

39th Annual Educational
Conference & Exposition

leading^{the}way

a brave new world
of patient access



Best Practices in Point-of-service (POS) Collections

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POS COLLECTIONS

– Introduction



POS COLLECTIONS

– Introduction

Why Should the Patients Pay in Advance?

- ✓ Patients need to be educated and understands their financial obligations for the care they are receiving
- ✓ Need to identify who can/not pay their bills so they can be helped in the best way possible
- ✓ Eliminate worry about how to cover patient-pay portion
- ✓ Maintain or establish good credit record
- ✓ Patients earn piece of mind knowing their obligations have been met
- ✓ Avoid future collection headaches



POS COLLECTIONS

– Objectives

Session Objectives:

1. Discussion of trends in current Health Care market
2. Identify best practices to maximize collection efforts
3. Understand components of Estimating Pre-Service
4. Understand Roles, Training Workflows
5. Next steps/Considerations/Regulatory changes
6. Closing Thoughts



POS COLLECTIONS

– Current Trends

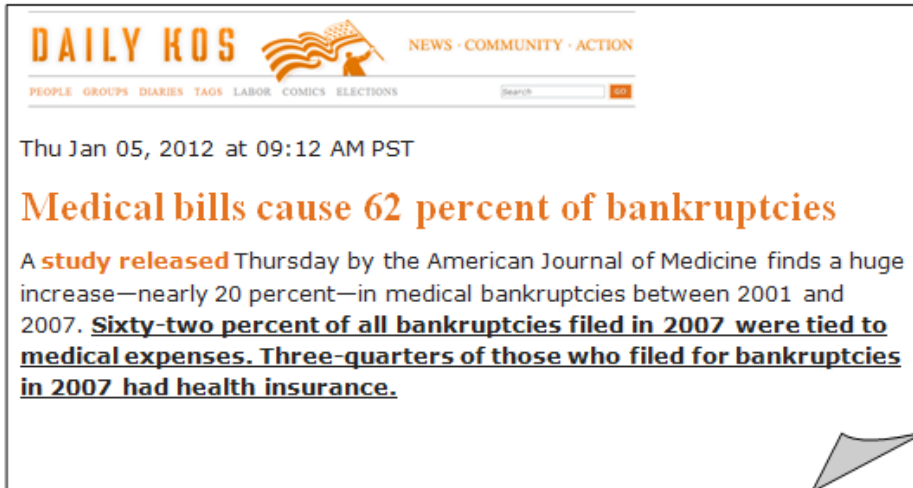
We have a problem.....

Medical bills make up half of bankruptcies

AP - [BOSTON](#) — Costly illnesses trigger about half of all personal bankruptcies, and most of those who go bankrupt because of medical bills, according to findings released Wednesday.



The screenshot shows the CNN Health website header with a search bar and navigation menu. Below the header, the article title "Medical bills pro U.S. bankruptcies" is displayed, along with the date "June 05, 2009" and the author "By Theresa Tamkins". The article text begins with "This year, an estimated 1.5 million Americans declare bankruptcy. Many people make it through but a new study suggests that more than half of those who file for bankruptcy are doing so because of medical bills."



The screenshot shows the Daily Kos website header with the logo and navigation menu. Below the header, the article title "Medical bills cause 62 percent of bankruptcies" is displayed, along with the date "Thu Jan 05, 2012 at 09:12 AM PST". The article text begins with "A study released Thursday by the American Journal of Medicine finds a huge increase—nearly 20 percent—in medical bankruptcies between 2001 and 2007. **Sixty-two percent of all bankruptcies filed in 2007 were tied to medical expenses. Three-quarters of those who filed for bankruptcies in 2007 had health insurance.**"



POS COLLECTIONS

– Current Trends

We have a problem.....

- A study released in November [2008] by the ***American Hospital Association*** found that about one-third of hospitals had seen either a moderate or significant decrease in elective procedures in the previous three months....As the recession deepens....patients are deferring elective surgery....Some hospitals said their emergency rooms were already seeing patients with dire conditions that could have been avoided had they not deferred surgery for economic reasons.



POS COLLECTIONS

– Current Trends

I cannot afford it....so I'm not doing it.....

- [2008] More than 25% of women delayed or went without care they thought they needed because they couldn't afford it. The finding comes from a ***Kaiser Family Foundation*** survey of almost 3,000 women age 18 or older. So this is not an issue of being uninsured. This is an issue of being unable to afford copayments
- One in eight people with advanced cancer turned down recommended care because of the cost, according to a new analysis from ***Thomson Reuters***, which provides news and business information. Among patients with incomes under \$40,000, one in four in advanced stages of the disease refused treatment.



POS COLLECTIONS

– Current Trends

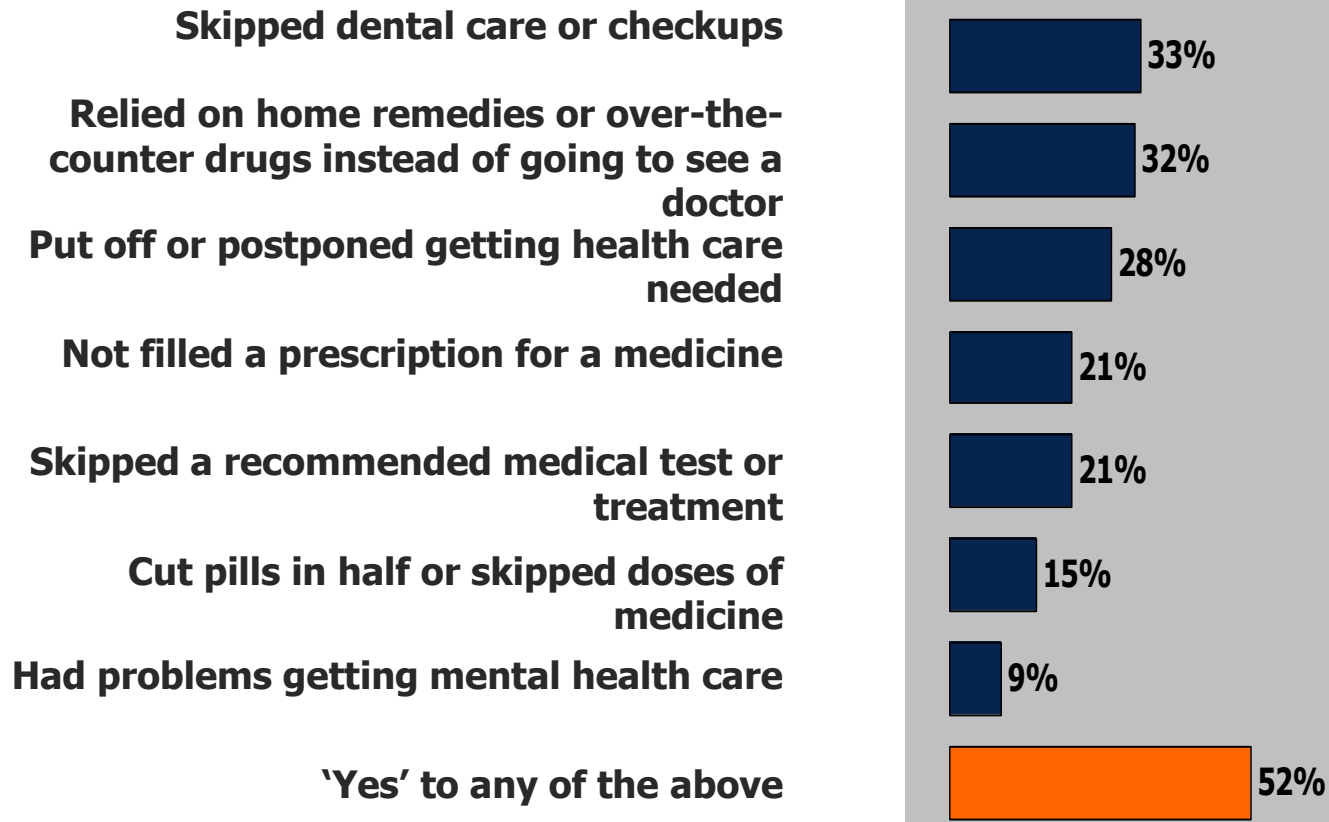
According to the Wall Street Journal...

- An increasing array of Americans, many with health insurance, are delaying or forgoing medical care because of concern about cost, according to a report from the Center for Studying Health System Change.
- Of those who said in the 2007 survey they had scrimped, 69% cited concern about cost as a reason.
 - "As health-care costs increase, more of those costs are shifting to people and families," often in the form of large deductibles or other requirements that patients pay for a significant share of their care out of their own pockets, said Peter Cunningham, lead author of the report.
- While the uninsured reported the highest rate -- 38% -- of delaying or going without care, the biggest rate of increase in such reports was among people who had health insurance. Seventeen percent of insured respondents said that they had scrimped, which was up from 11% in the 2003 poll.



Half Put Off Care Due to Cost

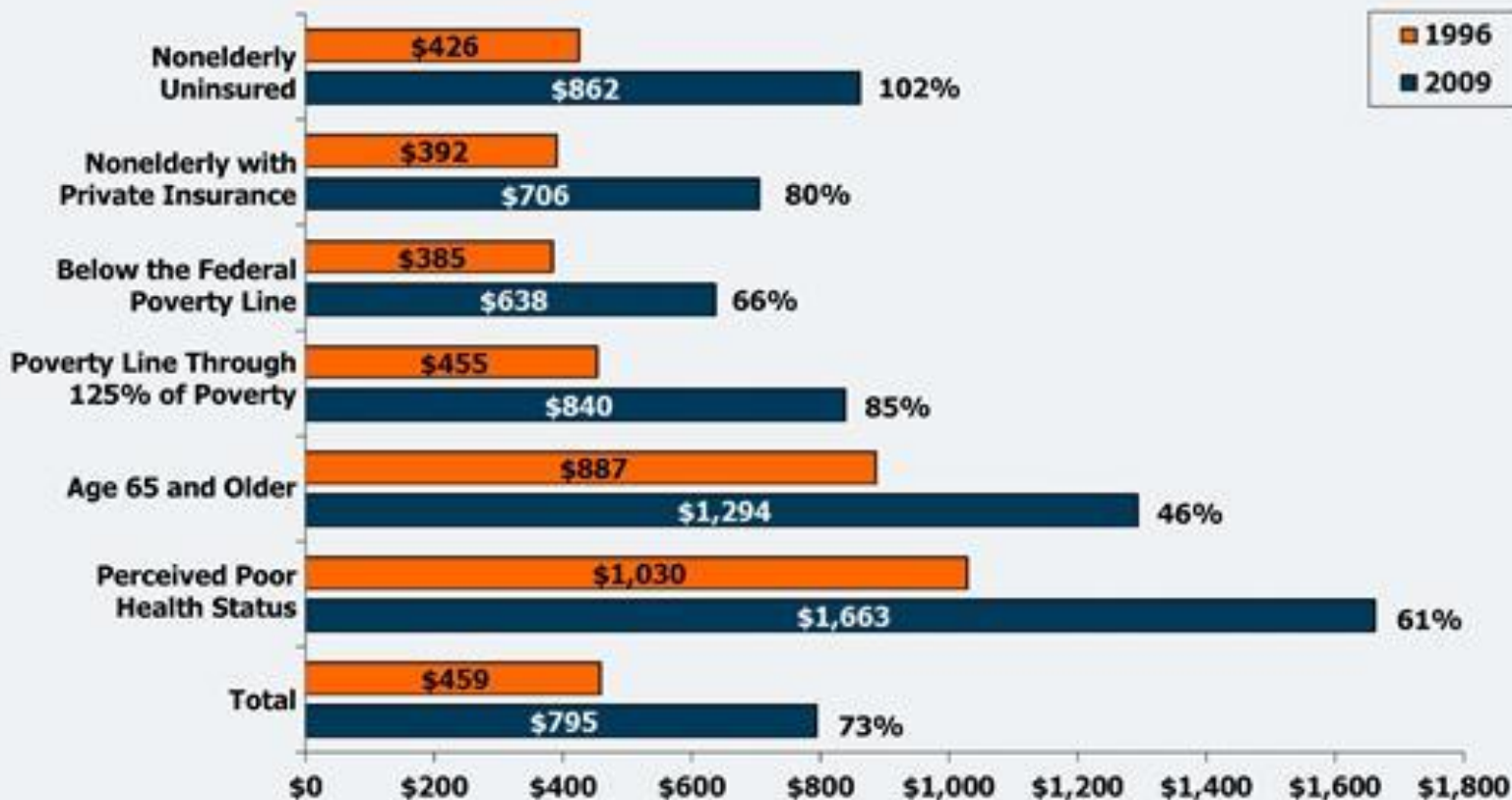
Percent who say they or another family member living in their household, have done each of the following in the past 12 months because of the cost:



POS COLLECTIONS

Current Trends

Average Out-of-Pocket Health Services Expenses and Percent Increases, 1996 and 2009



Note: Percents are the percent increase from 1996 to 2009. Dollar amounts and percentages do not include health insurance premiums.

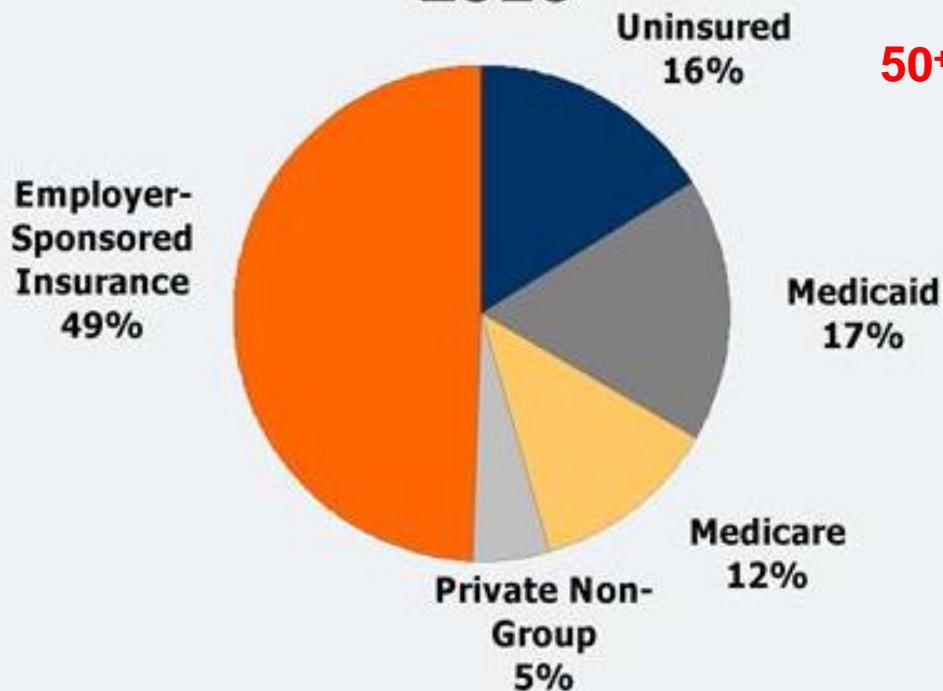
Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Table 1.1, Total Health Services Median and Mean Expenses per Person with Expense and Mean Expenses by Source of Payment, 1996 and 2009,

http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/quick_tables_results.jsp?component=1&subcomponent=0&tableSeries=1&year=-1&SearchMethod=1&Action=Search.

POS COLLECTIONS

Current Trends

Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S., 2010



50+ Million uninsured!!!

Total = 305.2 million

* Medicaid also includes other public programs: CHIP, other state programs, military-related coverage. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

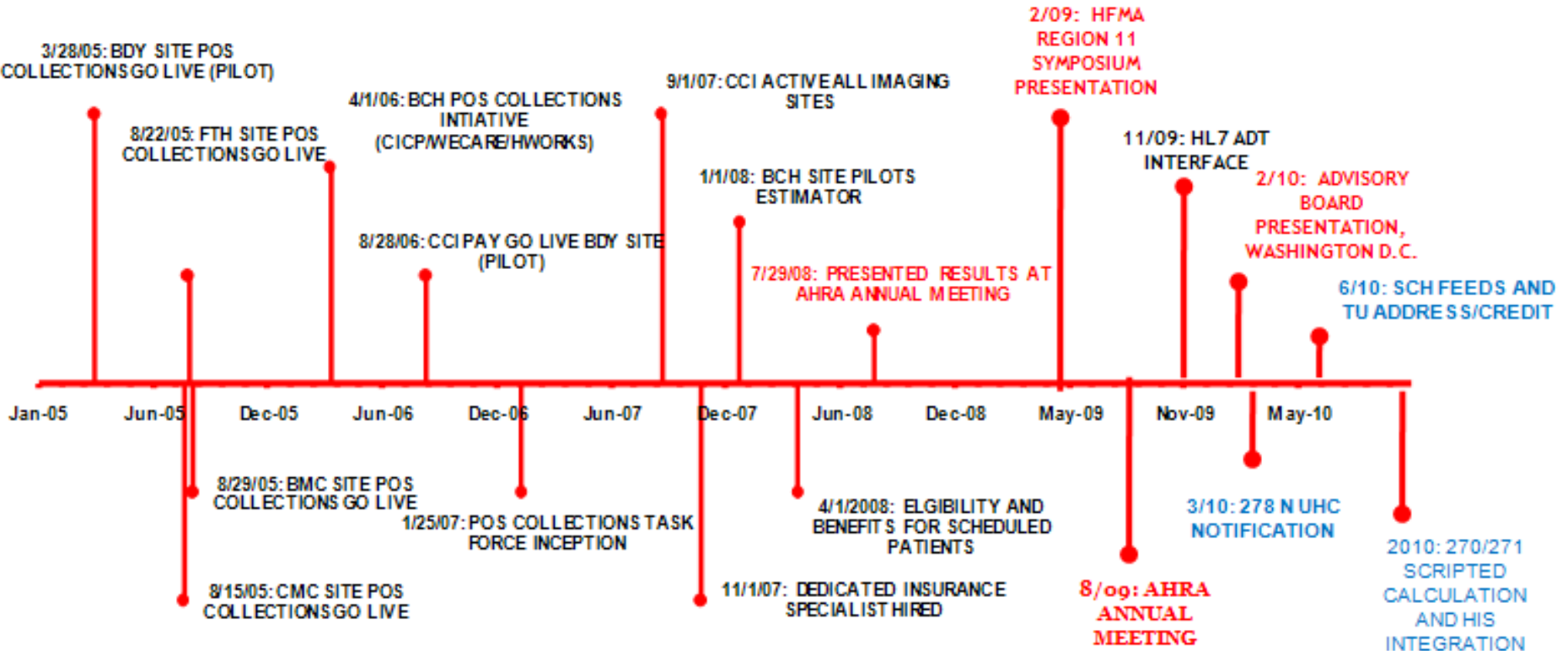
SOURCE: KCMU/Urban Institute analysis of 2011 ASEC Supplement to the CPS.



POS COLLECTIONS

Best Practices

BCH POS COLLECTIONS TIMELINE



POS COLLECTIONS

Our tool journey...

IMAGING SELF PAY

DEPT	CA
CT	ANGIO / RUNOFF
CT	NON ANGIO
CT	
CT	
CT	
CT	
DX	
DX	
DX	
DX	
DX	
DX	
DX	
DEPT	MA
MA	
MA	
MA	
MA	
DEPT	MR
MR	
MR	
MR	
DEPT	US
US	
US	
DEPT	IS
IS	
DEPT	NM
NM	
PET	
US	

OVERALL

DEPT	CT	\$
DX		\$
IS		\$
MA		\$
MR		\$
NM		\$
PET		\$
US		\$

Record

ESTIMATED PATIENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATION SUMMARY

Date: 07/10/2009 8:19 AM

Patient Name: JOHN DOE **Date Of Service:** 07/10/2009 **Account Number:** H123456789

Patient Type: Outpatient **Medical Service:** Radiology **Attending Physician:**

Insurance Company: CIGNA **Plan:** **Status:** Active

Patient Benefit Details (received from your insurance company 07/10/2009)			Patient Responsibility Details	
Benefit	Individual	Family	Benefit	Allocation
Deductible	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	Deductible:	\$378.00
Deductible Met	\$526.43	\$1,526.43	Co-Payment:	\$0.00
Out of Pocket	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	Co-Insurance:	\$0.00
Out of Pocket Met	\$526.43	\$1,526.43	Non-Covered:	\$0.00
			Estimated Patient Payment*:	\$378.00

Procedures					
Description	Qty	Copay(\$)	Co-Insurance(%)	Charges(\$)	Plan Allowed(\$)
CT CHEST WO CONTRAST	1		20.00	1,840.00	378.00
Totals				\$1,840.00	\$378.00

THIS IS AN ESTIMATE. Please note that this is an estimate of the charges for exam(s) ordered. Additional charges will apply should the order change or if additional studies are performed. In addition, this charge may not include ALL charges for material, ancillary procedures (i.e. injections, isotopes, tray, etc.) or Professional Interpretation. You will be billed separately for these items where applicable. Thank you.

Note: The "Prompt Pay Cash Discount" is provisional based on policies specific to the department in which the services were obtained. Some provisions stipulate that payment must be made in full, prior to services being rendered, or the discount will be removed. Please check with the department regarding the policies surrounding the discount. Thank you.

The ESTIMATED patient payment is due and payable upon receipt of this notice. To speak to Patient Financial Services, please call 303-544-5744. To pay online, please visit www.bch.org and click "PatientAccounts".

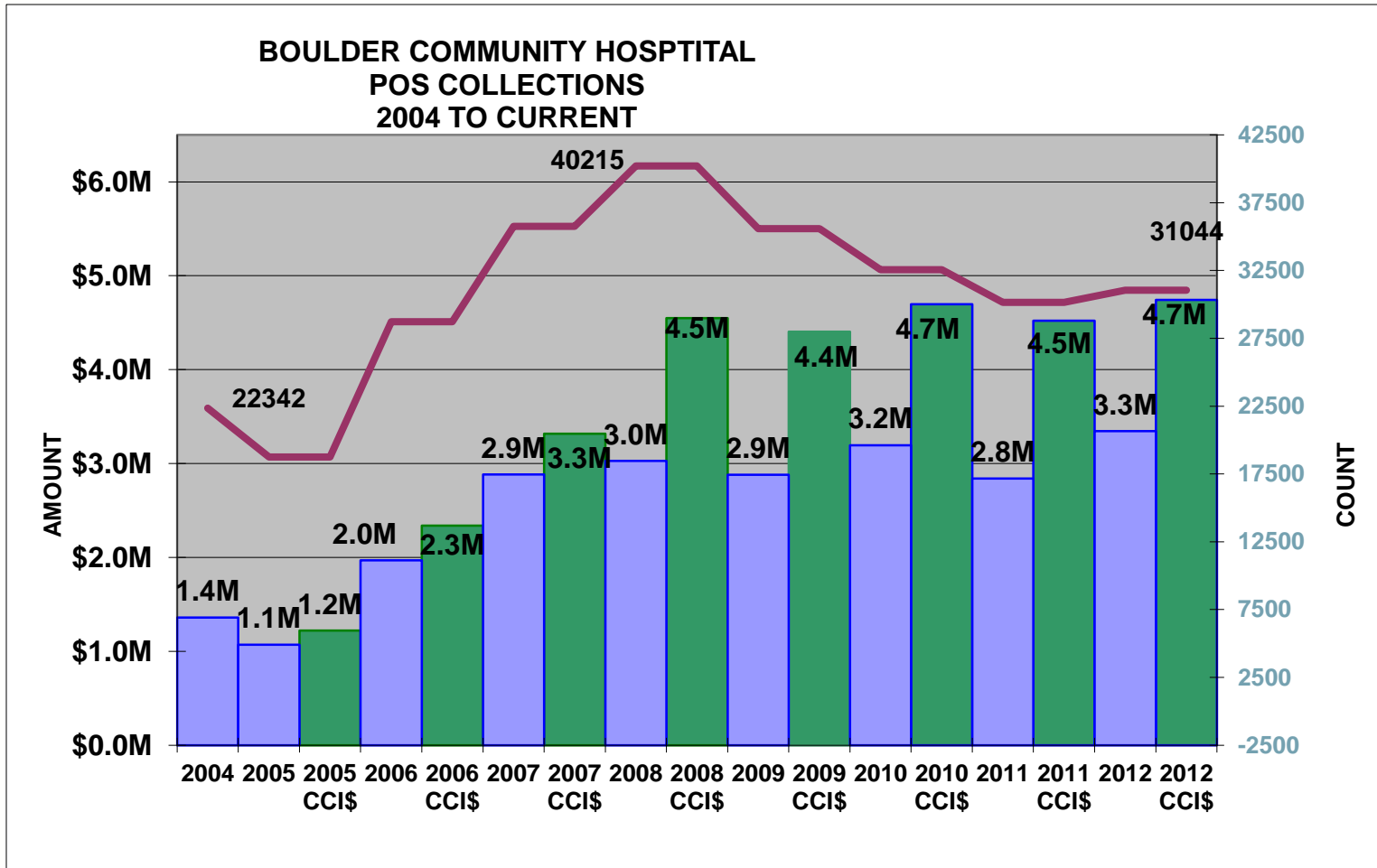
What are my choices if I choose to not receive care today?

Call your physician first so he or she can advise you of the best action for your care. Sometimes a condition does not need immediate attention and you can wait until you speak with your physician. We encourage our patients to contact our Financial Counselors (303-440-2130), who can help you develop a plan or help you apply for Medical Assistance. **If you are concerned that delaying your care could seriously harm your health or that delay in your care would subject you to severe pain please contact your physician immediately.**

A Medical Emergency is defined as a sudden and unexpected sickness or injury. In the absence of immediate medical attention, a reasonable person could believe this condition would result in death, placing one's health in jeopardy, serious impairment of bodily functions, a serious dysfunction of any body part or organ, serious jeopardy to the health of a fetus. **If you believe you have a Medical Emergency, report to an Emergency Room immediately or call 911.**

POS COLLECTIONS

Best Practices



POS COLLECTIONS

Best Practices

GOALS:

- 100% of scheduled patients are checked for insurance eligibility, auths, and benefits
- 100% of scheduled patients have a funding mechanism for their services *before* the date of their appointment
- 100% of scheduled patients are told what they owe prior to their service or discharge
- 100% of ALL patients meet the above criteria within one (1) business day or prior to discharge

Patients should be able to access and pay for their health care expenses as easily as they book a plane ticket



POS COLLECTIONS

Best Practices

Best Practices of Top-Performing Facilities:

- Adopt guiding principles and communicate the message
- Set the expectations, and establish accountability
- Update the mission, job descriptions, policies, and procedures
- Couple patients with the best funding mechanism available
 - “best” could be charity care

POS COLLECTIONS

Best Practices

Quick check:

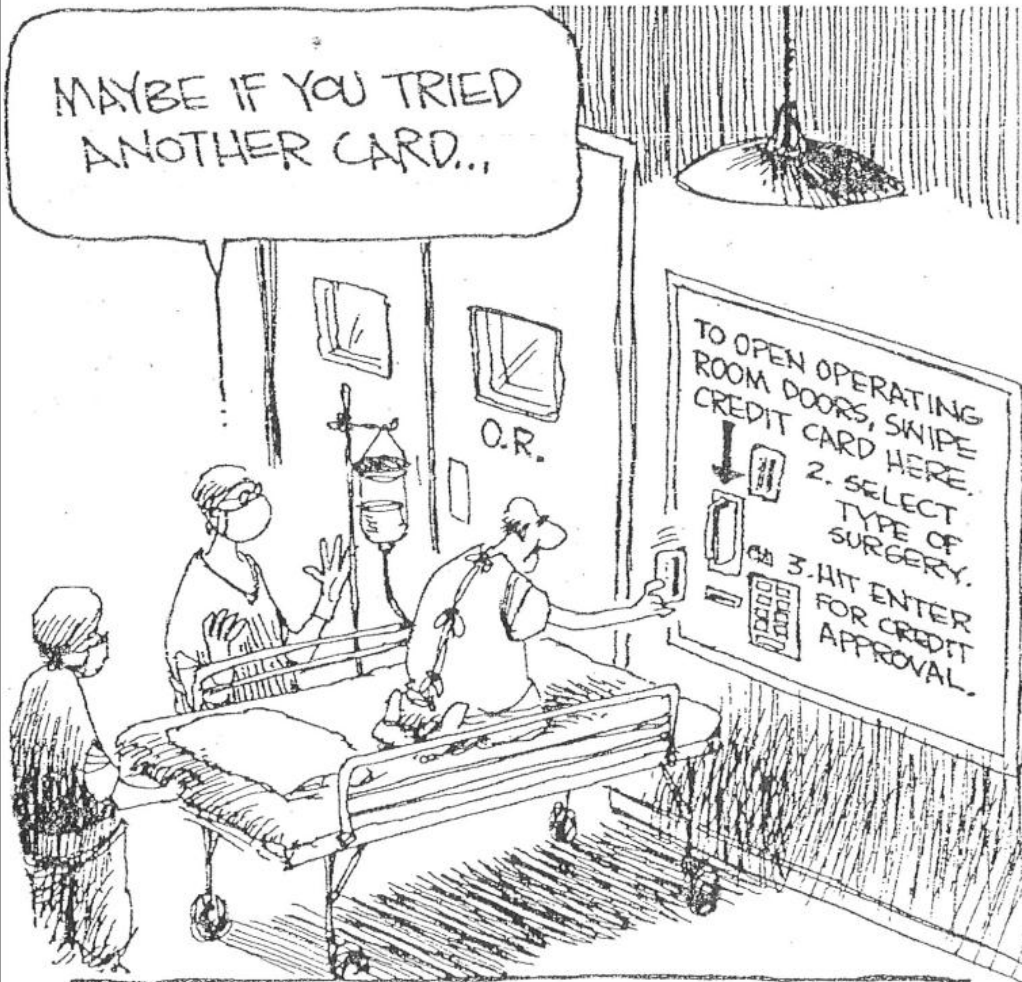
- What % of your patients do not have insurance?
- Of those who do, what is their average out-of-pocket?
- What % of your patients are you collecting from up front?
- What % of your claims have remittances?
- How are your staff checking for insurance? Pre-service? At reception? Post service?
- What are your credit balances? What is the cause?
- Who gets asked for money? By whom? When?

POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

NON SEQUITUR

Wiley



THE H.M.O. SURGICAL PROCEDURE

POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

Components of a Successful POS Collection Program:

1. Metrics (Data)
2. Executive-Level Support
3. Active Participation at All Levels
4. Policy, Procedure, Protocol and Scope
5. Patient Education



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

1. Metrics - DATA

High Level

- Billed Revenue
- Reimbursement
- Up-front (POS) Collections (if any)
- Bad Debt Write-offs (\$)

Detail

- Payer Mix including Self-Pay (uninsured)
- Account Aging and Costs (A/R, Collections agency, etc.)
- Patient Mix (Outpatient, Inpatient, ED)
- Number of Scheduled Patients and Walk-ins
- Procedure Mix (CT, MRI, TEE, PTCA, ACD)
- Access Points and Volume at each area (Scheduling/Reception/Intake/Admissions)



Why so much data?!

- Get a Baseline (What can we track?)
- Identify Priorities (Why is this important?)
- Focus efforts (Who will be impacted?)
- Establish Goals (When can we do this?)
- Determine Needs (How can we do this?)



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

KNOW your numbers....

- How much should an *uninsured* person pay?
- What do we collect if it is not on the card?
- What do we do if data is not available?
- How do (or can) we estimate *allowable*?
- What can we (or can we not) estimate in advance?



2. Executive-Level Support

- Bottom-up, top-down, sideways, and up-side-down, the organizational CULTURE must live, breathe, and act consistently
- Every person, from the Clinician to the Receptionist, from the Office Manager to the patient, must clearly understand the project and its rationale
- Services should not be *reduced* in a POS Collections Program – they should be ENHANCED



2. Executive-Level Support (cont.)

Typical POS Collections Team:

- Executive - VP/CFO, Owner, Office Manager
 - Director / Site Manager (s)
 - Billing and Contracting
 - Admissions / Scheduling / Reception
 - Front line personnel
 - Others???
-
- If multi-site/functional areas, leads from each access point should be represented
 - Should end up with 6-8 “key” personnel involved in patient and billing flow

* This group should have a philosophical, business-decision discussion concerning “boundaries” PRIOR to any implementation



3. Active Participation at All Levels

- ✓ Administration and Management
- ✓ Billing
- ✓ Financial Counselors
- ✓ Clinical Personnel
- ✓ Front Line

POS COLLECTIONS Components and Tools

Letters/Communication do not hurt.....



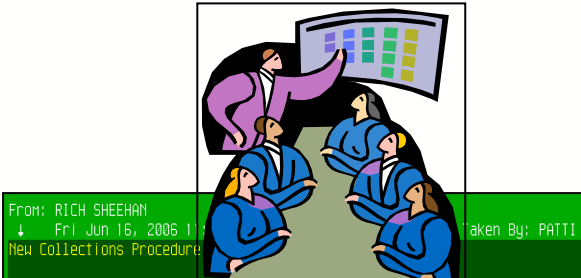
Are you responsible for any deductibles or copayment. You should present valid Medicare card.

Medicare
If you have Colorado Medicaid coverage, we will send a bill for you. We accept assignment for you are responsible for any deductibles or copayment. You should present a valid Colorado Medicaid card.

Colorado Medicaid
If you have Colorado Medicaid coverage, we will send a bill for you. We accept assignment for you are responsible for any deductibles or copayment. You should present a valid Colorado Medicaid card.

Medicaid
If you have Medicaid coverage, we will send a bill for you. We accept assignment for you are responsible for any deductibles or copayment. You should present a valid Medicaid card.

Financial Counselor
If you have financial difficulties, we will send a bill for you. We accept assignment for you are responsible for any deductibles or copayment. You should present a valid Medicaid card.



From: RICH SHEEHAN
Fri Jun 16, 2006 11:00 AM
New Collections Procedure

This is a reminder that the new coordinated plan t efforts to educate patients about their payment responsibility and collect portion before services are performed will go into effect this Monday (June 19, 2006). In the past, many hospital departments would provide services for patients first and then bill the patients for those services. That often resulted in delayed payment and, in some cases, no payment at all. The new coordinated plan t efforts to educate patients about their payment responsibility and collect portion before services are performed will go into effect this Monday (June 19, 2006). In the past, many hospital departments would provide services for patients first and then bill the patients for those services. That often resulted in delayed payment and, in some cases, no payment at all.

Their office is in Suite 100 of the BCH Medical Pavilion, 1155 Alpine Avenue (next to Boulder Community Hospital). You can call 303-440-2022 to make an appointment. Their office is in Suite 100 of the BCH Medical Pavilion, 1155 Alpine Avenue (next to Boulder Community Hospital). You can call 303-440-2022 to make an appointment.

Financial Counselor
If you have financial difficulties, we will send a bill for you. We accept assignment for you are responsible for any deductibles or copayment. You should present a valid Medicaid card.

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Managing an
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Boulder Community Hospital's Latest
Scoop!
June 19, 2006
Volume 38
Number 19

Overview of BCH Actions To Improve Collections

Boulder Community Hospital, like other health care providers, has some seriously unmet financial needs. One of the most serious is getting paid for the services we provide. You may not be aware that another source of bad debt for hospitals is our outpatients. Most employees' approved health insurance policies are covering more and more responsibility for paying medical bills to their employers. Employers are doing this by increasing the copays, co-insurances and deductibles for their employees. Unfortunately, not all of our outpatients pay their copays, co-insurances and deductibles. Since health insurance plans don't cover those charges, if the patient doesn't pay, the hospital loses that money.

In this article, we'll explain our new coordinated plan t efforts to educate patients about their payment responsibility and collect portion before services are performed. We'll also explain how our new coordinated plan t efforts to educate patients about their payment responsibility and collect portion before services are performed. We'll also explain how our new coordinated plan t efforts to educate patients about their payment responsibility and collect portion before services are performed.

Scheduling and pre-operations staff will be informing most patients of the amount they will be expected to pay prior to the patient coming to the hospital for services. For patients covered by health insurance, we will be collecting their portion of the medical bill at the time of the patient's appointment.

We will be asking self-pay patients to pay in full or to make payment arrangements with our Financial Counselors. These Counselors can help such patients qualify for financial assistance and help with managing payment options. We will be establishing a self-pay patients who are unable to pay or have not made appropriate payment arrangements.

The other hospitals in Boulder County also participating in the Colorado Inpatient Care Program (CICP), which provides financial assistance for medical services provided to low-income Colorado residents who do not qualify for Medicaid. BCH will continue to serve patients covered by CICP and the

Boulder Community Hospital
To: Boulder Community Hospital Medical Staff

Date: Monday, 6/19/2006

Re: Pre-operations collection of Boulder Community Hospital

As you already know, Boulder Community Hospital has been in a financial crisis for several years. One of the most serious financial needs is getting paid for the services we provide. You may not be aware that another source of bad debt for hospitals is our outpatients. Most employees' approved health insurance policies are covering more and more responsibility for paying medical bills to their employers. Employers are doing this by increasing the copays, co-insurances and deductibles for their employees. Unfortunately, not all of our outpatients pay their copays, co-insurances and deductibles. Since health insurance plans don't cover those charges, if the patient doesn't pay, the hospital loses that money.

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3. Policy, Procedure, Protocol and Scope

“Three Doors” for funding their care:

- Insurance
- No Insurance (self-pay)
- Other Funding Mechanism (be specific)

ONE (AND ONLY ONE) OF THE ABOVE MUST
BE ELECTED BY THE PATIENT **PRIOR** TO
RENDERING SERVICES – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

- “DOOR” will determine *direction and conversation* we take with the patient:
 - “Collection Advisory” List
 - Medicare/Medicaid
 - Third Party Liability (Work comp, MVA, Litigation)
 - “Agreements”
 - Patient Types
 - ED, STAT, URGENT, SAME DAY ADD-ONS
 - Procedure changes
 - Oncology, Mammography, DEXA
 - Indigent, Homeless, Out-of-network



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

3. Policy, Procedure, Protocol and Scope(cont.)

Be VERY clear on the following:

- ✓ who is asked
- ✓ when the question is posed
- ✓ what is said
- ✓ what happens when people refuse or get upset
- ✓ who is contacted for service recovery



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

When is the question posed?

- At Physician's office?
 - At Scheduling?
 - At Reception?
 - On the Table?
-
- Earlier and the more frequent, the better
 - ELIMINATE SURPRISES

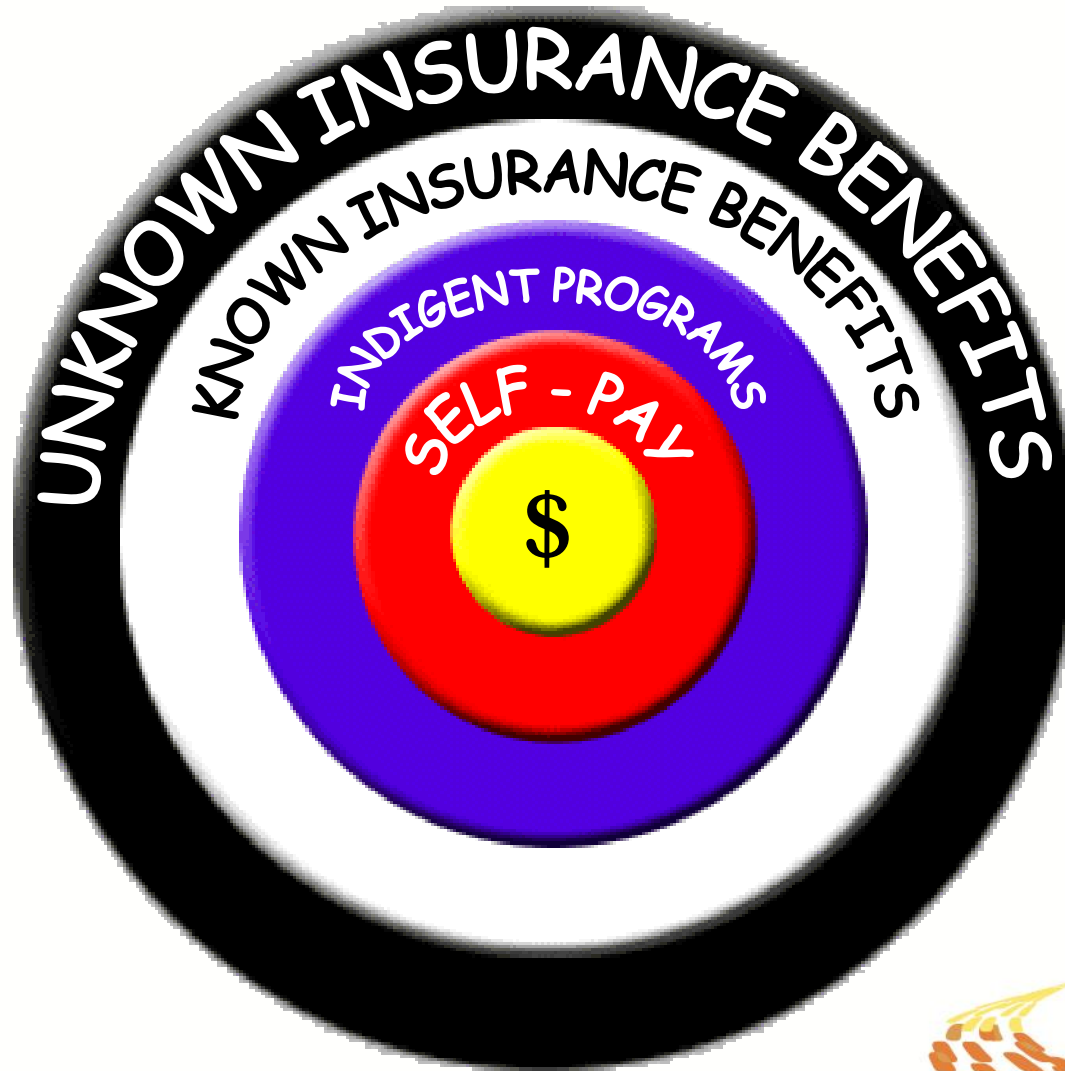
What is said?

- Tailor the conversation to fit the situation...



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools



What's Realistic?

- Scripting is difficult and does not afford flexibility, however in some cases you must ensure consistency
- Key Phrases are best where possible
- The 4 “C”s:
 - Confident
 - Competent
 - Compassionate
 - Collaborative

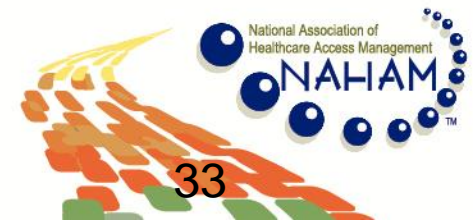


POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

EXAMPLES:

- Key Phrases
 - All of our patients are expected to....
 - Do you know what your payment is today?
 - We have several options available for payment, our best is...?
 - We typically do _____ when patients _____....
 - Most patients elect this option as it....



Strategies to Determine Amounts:

1. Self-pay (and No-pay...choice vs affordability)
 - Take average net-deduction-in-revenue (NDR) and add 5-10% for “administrative savings”
 - For example, if block of business has an NDR of 25%, make the self-pay amount 35%
 - Take charge master and reduce billed amounts by 35% to establish Prompt Pay Fee Schedule by Category and/or line-item CPT
 - “ALL PATIENTS WHO PAY AT TIME OF SERVICE WHO DO NOT HAVE INSURANCE ARE ELGIBLE FOR THE PROMPT PAY DISCOUNT. PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN FULL AT TIME OF SERVICE TO BE ELIGIBLE”

POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

Strategies to Determine Amounts:

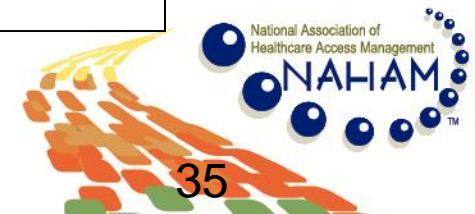
2. Indigent Amounts

- Program Copay, Coinsurance, Deductibles
- Sliding scale to Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

CICP RATING	PEOPLES CLINIC DISCOUNT PLAN	WECARE RATING	INPATIENT COPAYMENT	OUTPATIENT SURGERY	MRI, CAT SCAN, NUC MED	ER VISIT	LAB WORK	X-RAY
N	C-5	N	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$7.00
A	C-10	A	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
B	C-20	B	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
C	C-30	C	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$20.00
D	C-40	D	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$20.00
E	C-50	E	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$35.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
F	C-60	F	\$390.00	\$390.00	\$390.00	\$35.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
G	C-70	G	\$535.00	\$535.00	\$535.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$35.00
H	C-80	H	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$35.00
I	C-90	I	\$630.00	\$630.00	\$630.00	\$50.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
N/A	N/A	J	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
Z	N/A	Z	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

* Peoples Clinic Discount Plan is equivalent to Boulder Community Hospital's WeCare Plan.

*A patient will be charged multiple copays for multiple services done during the same admission or the same visit. same visit.



Strategies to Determine Amounts:

3. KNOWN insurance amounts

- Collect what is on the card:
 - ✓ Copays
 - ✓ Coinsurance/Deductible
 - Estimate *allowable* amount(s)
 - BEWARE of the “floating deductible”
- Have patients bring in Benefits Screen Prints/EOBs
- Have patients or staff call insurance in advance
- ASK patient and collect that

Strategies to Determine Amounts:

4. UNKNOWN insurance amounts

- Consider **benefits** of collection *versus* downstream **costs** to refund
- Avoid “over collecting”
 - ✓ Customer Service issues
 - ✓ Refund Turn Around Time
 - ✓ Inflated Results
 - ✓ Carrier and Employer “ripple effect”
- Consider FLAT “Deposits” by service line – ED, Imaging, etc.
- Credit Card on File

POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

Strategies to Determine Amounts:

Credit Card on File

- Store Credit Card Numbers for subsequent billing
- Line of Credit
 - Compare to when you check into Hotel and they take a card for “incidentals”
- Several vendors offer a software solution that integrates/replaces existing credit card terminals
- BCH Imaging alone generates ~600-700 per month, or approximately \$100K+ in downstream revenue per month!



Other considerations with Amounts:

- Distribution and communication of amounts is critical
- Paper or Plastic?
 - Do you have hard copy price sheets, or do you have software
 - Version Control
 - Usability/Math
 - Accuracy



Other considerations with Amounts:

- Estimators
 - Homegrown
 - Spreadsheet, Database, Calculators, Abacus, Paper
 - PROs: Cheap and Easy
 - CONs: Time investment, Maintenance, Inaccurate
 - Proprietary
 - Real-time estimate and/or eligibility
 - Configured to managed care contracts
 - PROs: Accurate, Fast, Professional
 - CONs: Initially can be expensive with hardware/software, Interface/integration concerns



POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

Estimators (Continued):

- Determine Risk at front end from Eligibility, Auth, Benefit/OOP, and propensity to pay
- Couple with Credit Scoring to establish eligibility to other funding mechanisms
- Pre-qualify scheduled appointments
- Streamline estimation and eligibility checks



Other considerations with Amounts:

- Estimators (Continued):

But we “NEED” this fancy new thingy?!!!

- Prove it:
 - Pilot/Trial in focused area to demonstrate value
 - ROI
 - Proformas
 - Customer Service
- Huge Opportunities –
 - several vendors
 - “buyers market” currently
 - ROI is typically a matter of months

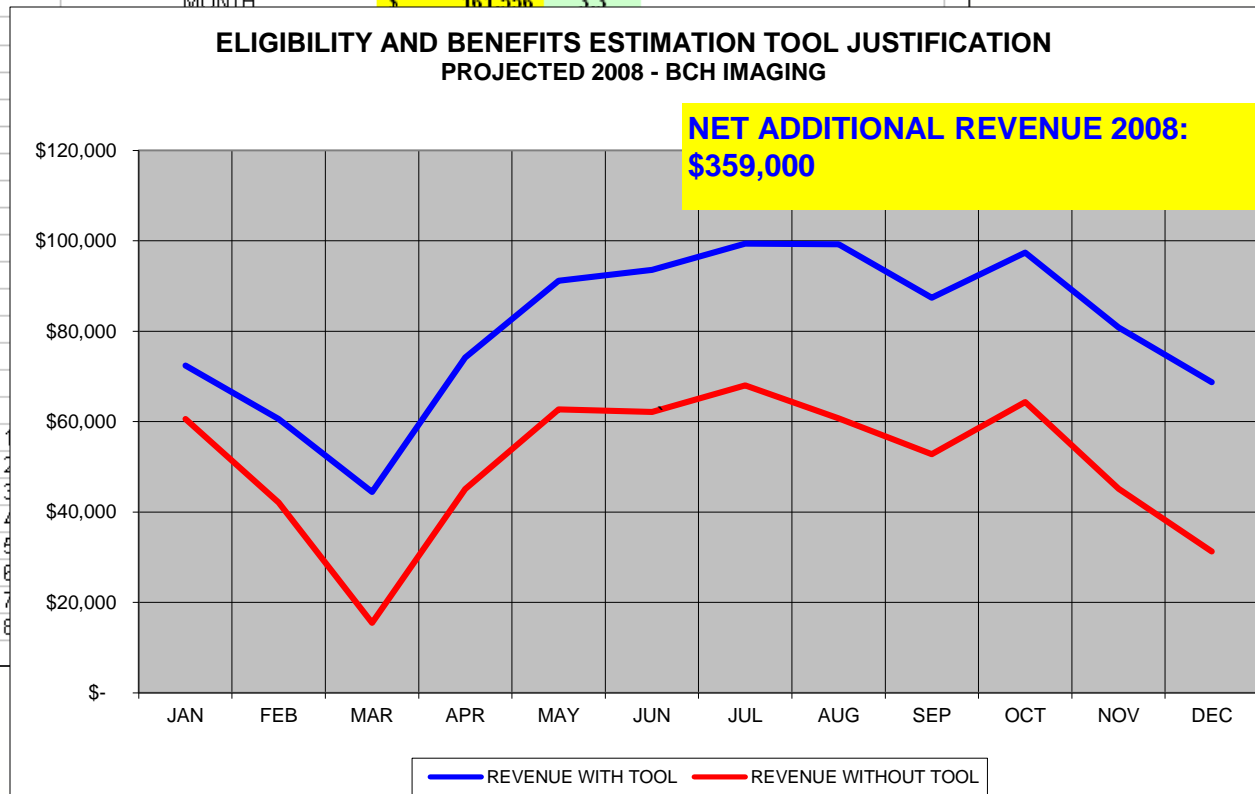


POS COLLECTIONS

Components and Tools

BCH ELIGIBILITY AND ESTIMATION TOOL JUSTIFICATION			
JUSTIFICATION			
POTENTIAL SAVINGS		\$	2,688,676
TOOL COSTS (CURRENT COST STRUCTURE)		\$	(750,000)
	NET	\$	1,938,676
ROI			
		SAVINGS	ROI
DAY	\$	8,694	62.2
WEEK	\$	74,564	7.3
MONTH	\$	161,556	3.3

ASSUMPTIONS



Implementation Suggestions:

- Test the workflow
- Role Play
- Roll out in Phases
- Focus efforts on simple items first
 - low-hanging fruit, e.g. uninsured/self-pay
- Identify Physician Champion(s)

POS COLLECTIONS

Streamlining Workflows

Keep it simple.....

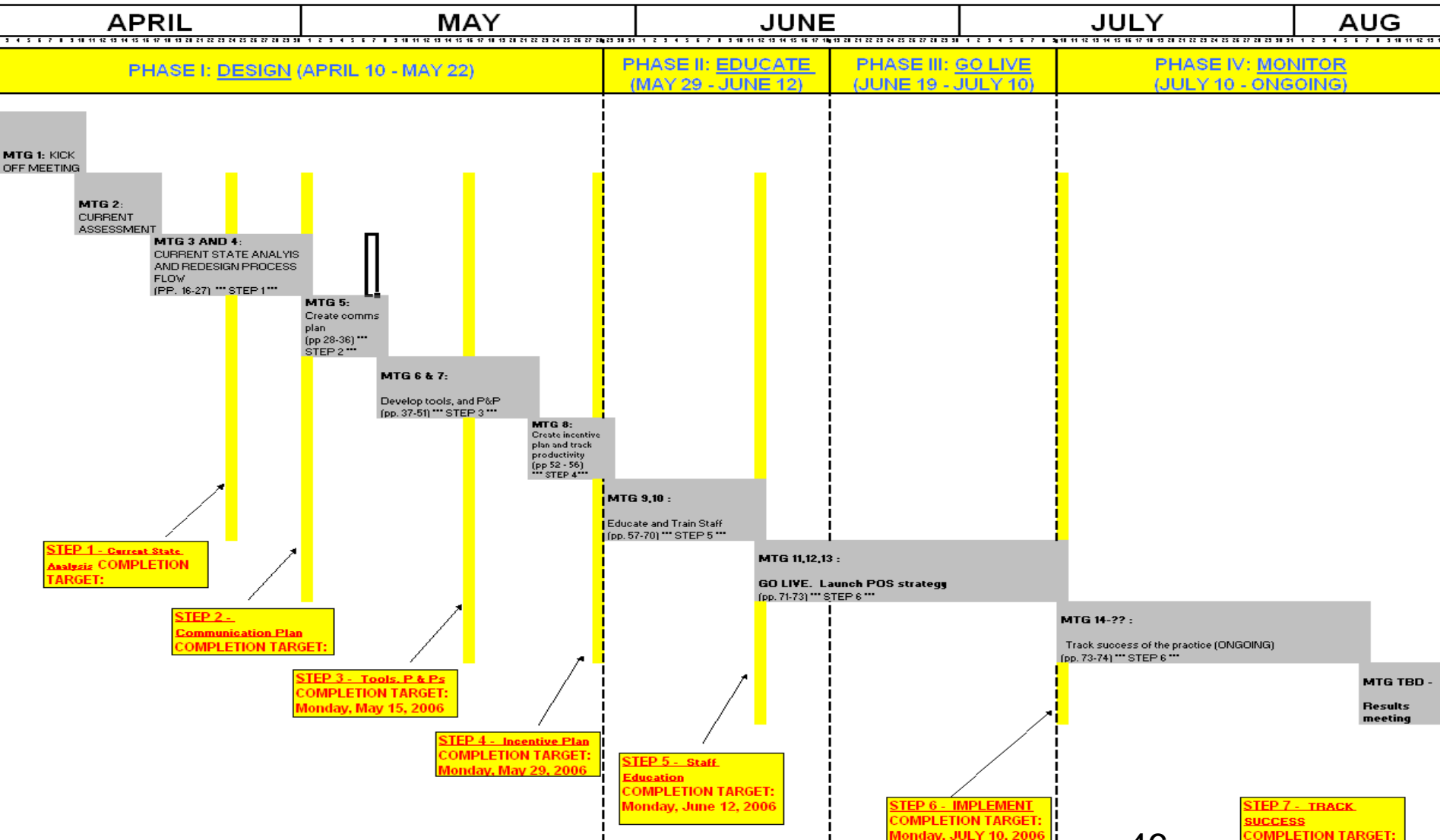
- *“It is an expectation of your job to ask for patient portions”*
- Ask the simple question – *“Do you know your amount to pay today?”*
- Provide Options, NOT ultimatums
- Start small, use paper, then expand to system-wide integration



POS COLLECTIONS

Streamlining Workflows

BCH POS COLLECTIONS ROLL-OUT



POS COLLECTIONS

Streamlining Workflows

LOOK BEFORE YOUR LEAP...

- ✓ Know the amounts (even if a estimates) before you ask people, to ask patients, for it
- ✓ Know how you are going to handle and process the money
- ✓ Know how to handle customer service issues and complaints
- ✓ Know how to defend the mission of the POS Collections Effort
- ✓ Know how to adjust the process quickly



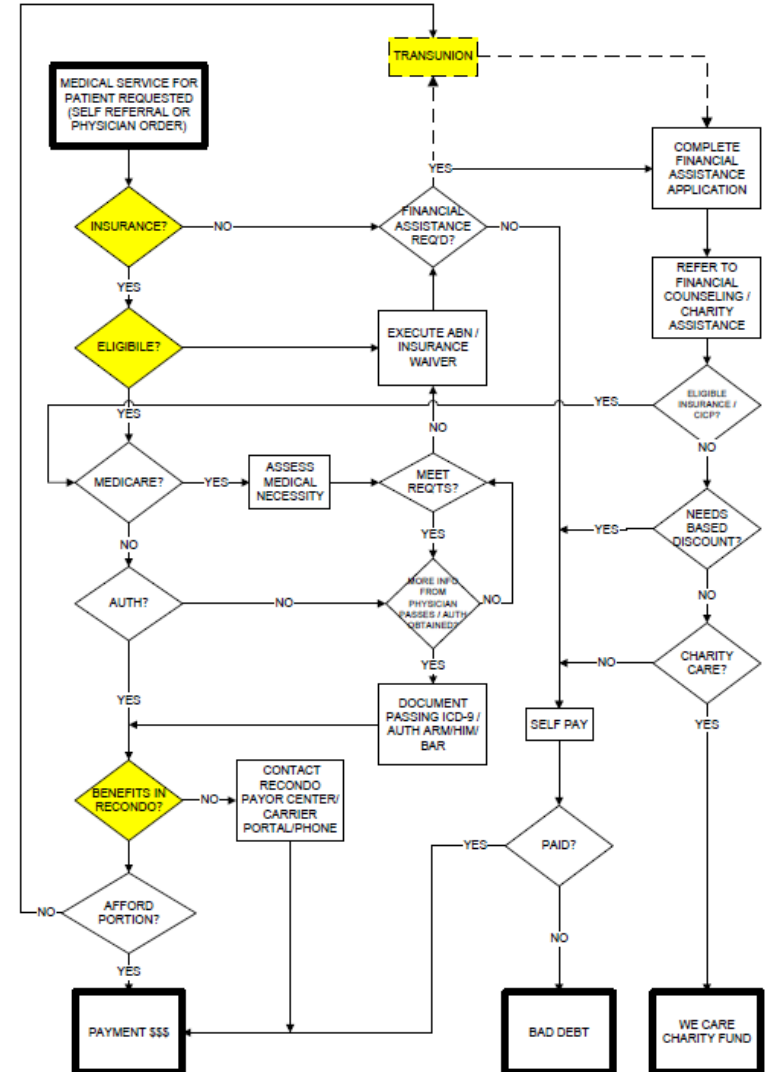
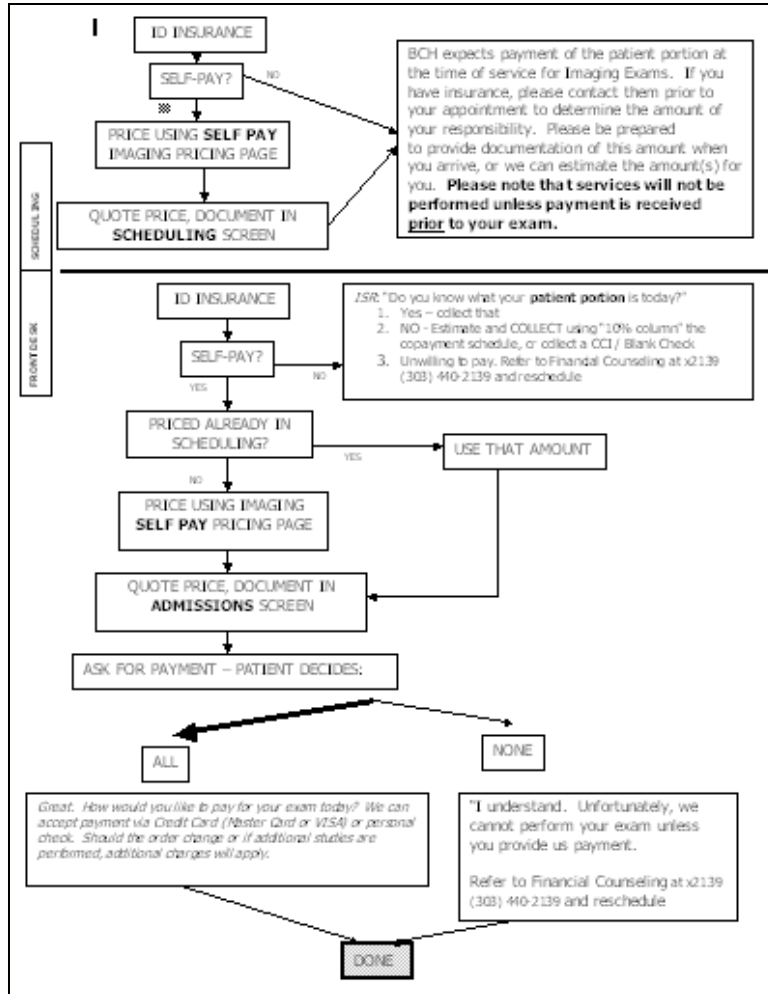
Workflow Development:

- Develop *POLICY* to support the *PROCEDURE* within the *SCOPE* of the project
- Determine:
 - When (Specific Steps)
 - Who (Collection Advisory)
 - Why (“Doors” and “Bulls eye”)
 - What (how much \$)
 - How (Scripting/Key Phrases)



POS COLLECTIONS

Streamlining Workflows



POS COLLECTIONS

Front Line Staff Training

- Be empathetic not sympathetic
 - understand patient's situation but pursue reasonable payment options with the patient
 - Staff motto: "Do you want a hug or a paycheck"?!
- Put yourself in the patient's shoes
 - how would you want the situation explained, presented and handled?
- We must be sincere when empathizing with the patient

How Do You Request For Payment In Advance?

- Registrars must choose their words carefully and be respectful, yet be direct with the patient
- Registrars need to be aware of their tone of voice when speaking with the patient
- Be firm about hospital policy and reassure the patient that paying in advance is for their benefit

Sustainment trials, techniques, and tools:

- Monthly POS collections task force (yes, monthly)
 - Front-line dialogue and troubleshooting
 - Mandatory Trainings with Admissions/Billing Collaboration
- LEAN RIE (Kaizen) annually
 - Six figure benefits every time we do it (CP, SX, et.al.)
 - Team polishes entire process in a week 😊
- Performance metric reporting
 - Consistent Feedback to team on performance and gaps



POS COLLECTIONS

Front Line Staff Training

“The goal of the BCH POS Collections Program is not to collect money. Our goal is to educate patients as to the costs of their care, and help them navigate these costs”

‘Boulder Community Hospital strives to help patients understand their health care costs. In that effort, coverage is verified, costs are discussed, and payment arrangements are made - in advance. Through this, bad debt is reduced and the operations of our hospital remain financially viable to continually serve our community’



POS Collections – Challenges/Next Steps

BCH Challenges...

- Oversight of operations varied
- Consistency and Accountability
- CIO and CFO transition
- IT engagement and support
- HIS transformation – 8th Hospital in the country (post beta)



POS Collections – Challenges/Next Steps

BCH Challenges...

- *Data Mining from Client*
 - *Departmental idiosyncrasies (e.g. Imaging vs OP Sx)*
- *Recondo programming enhancement timetable*
 - *Scheduling Mnemonics / Customs*
 - *Sort, Select, Filtering (by appointment types)*
 - *Multiple Procedures*
 - *Missing Accounts*
 - *Quick Estimates*
- *Working outside of an interface*
- *Resources (Updates, Testing, Configuration)*
- *Testing / Development*



The future of healthcare finance....

- Move Collections processes to front end
- Couple with Credit Scoring / Propensity to Pay
- Pre-qualify scheduled appointments
- Establish charity care or assistance EARLY
- Prioritize accounts by benefit and risk
- Financially Counsel and direct to BEST funding mechanism
- Streamline estimation and eligibility checks



POS Collections – Challenges/Next Steps

Current and Future trends:

- Increased Transparency (internet marketplace)
- Increased Patient Education and Expectations
- Tighter reimbursement
- Pay for Performance / contracting
- Increased patient accountability and risk
- Increased diligence with managing revenue cycle
- Automation and Streamlining – data is readily available anytime



POS Collections

– Closing Thoughts

In Summary...

- Critically analyze market trends and evaluate best practices
 - FEDERAL CHANGES (PPACA/ARRA) – how are YOU documenting your screening and collections from uninsured patients? 😊
- Adopt what would work well in your organization
- Identify the components and scale the project to the resources you have available
- Train, retrain, and adapt the workflows
- Educate your coworkers, customers, and community



POS Collections

– Closing Thoughts

Accurate, timely information on the front and back end of the revenue cycle is essential to this process...Yet technology can go only so far in preparing patients and providers for the new age of consumerism in health care. There are three things hospitals must accomplish beyond implementing new technology:

- They must be able to justify charges in a way that ordinary people will accept as reasonable, which means, of course, that the charges themselves must be reasonable. And that means, among other things, the end of cost-shifting.
- They must offer on-the-spot, skilled, and comprehensive financial counseling, discounts, and flexible payment options to self-pay patients who are unable to pay their bills.
- They must educate patients thoroughly, in more than one way and at more than one time, about provider billing practices--including who, what, where, when, why, and how.

POS Collections

– Closing Thoughts

With effective programs in place and the technological tools and training to help PFS staff deliver top-notch customer service, healthcare Organization sin the vanguard of POS collection are finding patients to be not resentful but grateful.

POS Collections

– Closing Thoughts

Develop a Strategy and Collection Mechanism that is:

- ✓ Easily deployed
- ✓ Elegant and simple
- ✓ Flexible by role and patient type
- ✓ Supported by management
- ✓ Scalable



Have clear direction and momentum:

1. Have a meeting
 - At an early stage, ensure to include the people who are going to ask people for their money
2. Assemble a team
3. Build from existing workflows and add to them
4. Develop the “plan”
5. Test the workflows and track your results
6. Discuss Challenges and Celebrate Successes
7. Lead by example
8. Do not ever give up



POS Collections

– Closing Thoughts

Questions?



POS Collections

– Closing Thoughts

Thank you.

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