

Opportunities with Clinical Lab 2.0

Adding Value and Creating Clinical and Operational Intelligence to Improve Health Care Delivery

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Disclosures

Chair, BOD, Project Santa Fe Foundation, LLC

Member, BOD, ClaraPath (robotic microtomy)

President, Northwell Health Genomics Alliance (genomic testing)

Session Objectives:

- Principles of Laboratory Leadership → enhancing Population Health outcomes
- Strategic Objectives to promote efficient (and cost effective) health care delivery
- Real-life case studies that illustrate strategic and tactical laboratory successes

Roots of the Clinical Lab 2.0 Movement:

- Patient Centered Medical Home: 1967 advocacy (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- → 2007 Joint Principles of PCMH (AAP, AAFP, American Osteopathic Association)
- → 2010 Affordable Care Act: emphasis on Primary Care, “health home”, launch of Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model
- → CMS emphasis on Person-Centered Care with *longitudinal accountability*
plus
- 2006 “Value-Based Care” (Michael Porter and Elizabeth Olmstead Teisberg)
- → 2015 Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), establishing Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMS)
- → 2021 CMS goal that by 2030, *100% of Medicare beneficiaries and vast majority of Medicaid beneficiaries will be in a care relationship with accountability for quality and total cost of care*

(Deep) Roots of the Project Santa Fe Foundation:

- 1988: Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)
- 2/28/1992: Federal Register published first “test performance requirements”
- 7/31/1992: CMS Final Rule implementing accrediting provisions of CLIA; included granting deeming authority to qualified accreditation organizations*
-→ ca. 2014: “Six Sigma” quality in delivery of clinical laboratory test results**

***PROBLEM: under the Value-Based Payment system,
the Clinical Laboratory (Anatomic Pathology included) is a commodity***

* Deemed: Joint Commission, CAP, COLA, AABB, Accreditation Commission for Health Care, American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

**Howanitz PJ, et al., *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 2014; 138: 1141-1149. DOI: 10.5858/arpa.2014-0150-OA


Clinical Lab 2.0:

- 2016: Retreat in Santa Fe, NM: *Are clinical laboratory services strictly a commodity, or do laboratory services have a higher valuation that can drive better outcomes for patients, providers, and financial stakeholders?*

Regular Article



Improving American Healthcare Through “Clinical Lab 2.0”: A Project Santa Fe Report

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Create a disruptive value paradigm and explore alternative business models that expand the role of diagnostic services in the future healthcare ecosystem

Leverage Laboratory Medicine and Pathology domain knowledge to establish the standards and evidence for Clinical Lab 2.0. Facilitate diverse partner collaborations in order to guide policies, transfer knowledge and accelerate the Clinical Lab 2.0 movement across the laboratory industry.

The desired outcomes of CL1.0*

Accuracy	High precision, high “trueness”
Reliability	Overall consistency of a measure
Safety	Reduction in Systematic Error, Reduction in Random Error
Timeliness	Meeting/exceeding expectations/standards for Turnaround Time
Expertise	Technical, Professional
Innovation	"Science of Medicine": Diagnostics/Prognostics/Theranostics
Financials	Revenue, Expense, Margin/Profit

***Commodity**

The desired outcomes of CL2.0*

Lab	Valued as “an essential component of a high performance IDN”
Consumers	A key partner in their journey through Wellness and Illness
Providers	A key partner for their ability to <i>care for their Patients</i>
Health System	Financial + Quality Performance <i>of the health system</i> Enhanced Patient Outcomes + Patient Experience Enhanced Brand Value, Strategic Clinical Program Growth
Payers	Lab as partner: <i>Data, Product Design/Delivery, Financial Outcomes</i> - and <i>Improved Population Outcomes</i>

***Asset**

Clinical Lab 2.0: A unifying concept

Develop the Evidence Base for Valuation of Laboratory and Pathology Services

- **Optimize:** Time-to-Diagnosis; Time-to-Effective Care; Transitions-in-Care; Care Coordination; Actual Selection of Effective Care
- **Close:** Gaps-in-Care
- **Support & Lead:** Wellness Care; Screening; Monitoring; Chronic Disease Management
- **Translate into:** Quantifiable Measures of:
 - Population Outcomes**
 - Economic Outcomes**
- **Take advantage:** Health System consolidation
Laboratory Integration across Health Systems
Payer interest in innovative Managed Care programming

Lab is a “First Responder”*

Touches more lives than any other clinical service



Time to Diagnoses—
lab has zero latency
(actionable)



Diagnostic Optimization



Care Optimization



Therapeutic Optimization



**Screening/
Surveillance**



- Each touch point is measured (scientifically) as value-structured data
- Each data point is clinically actionable
- Not only is Lab > 70% clinical data; Lab represents > 70% of clinical decisions
 - Lab can verify (or refute) physicians’ hypotheses
 - Lab can rule a condition **IN**
 - Lab can rule a condition **OUT**
 - Lab informs **Pharmacy and Therapeutics**

Lab is “Population Health”

Based on the aggregated longitudinal data...



- Lab can **risk stratify** population for known chronic conditions
- Lab can **identify care gaps** for conditions with comorbidity and help close gaps in care
- Lab can **identify high-risk patients early** before hospitalization, or ER visits
- Lab can **act as a facilitated intervention** at the point of care (patient/Consumer)

Highest yield/return on investment



- For every dollar we spend on healthcare, **three cents is spent on diagnostics**
- The diagnostic lab investment gives us the most clinically **actionable data**
- Diagnostic labs help to manage “sick care” so as to **optimize clinical pathways**
- More importantly, the lab can help with the following clinical strategies of **value-based healthcare...**

INTERVENTION PREVENTION COST AVOIDANCE RISK ADJUSTMENT

Clinical Lab 1.0 (transactional)

Sick Care

- Receive and result tests
- Passive engagement

Disease Screening

- Scheduled by treating physician
- Disease Surveillance

Wellness Program

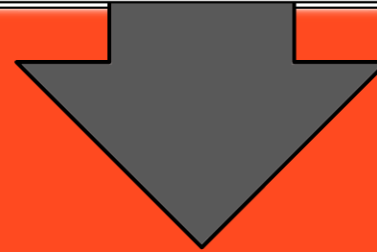
- Result-driven
- Blanket approach to testing

Consensus-based

- Protocol/guideline driven

Payment Models

- Cost per test
- Fee for Service
- Laboratory a commodity



Clinical Lab 2.0 (integrative; diagnostic surveillance)

Health Optimization

- Proactively identify, test, and engage patients
- Precision Medicine
- Coordinate with providers

Risk Management

- Baseline /screen patients
- Health maintenance
- Prioritize clinical interventions
- Risk stratification
- Reduce negative outcomes

Care Coordination

- Diagnostic Management Teams
- Close care gaps
- Optimizing lab testing in clinical workflows
- Eliminate care variation
- Real time patient triage

Evidence-based Outcomes

- Diagnostic computation
- Predictive Analytics
- Data driven decisions

Economic & Payment Models

- Alternative payment models aligned to operational objectives
- Support quality metrics and reimbursement models

Data Analytics: Real time acquisition, standardization, longitudinal



Clinical Lab 2.0: 2017 – present (selected):

- 2017-2019, 2021-2025ff: Clinical Lab 2.0 Annual Workshops (open)
- 2017-2024ff: Project Santa Fe Colloquia (by invitation)
- 2017,2018,2019,2023,2024: Executive War College workshops/presentations
- 2017 – present: PSFF-sponsored Demonstration Projects:
 - Acute Kidney Injury (published)
 - Chronic Kidney Disease (published)
 - Anemia (submitted)
 - Critical Values (submitted)
 - Sepsis (nearing completion)
 - Opioids (in progress)
 - Steatotic Liver Disease (being initiated)



SAVE THE DATE: March 3-4, 2025

8th Annual Clinical Lab 2.0 at Pendry Chicago*

Two days of transformative conversation, where population health, value-based care, and the diagnostics industry CONVERGE. Together, we will shape the transition from a business of volume to a business of value in sustainable healthcare. Limited seating (~120 attendees), so make sure to mark your calendar and join us in Chicago!

cl2lab.org

Is “Clinical Lab 2.0” making any difference?

- 2017 *Academic Pathology* publication:
 - n = 47 citations (now about 6-8 per year)
 - Altmetric score 25 (>20 is considered excellent; reflects “traffic”)
 - n = 11,542 views/downloads
- “If your goal was to get the conversation started in the Lab Industry, you have succeeded (even if ‘hard data’ from Demonstration Projects has been slow in coming).” September 2022

PROBLEM: We are in our own echo chamber. Is anyone else listening?

e.g., Health System Leadership, Payers

Population Health leadership, Primary Care colleagues

CONSUMERS (aka, Patients)

A personal conclusion

- *“Clinical Lab 2.0” is a battle won-in-detail:*
 - Strategic and Tactical Objectives have to be of explicit (and realized) Value to specific Stakeholders
 - It is the cumulative (and un-ending) quantitative evidence of sustained Value that raises the clinical laboratory from “Commodity” to “Asset” status, for decision-making stakeholders

Illustrative Case Studies

- *Acute Kidney Injury (published)*
- *Bacteremia (published)*
- *COVID-19 (published)*
- *Prenatal Care (published)*
- *Chronic Kidney Disease (published)*

Stakeholders

health system CMO, CQO, CFO

health system CMO, CQO, CFO

State, Municipality, Counties....

State Medicaid system

Payers, health system Risk Management

Kothari T, et al., *Acad Pathol* 2018; DOI: 10.1177/2374289518816502. PMID: 32733989

Khare R et al., *Clin Infect Dis* 2019 March 14; pii.ciz198; doi: 10.1093/cid/ciz198; PMID: 30873522

Reichberg SB, et al. *Clin Infect Dis*, 8 Jul 2020; DOI: 10.1093/cic/ciaa922. PMID: 32640030

VanNess R, et al., *Am J Managed Care* 2021 Feb; 27(2): 60-65. doi: 10.37765/ajmc.2021.88582. PMID: 33577153

Fung M, et al., *BMC Nephrology* (ePub 4 April 2024). DOI: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-4032702/v1

TriCore Laboratories/Rhodes Group

- Identify Members enrolled in Centennial Care (CC, New Mexico Medicaid Program)
- Identify CC Members who have a history of testing with TriCore
- Assess for Risk: Pregnancy + Diabetes; Hepatitis C
- Identify Gaps in Care; notify CC for proactive:
 - Prenatal Care
 - HCV screening/treatment



TRICORE



RHODES
GROUP

ROI OF RHODES' FOCUS PLATFORM (2021-2022)

Health Condition	Measure/Outcome	2021 Performance*	2022 Performance	ROI
Prenatal	Timeliness of Prenatal Care NMHSD PM #5	79%	86%	\$2,480,038
	Post-Partum Care NMHSD PM #5	67%	75%	\$2,480,038
	NICU Occupancy	10.7%	10.6%	\$1,774,057
	Preterm Delivery Outcome	13.6%	13.2%	\$5,026,098
Hepatitis C	NMHSD Risk Corridor			\$3,065,044
			TOTAL	\$14,825,275

*VanNess R, et al., *Am J Managed Care* 2021 Feb; 27(2): 60-65. doi: 10.37765/ajmc.2021.88582. PMID: 33577153

A Laboratory Initiated Care Model: Chronic Kidney Disease

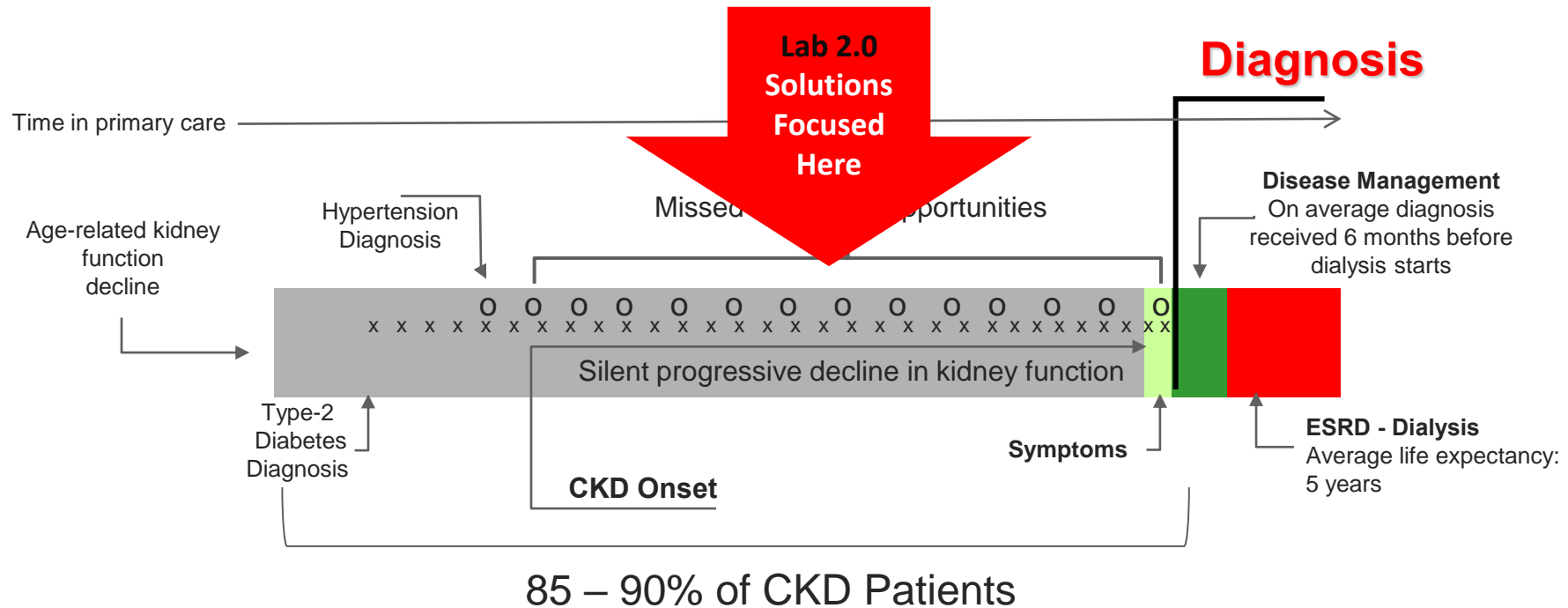
Geisinger



in collaboration with



- About 37 million US adults with CKD, most are undiagnosed
 - 15% of adults
 - 1 in 3 adults with diabetes
 - 1 in 5 adults with hypertension
 - 1 in 2 patients aged 30-64 are expected to develop CKD in their lifetime
- 40% with severely reduced kidney function (CKD Stages 3,4; not on dialysis) are not aware of having CKD
- Treating Medicare beneficiaries with CKD costed \$87 billion (2019)
- Treating patients with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) costed additional \$37 billion (2019)



Szczech, Lynda A, et al. "Primary Care Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease in Adults with Type-2 Diabetes: The ADD-CKD Study (Awareness, Detection and Drug Therapy in Type-2 Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease)." *PLOS One* 9(11); 2014:e110535 .

Tuot, Delphine S, et al. "Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Among Individuals with Clinical Markers of Kidney Dysfunction." *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* 6 (2011): 1838-1844.

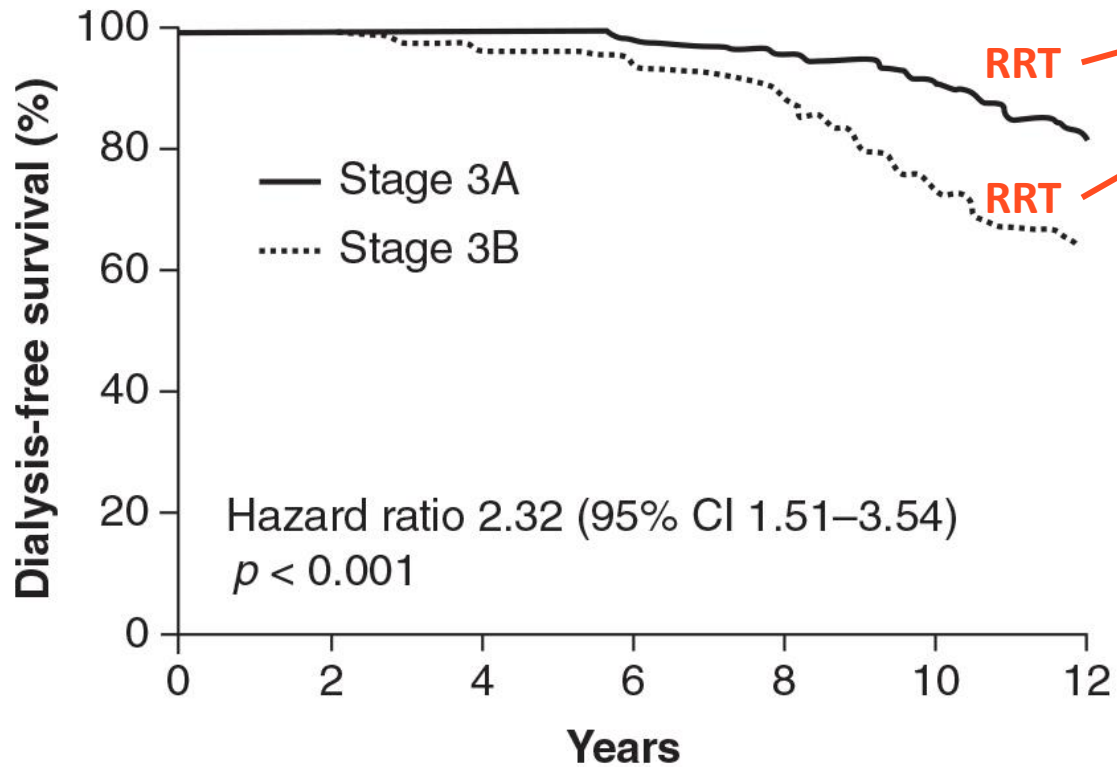
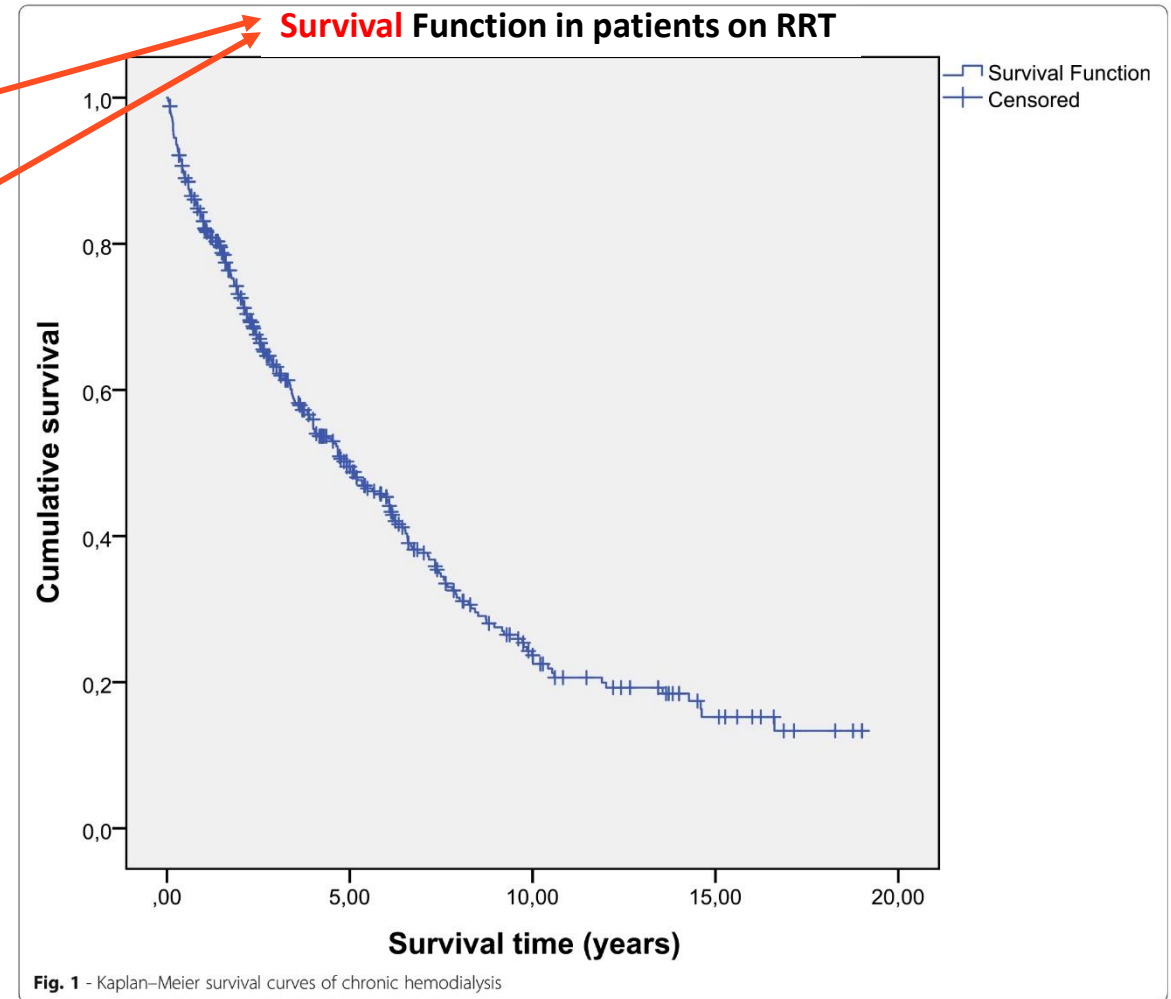


Figure 2. Dialysis-free survival in groups of patients with stage 3A and 3B chronic kidney disease at baseline.

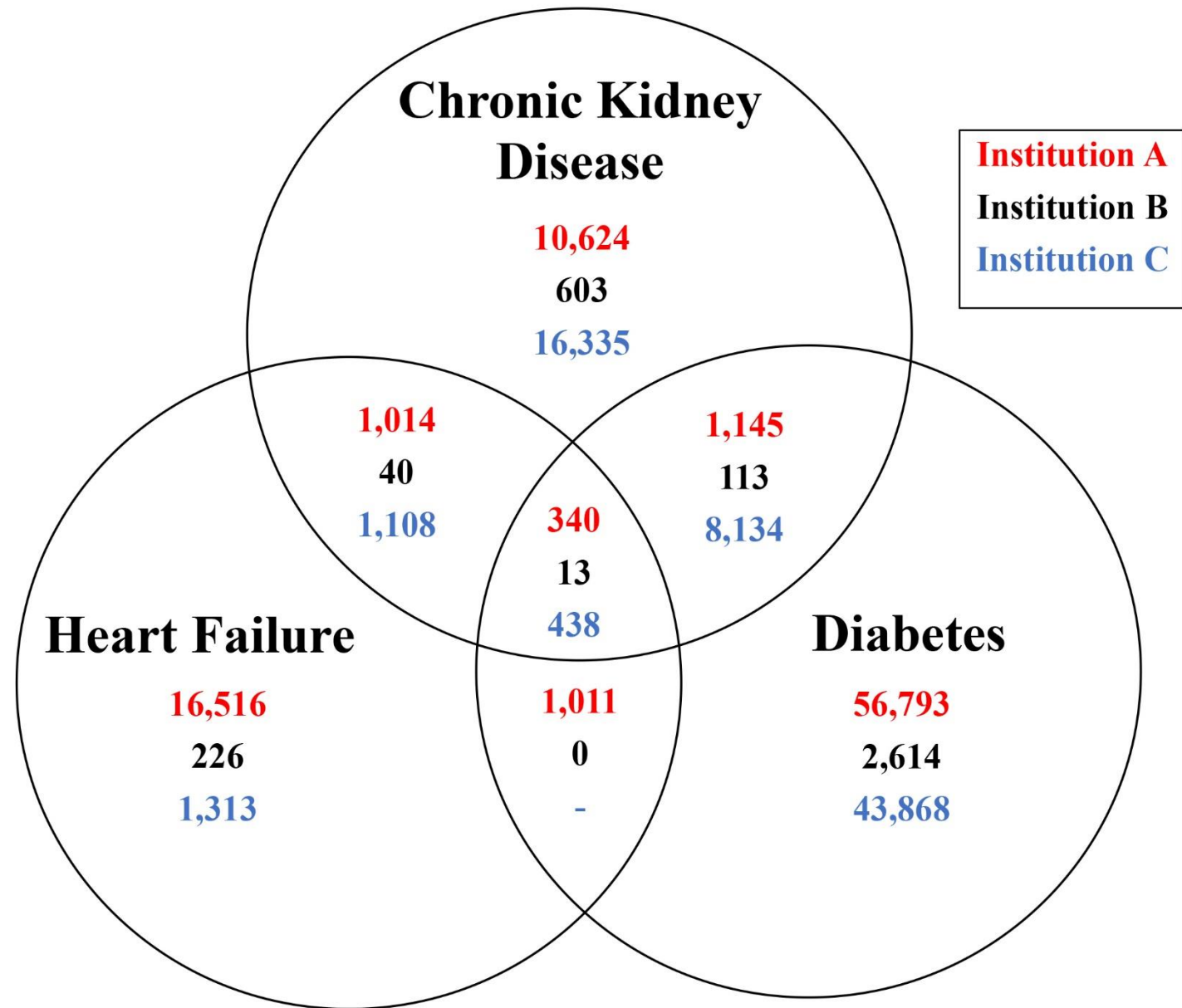
Baek SD, et al., Scand J Urol Nephrol 2012; 46: 232-238

Kaplan-Meier survival curves of CKD



Ferreira E, et al., BMC Nephrol; 2020: 21:502

- Interprofessional collaboration between 3 Project Santa Fe Foundation (PSFF) members and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF)
- Purpose of study: identify potential value of the clinical laboratory to: stratify risk, identify gaps in care, and capture missing billing and reimbursement opportunities for CKD patients (with comorbidities of diabetes and heart failure)



	Institution A	Institution B	Institution C
Patients with HbA1c \geq 6.5 and <u>no screening for CKD</u>	59% (34,384/58,278)	82% (2,274/2,740)	77% 40,378/52,440

How was CKD (Stage 3 or 4) identified?	Institution A	Institution B	Institution C
Lab Results Only	78% (12,478/16,063)	32% (487/1511)	66% (19,433/29,277)
Both Lab + Dx Code	4% (645/16,063)	19% (282/1511)	22% (6,582/29,277)
Dx Code Only	18% (2,940/16,063)	49% (742/1511)	11% (3,262/29,277)

2021 Estimated Lost Opportunity for undocumented CKD (3 institutions); Medicare Advantage alone

	*Medicare Advantage Patients (total CKD by Lab only)	Unrealized HCC Risk Adjustment
Medicare CKD Stage 3	3,531* (36,385)	\$2,051,376†
Medicare CKD Stage 4	332* (3,522)	\$658,881†
ACA CKD Stage 4	55 (3,522)	\$616,203

***3,863 MA patients not Dx'd by ICD10; †\$2.71M RA not captured for patient care**

Assumptions:

- % insured enrollment in MA, **2021** HCC Risk Adjusted rates for Medicare Advantage/ACA
- Gaps in CKD identification/documentation from NKF/PSFF CKD study for 3 sites

Extrapolates to 3.3M MA patients in U.S., and \$2.1B not used for MA patient care

Johnson KL, et al., US Renal Data System 2022 Annual Data Report: Epidemiology of Kidney Disease in the United States. Am J Kidney Disease, 2023 Mar; 81(351):A8:A11. DOI: 10.1053/j.ajkd.2022.12.001

*e.g., Medicare estimated at 19% of total insured population; Medicare Advantage at 50% of Medicare (New York) (ergo, 9% of total insured individuals); <https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/>

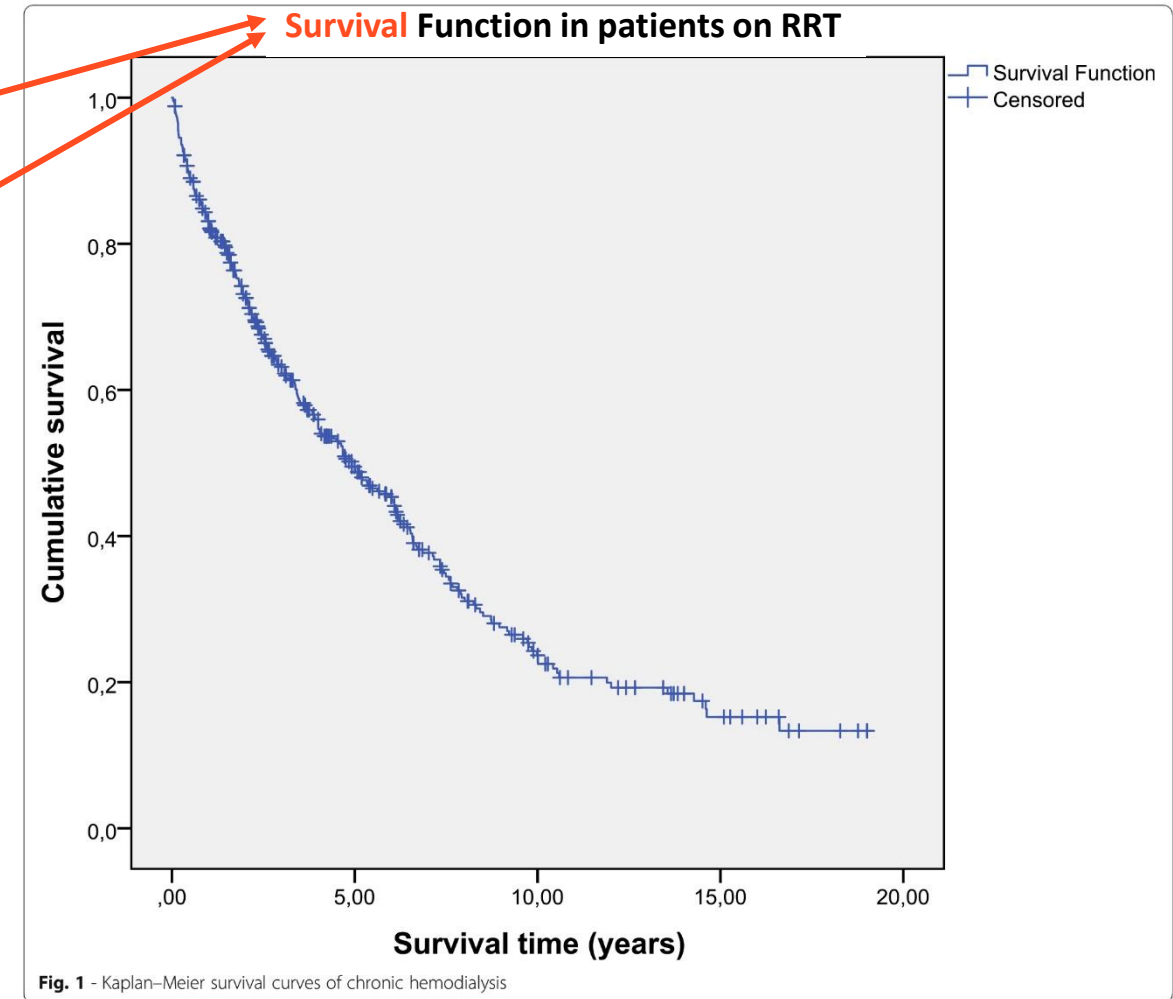
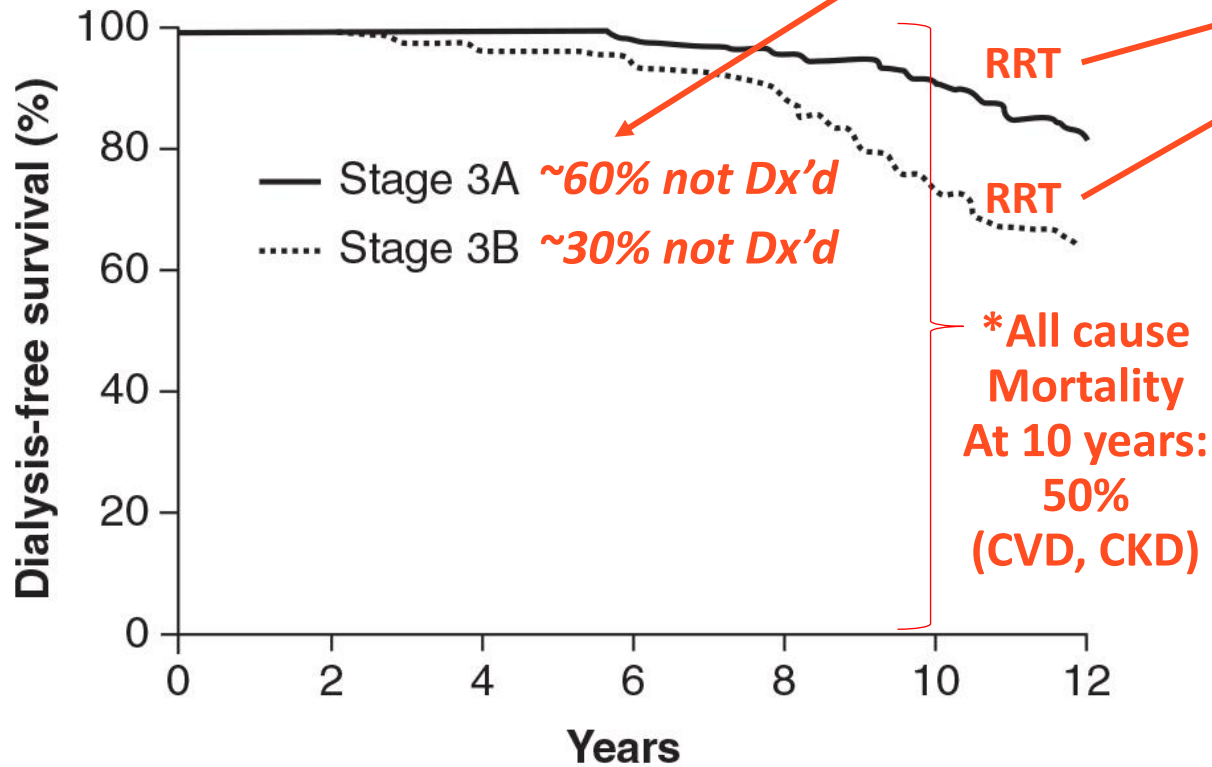


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Baek SD, et al., Scand J Urol Nephrol 2012; 46: 232-238

Ferreira E, et al., BMC Nephrol; 2020: 21:502
**Sharma P, et al., Br J Gen Practice; 2010 June*

Breast cancer-specific survival for patients with early breast cancer

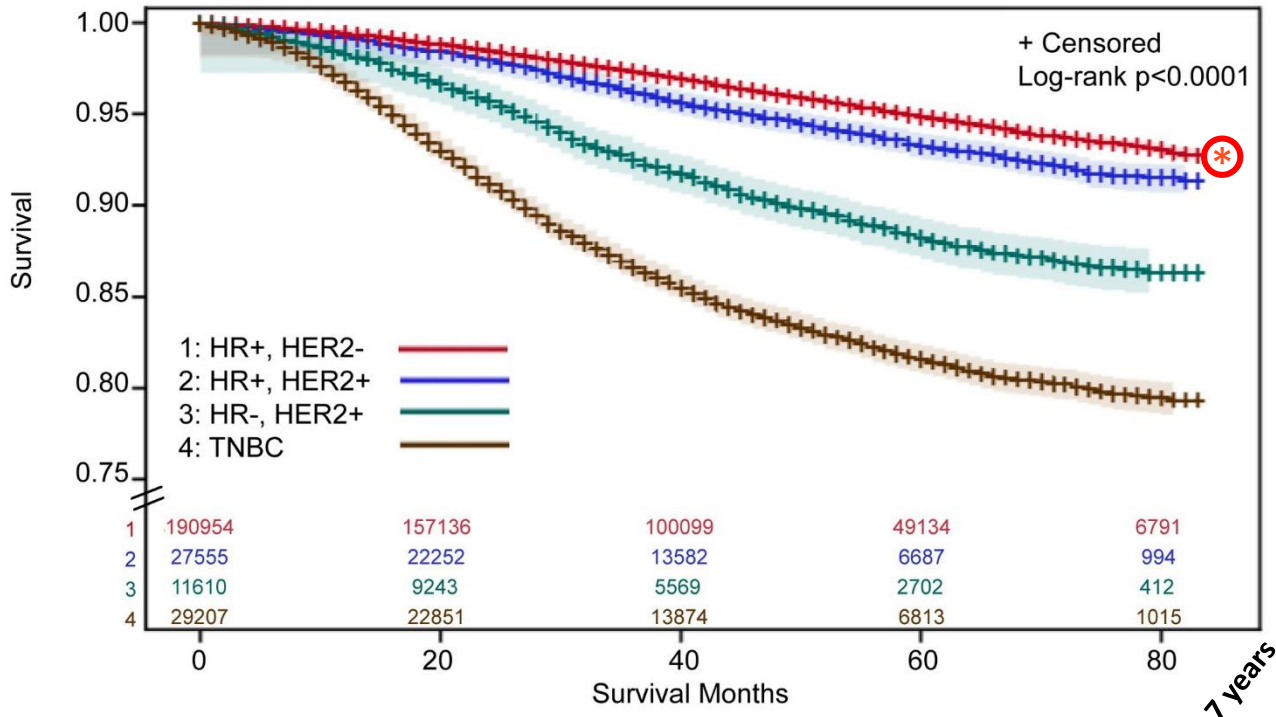


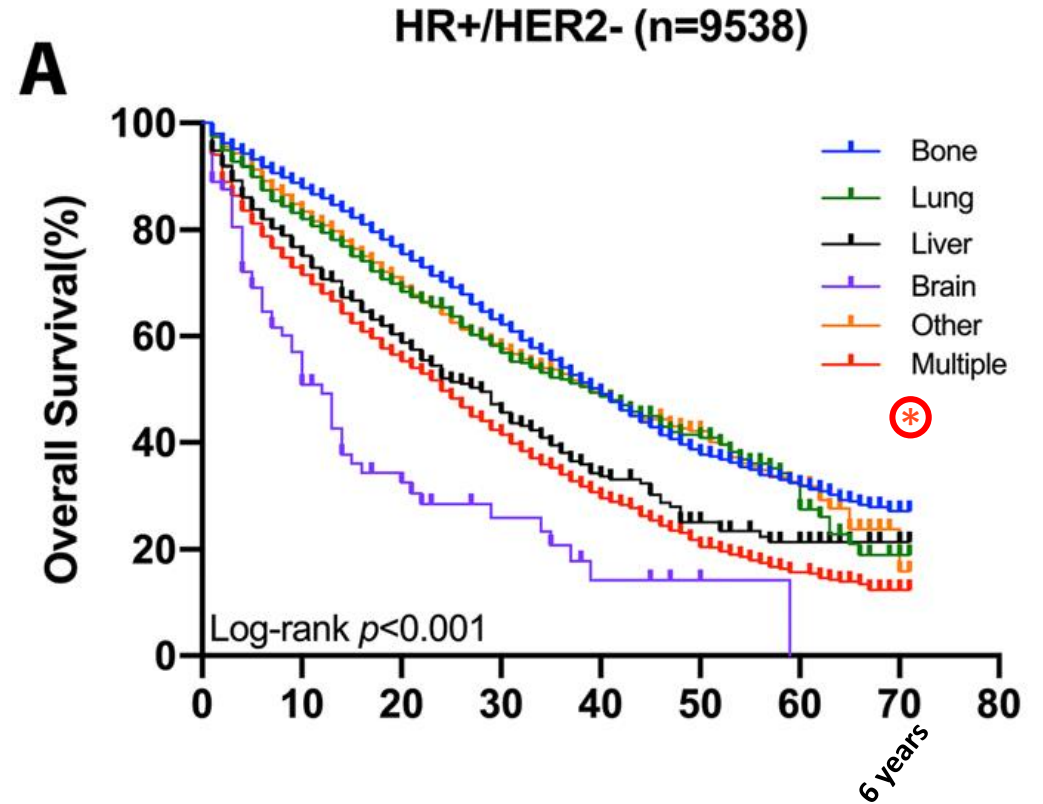
Fig 2. Breast cancer-specific survival estimates¹ for patients with early breast cancer, by HR, HER2 subtype. ¹Survival estimates were derived using Kaplan-Meier methods with 95% Hall-Wellner confidence bands. SEER does not provide cancer-specific survival status for patients with a previous tumor, so those patients were excluded. * Indicates y-axis was truncated to 0.75–1.00. Abbreviations: HER, human epidermal growth factor receptor; HR, hormone receptor; SEER, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results; TNBC, triple negative breast cancer.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0264637.g002>

Nelson DR, et al., PLoS One 2022; 17(2):e0264637

***93%: Dialysis-free survival of CKD Stage 3B at 7 years**

Metastatic breast cancer survival by metastatic site



Wang R, et al. BMC Cancer; 2019: 19:1091

***Survival of Patients on RRT at 6 years**

Condition	Life Years Lost (000s)	Deaths (000s)
Neoplasms	208,041	8,927
Breast	14,369	546
CVD	319,639	17,646
CKD	26,261	1,187
CKD-DM	10,965	501
CKD-HTN	4,927	300

*CVD, Cardiovascular Disease; CKD, Chronic Kidney Disease;
DM, Diabetes Mellitus; HTN, Hypertension

Foreman KJ, et al., Lancet 2018; 392: 2052-2090

Chronic Kidney Disease: Next Steps: Nephrology, Endocrinology, Primary Care Providers Risk Management, C-suite

- Partnership with Primary Care, Nephrology, Endocrinology
 - To identify most effective use of reports identifying gaps on a regular basis
 - To develop care pathways that Lab can help provide to primary care offices
 - To develop criteria for when referral to Nephrology is warranted
- Goals of tri-partite partnership (Primary Care, Subspecialty, Lab)
 - Empower primary care with necessary reports and tools from Lab to continue management of early chronic disease
 - Reassure content experts (subspecialist) that Lab is providing vetted guidance
 - Minimize chronic disease progression while assuring timely referrals
 - Identification of Lab as a facilitator of faster, more standardized effective care

CLINICAL LAB 2.0 **Lessons Learned from Demonstration Projects**

Institutional receptivity to a Lab-initiated project varies widely, as does institutional need

One institution's "Clinical Lab 2.0" may not be another's. *The Valuation is local.*

Building the Real-World Evidence base for the Value-added of a Laboratory project is hard (and takes time)

Value-added activities are not resourced by the laboratory Cost-per-Test Revenue Cycle

Economic Outcomes must be "realized", not "imputed", and Lab's contribution must be causally-linked

Your Laboratory-led projects must matter to your health system's: CEO, COO, CFO, CQO, CMO, CNO, CIO....

If your projects don't, you are not thinking big enough

And your projects should also matter to your: Payers, Treating Physicians, Patients/Consumers

Create a disruptive value paradigm and explore alternative business models that expand the role of diagnostic services in the future healthcare ecosystem

Leverage Laboratory Medicine and Pathology domain knowledge to establish the standards and evidence for Clinical Lab 2.0. Facilitate diverse partner collaborations in order to guide policies, transfer knowledge and accelerate the Clinical Lab 2.0 movement across the laboratory industry.

Create a disruptive value paradigm and explore alternative business models that expand the role of diagnostic services in the future healthcare ecosystem

CL2.0 Leadership Foundation

- What is Leadership in Value-based Healthcare?
- Outside the lab
- CL2.0 Skillset
- CL2.0 Knowledge set
- Know Self; Know Terrain
- Communication is key

CL2.0 Business Model Standards

- CL2.0 Objectives & Key Results
- Measure what matters – Quad Aim
 - Clinical
 - Business/Financial
 - IT/Data
 - Product (MVP)
- Health Economics, Population Health, Value based Care

CL2.0 Evidence Demonstration

- CL2.0 Multi-Institutional Demonstration Projects
- Outcome focused – Clinical & Economic
- Case studies, best practices & lessons learned
- Publish – peer review & skunkworks

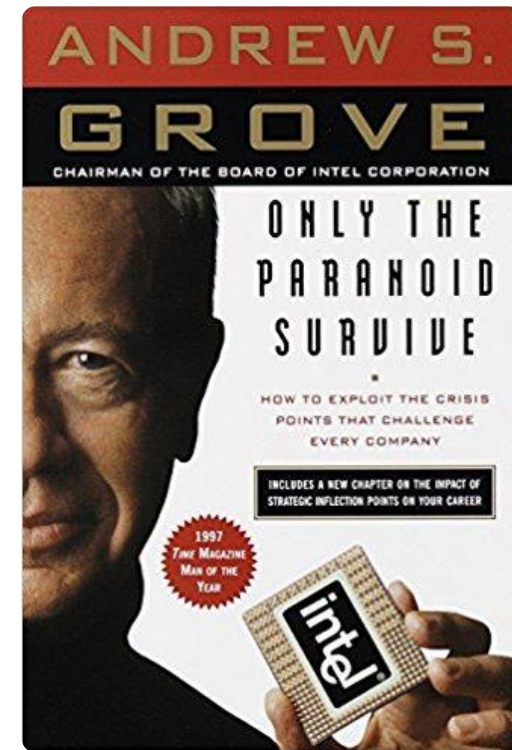
CL2.0 Partnerships

Question:

A strategic inflection point is a time in the life of business when its fundamentals are about to change. That change can mean an opportunity to rise to new heights.

..... but it may, just as likely, signal the beginning of the end.

*Has the current lab business model reached a **'Strategic Inflection Point'**?*



Publication: 1996

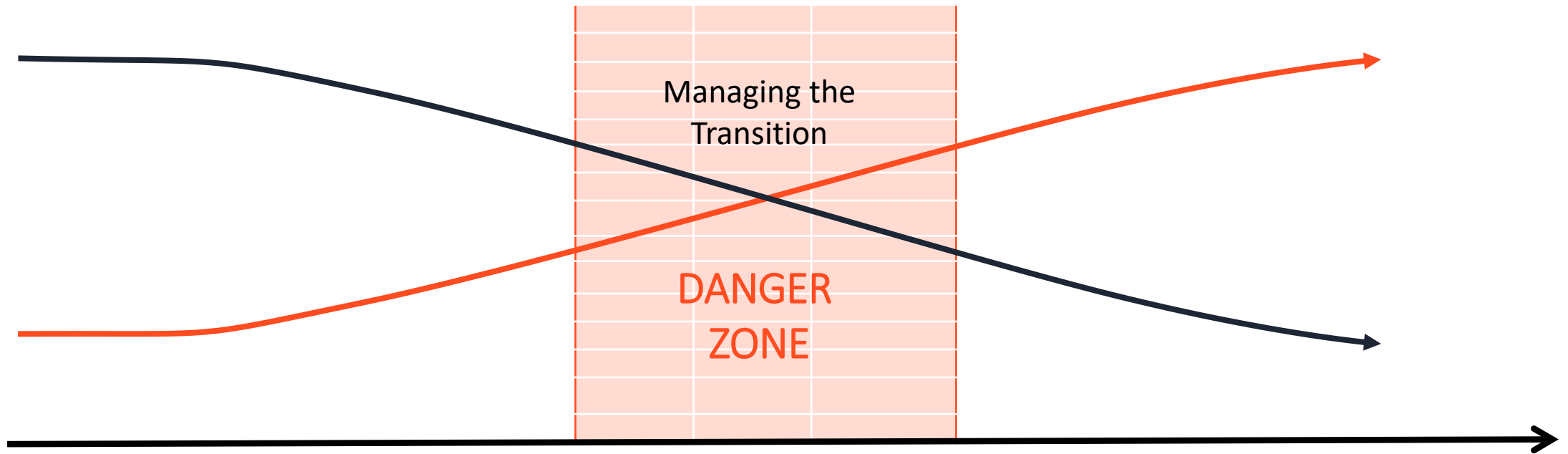
Strategic Inflection Point

CURRENT STATE
Sick-Care

Fee-for-Service Reimbursement
Business of Volume

FUTURE STATE
Well-Care

Value-based Reimbursement
Business of Outcome & Risk



Future State - Why do we feel bullish?

If we are moving from business of “heads in bed” to business of “we don’t want you in the hospital” model.....

Lab becomes highest yield asset to drive:

- *Risk Adjustment and Quality Ratings*
 - e.g., HCC, HEDIS, STAR ratings
- *Risk Management*
 - Clinical Intervention
 - Clinical Prevention

Future State - Why do we feel bullish?

If we are moving from business of “heads in bed” to business of “we don’t want you in the hospital” model.....

Lab becomes highest yield asset to drive:

- *Risk Adjustment and Quality Ratings* —————→ *Realized Revenue*
 - e.g., HCC, HEDIS, STAR ratings
- *Risk Management* —————→ *Cost Avoidance*
 - Clinical Intervention
 - Clinical Prevention

The Lab has the opportunity to drive:

- **Better Population Outcomes**
- **Reduced Total Cost-of-Care**
- **Avoidance of Cost**
- **Decreased Economic Burden to Patient**

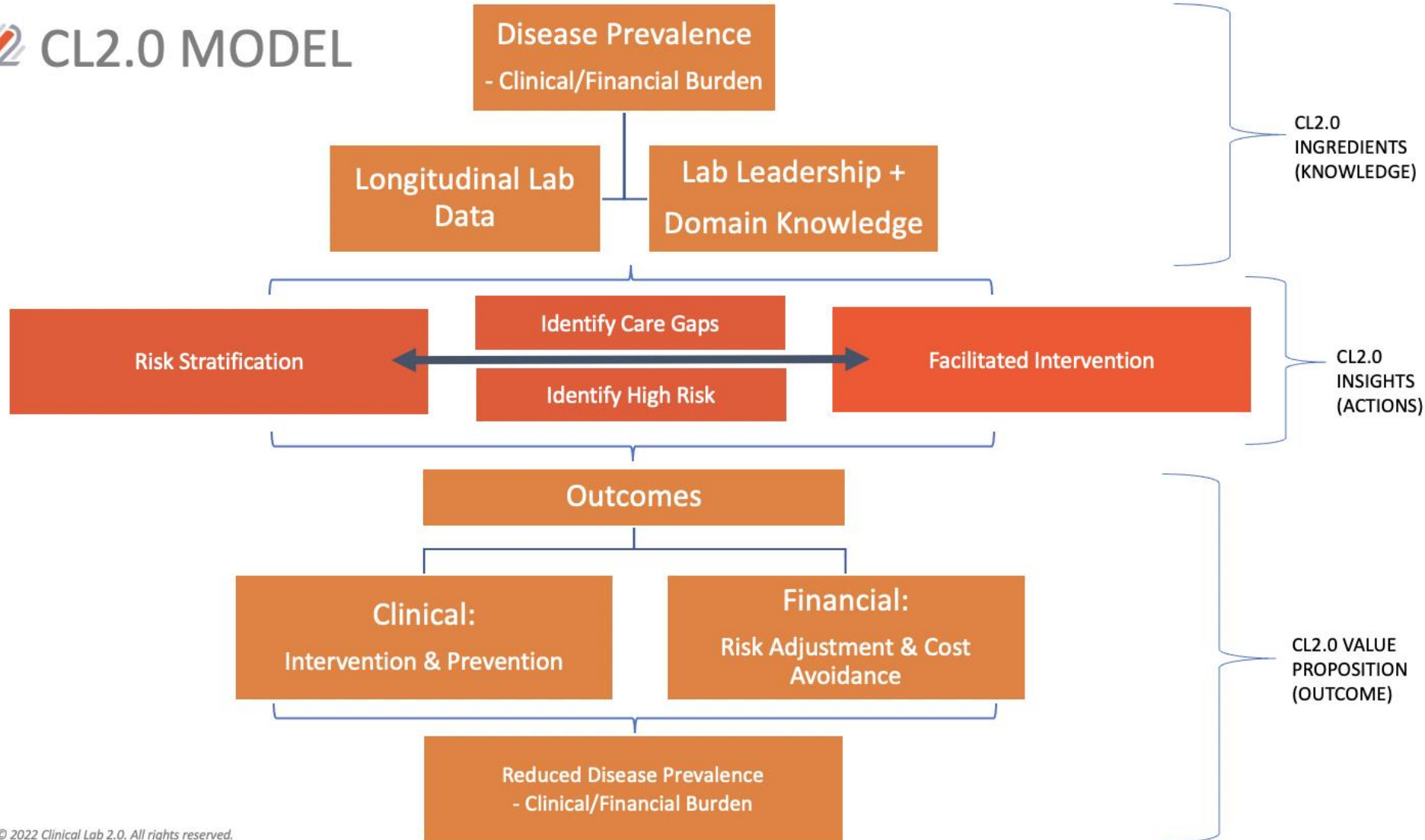
CL2.0 Customer: A healthcare entity which will:

- be at a financial *risk* for improved outcomes for a defined population and therefore be “on the hook” for value-based payment.
- have influence or authority on ‘*Quadruple Aim*’ *policies* impacting clinical protocols, clinical workflow, practice pathways.
- have the ability to use risk stratification guide changes in Provider and Patient *behavior* to improve care delivery and *outcomes*.

→ *Lab-Initiated Care Models*

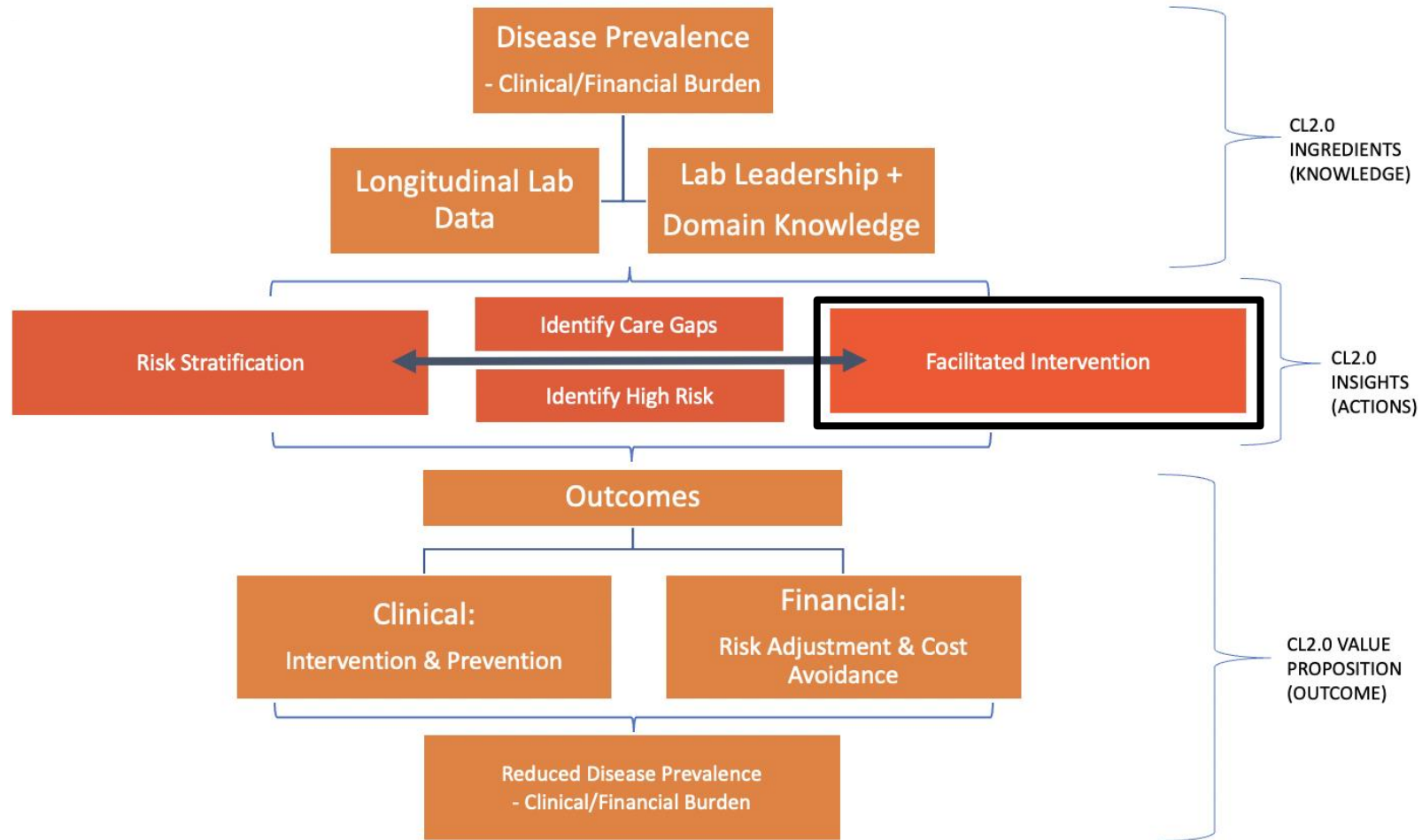
Lab-Initiated Care Models

CL2.0 MODEL

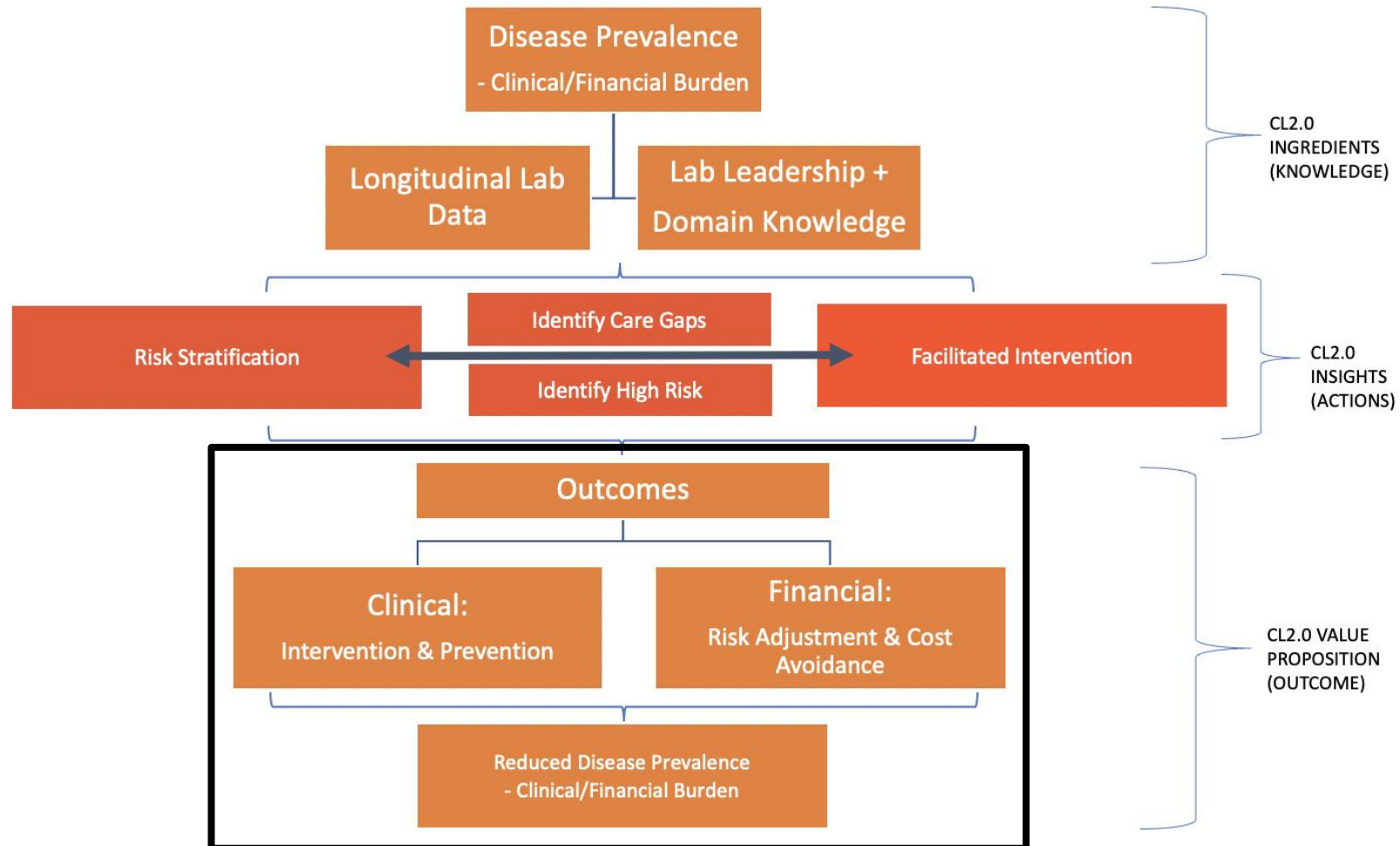


- High prevalence conditions
- Laboratory Leadership
- Key Partnerships
 - Physician, Administrative, Payer champion
- Clinical Protocols
 - Testing cascade; diagnostic pathway
- Workflow & facilitated interventions
- Shared accountability
- Measurable and attributable outcomes
- Policy impacting clinical protocols & workflow

What now needs to happen (1)



What now needs to happen (2)



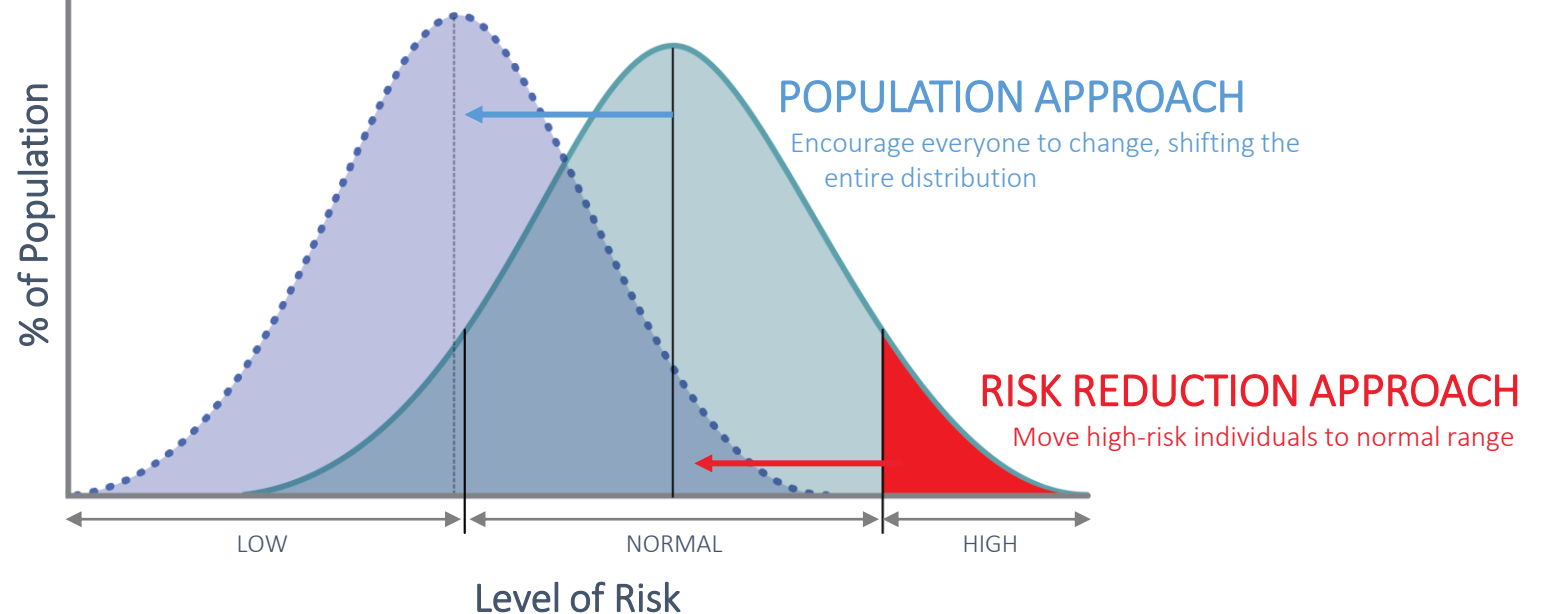
*If we (lab) wait, by the time we label someone a “Patient,”
we have failed that person.*

Clinical Lab 2.0
is a cornerstone of:

- Pre-patient
- Pre-care
- Consumer well-care

The Bell-Curve Shift in Population

Shifting the whole population into a lower risk category benefits more individuals than shifting high-risk individuals into a lower risk category



SOURCE: Rose G. Sick individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol.* 1985;14(1):32-38.

Laboratory Leadership needs to:

- Form the institutional/regional teams to implement programs, based on:
 - Identification of “at risk” individuals, track their longitudinal trends/gaps-in-care
 - Define the service model of delivering best practice care, Deploy
 - Measure-what-matters (operational metrics, health care/cost outcomes), making sure to track the attributable contribution from clinical laboratory leadership
- *Operate within existing (and future) Value-Based Payment* paradigms
- Constantly strive to identify new opportunities, new markets
 - Health system products
 - Payer products

“Go Vertical” in your learning



Health Care Policy
Health Care Payments
Health Care Market Trends
Laboratory Market Trends
Laboratory Regulation
Payer initiatives
Data Science
Medical Science
Disruptors in the Marketplace
Consumerism

The opportunities abound:

- Chronic Disease management, including confounding comorbidities
- Address the clinical programmatic “pain points” of your immediate Stakeholders
- Improving specific Quality metrics of Value-Based Payment systems
- Direct partnership with Risk Management/Managed Care programs
- Working with Payers for Benefits and Product design/delivery
- Amplification of your effort through Industry partnership

The biggest barrier:

- The Business Model of U.S. health care is based on Lab as a commodity
- At the current time, the business model for Clinical Lab 2.0 does not exist
- Therefore, “winning the battle in detail” means providing realized, attributable Value to your immediate Stakeholders
- The Return-on-Investment for costs of CL2.0 programming must be in clear view
- Advocacy and, potentially, Policy change will be needed to establish the revenue streams that support Clinical Lab 2.0 activities, over-and-above commodity payment

***Do your health system’s (or Payer’s) patients do better for you being their laboratory?
PROVE IT!***



The lab's impact doesn't end
when we release a result;
rather that's where it begins.

Acknowledgement

The founders and thought leaders of Project Santa Fe (Clinical Lab 2.0) 2016-present

James M Crawford, MD PhD

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