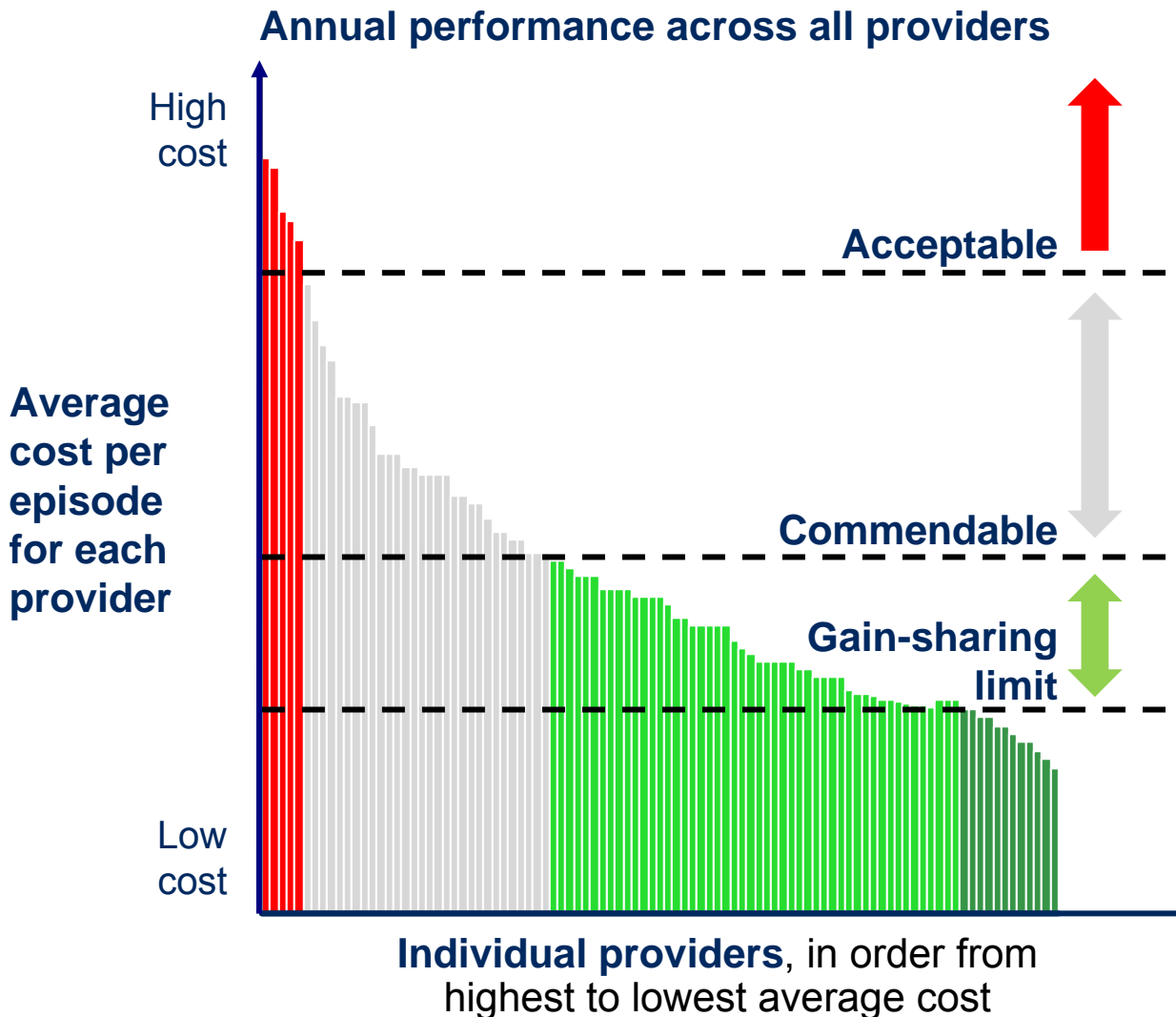
- Statewide (Medicaid MCOs + state employees)
- Mandatory provider participation
- 3 episodes launched: joints, obstetrics, Asthma; COPD to launch shortly
- Initial reports produced and launched

### Ohio



- Statewide (Medicaid FFS + MCOs)
- Mandatory provider participation
- 6 episodes launched: joints, obstetrics, COPD, Asthma, acute PCI, non-acute PCI

# State-led models: common elements of the payment model



- Mandatory provider participation
- Retrospective model
- Absolute rewards (thresholds), upside/downside model
- An accountable “quarterback” (hospital or specialist) designated for each episode
- Quality standards for receiving payouts
- Risk adjustments, exclusions, outliers, other adjustments

## Reasons (today) for multiple models

	Why you would choose	Challenges to consider
State-led/ statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Best enables multi-payor/ full system transformation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need preconditions in place (sufficient alignment of stakeholders)</li></ul>
Payor-led, voluntary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Leading payor adopting value-based payment as strategic lever</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need sufficient share to be meaningful to providers</li><li>▪ Likely engages subset of providers</li></ul>
Provider-led	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Provider ready to invest (or already high performing) and views as source of competitive advantage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need attractive economics – likely to apply to certain service lines or require network benefits</li></ul>
Employer-led	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Influential/ high volume providers ready to move, but payors not sufficiently aligned</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Difficult to get critical mass and needed claims data</li><li>▪ May require significant network incentives (e.g., “centers of excellence” approach)</li></ul>




## Three themes/ reflections from our work in multiple markets



**We are seeing four general approaches to episode-based payment across markets**



**Episode based-payment is working where the right conditions are in place**



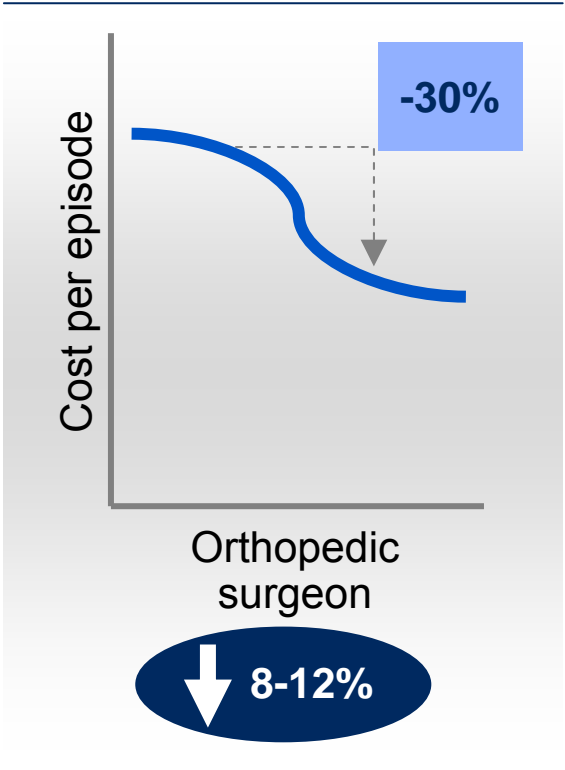
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# Episode-based payment is working

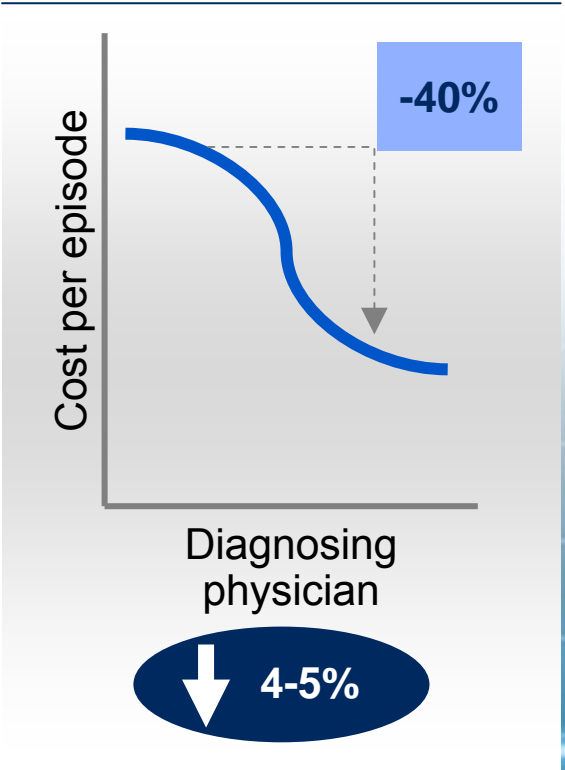
75<sup>th</sup>ile to 25<sup>th</sup>ile      Year 1 impact

## Provider variation in cost per episode

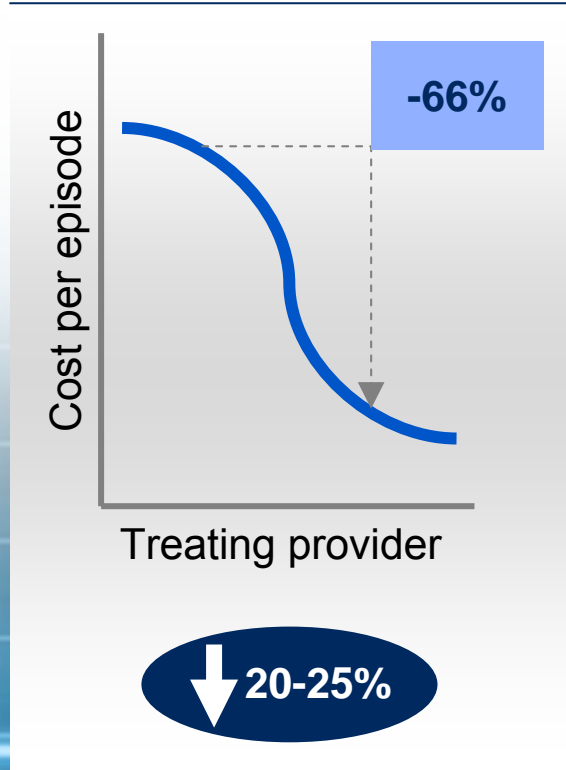
### Joint replacement



### Upper respiratory infection

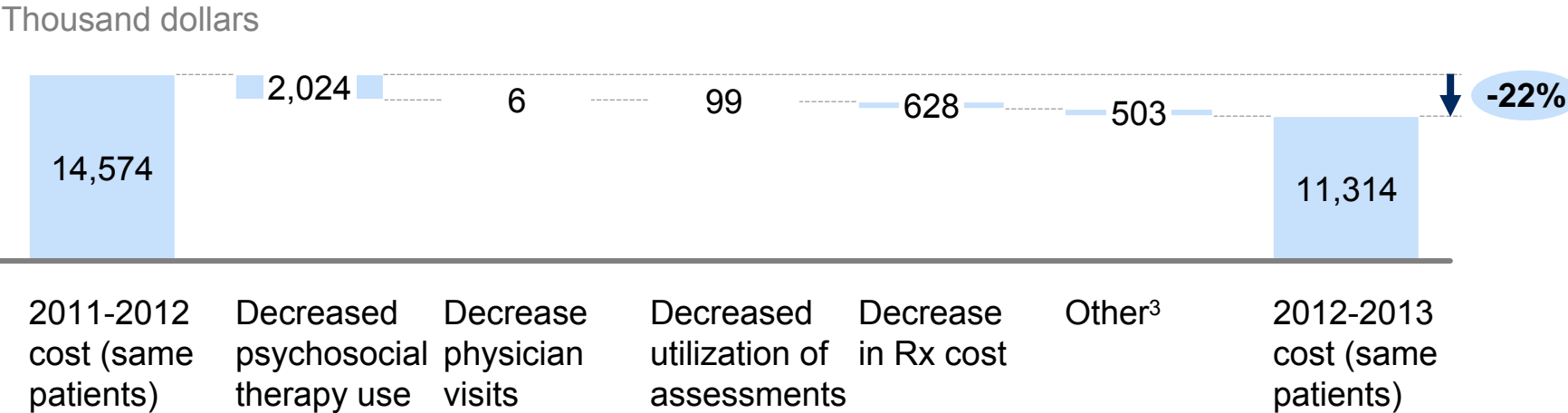


### ADHD

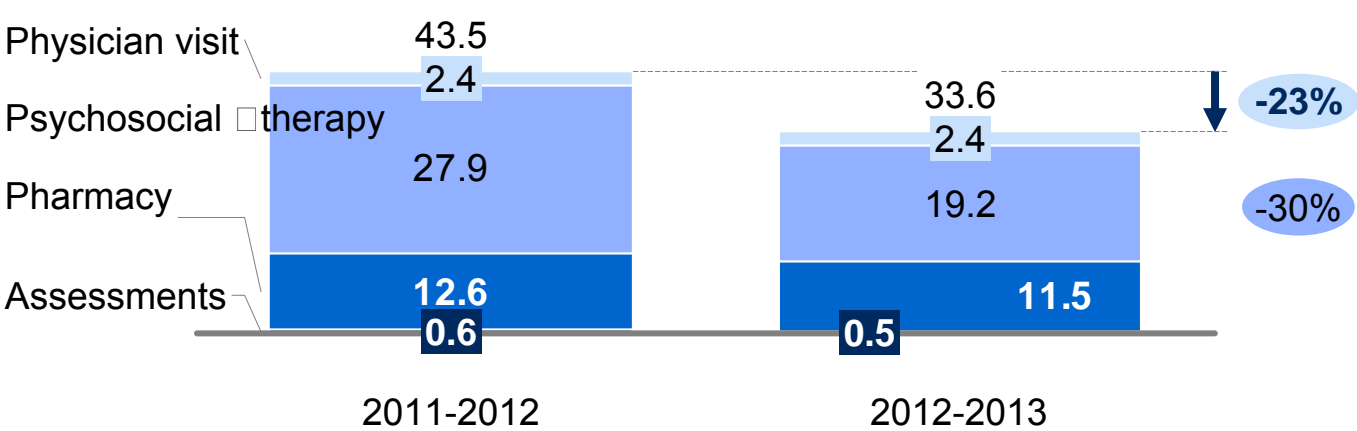


# ADHD example: 22% decrease in same-patient average cost, driven by greater guideline-concordant care

Comparison of average episode costs (same patients)



Average number of claims per client by claim type



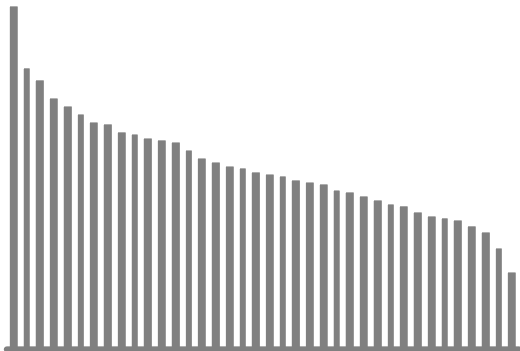
# Sources of value captured

**Cholecystectomy**  
Gallbladder removal plus 90 days  
**U.S. State A**

Sources  
of value

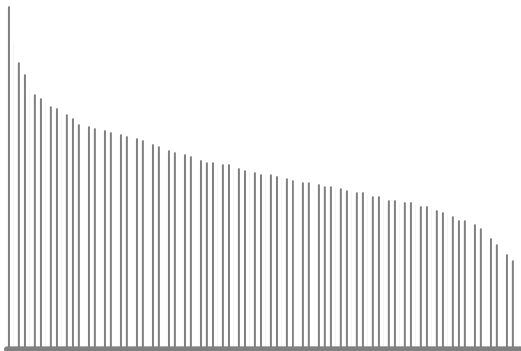
- % of cases done in inpatient setting varies from 0% to 20%
- >400% variation in hospital length of stay

Dist. in  
average  
cost per  
episode,  
by  
provider



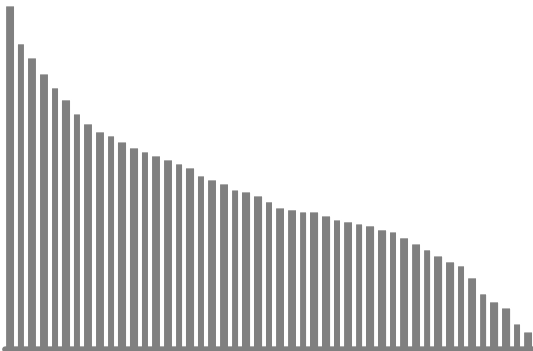
**Pregnancy/delivery**  
Prenatal care thru 2 mo. post birth  
**U.S. State B**

- >500% variation in imaging and diagnostic costs
- C-section rate varies from 20% to 70%



**Acute asthma exacerbation**  
Hospital visit + 1 mo. post discharge  
**U.S. State C**

- Rate of admission from the ER varies from 0% to 100%, even after risk adjustment
- >400% variation in rate of repeat visit to ER or hospital (within 30 days of discharge)



## Some highlights and lessons learned

- Power of data and reporting to enable provider behavior change
- Power of multi-payer alignment (consistency) and “inevitability”
- It’s possible to design and launch episodes rapidly (nine months)
- Multiple and significant sources of value to capture
- Importance and influence of specialists
- Necessity of “localization”


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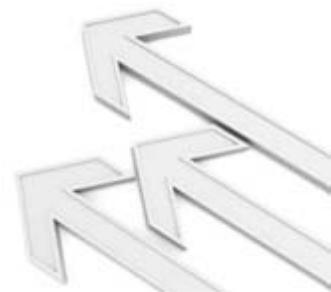


**Four dimensions of uncertainty will shape which models prevail and the path to scale**

# Looking forward: which approaches will prevail, and what will the path to scale look like over the next 3-5 years?

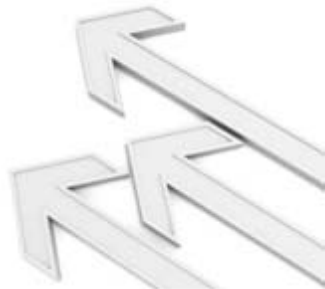
## Today

- 1-10% of spend impacted
- Often 24-36 months for implementation/ launch
- Dozens of customized/ disparate efforts
- Private payors developing distinct approaches and competitive strategies
- Providers opportunistically looking for sources of advantage



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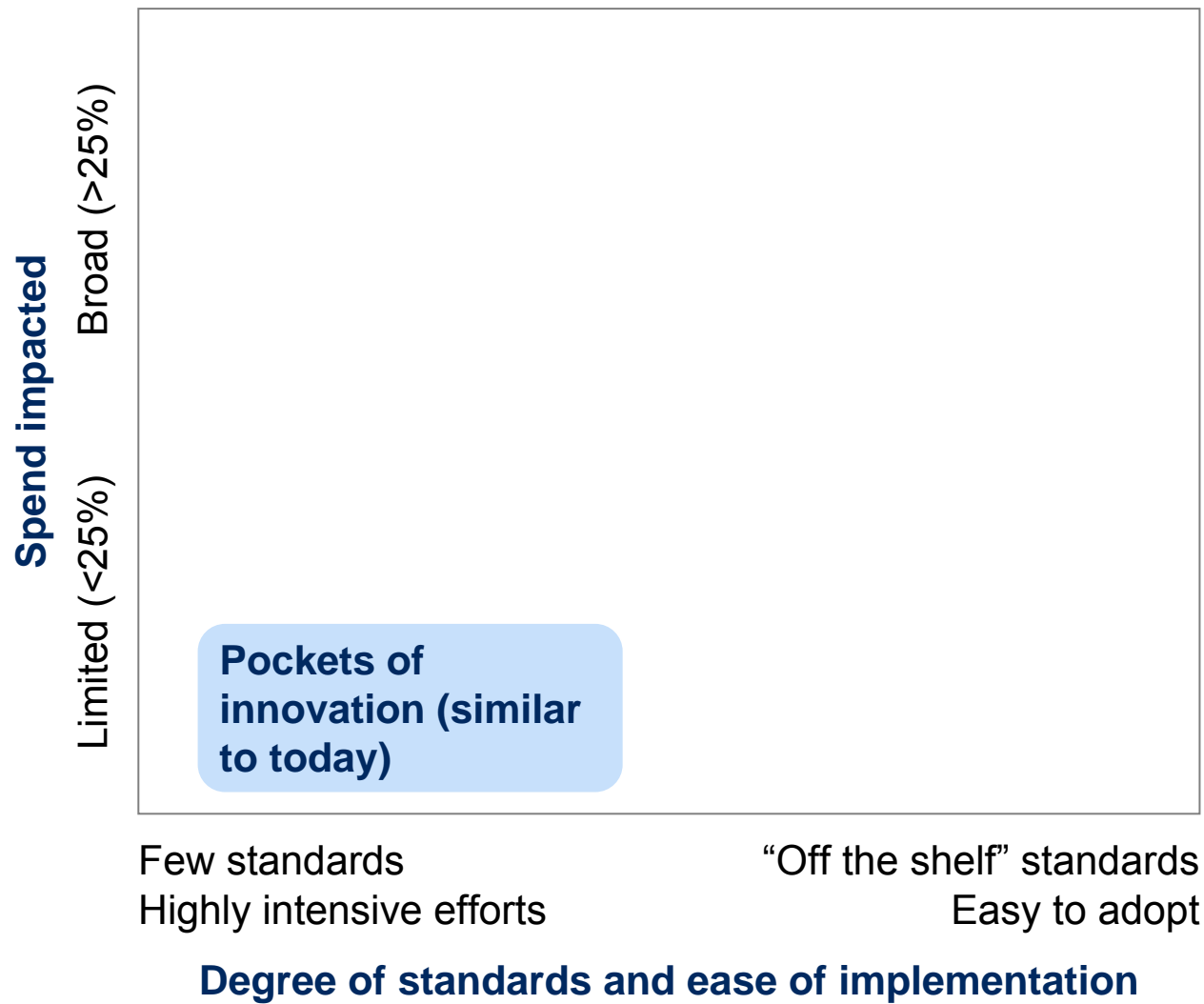
Potential scenarios over next 3-5 years





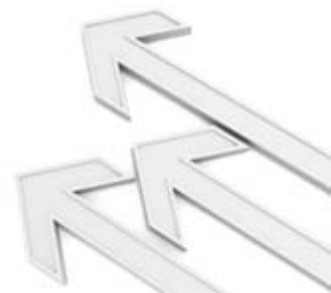
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## Potential scenarios over next 3-5 years



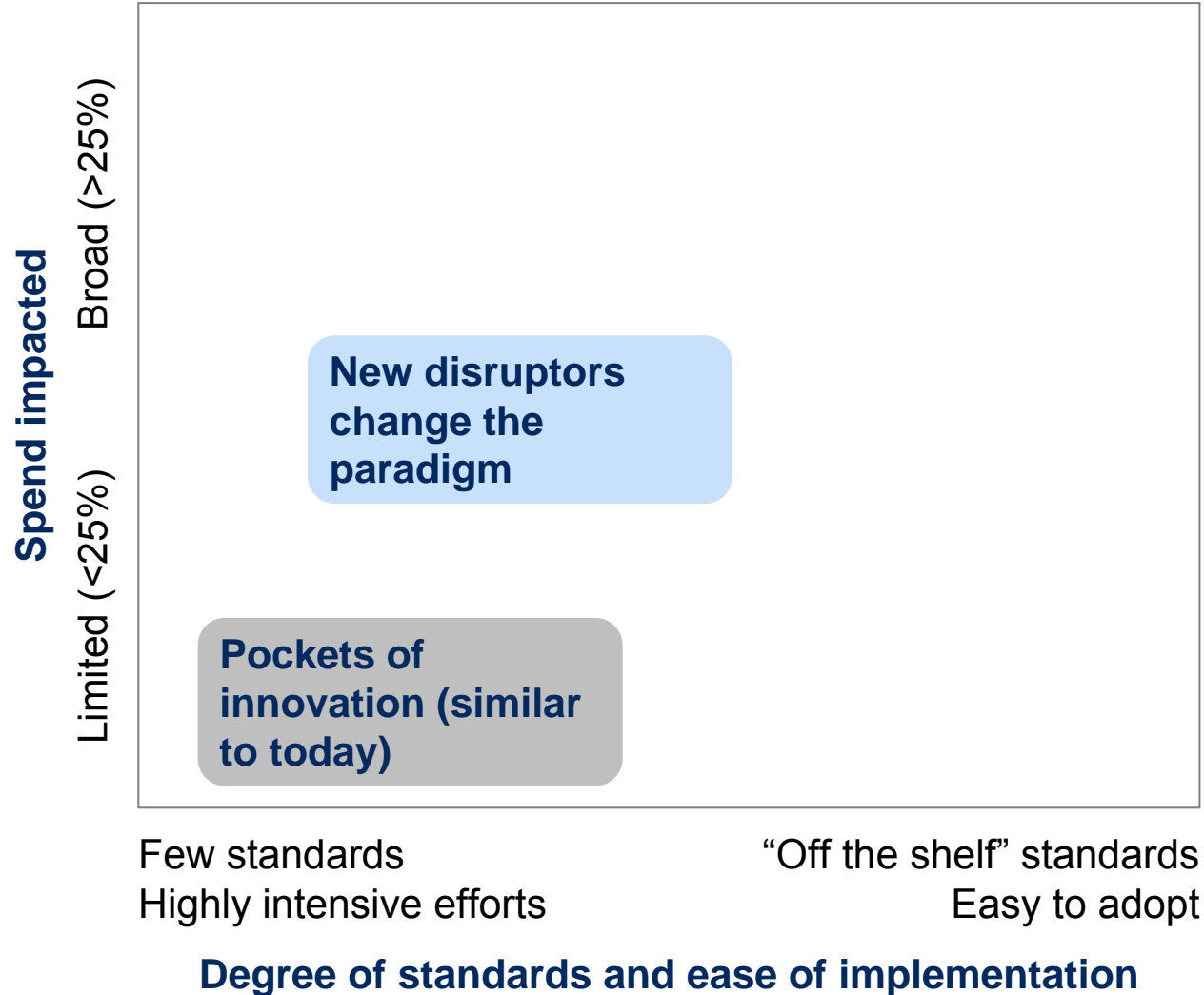
### Pockets of innovation (similar to today)

- Multiple models prevail, pockets of innovation
- However, few truly at scale efforts
- Disparate and highly intensive, customized efforts prevail



# Looking forward: which approaches will prevail, and what will the path to scale look like over the next 3-5 years?

## Potential scenarios over next 3-5 years



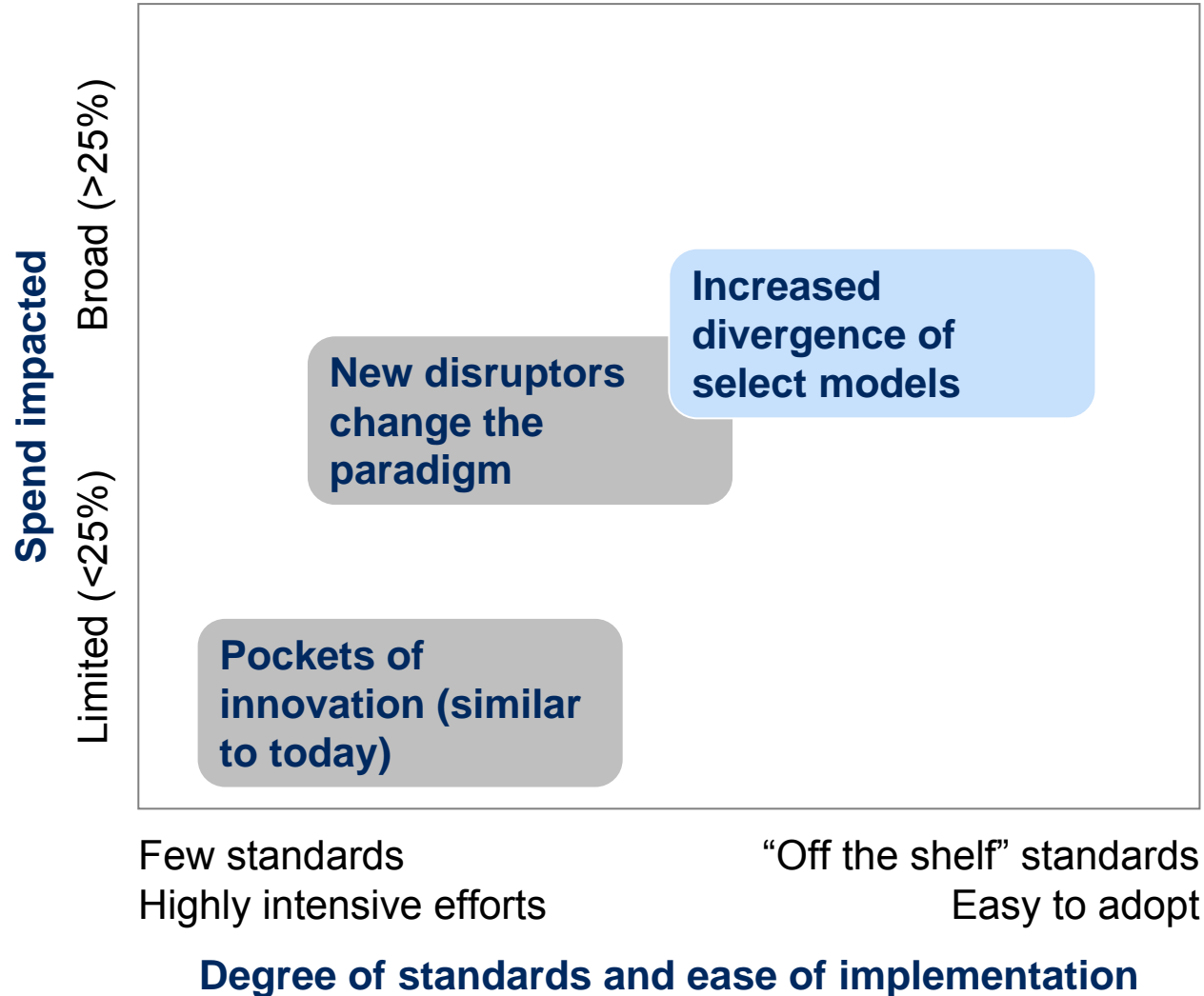
### New disruptors change the paradigm

- New, broad alignment with payors (e.g., vertical integration, fully capitated risk models a la Chen Med)
- Episodes serve as reporting tool, not individual payment mechanism



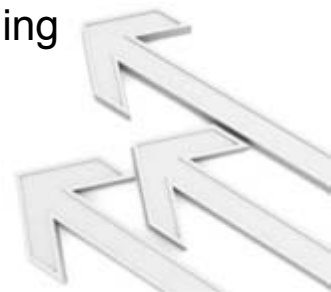
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## Potential scenarios over next 3-5 years



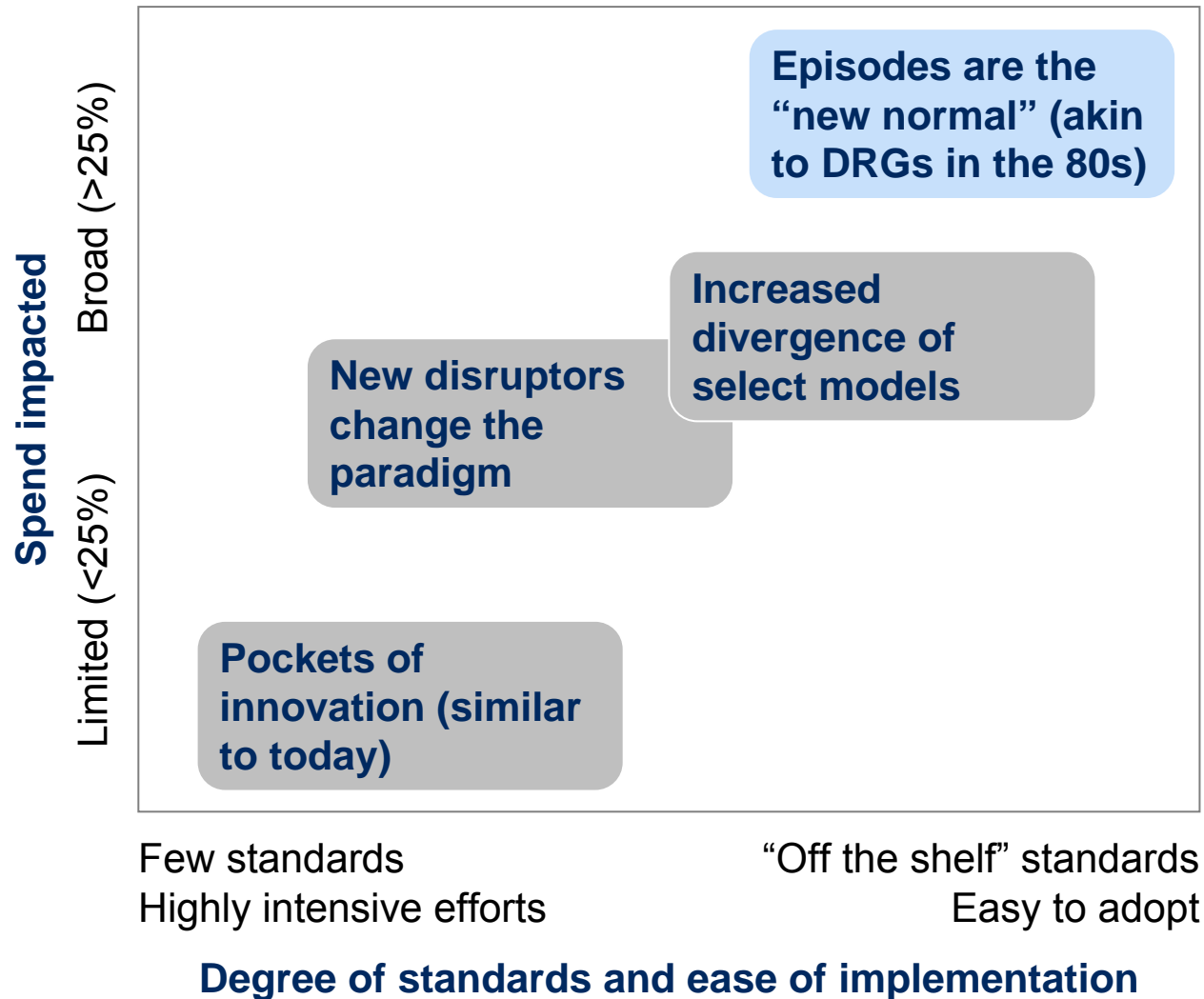
## Increased divergence of select models

- Episode champions (payors or providers) forge ahead to adopt episodes at scale
- Certain books of business (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare) converge around standards for episodes
- However, efforts largely disparate, with increasing divergence between payors based on competitive positioning



# Looking forward: which approaches will prevail, and what will the path to scale look like over the next 3-5 years?

## Potential scenarios over next 3-5 years



### Episodes are the “new normal” (akin to DRGs in the 80s)

- Broad adoption as payment model between payors/providers
- Convergence of models: “off the shelf” standards
- New paradigm (value-based care) across the entire system



# Four dimensions of uncertainty that will shape the path to scale

## **Emergence of standards to reduce “barriers to entry”**

- Success (and provider acceptance) of current episode grouping approaches
  - Convergence (or not) of current efforts across states and markets
- 

## **Level of appetite across payors to exercise “levers” of influence**

- Degree of State-wide transformation, a la AR, OH, TN
  - What Medicare does with BPCI (scale up, alignment with state efforts)
  - Whether private payors choose to make this a strategic cornerstone for cost containment and/ or competitive advantage
- 

## **How aggressively providers lead or respond**

- Degree to which certain providers become champions for episode-based payment as a source of advantage
  - How hospitals and specialists align (or not)
- 

## **Level of pressure from purchasers of health care**

- Degree to which plan sponsors or individuals press for new strategies aligning payments with value

# Questions

