The background of the slide is a photograph of the Salt Lake City skyline at dusk or dawn. The image shows several prominent buildings, including the Utah State Capitol building with its white dome and spires, and the modern glass skyscrapers of the city. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the mountains in the background are partially covered in snow.

Value Based Care Symposium  
**Bite Sized Breaks – Fast & Fresh Insights into Value Based Healthcare**  
– via Zoom conference –  
Thursday, 9 July 2020

## **Value-Based Care Is Still the Future**

– examining the factors indicating that transition to value is still alive and well –

Brent C. James, M.D., M.Stat.  
Quality Science

# Disclosures

*I receive a monthly retainer as a part time  
(3 days / month) senior advisor for **Health Catalyst**.  
I also own (a small amount of) **Health Catalyst** stock.*

*Other than that, neither I nor any family  
members have any relevant financial  
relationships to be directly or indirectly  
discussed, referred to or illustrated within the  
presentation, with or without recognition.*

# The core problem / opportunity:

***Clinical variation***

# Four main subtypes *of clinical variation*

- 1. Massive variation in clinical practices**  
*(impossible that all, or even most, patients receive good care)*
- 2. High rates of inappropriate care** *(risk of harm inherent in the treatment outweighs any potential benefit)*
- 3. Preventable care-associated injury and death** *(patient safety)*
- 4. Striking inability to “consistently do what we know works”** *(high reliability care)*

# Variation translates into waste

**30-50+%** of all health care resource expenditures are

**quality-associated waste:**

- *recovering from preventable foul-ups*
- *building unusable products*
- *providing unnecessary treatments*
- *simple inefficiency*

# Some viable estimates suggest

*as much as **65%** of all care delivery spending is quality-associated waste.*

***In 2020, that's as much as \$2 trillion in financial opportunity;***

***10 to 100 times** greater than opportunities associated with traditional revenue models*

***Follow the money!!***

# Quality is not free *(Phil Crosby was waxing poetic)*

## ***It always requires investment***

- *change leadership (time and thought),*
- *study and investigation,*
- *data systems,*
- *physical plant, equipment ...*

*it's just that it has a*

***massive return on investment*** (ROI)

# MUCH higher ROI from waste elimination than from revenue growth

Revenue growth:

**5 to 9% contribution**

*for each case added*



**Net  
Operating  
Margin**

*(and return on investment)*

Waste elimination:

**50 to >100% contribution**

*for each case avoided*



# Quality waste has a nested structure

<u>Waste class</u>	<u>% of all waste</u>	<u>Waste subclasses</u>
3. Case-rate utilization (# cases per population)	45%	a) <b>Inappropriate cases</b> ( <i>risk outweighs benefit</i> ) (e.g., many cath lab procedures; CTPA) b) <b>Preference-sensitive cases</b> (when given a fair choice, many patients opt out) (e.g., elective hips, knees; end-of-life care) c) <b>Avoidable cases</b> ( <i>hot spotting; move upstream</i> ) (e.g., team-based care)
2. Within-case utilization (# and type of units per case)	40%	a) <b>Clinical variation</b> (e.g., QUE studies; surgical equipment) b) <b>Avoidable patient injuries</b> (e.g., serious safety event systems; CLABSI)
1. Efficiency (cost per unit of care)	15%	a) <b>Supply chain</b> b) <b>Administrative inefficiencies</b> - regulatory burden      - billing thrash - TPS Lean observation   - current EMR function

# Financial alignment under different payment mechanisms

WASTE REMOVAL LEVEL	% of all waste	PAYMENT METHOD		
		<u>FFS</u>	<u>Per case</u>	<u>Provider at risk</u>
3. Case-rate utilization <i>(# cases per population)</i>	45%	▼	▼	▲
2. Within-case utilization <i>(# and type of units per case)</i>	40%	▼	▲	▲
1. Efficiency <i>(cost per unit of care)</i>	15%	▲	▲	▲

Note: For green arrows, savings from waste elimination accrue to the care delivery organization; for red arrows, savings go to payer organizations.

# Financial alignment

***Who makes the investment?***

*(always a care delivery group – it is clinical change)*

*versus*

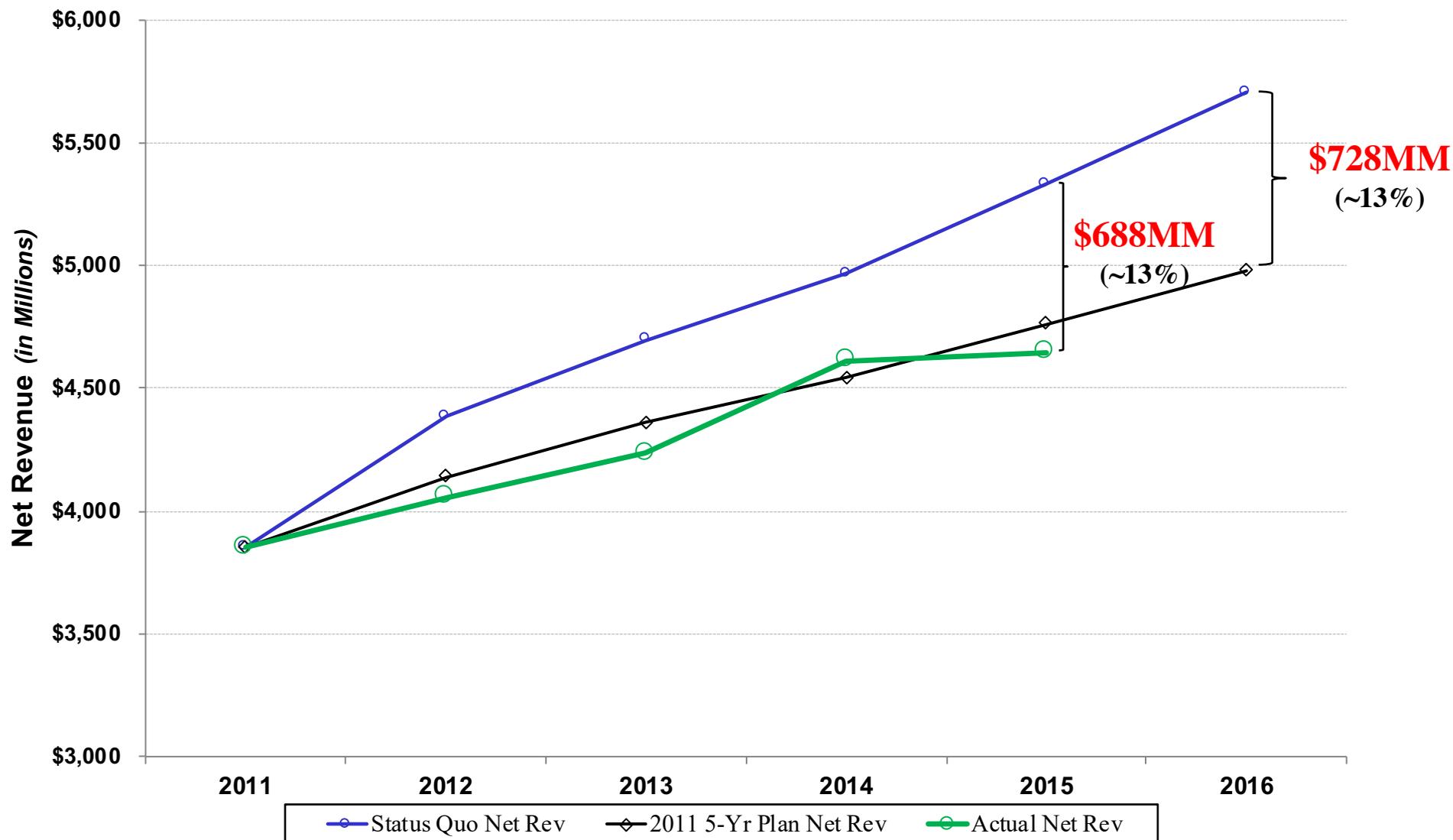
***Who gets the waste savings?***

*(depends on type of waste, versus payment mechanism)*

***There are proven, viable ways to  
address this, even under fee-for-service***

*(coming later in the series)*

# Financial impact of improving quality and reducing waste at one system



James Brent C and Poulsen Gregory P. The case for capitation: It's the only way to cut waste while improving quality. *Harv Bus Rev* 2016; 94(7-8):102-11, 134 (Jul-Aug).

*Given that framework,*

***What does the future hold?***

*Walter Gretzky (Wayne Gretzky's father):*

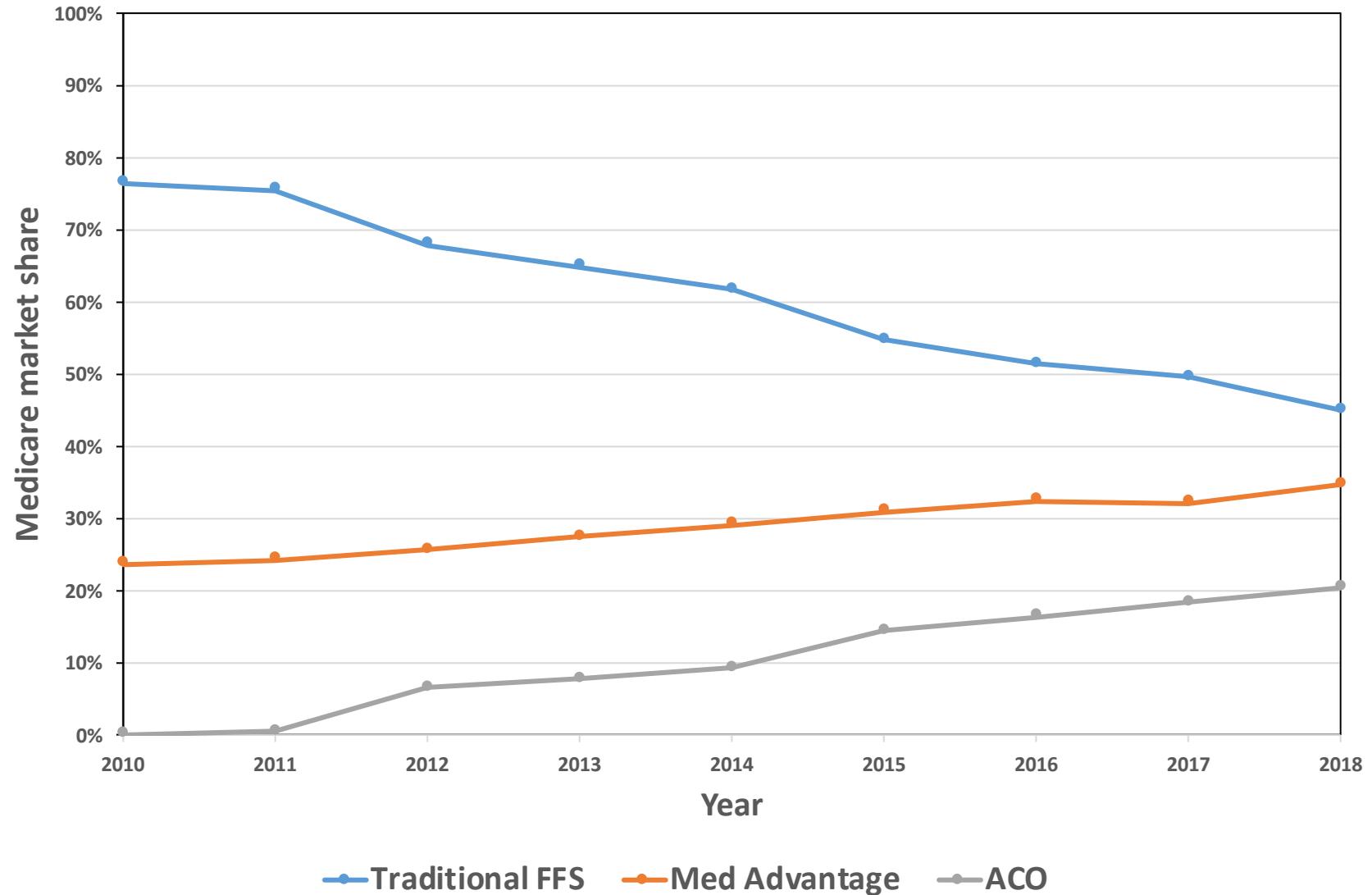
*Skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.*

# “Pay for value” continues to grow

## *Forward looking indicators:*

- **Kaiser Permanente** *(continued rapid growth within existing geographic markets, mostly)*
- **Medicare Advantage** *(continued rapid growth)*  
**ACOs** *(Leavitt Partners; mostly commercial)*

# Medicare trends over time



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- ***ERISA direct to provider contracting***  
*(11% of large employers, according to Modern Healthcare)*

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***ACOs*** *(Leavitt Partners; mostly commercial)*
- ***ERISA direct to provider contracting***  
*(11% of large employers, according to Modern Healthcare)*
- ***Provider-payer consolidation*** *(vertical alignment)*  
*by ownership or partnership (e.g., UPMC; United Healthcare; HPH / Queens Health Systems partnerships with HMSA)*

# Implications – we will see:

- **Increasing focus on waste elimination through “move upstream” strategies:**  
*primary care-based population health and clinical variation control using clinical decision support tools (a.k.a. clinical knowledge management = “learning healthcare systems”)*
- **Care delivery organizations will increasingly seek capitated risk** *through ownership or partnership (role of health insurance organizations changes dramatically)*
- **Stand-alone specialty care practices and hospitals become “price takers”** – *intense competition mainly around payment rates*

***Better has no limit ...***

*an old Yiddish proverb*