

## Workflow Improvement

Bringing Value to Your Organization
Through Information Technology
in the Revenue Cycle

By
Tim Kappes, PhD
Impart Consulting
tjk@impartllc.com
859- 630-4332

By
Jonathan Adams
SALIX
<a href="mailto:jadams@salixdata.com">jadams@salixdata.com</a>
513 -772-8484

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 1 May 13th , 2011 Interoperate 2011





- The region's leading imaging division created over 20,000,000 images last year
- Works with Medical Practices, Hospitals, Legal Firms, and Corporate Entities across the US
- Workflow solutions specific to Healthcare organizations including enhancing revenue cycle management
- Industry-neutral solutions for Human Resources,
   Accounts Payable, internal document management
- Litigation support leader in the region



#### **Jonathan Adams**

- Co-Founder and President of SALIX; over 2500 customers in the region
- 12 years in Records and Workflow management
- Past President of Cincinnati AARMA Chapter; serves on several Boards
- Graduate of Miami University with degree in Finance
- Designed and developed workflow solutions for major Fortune 500 companies

#### **Ruth Sara Hart- Schneider**

- 25+ years in the Healthcare Market as Co-President of Plettner-Hart Management Consultants Inc
- CPC since 2000
- Designed and implemented workflow solutions to enhance revenue cycle management and document/content management for Healthcare
- Graduate of University of Virginia with degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Has worked with hospitals, clinics, physician practices, MSO's, etc.





- Practice Management Consulting
- Revenue Cycle Analysis
- MCO Contract Negotiations
- Full & Partnership Billing Service Solutions
- Business & Succession Planning

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 4 May 13th , 2011 Interoperate 2011



### Timothy J. Kappes, PhD

- Physician Assistant -Board Certified by the NCCPA in Primary Care and Surgery
- Masters in Physical Medicine/Pain Management from University of Nebraska
- Certification in Occupational and Environmental Medicine from Duke University
- Doctorate in Health Care Administration
- Served as Director at Large Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants & Reimbursement Chair
- Practice Management Consultant IMPART, LLC focusing on both clinical and information system optimization

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 5 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



# Adding Strategic Vision to Your Organization

- Look for Solutions to Everyday Problems
- Look for Patterns in What You Do Everyday
- Help identify technology and strategies to give you the competitive edge

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 6 May 13th , 2011 Interoperate 2011



### Teams that are successful

- Ability and Suitability
- Motivated to help grow the business
- Manageable and Team Player
- Professional Behavior
- Problem Solver
- Initiative & Enthusiasm
- Willingness to Accept Responsibility
- Has a Pattern of Continued Learning
- Embraces New Technology and change

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 7 May 13th , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## **Recurring Issues**

- Revenue Cycle
- Employees
- Expenses
- Keeping up with Technology
- Managed Care Contracting
- Patient Care Issues/Complaints
- Keeping providers focused on revenuegenerating activities

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 8 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



#### Inherent Challenges for Change

#### **People**

- Big Picture
- Culture
- Integration vs. Functionality
- Individual Motivation
- Personnel Cost
- Fear of Computerization

#### **Compromise**





#### **Business Practice**

- Clear Vision and Priorities
- Strategic Plan
- Work Flows
- Process vs. TaskOrientation
- Data Ownership
- Access and Security
- Patience and Time

#### **Compromise**

#### **Systems**

- Legacy vs. New
- Availability
- Best of Breed
- Vendor Strategies
- Integration
- Interoperability
- Devices/Mobility
- Portals/Single Sign-on

#### **Compromise**



© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 9 May 13th , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## The Landscape has Changed

- Recession/Economy
- High Deductible Healthcare Plans
- Increased Patient Responsibility
- Reduction in Fee Schedules
- Increased Overhead

Solution –

Efficient Revenue Cycle Management

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 10 May 13th , 2011 Interoperate 2011



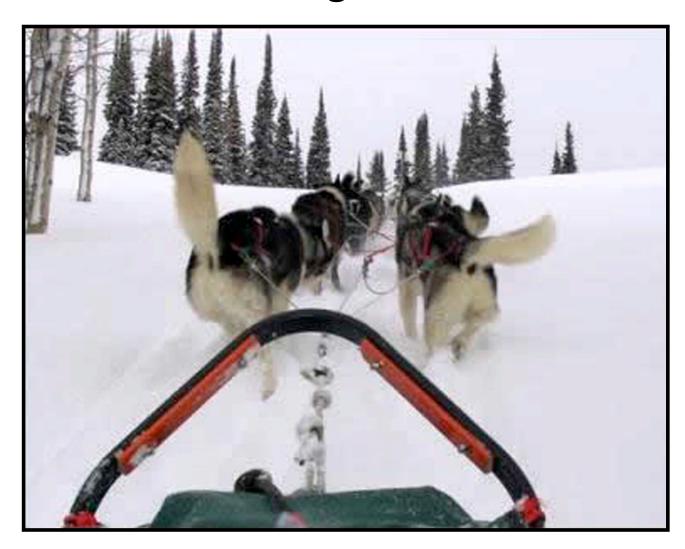
### It's a matter of Survival

- Future survival will depend upon doing things radically differently than in the past and will require leveraging technology to maximize your employees' efficiencies
- Leverage your resources (internal and external) to bring solutions to your organization.
- Create a culture of embracing new solutions

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 11 May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Interoperate 2011



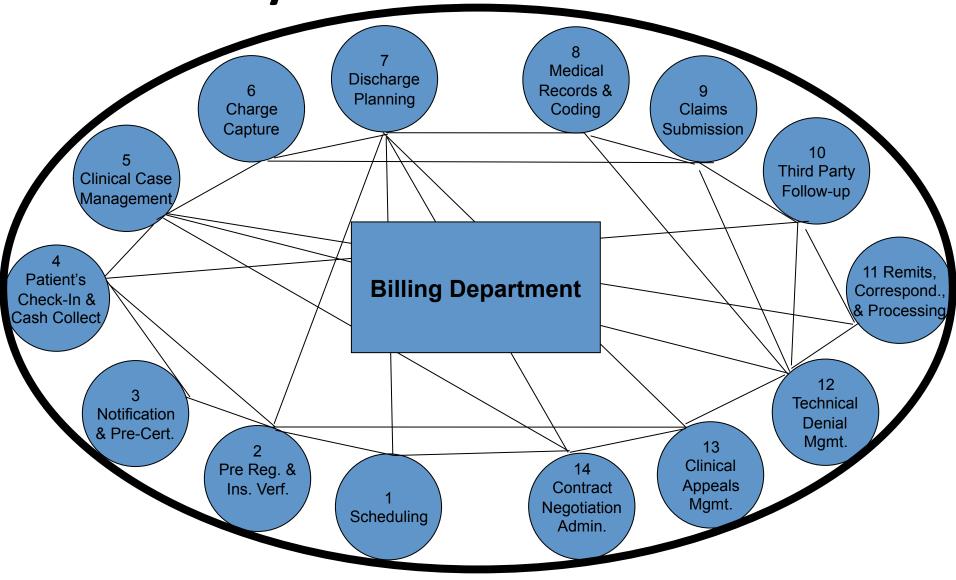
### If you're not the lead dog... the view never changes



© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 12 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



**Revenue Cycle** 



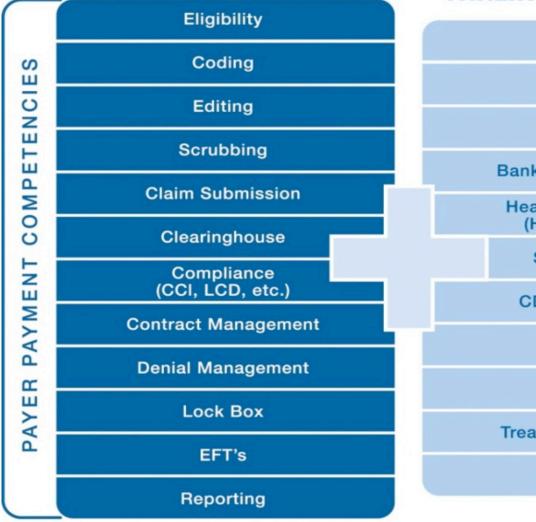
© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 13 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



### Added Complexity for the Revenue Cycle

TRADITIONAL COMPLEXITY

ADDED COMPLEXITY AS PATIENT PAYMENTS GROW



Acquirers D **Processors** Ш Issuers T **Bankcard Associations** D X **Healthcare Accounts** (HSA, FSA, HRA) Ш Z Substantiation 0 **CDH Adjudication** 0 U Check 21 Ш -П NACHA Z 0 **Treasury Management** Ш S **Patient Credit** 

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 14 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## **Bottlenecks**

Service Line	Issues
Registration & Pre-Certifications	Failure to perform in a timely manner Fraught with errors Missing Information
Prior Authorizations	Failure to perform in a timely manner Multiple submissions Lost Requests
Clinical Documentation	Lack of Medical Necessity  Document does not support Dx or Coding  Lack of Protocol
Check In / Check Out	Missed Appointments Missing Encounters Failure to know what or how much to collect
Billing	Registration/PA/Co-pays Documentation/Coding/Denials Insurance Carriers Patient Responsibilities/Collections

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 15 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## **Keys to Improved Workflow**

- You Can't Manage What You Don't Measure
- Know What to Measure See Handout
- Understand and Manage each key element of the Billing and Collection Process
- Hire the Right People
- Look for manual, paper-based processes to address- they are your "low-hanging fruit"

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 16 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## The Revenue Cycle

- Traditional Revenue Cycle Management has focused on insurance collections
- Expanding efforts to all points in the revenue cycle will yield tremendous benefit from patient collections
- Investigate new technologies that are available

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 17 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## **Opportunities to Optimize \$\$**

**Scheduling** – Maximize encounters, minimize waiting times, & minimize no shows.

**Credentialing** – Is your provider credentialed for the patient's carrier? Do your scheduling people have the tools to know?

**Registration** – Demographics, patient education of financial policies, & eligibility verification for every encounter.

**Pre-cert Process-** Streamline processes so that patients can be seen and treated on a more timely basis

**Encounter** – Collection of co-pays, deductibles, estimated fees, collection of outstanding and past due amounts.

**Patient Statement** – send out immediately after adjudication, shorter pre-collection periods, payment options & anticipated assistance

**Online** – Multiple payment venues, ability to store HSA, HRA, CC information for future use, & email notification

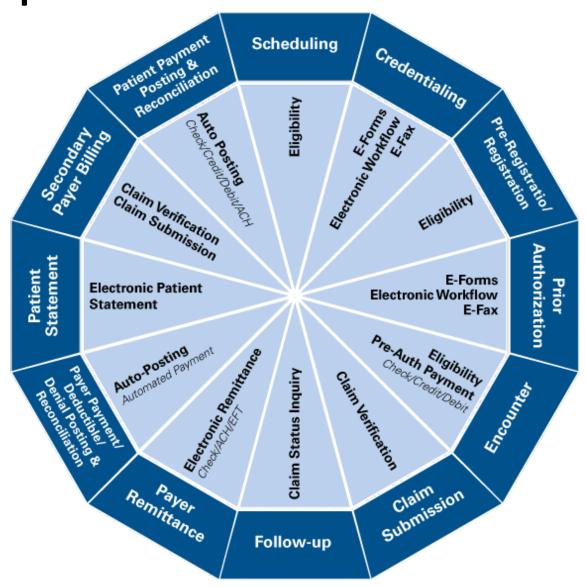
**Back Office Follow Up** – Pre-emptive calling on claims, efficient tracking and automated appeals/denial management

**Evaluate your denials-** What could you be doing differently to minimize rejections?

**Collections** - Begin process at 90 days

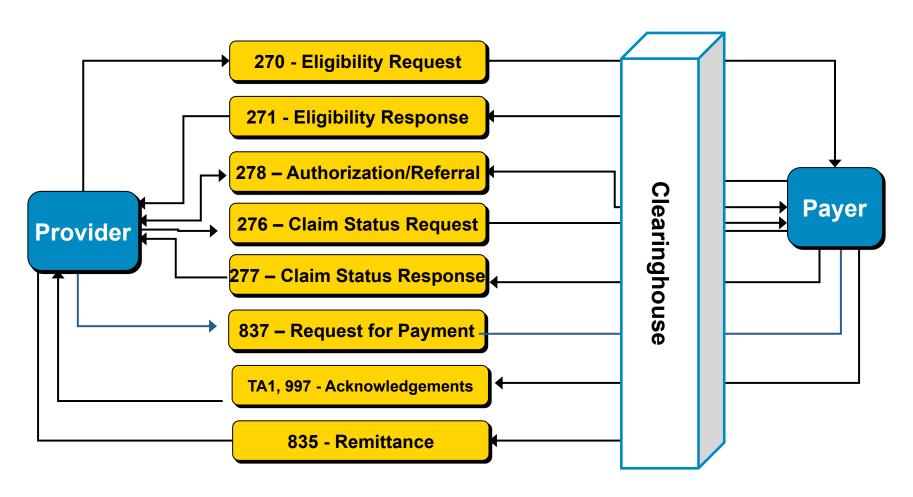
# HINSS Central & Southern Ohio Chapter transforming healthcare through IT

# **Automated Solutions at Every Step of the Process**





#### **HIPAA Transaction Sets**



© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 20 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



## **Workflow Examples**

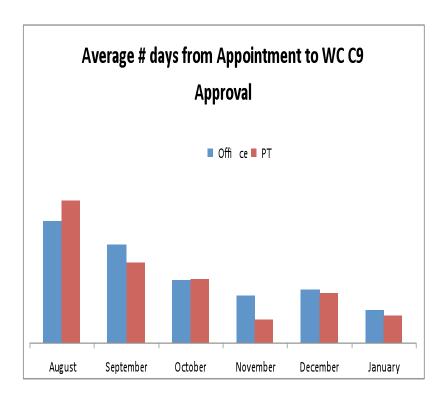
- Pre-Cert/ Prior Auth Workers Comp and Commercial Payers
- Eligibility Verification/Payment
- Paper in the office- Refund requests, denials, medical records requests
- Manual completion of forms- can they be prepopulated by interfacing with existing data?
- Consider peripheral functions- Credentialing,
   Pre-collection processes, Accounts Payable...

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 21 May 13<sup>th</sup> , 2011 Interoperate 2011



# **Choose an Area to Increase Performance**

- Know your benchmarks
- Look for proven solutions
- Measure progress
- Look to eliminate paper, faxing, manual and redundant functions
- Seek electronic solutions to give everyone access to key data
- Look for manual processes and forms being filled out by hand
- Look for interoperability between software products



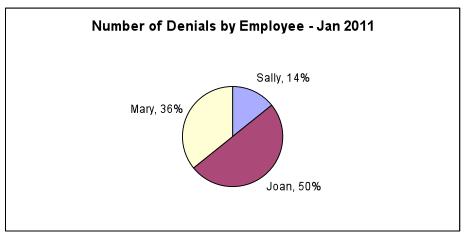
This practice saw a 66% decline in time it took to get C-9's approved

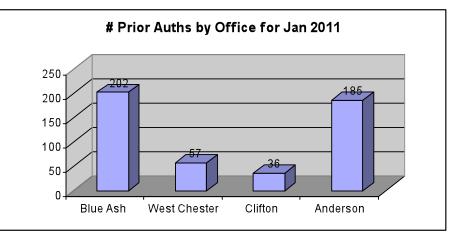
© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 22 May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Interoperate 2011



## Workflow Management to "Drill Down" and Identify Issues

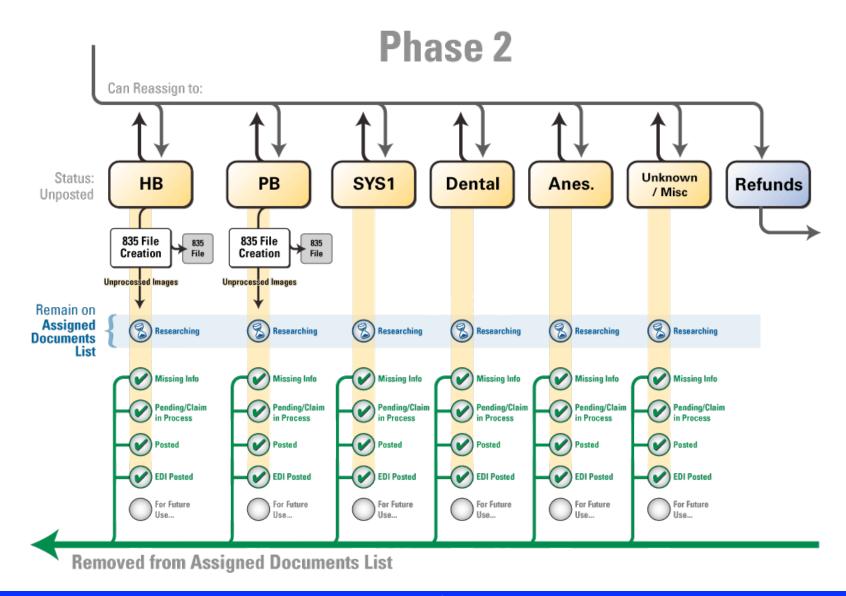
- Make sure your workflow solution can give you the data you need to identify:
  - Bottlenecks
  - Inefficiencies
  - Productivity issues
  - Volume data
  - Variances by location
  - Variances by provider
  - Etc.





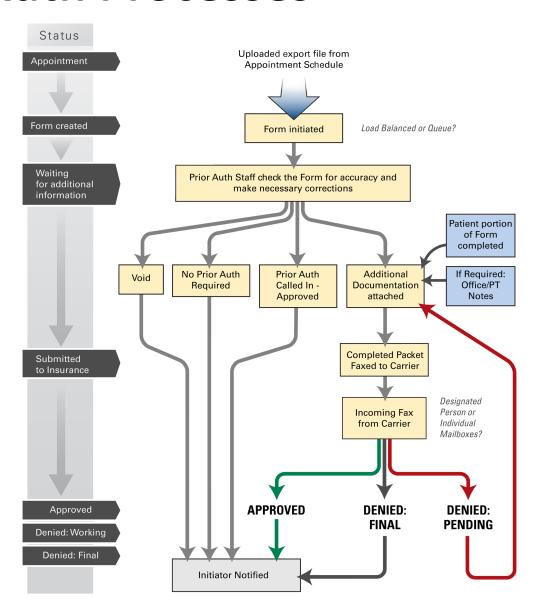
# Workflow Solutions to Minimize Paper Shuffle







#### **Prior Auth Processes**





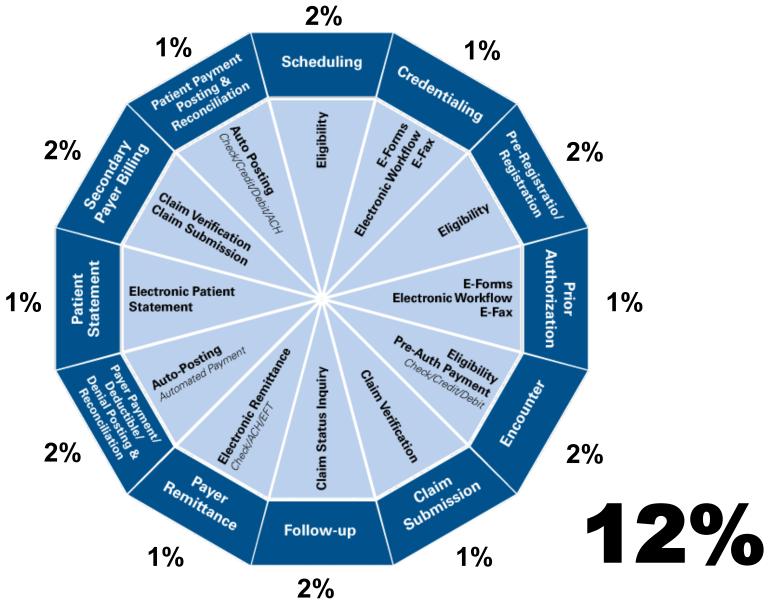
## **Long Term Results**

- Improved reporting: Audits, rules, roles, access
- Eliminate reporting boundaries between electronic systems (PM, EMR, OARRS, Availity, Healthbridge, Nexus, etc.)
- Improved management
- Improved quality thru end to end process automation
- Provide Data to your employees to enlist their creativity
- Provide Data to stakeholders to improve decision-making

End Result
Profitable, Well Run Organization

#### The Financial Impact







## What Solutions Are You Using?

© CSOHIMSS 2011 Slide 28 May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Interoperate 2011