What is the Variation Your Blueprint to Action

Gregory H. Partridge

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FMA Who We Are

- Began as staff of 3200 physician IPA in upstate New York
- Our work is based on 8 years of individual practitioner performance measurement
 - Cost-effectiveness measures
 - Quality measures
- Formed Focused Medical Analytics, LLC in 2005 to bring our tools to a wider audience

Why Not Just Use Efficiency Indexes?

- An efficiency index does not differentiate among appropriate use, underuse, overuse, or misuse
- El does not suggest specific action items
 - "What do others do?"
 - "What do you want me to do?"
- Physicians may do the wrong thing
- Analyses to find action items for individual physicians are time consuming (= costly) to produce
- Often find little that is actionable, or just find noise (e.g. one ER visit raising costs)
- Too reductionistic: everyone is cost-efficient at some things and not at others

Example Efficiency Index

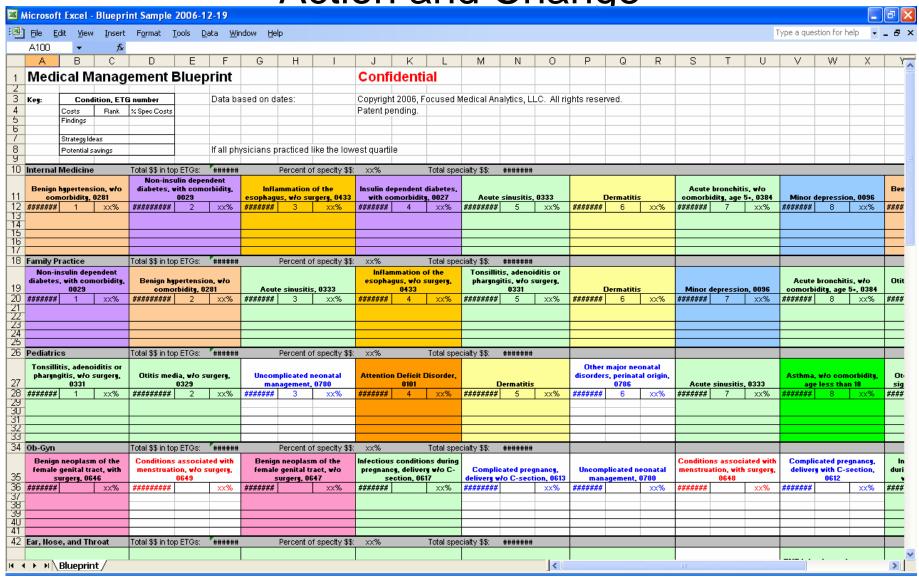
| Condition | Dr.'s number of episodes | Dr.'s actual costs | Specialty avg cost per episode | Expected Cost |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sinusitis | 10 | \$1450 | \$110 | \$1100 |
| Esophagitis | 5 | \$2000 | \$400 | \$2000 |
| Hypertension | 6 | \$2000 | \$350 | \$2100 |
| Totals: | | \$5450 | | \$5200 |

Efficiency Index = actual/expected = \$5450/\$5200, or 1.05

What We Needed

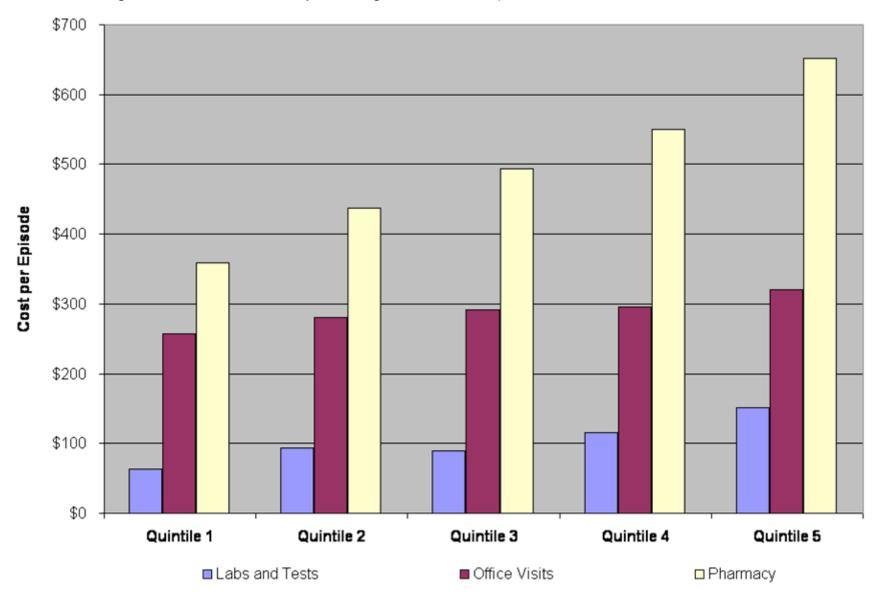
- By condition, find the variation in specific services
- Understand if the variation represents overuse or underuse – have the quality conversation
- Find action items for a whole specialty
- Create a series of measures or interventions based on best practice
- Reduce costs while improving quality

Creating a Blueprint for Action and Change

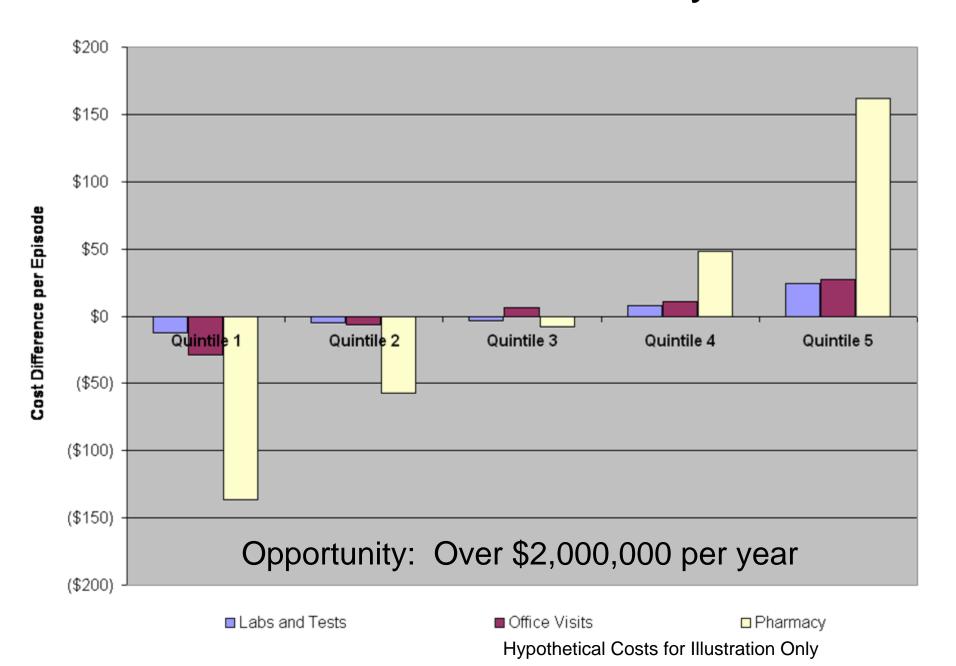


MPPT Analysis of Hypertension

(ETG 0281, Benign HTN w/o comorbidity, among 260 internists)



Cost Variation – All in Pharmacy



Possible Actions to change

- Move the physicians to a discuss about pharmacy
- Avoid focus on non-essential behaviors
 - Evaluation and Management
 - Labs and Tests

Summary A New Approach

- Focus on reducing overuse instead of relying on efficiency indexes
- Find specific action items
- Direct attention to meaningful action items to engage practitioners as partners
- Change physician behavior, don't punish "bad" doctors

Practical Applications and Experiences from the field

Thank You!

Gregory H. Partridge
Vice President for Technial Affairs

Focused Medical Analytics, LLC 3540 Winton Place Rochester, NY 14623 (585) 424-2110 www.fma-us.com

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