# **Evolution of the Sales Force –**

Impact of New Technologies on the Role of the Rep



Point-of-Care Partners (POCP) is a health information technology (HIT) strategy and management consulting firm with two active practices:

- EHR education & Optimization
- Strategic e-Prescribing Management

3/25/15 @11:25AM

### **Learning Objectives**

- Understand how Health Information Technology has impacted field sales representatives:
  - Sales Discussions
  - Prescribing
    - ePA & Patient Savings Programs
  - HCP Targeting & Prescribing potential
  - Patient Support Programs
  - Clinical Decision Support
  - Formulary Status Discussions & Therapeutic Choice
  - The Total Office Call & the "close"



 Discover Options for optimizing rep impact in the EHR & e-prescribing environment.

# New Technology = Rep Challenges

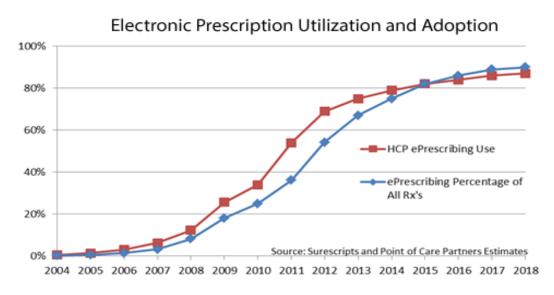


### Today's Pharma Rep faces several challenges:

- Target Customer Frustrations
  - Challenges understanding current administrative systems and regulations governing patients, and how they practice
  - More time spent trying to understand systems, less time with patients
  - Confusing e-prescriptions for some non-tablet products
  - Many channels to become informed
- Practice Administrators & IT Specialists add to customer mix
- Reduced access to HCPs
- Less time for product discussions
- Technological hurdles with e-prescribing and prior authorization

# EHR Adoption Grows to Increasingly Impact Prescribing

- Majority of HCPs are using EHRs
- Factors influencing growth of EHR use:
  - Government incentives
  - Transformation of payment model to outcomes-based reimbursement
  - Practice consolidation required EHR use
- New adoption is no longer as important as 'optimize' existing EHRs in practices
  - Quality improvement
  - Resolving gaps-in-care
  - Standardizing treatment
  - Increasing practice efficiency



EHRs are now the **primary method** of writing prescriptions including EHR printed prescriptions in addition to electronically transmitted

# Sales Discussions & e-Prescribing



### Rep use of electronic sales aids has increased

- Details can be tracked electronically and bookmarked for the next visit
- Version control & detail sequence maintained by home office
- Difficult & time-consuming to switch from one product e-detail to the next
  - paper still being used
- Graphic depictions & sig for prescribing "brand X" not representative of prescriber's real-world view.

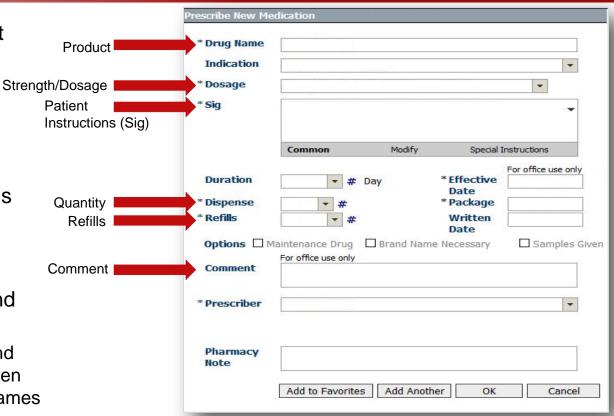




### Writing a Prescription in EHRs

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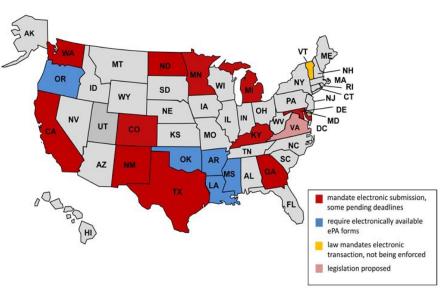
- HCPs choose from a drug list
  - Personal, department, or all drugs
  - Updated periodically from a purchased source
- Dose, quantity and instructions selected from drop downs
- DAW flag available
- Drugs can be ordered by brand or generic name
  - Academic Medical Centers and hospital affiliated practices often restrict searches to generic names



### e-PriorAuthorization

- 11 states have mandated that payers must accept e-PA
- Many more are evaluating this type of regulation
  - Tracking data on state requirements & providing to field sales enables more conversations w/ prescribing stakeholders
- Less burden on office staff who deal w/ prior authorizations and refill requests
- Incumbent upon representatives to know:
  - The e-PA process for their brand(s)
  - Advantages/disadvantages for staff
  - Key prescribers and administrative staff to inform
  - Alternatives to electronic Prior Auth, when necessary

### **Electronic Prior Authorization**



# ePrescribing with Patient Savings Programs

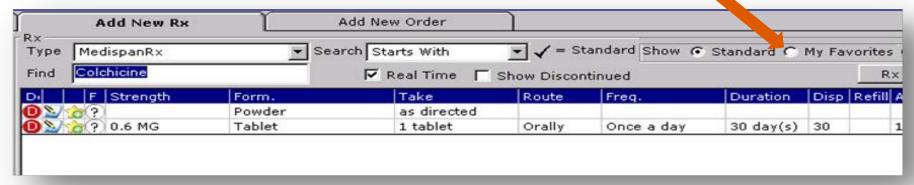
- Benefits of EHR systems with Patient Savings Programs:
  - Medication discounts can be auto-transmitted from EHR → Pharmacy
  - HCPs don't need to keep track of coupons or program details
  - Gov't Payers are eliminated electronically from receiving these offers
  - Pharma can exercise tighter control over eligible patients
    - Specific Regions
    - Specific Health Plans
- Reps:
  - May not have to stock, deliver, or track discount vouchers
  - Keep in the loop if marketing initiates a program directly with EHR partners
  - Know how offers work in different practices, and educate staff especially when brand is at Payer/PBM Tier disadvantage.



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### HCP Targeting, Reach & Frequency Goals

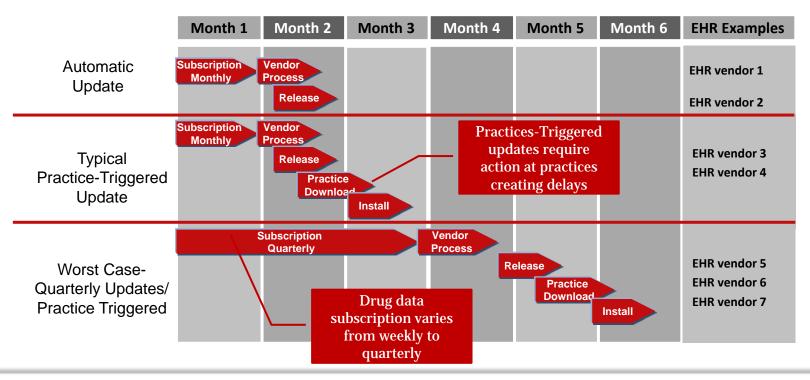
 Past prescribing volume to determine value, Reach & Frequency may also be impacted by ease and time required by field sales to influence ePrescribing



- Technology can place limitations on the success of new drug launches.
   reps should be aware of:
  - How to add new launch brands to various EHRs
  - When is the best time to approach office staff w/ this request
  - The initial effects on the HCP's ability to ePrescribe new brands

### **EXAMPLE:** New Product Timelines

New products appear in EHR from 1 month after launch (most ideal case) to 6 months post-launch



# Going "Beyond the Pill" Critical to Rep Success

- Understanding how and when to influence prescribing in the EHR is critical to rep success
- Regardless of their product knowledge, reps must learn:
  - Prescriber's EHR system "the Software"
  - How meds are electronically prescribed & transmitted to pharmacies
  - How e-Prior Authorization is achieved
  - How the EHR system receives updates
    - New-to-market drugs
    - New formulary coverage info
  - When practices update their EHR systems
  - When to engage with key administrative staff
  - What Patient Education Materials align with prescriber's technology & quality goals



### Going "Beyond the Prescriber" Critical to Rep Success

- The Total Office Call is a vital part of a sustained account plan
  - understanding who will update practice technology and when to target those individuals is vital
- Time required to collect and understand EHR Rx'ing rules & roles (and verify changes) detracts from feature/benefit brand discussions
  - Traditional Reach & Frequency Goals may be less reliable
- IDNs offer a way to change prescribing across the entire practice

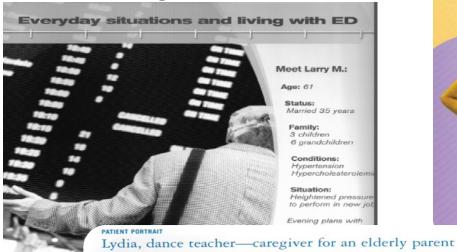




### Describing the Brand's Target Patient

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Patient profiles have been a mainstay for various drug classes and diseases.



JULIE HAS HAD SIGNS OF ACTIVE DISEAS.

Her active, autoantibody-positive SLE is being treated with a



#### DEMOGRAPHICS

- Female
- Caucasian
- Late 30s
- Diagnosed with SLE 5 years ago

#### **CURRENT MEDICATIONS**

- · Hydroxychloroquine 400 mg/day for 5 years
- · Prednisone 10 mg/day for 3 months
- 7.5 mg/day for 9 months prior
- 5 mg/day for 3.5 years prior

#### CURRENT DISEASE ACTIVITY

- · Chronic fatigue
- Persistent malar rash
- · Persistent polyarthritis

#### LAB VALUES

- C3 normal at 90 mg/dL;
- C4 normal at 30 mg/dL
- Positive ANA (1:160)
- · CBC and urinalysis values are normal

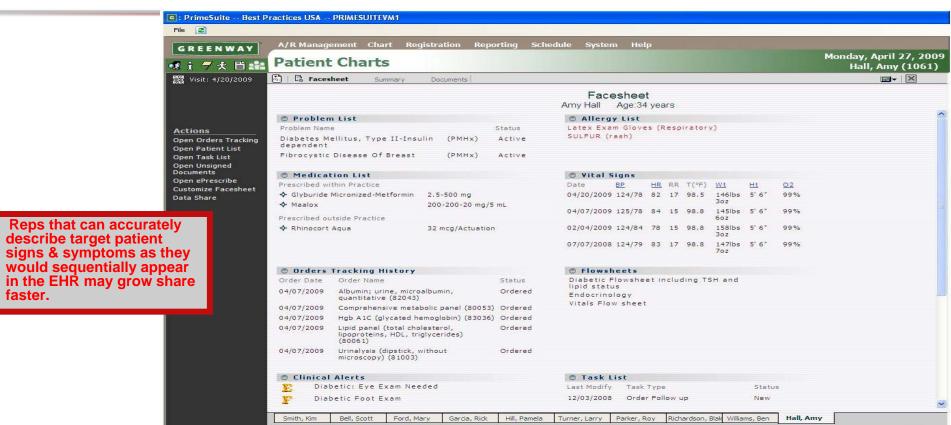
"My mother had shingles when she first came to live with me. I've never seen anything like it, and I don't ever want to see it again."



Age: 60 Like more than 90% of US adults, Lydia has had chickenpox, which puts her at risk for zoster and postherpetic

### Patient Selection in EHR



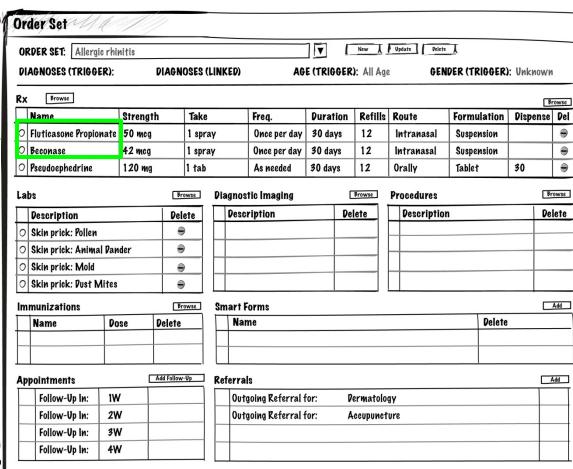


### Patient Profiles & Clinical Decision Support

- All EHRs have built in CDS
- Knowledgeable reps may help practices activate CDS and get their brands included in pre-written Order Sets

### e.g. Diabetes:

- Referral to Diabetic Nurse Educator
- Glucose meter.
- 3. Patient Edu
- Registry
- Order labs
- 6. Weight loss Counseling
- **7.** Rx



# Patient Profiles & Clinical Decision Support



- Some IDNs & ACOs may already have Tx algorithms they prefer to implement
  - Savvy reps stand a better chance of capturing specific patient types if they understand:
    - The number of rules the practice has currently implemented and how this helps HCPs meet Meaningful Use
    - The number of CDS rules that will be added
    - The provider's technology
    - How to align brand features/ benefits to P4P & quality goals the HCP cares about
- The heavy use of EHRs provides capabilities to leverage
  - Drug lists for the facility, departments
  - Consistent workflows

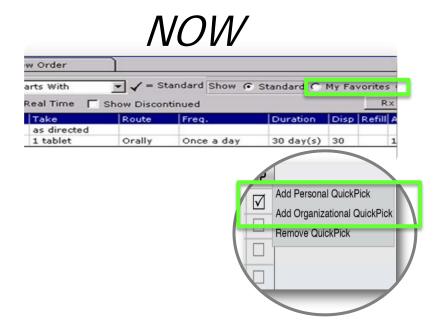


# Technology Creating Therapeutic Hierarchy & Top of Mind Prominence

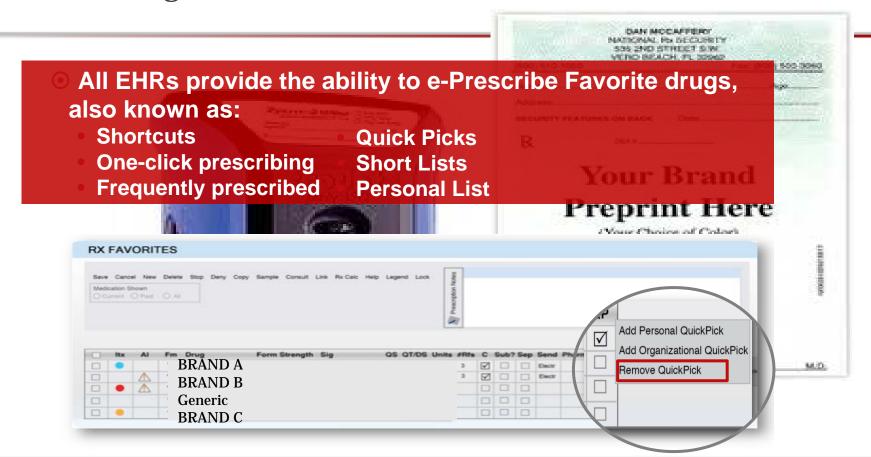


### Most Valuable Real Estate





### **Prescribing Favorites**



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### **Patient Support**

Reps often carry branded (and sometimes unbranded) disease state educational materials.



### Patient Support that Fits EHR

- Reps should be well-versed on:
  - How patient support materials fit prescriber's workflow
  - If and when practices utilize patient portals
  - What patient support materials may help physicians meet MU2 & MU3
    - Key opportunity for sales pros to engage in more consultative sales and brands to support quality goals

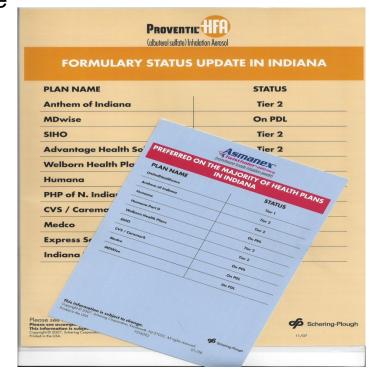




# **Communicating Formulary Status**

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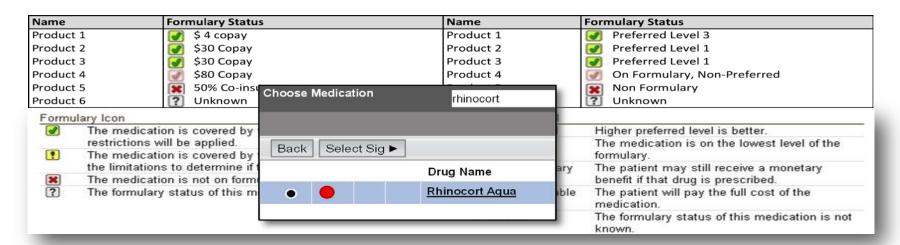
- Sales reps & MC Account Executives struggle to communicate accurate formulary coverage (despite "wins" quickly announced & downloaded from HQ)
- Plans always have carve-outs that do not jive with data shared by reps
- HCPs rely on EHRs to pull in patient coverage for plans based on identifiers (first name, last name, age, gender, birth date) uploaded from previous night



# Physicians Choose From Formulary Alternatives

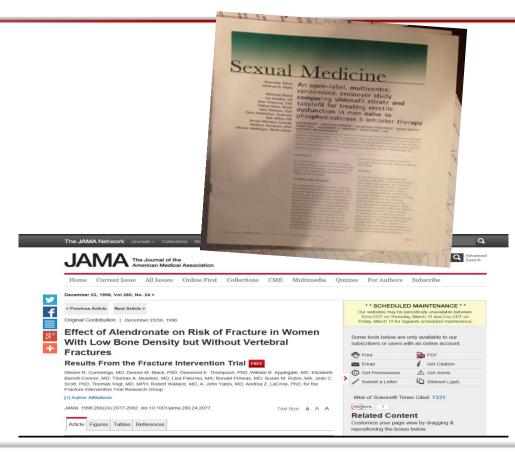


- Reps need an understanding of the variable timing that governs updates to EHRs:
  - Reps are disadvantaged as Payers/PBMs supply coverage data to EHRs
    - Appears at point of prescription
    - Always includes lowest co-pay or tiered alternatives



# **Target Contact & Activity Tracking**

- Sales discussions, reporting AEs, unsolicited requests for information, & sample activity can be uploaded through Wi-Fi-enabled technology
- Clinical Research Studies "reprints" are often electronic
  - Emailed or downloaded
  - Must be tracked as a "gift to physician
- Reps must log attendance
  - lunch-and-learns
  - educational dinner programs



# The Evolution of Asking for the Business

- Today's rep must consider all stakeholders when asking for the next appropriate patient
  - Who handles e-PriorAuth?
  - Who adds new drugs or controls Rx favorites?

"Dr. may I have your permission to talk to your practice mgr./ IT consultant to add brand X to your EHR system favorites?"



Closing the Sale has gone from "Dr. would you Rx brand X," to "Dr. would you add brand X to your Favorites so it will save you time when e-prescribing?"

### **Summary**



- Augment product knowledge with EHR & e-prescribing knowledge
- Brand Sales Discussions are shifting to account for Clinical Decision Support and quality metrics
- Electronic promotional & support materials that align with workflow are preferred
- Capture EHR and CDS use to provide tailored programs

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