



Guide to HTU'26 Breakout Sessions

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Note: Information up to date as of **April 23**.

Presenters and CE credit proposed vs. awarded subject to change.

HTU'26 Breakout Sessions Schedule
 CE & Non-CE based Education,
 Micro Education &
 Professional Development
Revised April 23

38 Total Breakout Sessions
 31 Breakouts @60-min.
 23 CE (9 non-Rx, 14 Rx)
 8 no CE (2 Prof Development
 & 6 Fundamentals in Practice)
 7 Micro Education @30 min.
 Note: Information is subject to change. It is
 up to date as of revision date listed.

Abbreviations
 CE - CE credit offered
 AH - Allied Health (9)
 ASC - Ambulatory Surgery Center (8)
 HE - Healthcare Executive (18)
 N - Nursing (13)
 P - Physician (7)
 Rx - Pharmacy (17)
 SC - Supply Chain (16)

KEY:
 *Crimson font = Category/topic
 *Yellow boxes (12) = Open to suppliers
 *Blue font (6) = 60 min. session. HT Solutions. No CE
 *Purple font (2) = Value Analysis w/CE
 *Green font (2) = Sustainability w/CE
 *Blush boxes &/or Pink outline (7) = Micro Session. No CE
 *Peach boxes &/or Orange outline (14) = Rx track, w/CE

MONDAY, July 20 1 – 2PM 4 HE,2 N,4 Rx,2 SC Other: 2 ASC,1 AH, 2 P, 2 No CE 2 open to suppliers	MONDAY, July 20 2:15 – 3:15PM 3 HE,2 N,3 Rx,2 SC Other: 1 ASC; 1 P; 1 AH; 2 No CE 2 open to suppliers	MONDAY, July 20 3:30 – 4:30PM 1 HE,3 N,2 Rx,2 SC Other: 2 ASC; 3 P; 1 AH; 3 No CE 2 open to suppliers	TUESDAY, July 21 9:45 – 10:15AM (30 min. sessions: 7 No CE) 1 open to suppliers	TUESDAY, July 21 2:30 – 3:30PM 4 HE,4 N,2 Rx,4 SC Other: 1 ASC; 4 AH; 1 No CE 3 open to suppliers	WEDNESDAY, July 22 7 – 8AM 3 HE,3 Rx,2 SC Other: 1 ASC; 1 AH 2 open to suppliers	WEDNESDAY, July 22 9:30 – 10:30AM 3 HE,2 N,3 Rx,4 SC Other: 1 AH,1 ASC,1 P None open to suppliers
<p>Category: Fundamentals in Practice Beyond the Hospital: Aligning Your Alternate-site Spend to the Larger System Purchasing Strategy Erlanger: Jeff Loy; HCA Healthcare: Angela Dyer; Orlando Regional: Cairo Wasfy; AdvantageTrust: Jeff Easterling CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Fundamentals in Practice, Technology & Innovation Stop Searching, Start Saving: Signal's Unified Path to Expense Optimization HealthTrust: Dani Depoy, Patrick Lowry CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Fundamentals in Practice, Technology & Innovation One Platform, Enterprise Clarity: Turning Insight Into Aligned Strategy With Crimson AI, powered by HealthTrust HealthTrust: Dr. Aashish Shah; HCA Healthcare: Domini Pelkey; Optum: Virginia Pfeiffer CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Micro Education Aligning Contract Labor to Demand: All the Cost Savings, None of the Disruption Workforce Solutions: Jeff Greenlund; HealthTrust: Sara Bailey CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Professional Development Fear Less, Do More <i>featuring Michelle Poler</i> CE: None</p>		
<p>REPEAT 1 of 2: Category: Fundamentals in Practice Inside the Contract: How HealthTrust Protects Members & Delivers Value With Key Terms & Conditions HealthTrust: Rob Areola, Eric Swaim CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Professional Development Momentum: The Energy to Keep Going <i>featuring Suneel Gupta</i> CE: None</p>	<p>REPEAT 2 of 2: Category: Fundamentals in Practice Inside the Contract: How HealthTrust Protects Members & Delivers Value With Key Terms & Conditions HealthTrust: Rob Areola, Eric Swaim CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Micro Education Pulse Check: The Future of Heart, Hips & High-tech Surgery HCA Healthcare: Dr. Thomas Payne; HealthTrust: Drew Torres CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement One Team, One Strategy: Aligning Lab & Supply Chain for Contract & Supply Optimization Scripps Health: Steven Johnson; HCA Healthcare: Jennifer Merski; HealthTrust: Tabatha East, Becky O'Neal CE: SC,HE,N. Other: AH</p>		
<p>Category: Sustainability Connecting the Dots: Creating Cohesion in Healthcare Sustainability HCA Healthcare: Zoe Beck; HealthTrust: Stephanie Ward, Jennifer Westendorf CE: HE,N,Rx,SC. Other: ASC,P</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement, Sustainability Reducing Waste & Improving Accuracy: A Success Story in Preference Card Optimization Lahey Hospital & Medical Center: Daniel Johnson, Emily Pitera King; HealthTrust: Courtney Kleebe, Drew Preslar CE: SC,HE,N</p>	<p>Category: Fundamentals in Practice Pharmacy Benefit Landscape: What Health Systems Need to Know Now HealthTrust: Young Fried, Nancy Price; Nancy Carter CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Micro Education Planes, Trains & Medical Devices: From Ordering to Outcomes HealthTrust: Jason Hanson, Chris Stewart CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement Non-traditional Strategies for Managing Purchased Services Beacon Health: Ashley McDaniel; Orlando Health: John Eaker; LifePoint Health: Charlie Bakin; Valify: Andy Motz CE: SC,HE,N. Other: AH</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement Financial Fitness Starts in the OR: Tackling Osteobiologic Variation HealthTrust/HCA Healthcare: Justin Smolder, Joshua Herzog, Susan Thornton, Jessica West CE: SC,N,HE. Other: P</p>	
<p>Category: Innovation/Technology Positioning New Technologies: Moving From Procurement to Partnership HealthTrust: Noel Hodges, Dr. Aashish Shah, Stephanie Thompson Terence van Arkel CE: HE,N,Rx,SC. Other: AH,ASC,P</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement, Value Analysis The New Reality: Value Analysis as a Compass in a Shifting Healthcare Economy HealthTrust/HCA Healthcare: Enrique Bernal, Domini Pelkey, Bonnie Solitaire, Brian Steger CE: SC,N,HE,Rx</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement, Value Analysis It Takes a Village: Transforming Value Analysis, One Step at a Time Franciscan Missionaries Our Lady Health System: Kevin Moraski, Amy Webb; HealthTrust: Vicki Alberto, Julie London CE: SC,HE,N. Other: ASC,P</p>	<p>Category: Micro Education From Silos to Strategy: Practical Tools for Cross-functional Decision-making Franciscan: Dawn Thackston HealthTrust: Stephanie Thompson CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Performance Improvement Sterile Processing Standardization: Cost Containment, Staff Satisfaction & Joint Commission Preparedness HealthTrust/HCA Healthcare: Robert Corley, Jann Maze, Blake McAbee, Katie Scaggs CE: SC,N,HE. Other: AH,ASC</p>	<p>Category: Rx Operations Medical Group Practices—What are they using & where are they getting it? Prime Healthcare: Brad Cook, Duc Mai, Quyet Tran CE: Rx,HE,SC. Other: AH,ASC</p>	<p>Category: Rx Operations One System, One Strategy: Driving Smarter Purchasing St. Luke's: Heather Evans, Stephanie Fisher, Nelly Martin, Michael Willens CE: Rx,SC</p>
<p>Category: Rx Leadership 2026 Executive Pharmacy Exchange ASHP: Kathy Pawlicki; CHS: Kara Scalzo; Renown: Adam Porath; HealthTrust: Aigner George CE: Rx,HE</p>	<p>Category: Rx Leadership Executive Pharmacy Exchange Focus Session: Technology & Innovation ASHP: Kathy Pawlicki; CHS: Joshua Davis; Orlando Health: Chris Saboura CE: Rx,HE</p>	<p>Category: Rx Operations Implementing a Successful Diversion Monitoring Program From Cradle to Grave HCA Healthcare/HealthTrust Supply Chain: Sarah Mattmuller, Jeremiah McKinley CE: Rx,N. Other: ASC,P</p>	<p>Category: Micro Education The "Complexity Tax"—Cutting Hidden Manufacturing Costs Through Strategic Standardization HCA Healthcare: Missy Pennington; ROI: Rick Parrish, Don Cope CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Rx Leadership Creating a Leadership Launchpad: Fueling the Next Generation HealthTrust/HCA Healthcare: Jenny Burnette, Nathan Hanson, Katie Sherman, Sarah Haradt CE: Rx,HE,N,SC. Other: AH</p>	<p>Category: Rx Leadership A Mile High View of Pharmacy Performance: Developing a System-level Director of Pharmacy Dashboard LifePoint Health: Bryan Jones, Grant Siveley, Todd White CE: Rx,HE</p>	<p>Category: Rx Operations Artificial Intelligence (AI) Revolution: Evolving Your Leadership Efficiency HSHS: Anna Stewart, Erica Little CE: Rx,N,SC,HE. Other: AH</p>
<p>Category: Rx Operations Make the Rocky Mountains of Pharmacy Staffing Less Rocky With Remote Clinical Pharmacist Services Scripps Health: Aaron Ginsberg, Yuliya Novack CE: Rx,HE</p>	<p>Category: Rx Clinical Less is more? A Debate on Current ID Practices HCA Healthcare: Jill Cowper, Laura Cwengros CE: Rx. Other: AH,ASC,P</p>	<p>Category: Rx Leadership New Hospital, New EHR... New Health System? UC Irvine Health: Robert Eastin CE: Rx,N,SC. Other: AH, P</p>	<p>Category: Micro Education What You Should Tackle Next: An Insightful Approach to Purchased Services CHC: John Pruitt; Memorial Care: Cole Waylett; Valify: Brandi Wight CE: None</p>	<p>Category: Rx Clinical Multidisciplinary Process for the Review of Existing & Emerging Biosimilars Scripps Health: Angela Rosenblatt, Sherrie Todd CE: Rx</p>	<p>Category: Rx Operations 340B Neutral Inventory in Medical Central Services Center Repackaging & Low Unit of Measure Distribution Mercy Health: Denniel Good, Michael Loftus, Jennifer Reeves; HCA Healthcare: Terry Copeland, Jeffrey Mandel CE: Rx,HE,SC</p>	<p>Category: Rx Operations 340B—The Legal Landscape for 2026 Steven Schnelle CE: Rx,HE,SC. Other: ASC</p>
			<p>Category: Micro Education Pharmacy 360: Advancing Supply Stability & Non-acute Alignment HealthTrust: Jason Braithwaite, Aigner George CE: None</p>			



Breakout Sessions Details
for Education & Professional Development

MONDAY, July 20, 2026

Note: Information up to date as of **April 23**. Presenters and CE credit proposed vs. awarded subject to change
KEY

CE-based Education Sessions | HT Members & HT Staff; Suppliers, only where highlighted
Professional Development Sessions | All Attendees, including Suppliers (No CE credit)
Crimson type | Category/track

1 – 2PM Time Block

MONDAY, July 20 | 1 – 2PM

**Beyond the Hospital: Aligning Your Alternate-site Spend to the Larger System
Purchasing Strategy**

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Supply Chain, Alternate Site Leaders, Non-Acute attendees

Category: Fundamentals in Practice—no CE

Presentation Summary

As health systems continue to expand their campuses with ambulatory clinics, physician practices and other alternate care sites, ensuring purchasing strategies remain aligned across the enterprise becomes increasingly complex. In this session, three health system leaders will share their experiences partnering with AdvantageTrust to align alternate-site purchasing with broader supply chain strategies to drive consistency, value and contract compliance. Attendees will hear diverse perspectives on key elements of successful alignment efforts, along with real-world examples and lessons learned. Participants will leave with practical insights on how to reduce variation and create measurable value across both acute and non-acute settings.

Moderator:

Jeff Easterling – CEO, AdvantageTrust

Panelists:

Angela Dyer, PharmD, BCACP – Assistant Vice President, Pharmacy, Physician Services, HCA Healthcare

Jeff Loy – Vice President Supply Chain Management, Erlanger

Cairo Wasfy – Vice President Supply Chain Services & Chief Supply Chain Officer, Orlando Regional



MONDAY, July 20 | 1 – 2PM – Repeat session. Offered again on Monday @ 3:30PM

Inside the Contract: How HealthTrust Protects Members & Delivers Value With Key Terms & Conditions

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Supply Chain, Legal, Finance, Pharmacy

Category: Fundamentals in Practice—No CE

Presentation Summary

This session provides a high-level practical walkthrough of how HealthTrust's contract key terms and conditions are designed to actively protect members and preserve value, not just define pricing. Through an interactive dialogue members will gain visibility into how key terms and conditions mitigate risk, ensure supplier accountability and safeguard the financial and operational interests of our members. This session will demystify contractual language, highlight where value is most often won or lost and reinforces why contract alignment is critical to sustain the pricing performance HealthTrust is known for.

Presenters:

Rob Arreola, J.D., MBA, serves as Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel for HealthTrust, where he has overall accountability for legal and compliance matters affecting the organization and its related businesses. He has worked at HealthTrust for 13 years. With more than 27 years of legal experience, Arreola initially worked as a commercial litigator at a major New York law firm, followed by nearly a decade supporting Development & Commercial Operations at Pfizer. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Tennessee, a Healthcare MBA from George Washington University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

Eric Swaim, MBA, is Senior Vice President of Strategic Sourcing at HealthTrust, with executive oversight of the Medical-Surgical portfolio, including Surgery, Nursing, Laboratory, Distribution, Respiratory, Anesthesia and Advanced Wound Care. In addition to portfolio leadership, Swaim provides operational oversight for Clinical Operations, encompassing member advisory boards, as well as Sourcing Operations, Sourcing Information Strategy and Financial Operations. He earned a Bachelor of Science in

Supply Chain Management from Auburn University and a Master of Business Administration, with a concentration in Finance, from the University of Houston.



MONDAY, July 20 | 1 – 2PM

Connecting the Dots: Creating Cohesion in Healthcare Sustainability

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Healthcare Executive, Nursing, Pharmacy, Supply Chain

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center, Physicians

Course level: Basic

Category: Sustainability—CE

Presentation Summary

In the United States, healthcare contributes to 8.5% of total carbon emissions which stems from Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. A focus on environmental sustainability enables a healthcare system to minimize its footprint by reducing waste, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions while serving as community role models. To be effective at addressing the many facets of sustainability, organizations need structure. Learn how sustainability and risk assessment can work together to help organizations understand how to be proactive to reduce risk. Join this session and hear from subject matter experts who will share insights on current legislation, areas of opportunity and available resources.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify opportunities to incorporate sustainability into your organization.
2. Recall various global sustainability legislative and regulatory actions that impact healthcare.
3. Recognize evidence-based resources and recommended practices available to healthcare members including those that are specific to HealthTrust to support sustainability integration efforts.

Biographies

Zoë Beck, MBA, Master of Environmental Management, is the Assistant Vice President of Sustainability at HCA Healthcare where she leads the company's efforts in sustainability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Previously, Beck led the sustainability and ESG efforts for HealthTrust and Premier, working with industry suppliers, member health systems and other stakeholders to advance efforts in environmentally preferred purchasing and supplier transparency to assist health systems in achieving their related goals. She earned an MBA and Master of Environmental Management from Duke University and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame.

Stephanie Ward, BSN, RN, has more than 27 years of nursing experience. She is currently the Senior Manager of Environmental Performance & Surgical Services on HealthTrust’s Clinical Operations team. Working alongside Strategic Sourcing, she supports enterprise surgical services and environmental performance initiatives, contributing to product evaluation processes, strategy development and cross-functional coordination with advisory boards and specialty committees. Ward earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of New Mexico.

Jennifer Westendorf, DNP, RN, CNOR, is the Assistant Vice President of Environmental Performance & Surgical Services, Clinical Operations at HealthTrust. In her role she manages the Surgical Advisory Board, Cardiovascular Operating Room Specialty Committee and the Environmental Sustainability Council. Westendorf works alongside the GPO Strategic Sourcing team to integrate the clinical voice of HealthTrust’s members into the sourcing process and leads the organization’s environmental sustainability program. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University, a master’s degree from the University of Detroit Mercy, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Minnesota.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted

- Mehra, R. & Sharma, M.K. (2021). Measures of sustainability in healthcare. Sustainability Analytics and Modeling 1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.samod.2021.100001>
- Molero, A., Calabro, M., Vignes, M., Gouget, B., & Gruson, D. (2021). Sustainability in Healthcare: Perspectives and Reflections Regarding Laboratory Medicine. Annals of Laboratory Medicine, 2021 (41), 139-144 <https://doi.org/10.3343/alm.2021.41.2.139>.
- National Academy of Medicine. (n.d.). Why decarbonizing matters for the U.S. health sector. <https://nam.edu/product/why-decarbonizing-matters-for-the-u-s-health-sector/>



MONDAY, July 20 | 1 – 2PM

Positioning New Technologies: Moving From Procurement to Partnership

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Healthcare Executive, Nursing, Pharmacy, Supply Chain

Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center, Physicians

Course level: Basic

Category: Innovation/Technology—CE

Presentation Summary

The FDA is set to approve nearly 5,000 medical devices this year, including a massive surge in radiology AI/software and rapid-fire innovation in cardiovascular and robotics service lines. As a result, sourcing, inventory and contracting for these technologies will be significantly challenged. This presentation

addresses these critical obstacles—shifting from capital to digitization and subscription, rapid adoption of AI requiring integration costs, and iterative innovation outpacing payer policies—and the changes needed to adapt and iterate along with them. At the center of those changes are key partnerships across clinical, operational and financial leaders. Join this panel as they engage in meaningful discussion in navigating this innovative pathway at scale.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall the revenue, reimbursement and outcomes impact when moving from cost-center assessment to value-based sourcing to best position new technology.
2. Recognize the four phases of a partnership framework essential to a new technology vetting process: Need Identification, Technology Research, Strategic Positioning and Strategic Sourcing.
3. Identify new skill sets for success regarding financial modeling, clinical interpretation and intentional positioning to become strategic facilitators of innovation vs. cost gatekeepers.

Biographies

Moderator:

Stephanie Thompson, PharmD, MBA, is Vice President of Performance Solutions with HealthTrust. She is a seasoned healthcare executive with more than 20 years of experience in bedside, facility, regional and enterprise leadership. Her expertise lies in the discovery, strategy and scalable execution of standards of excellence. Thompson drives value through evidence-based decisions, clinical performance, value analysis, physician engagement, and knowledge management across complex health systems. A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of TN Doctor of Pharmacy program, she completed a post-doctoral residency at MUSC. Thompson specialized in adult and pediatric critical care before focusing on clinical economics strategy.

Panelists:

Noel Hodges, MBA, joined HCA Healthcare in 1985 and grew his career through the HCA Pharmacy organization and then as COO for several HealthTrust/ HCA Supply Chain Divisions. In 2018, he was promoted to the South Atlantic Division Supply Chain CEO role and further promoted in 2024 to Group CEO for the Atlantic Group. Hodges is a published author on topics related to pharmacy supply chain management in publications like Pharmacy Purchasing & Products magazine. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from Purdue University and a Master of Business Administration from Strayer University.

Aashish Shah, M.D., J.D., is the Chief Medical Officer for HealthTrust, responsible for the organization's clinical agenda and its Performance Solutions team. Having served as a community physician, healthcare attorney and an executive across health plans, health systems and nationally-scaled providers, he has developed a deep understanding of both the challenges and opportunities in delivering high quality, lower cost healthcare. Previously, Dr. Shah served as Chief Growth Officer at Monogram Health, Corporate Vice President for Strategy & Product Innovation for Payer Contracting & Alignment at HCA Healthcare, and as the Senior Vice President for Business Development at the Sarah Cannon Cancer Network. Dr. Shah earned a medical degree from UT Health San Antonio and a juris doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center.

Terence van Arkel, CPA, MBA, is the Senior Strategic Financial Executive at HealthTrust, focusing on

special projects and unlocking additional value for the organization and its members. He came to HealthTrust from HCA Healthcare’s North Carolina Division, which includes Mission Health based in Asheville, North Carolina, where he served as CFO for five years. Prior to that, van Arkel was the CFO of the South Atlantic Division, leading key acquisitions and mergers. With more than 25 years of experience in CFO and COO leadership roles within HCA Healthcare, he brings tremendous executive-level financial expertise, proven judgment and a wealth of financial acumen. Van Arkel earned both a CPA certification and an MBA.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Strategic Sourcing. Identify new skill sets for success with regard to financial modeling, clinical interpretation, and intentional positioning to become strategic facilitators of innovation vs. cost gatekeepers. MedPAC. An overview of the medical device industry (Chapter 7). Published June 2017. Accessed December 10, 2025.
- Berg S, Smith C, Weinstein W. Optimizing healthcare supply costs—from the physician's perspective. McKinsey & Company. Published June 12, 2025. Accessed December 10, 2025.
- Bradley RV, Bichescu BC, Cha J, et al. Hospitals should invest in technologies based on quality, not ROI. Supply Chain Management Review (SCMR). Published September 8, 2025. Accessed December 10, 2025.
- Contract Mechanisms for Value-Based Technology Adoption in Healthcare Systems. MDPI. Published August 2023. Accessed December 10, 2025.
- The why, what, where, and how of value-based contracts. American College of Surgeons (ACS). Published June 2021. Accessed December 10, 2025.
- Changing Roles and Skill Sets for Chief Medical Officers. American Association for Physician Leadership (AAPL). Published June 19, 2018. Accessed December 10, 2025.
- Rotenstein L, Huckman RS, Cassel CK. Making Doctors Effective Managers and Leaders: A Matter of Health and Well-Being. Acad Med. 2021;96(5).
- Harvard Business Review: Most Doctors Have Little or No Management Training, and That's a Problem. FMG Leading. Accessed December 10, 2025.



MONDAY, July 20 | 1 – 2PM

2026 Executive Pharmacy Exchange

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Healthcare Executive

Course level: Advanced

Category: Pharmacy Leadership—CE

Presentation Summary

Each year, the complexity of the pharmacy landscape and how to effectively manage it increases. Strategizing and working through system structures and how goals are achieved is critical to reach success. The Executive Pharmacy Exchange allows for industry topics, selected by pharmacy leaders via a

pre-conference survey, to be addressed by a panel of peers who will share a variety of experiences and practice pearls. This discussion will be followed by a working session that will focus on technology and innovation, incorporating interactive breakout groups.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall key challenges in leading a pharmacy enterprise in today's landscape.
2. Recognize strategies to address the key challenges facing the pharmacy at both the system and facility levels.
3. Identify opportunities to apply to practice and/or advance the pharmacy enterprise.

Biographies

Moderator:

Aigner George, PharmD, is Assistant Vice President of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where she is dedicated to engaging with client members in consulting and leadership, working with more than 100 healthcare facilities in the provision of advisory services. With more than 20 years of healthcare experience, she has been involved in various aspects of pharmacy operations, facilitating initiative implementations which include operations, formulary management, safety and quality initiatives, supply expense management, leadership development and transformation. George earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Hampton University.

Panelists:

Kathy Pawlicki, B.S. Pharm, M.S., FASHP, is Vice President of Business Development & Strategy at ASHP, where she drives organizationwide initiatives that foster collaboration and innovation to advance patient care and pharmacy practice. Pawlicki earned a B.S. in Pharmacy (Ferris State University), completed an ASHP-accredited residency, and holds an M.S. in Pharmacy Administration (Wayne State University). Her career includes serving as Vice President/Chief Pharmacist for a major Michigan health system; faculty at all three Michigan colleges of pharmacy; and receiving the Michigan Pharmacist of the Year award in 2018. As a past president of ASHP, she continues to champion regulatory and practice improvements through her work with pharmacy leaders and partner organizations.

Adam Porath, PharmD, BCACP, BCPS, CPEL, FASHP, is Vice President of Pharmacy Services at Renown Health in Reno, Nevada, where he is responsible for overseeing pharmacy strategy and operations for three acute care hospitals, community, specialty and ambulatory care clinical pharmacy services across the continuum of care. He received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Idaho State University and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Renown Regional Medical Center.

Kara Scalzo, PharmD, BCPS, BCSCP, MBA, is Vice President of Pharmacy Operations for Community Health Systems (CHS), where she is responsible for ensuring the efficiency, compliance and financial success of pharmacy services across the organization which serves more than 65 hospitals and 900+ clinics in 13 states. Scalzo's professional credentials include a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida, Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS), and Board-Certified Sterile Compounding Pharmacist (BCSCP). She also earned a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (ASHP) ASHP Strategic Plan. <https://www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/about-ashp/docs/Strategic-Plan/ASHP-Strategic-Plan-2025.pdf>

- Feinman H, Colmenares E, Vest MH. The Role of the Pharmacy Data Analyst. Pharmacy Purchasing & Products. November 2020 – Vol. 17, No.11.
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). PAI 2030 Recommendations. <https://www.ashp.org/pharmacy-practice/pai/pai-recommendations>, accessed, 6/16/25.
- ASHP National Survey of Pharmacy Practice in Hospital Settings: Operations and Technology – 2023. Am J Health-Syst Pharm. 2024. ---WILL USE THE MOST RECENTLY PUBLISHED SURVEY ONCE AVAILABLE
- DiPiro JT, et al. Pharmacy Forecast: 2025: Strategic Planning Advice for Pharmacy Departments in Hospitals and Health Systems. Am J Health-Syst Pharm. 2025;82:17-47.



MONDAY, July 20 | 1 – 2PM

Make the Rocky Mountains of Pharmacy Staffing Less Rocky With Remote Clinical Pharmacist Services

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Healthcare Executive

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

Maintaining adequate pharmacist staffing is an ongoing challenge for pharmacy leadership. The expanding need for pharmacists at the bedside can further impact site ability to provide oversight for EMR medication order review and clinical interventions. Learn how Scripps Health launched a remote clinical pharmacy service (TeleRx) to support its five hospital campuses and five oncology infusion centers. Join presenters for this session that will cover the evolution and expansion of the remote clinical pharmacy service and as well as a roadmap that can be followed by other healthcare organizations looking to explore a similar initiative.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify the basic requirements to establish and maintain a remote clinical pharmacy service and department for a small healthcare system.
2. Recall the process for development and the scope of services offered by one provider with five hospital campuses and five oncology infusion centers.
3. Recognize the key performance indicators used to measure the success of a remote clinical pharmacy service.

Biographies

Aaron Ginsberg, PharmD, is the Director of Centralized Pharmacy Services for Scripps Health in San Diego, California. Over the last 23 years, his roles at Scripps have included Clinical Pharmacist at La Jolla Hospital; Medication Safety Officer for Mercy Chula Vista Hospital; Manager of Pharmacy Operations at Green Hospital; and Manager of Central Prior Authorization for Scripps Medical Foundation—all of which elevated his passion for healthcare. Ginsberg completed a doctoral degree at the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of California, San

Diego.

Yuliya Novak, PharmD, is the Manager of Telepharmacy and the Centralized Pharmacy Float Pool for Scripps Health in San Diego, California. She has been with Scripps for 15 years and was instrumental in the launch and expansion of the systemwide remote clinical pharmacist service. Novak completed a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Chong RLK, Chan ASE, Chua CMS, Lai YF. Telehealth Interventions in Pharmacy Practice: Systematic Review of Reviews and Recommendations, *J Med Internet Res* 2025;27:e57129, doi: 10.2196/57129 PMID: 40334268 PMCID: 12096025.
- Finkelstein RJ, Parker CP, Levy BT, Carter BL, Kennelty K. Development of a centralized, remote clinical pharmacy service to enhance primary care. *Pharm Pract (Granada)*. 2021 Jan-Mar;19(1):2348. doi: 10.18549/PharmPract.2021.1.2348. Epub 2021 Mar 10. PMID: 33777264; PMCID: PMC7979315.
- Alexis Hyman, PharmD, MBA, MS, Engie Attia, PharmD, BCPS, David Putney, PharmD, MPH, Laura M Blackburn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM. Evaluation of a Hybrid Remote Clinical Pharmacy Services Model, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* 2025: zxaf229, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxaf229>.
- Kenneth A Kester, Karen M Finck, Praveen Reehal, Dorraine Reynolds, Telepharmacy services in acute care: Diverse needs within a large health system, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, Volume 79, Issue 11, 1 June 2022, Pages 881–887, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxac026>



2:15 – 3:15PM Time Block

MONDAY, July 20 | 2:15 – 3:15PM

Stop Searching, Start Saving: Signal's Unified Path to Expense Optimization

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Healthcare Executive, Supply Chain, Pharmacy

Course level: Basic

Category: Fundamentals in Practice, Technology & Innovation—no CE

Presentation Summary

Healthcare executives and supply chain teams are drowning in fragmented data, spending valuable time manually mining reports to manage expenses, and potentially missing crucial contract and spend changes. This lack of an integrated, centralized system means that insights are reactive and not tied directly to the specific actions needed to drive expense optimization.

What if you could transform your spend data into personalized savings recommendations? Join us for this session that will introduce the next generation of Signal—an intelligence layer on top of

HealthTrust's technology solutions. Discover executive summaries of your spend and how to enable data-driven alerts within the analytics tools and send personalized notifications to your inbox. Explore the ways to proactively use these tools to increase efficiency and maximize savings on the path to expense optimization. The results will enable you to deliver clear GPO value to your system's leadership.

Session Objectives

For Executives: Identify the core value of the GPO through the new executive reporting capabilities, enabling them to monitor key metrics and outcomes over time (monthly/quarterly).

For Supply Directors/Managers:

- Recognize HealthTrust technology solutions to access richer, more comprehensive spend insights and understand the next-best action needed to drive savings; and
- Recall the impact of personalized notifications to initiate immediate, time-saving actions and drive efficiency within your health system's expense management workflows.

Biographies

Dani DePoy is the Director of Product Management at HealthTrust Performance Group, specializing in bridging the gap between technical complexity and end-user needs. She leads product strategy for HealthTrust's member-facing tools, creating solutions that empower members and maximize their operational and financial efficiencies across the healthcare environment. She is dedicated to solving market problems in new and inventive ways, utilizing her 10 years of product development experience to continuously deliver innovative technology solutions. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Audio Engineering Technology and Applied Discrete Mathematics at Belmont University.

Patrick Lowry, MBA, M.S., is the Vice President of Customer Solutions at HealthTrust Performance Group, where he drives the organization's long-term technology vision. Utilizing 20 years of experience, he specializes in developing strategic roadmaps that leverage advanced technology to deliver cost savings and operational excellence for a vast network of hospitals and health systems. Lowry's expertise focuses on maximizing value and member outcomes through innovative technical leadership. He earned a Bachelor's in Accounting and Finance at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, an MBA at Lipscomb University, and a Master of Pharmacy in Applied Pharmacoeconomics at the University of Florida.



MONDAY, July 20 | 2:15 – 3:15PM

Momentum: The Energy to Keep Going

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Category: Professional Development—No CE

Biography: Suneel Gupta is a bestselling author, Harvard Medical School visiting scholar, and the founding CEO of RISE, a pioneering wellness company acquired by One Medical (now part of Amazon).

Through his books, research and leadership work, he helps individuals and organizations build emotional resilience, prevent burnout and align purpose with performance. Drawing from his journey as an entrepreneur and investor in companies like Airbnb and Impossible Foods, Gupta equips teams with science-backed tools to sustain energy, sharpen focus and thrive at work and in life.



MONDAY, July 20 | 2:15 – 3:15PM

Reducing Waste & Improving Accuracy: A Success Story in Preference Card Optimization

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive, Nursing

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Performance Improvement, Sustainability—CE

Presentation Summary

With the rising cost of healthcare for both patients and facilities, preference cards are at the core of an efficient, cost-effective and quality outcomes-centered surgical procedure. U.S. operating rooms generate up to 2,000 tons of waste daily. For long-term sustainability and financial stability, addressing these issues is no longer “optional.” Discover how one member hospital partnered with HealthTrust for a comprehensive optimization of its surgical preference cards. Not only did it improve accuracy, reduce waste and enhance OR efficiencies, but it also elevated patient care. Join these presenters to learn how engaging clinicians and leveraging data-driven insights put them on a path to standardizing supplies and eliminating unnecessary variability. The results include improved case readiness, reduced costs and stronger alignment between clinical and operational teams.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recognize the relationship between accurate physician preference cards and improvements in surgical efficiency, cost management and patient care quality.
2. Identify the key steps and practices utilized to assess, optimize and standardize preference cards.
3. Recall strategies to develop or enhance preference card optimization within the healthcare organization.

Biographies

Moderator:

Drew Preslar, MBA, is Assistant Vice President of Performance Solutions at HealthTrust, where he oversees areas such as supply chain, perioperative and lab services. He has more than 15 years of experience working in healthcare systems delivering operational improvements, cost reductions and process redesigns within Supply Chain, Surgical Services and Pharmacy Operations. Preslar has led non-

labor cost reduction engagements for \$2B+ healthcare systems. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the ability to lead teams and drive transformational change with a commitment to developing people, building relationships and implementing sustainable solutions to complex business challenges. Preslar has an MBA from The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Panelists:

Daniel Johnson, RN, BSN, MSN, has nearly 30 years of experience in and around surgical services, including 25 years in perioperative leadership. He currently serves as Director of Perioperative Services at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, a Level 1 Trauma Center and academic flagship within the Beth Israel Lahey Health System. Johnson's leadership spans trauma, transplant and outpatient surgery, and he has held key roles at Tufts Medical Center and Boston Medical Center. Across these organizations, Johnson has reduced turnover times, stabilized staffing through internal pipelines, launched robotic and specialty programs, and advanced high-reliability systems using lean principles and collaborative frontline partnerships. Johnson earned BSN and MSN degrees from Quinnipiac University.

Emily Pitera King, MPH, is the Administrative Director of Operations for Perioperative Services at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, where she works on large-scale projects related to patient flow, clinical operations and perioperative performance improvement. Prior to joining Lahey as an administrative fellow, King worked for A Special Wish Foundation as Director of Program Services. She earned a bachelor's degree in Public Health from Elon University and a master's degree in Public Health from Kent State University.

Courtney Kleeb, RN, BSN, MHA, is Senior Director of Performance Solutions at HealthTrust. She has more than 20 years of experience in perioperative services and healthcare leadership. With a focus on operations and regulatory compliance, Kleeb has successfully implemented workflow changes and standards to improve overall operational efficiencies and patient outcomes. Her strategic insights have led to the implementation of innovative solutions that streamline and maximize perioperative resource utilization and improve patient throughput. Kleeb has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Healthcare Administration. She is an active member in AORN, ANA and ACHE.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Why Do I need Preference Cards? <https://www.aorn.org/article/why-do-i-need-preference-cards>
- The Carbon Footprint of Health Care <https://www.aorn.org/article/the-carbon-footprint-of-health-care>
- Informatic Innovations to Surgical Preference Card Processes <https://library.ania.org/p/s/informatic-innovations-to-surgical-preference-card-processes-11172>
- Using Preference Cards to Lower Supply Costs <https://www.hstpathways.com/blog/using-preference-cards-to-lower-supply-costs/>
- Manage physician preference cards to boost efficiency and patient safety <https://www.ormanager.com/manage-physician-preference-cards-boost-efficiency-patient-safety/>



MONDAY, July 20 | 2:15 – 3:15PM

The New Reality: Value Analysis as a Compass in a Shifting Healthcare Economy

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Nursing, Healthcare Executive, Pharmacy

Course level: Basic

Category: Performance Improvement, Value Analysis—CE

Presentation Summary

The current healthcare market faces rising costs, rapid adoption of new technologies and a stronger push toward value-based care. In this environment, it is critical that healthcare institutions make unified decisions to ensure that every product or new technology adopted delivers measurable clinical benefit, is safe for patients and is financially responsible. Presenters will share their health system's experience prior to strengthening their Value Analysis committee, including trends with new technologies that were historically a challenge to execute. Learn how to leverage key stakeholders and use clinical evidence and shared accountability to successfully execute similar supply chain initiatives within your organization.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall how the current healthcare environment is impacted by rising costs, rapid adoption of new technologies and value-based care.
2. Identify methods to strengthen the decision-making process for new technology adoption through a Value Analysis Committee.
3. Recognize strategies that apply clinical evidence to drive successful implementations for otherwise historically challenging categories.

Biographies

Moderator:

Domini Pelkey, RN, BSN, MBA, is the Assistant Vice President of Clinical Resource Management for HCA Healthcare's Clinical Supply Chain team. Pelkey oversees the Clinical Resource Management Program which includes Clinical Resource Directors and Division Clinical Leaders who are responsible for value analysis, vetting new products and implementing supply chain initiatives. Her journey in the healthcare industry began 27 years ago in Labor and Delivery. She then transitioned to Surgery where she specialized in CVOR, Ortho and Trauma. Pelkey obtained a BSN from Oakland University and an MBA from Bethel University.

Panelists:

Enrique Bernal, DCFO, is a healthcare finance executive with more than two decades of leadership experience. He currently serves as Division Chief Financial Officer for Methodist Healthcare System in San Antonio, where he oversees the financial management of a network that includes 10 hospitals, 10 free-standing EDs, six ASCs and 21 urgent care centers. In this role, Bernal develops and implements financial strategies, manages risk and provides strategic guidance to the leadership team to ensure fiscal sustainability and alignment with organizational goals. Previously, he served as CFO for Methodist Hospital and Methodist Children's Hospital. Bernal earned a B.S. in Accounting and Business Management from The University of Texas at El Paso.

Bonnie Solitaire, RN, BSN, MSN, has more than 30 years of leadership in hospital administration, nursing and clinical value analysis. Currently, she is Vice President of Clinical Operations with HealthTrust, supporting the Methodist Healthcare System where she has led \$4M+ in annual savings initiatives

through evidence-based product standardization, clinical value analysis and contract compliance. A retired Army Nurse, former Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Clinical Services, Solitaire has consistently advanced quality metrics, eliminated hospital-acquired infections and elevated patient satisfaction. She earned a BSN from Washburn University of Topeka and an MSN from University of the Incarnate Word.

Brian Steger, RPH, MBA, is a Supply Chain CEO with HealthTrust Performance Group, supporting HCA Healthcare. There, he leads supply chain operations for a division with 10 hospitals, overseeing \$700M+ in annual supply expenses. Steger drives strategic initiatives in contracting, clinical integration, pharmacy and logistics, while fostering innovation and operational excellence. Known for building high-performing teams and strong partnerships with healthcare leaders, he ensures alignment with clinical priorities and delivers measurable improvements in cost, quality and efficiency. Steger earned a B.S. in Pharmacy from The Ohio State University and an MBA from Western Governors University.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted

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- Walker CT, Godzik J, Kakarla UK, Turner JD, Whiting AC, Nakaji P. Human amniotic membrane for the prevention of intradural spinal cord adhesions: retrospective review of its novel use in a case series of 14 patients. *Neurosurgery.* 2018;83(5):989-996.
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- Reddy VY, Calkins H, Mansour M, et al. Pulsed Field Ablation to Treat Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation: Safety and Effectiveness in the AdMIRE Pivotal Trial. *Circulation.* 2024;150(15):1174-1186.
- Mountantonakis SE, Gerstenfeld EP, Mansour M, et al. Predictors of atrial fibrillation freedom postablation with the pentaspline pulsed field ablation catheter: Subanalysis of the ADVENT Study. *Heart Rhythm.* 2025:S1547-5271.
- Scherr D, Turagam MK, Maury P, et al. Repeat Procedures After Pulsed Field Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation: MANIFEST-REDO Study. *Europace.* Published online January 17, 2025.
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- Plank K, Bordignon S, Urbanek L, et al. Early recurrences predict late therapy failure after pulsed field ablation of atrial fibrillation. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol.* 2023;34(12):2425-2433.

- Tohoku S, Chun KRJ, Bordignon S, et al. Findings from repeat ablation using high-density mapping after pulmonary vein isolation with pulsed field ablation. *Europace*. 2023;25(2):433-440.
- Fütting A, Neven K, Bordignon S, et al. Pulsed Field Ablation as First-Line Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation: A Substudy of the EU-PORIA Registry. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol*. 2024;17(12):e013088.
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- Lemoine MD, Obergassel J, Jaeckle S, et al. Pulsed-field- vs. cryoballoon-based pulmonary vein isolation: lessons from repeat procedures. *Europace*. 2024;26(9):euae221.



MONDAY, July 20 | 2:15 – 3:15PM

Executive Pharmacy Exchange Focus Session: Technology & Innovation

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Healthcare Executive

Course level: Advanced

Category: Pharmacy Leadership—CE

Presentation Summary

Pre-event surveys soliciting topics of interest for the annual Executive Pharmacy Exchange (EPE) have consistently identified technology and innovation (T&I) as high areas of member interest and one of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' strategic pillars. While the EPE session (offered at 1PM) provides sharing of realistic problems and solutions, this Focus Session will allow discussion and direct attendee participation in problem-solving around T&I, such as AI, data analytics and workflow enhancement. The goal of this session is to help pharmacy leaders better understand what their gaps or opportunities are related to T&I and to leverage and learn how to advance what is available to them.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify current and emerging technologies (e.g., AI, data analytics, workflow) and their impact on today's pharmacy practice.

2. Recognize the benefits of applying current and emerging technology (e.g. AI, data analytics, workflow) to areas of pharmacy practice, such as inventory and supply chain management.
3. Recall how to apply technology and innovation to pharmacy strategy and planning.

Biographies

Moderator:

Kathy Pawlicki, B.S. Pharm, M.S., FASHP, is Vice President of Business Development & Strategy at ASHP, where she drives organizationwide initiatives that foster collaboration and innovation to advance patient care and pharmacy practice. Pawlicki earned a B.S. in Pharmacy (Ferris State University), completed an ASHP-accredited residency, and holds an M.S. in Pharmacy Administration (Wayne State University). Her career includes serving as Vice President/Chief Pharmacist for a major Michigan health system; faculty at all three Michigan colleges of pharmacy; and receiving the Michigan Pharmacist of the Year award in 2018. As a past president of ASHP, she continues to champion regulatory and practice improvements through her work with pharmacy leaders and partner organizations.

Panelists:

Chris Saboura, MBA, RPh, serves as the Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy and Lab, Supply Chain at Orlando Health. He joined the Orlando Health team in 2025, where his primary responsibilities include overseeing contract management, conducting value analysis and leading cost savings initiatives within the organization. With more than two decades of pharmacy leadership experience, prior to joining Orlando Health, Saboura served as Vice President of Pharmacy for Ardent Health. Before that, he held multiple leadership positions with HealthTrust. He earned a Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Josh Davis, PharmD, BCPS, is the Senior Director of Pharmacy Business Intelligence and Pharmacy Informatics at Community Health Systems, where he leads enterprise pharmacy configuration, purchasing optimization, and large-scale data and EHR initiatives across dozens of hospitals and clinics. Davis has more than 20 years of experience integrating technology, analytics and clinical practice to improve medication management and patient outcomes. He has extensive expertise in EHR systems, clinical decision support, database development, and pharmacy automation, and has led multiple national presentations on antimicrobial stewardship and infectious disease management. Davis earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). ASHP Strategic Plan. <https://www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/about-ashp/docs/Strategic-Plan/ASHP-Strategic-Plan-2025.pdf>
- Smoke S. Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy: A Guide for Clinicians. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2024;81:641-646.
- Luchen GG, Fera T, Anderson SV, Chen D. Pharmacy Futures: Summit on Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2024;81:1327-1343.
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). PAI 2030 Recommendations. <https://www.ashp.org/pharmacy-practice/pai/pai-recommendations>, accessed, 6/16/25.



MONDAY, July 20 | 2:15 – 3:15PM

Less is more? A Debate on Current ID Practices

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy

Certificate of participation: Allied Health

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center, Physicians

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Clinical—CE

Presentation Summary

The intersection of infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship can be a controversial space. This is especially true with use of combination therapies. Four areas of current debate include rifampin combination therapy, inhaled antibiotics for pneumonia, combination therapy for resistant infections, and adjunct aminoglycosides for endocarditis.

While there are several practices within infectious diseases that have become established standards of care, they are based on weak or limited evidence. Some of these practices result in more antibiotic use and toxicity. In a time of increasing healthcare costs and worsening antibiotic resistance rates, it is paramount to re-evaluate these practices and reduce unnecessary exposure to antibiotics as well as decrease spend. Presenters will share and synthesize some of the evidence that has led to select controversial practices, as understanding is the gateway to minimizing unnecessary use.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall evidence-based literature that supports and refutes the use of inhaled antibiotics for the treatment of pneumonia.
2. Identify in vitro and clinical data evaluating the need to use adjunct gentamicin for prosthetic valve Staphylococcus aureus (SA) endocarditis.
3. Recognize guideline recommendations and patient-centered clinical scenarios for combination therapy regimens that have been suggested for the management of resistant infections.

Biographies

Jill Cowper, PharmD, BCIDP, is a Division Infectious Diseases (ID) Pharmacist for Healthtrust Supply Chain where she supports HCA Healthcare antimicrobial stewardship programs and formulary operations for the enterprise. Cowper completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency, PGY-2 residency in critical care and ID, and a fellowship in ID. She has 15 years of antimicrobial stewardship experience, is Board Certified in ID, and has co-authored 18 peer-reviewed articles, a book chapter and six published abstracts.

Laura Cwengros, PharmD, BCIDP, is a Clinical Infectious Diseases (ID) Manager/Pharmacist for HCA Healthcare, supporting Chippenham and Johnston-Willis Hospitals in Richmond, Virginia, where she assists the ID team with complex patients and educates staff at both hospitals on standards of care related to infectious diseases. Cwengros obtained a Doctor in Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan and completed PGY-1 and PGY-2 ID residencies at Detroit Medical Center. She is also Board Certified in Infectious Diseases.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted

- Tamma PD, Heil EL, Justo JA, Mathers AJ, Satlin MJ, Bonomo RA. Infectious Diseases Society of America 2024 guidance on the treatment of antimicrobial-resistant gram-negative infections. Clin Infect Dis 2024. Available at: <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/amr-guidance/>. Accessed April 2025.
- Kalil AC, Metersky ML, Klompas M, et al. Management of adults with hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated pneumonia: 2016 clinical practice guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American Thoracic Society. Clin Infect Dis 2016; 63(5): e61-111.
- Baddour LM, Wilson WR, Bayer AS, et al; American Heart Association Committee on Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis, and Kawasaki Disease of the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young, Council on Clinical Cardiology, Council on Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia, and Stroke Council. Infective Endocarditis in Adults: Diagnosis, Antimicrobial Therapy, and Management of Complications: A Scientific Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association. Circulation 2015; 132(15): 1435-86. Erratum in: Circulation 2015; 132(17):e215. Erratum in: Circulation 2018; 138(5): e78-79.
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3:30 – 4:30PM Time Block

MONDAY, July 20 | 3:30 – 4:30PM

One Platform, Enterprise Clarity: Turning Insights Into Aligned Strategy With Crimson AI Powered by HealthTrust

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Supply Chain, Alternate Site Leaders, Non-Acute attendees

Category: Fundamentals in Practice, Technology & Innovation—no CE

Presentation Summary

Turning data into action requires more than visibility. It takes a clear, credible way to connect clinical,

operational and financial insights so leaders, physicians and cross-functional teams can move in the same direction. In this session we will explore strategies for presenting clinical, operational and financial data that resonates with physicians and fosters engagement and collaboration to drive informed decision-making amongst executive leadership. Rather than relying on disconnected data sources or competing perspectives, organizations can leverage a single source of trusted insights to create clarity and consistency across teams. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with practical strategies to reduce total cost of care, minimize unwarranted variation and make informed product evaluation decisions across their organization.

Biographies

Domini Pelkey, RN, BSN, MBA, is the Assistant Vice President of Clinical Resource Management for HCA Healthcare's Clinical Supply Chain team. Pelkey oversees the Clinical Resource Management Program which includes Clinical Resource Directors and Division Clinical Leaders who are responsible for value analysis, vetting new products and implementing supply chain initiatives. Her journey in the healthcare industry began 27 years ago in Labor and Delivery. She then transitioned to Surgery where she specialized in CVOR, Ortho and Trauma. Pelkey obtained a BSN from Oakland University and an MBA from Bethel University.

Virginia Pfeifer, MPH, is an AI product and healthcare technology executive at Optum with more than 15 years of experience in healthcare. She builds, scales and commercializes provider-facing analytics and clinical decision-support platforms. Pfeifer has led portfolios up to \$200M, owned P&L and driven enterprise go-to-market strategy across analytics, value-based care and AI-enabled clinical products. She is known for pairing deep clinical credibility with data, AI and disciplined execution to deliver measurable ROI, adoption and growth for health systems. Pfeifer holds a Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University.

Aashish Shah, M.D., J.D., is the Chief Medical Officer for HealthTrust, responsible for the organization's clinical agenda and its Performance Solutions team. Having served as a community physician, healthcare attorney and an executive across health plans, health systems and nationally-scaled providers, he has developed a deep understanding of both the challenges and opportunities in delivering high quality, lower cost healthcare. Previously, Dr. Shah served as Chief Growth Officer at Monogram Health, Corporate Vice President for Strategy & Product Innovation for Payer Contracting & Alignment at HCA Healthcare, and as the Senior Vice President for Business Development at the Sarah Cannon Cancer Network. Dr. Shah earned a medical degree from UT Health San Antonio and a juris doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center.



MONDAY, July 20 | 3:30 – 4:30PM - Repeat session. Also offered on Monday @ 1PM

Inside the Contract: How HealthTrust Protects Members & Delivers Value with Key Terms & Conditions

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Supply Chain, Legal, Finance, Pharmacy

Category: Fundamentals in Practice—No CE

Presentation Summary

This session provides a high-level practical walkthrough of how HealthTrust's contract key terms and conditions are designed to actively protect members and preserve value, not just define pricing. Through an interactive dialogue members will gain visibility into how key terms and conditions mitigate risk, ensure supplier accountability and safeguard the financial and operational interests of our members. This session will demystify contractual language, highlight where value is most often won or lost and reinforces why contract alignment is critical to sustain the pricing performance HealthTrust is known for.

Presenters:

Rob Arreola, J.D., MBA, serves as Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel for HealthTrust, where he has overall accountability for legal and compliance matters affecting the organization and its related businesses. He has worked at HealthTrust for 13 years. With more than 27 years of legal experience, Arreola initially worked as a commercial litigator at a major New York law firm, followed by nearly a decade supporting Development & Commercial Operations at Pfizer. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Tennessee, a Healthcare MBA from George Washington University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

Eric Swaim, MBA, is Senior Vice President of Strategic Sourcing at HealthTrust, with executive oversight of the Medical-Surgical portfolio, including Surgery, Nursing, Laboratory, Distribution, Respiratory, Anesthesia and Advanced Wound Care. In addition to portfolio leadership, Swaim provides operational oversight for Clinical Operations, encompassing member advisory boards, as well as Sourcing Operations, Sourcing Information Strategy and Financial Operations. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management from Auburn University and a Master of Business Administration, with a concentration in Finance, from the University of Houston.



MONDAY, July 20 | 3:30 – 4:30PM

Pharmacy Benefit Landscape: What Health Systems Need to Know Now

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Pharmacy Leadership, Supply Chain

Category: Fundamentals in Practice, Pharmacy—No CE

Presentation Summary

This session explores the rapid changes shaping the pharmacy benefit landscape and what this means for health systems, from both employee benefit and pharmacy business planning perspectives. Key

considerations related to impact of evolving federal and state policy; revenue model challenges; entry of alternative PBM; biosimilar & GLP trends; and market demand for better pharmacy benefit experience. Participants will gain insights from an expert panel and explore what these changes and challenges are and applicable financial impact for consideration.

Presenters will also examine how a more connected approach across pharmacy, HR and supply chain can reduce friction and unlock greater value. Designed for pharmacy leaders, supply chain professionals and finance executives, this discussion provides practical perspectives on strengthening oversight, improving the member experience and aligning stakeholders around one of the organization's most significant areas of spend.

Presenters

Moderator:

Young Fried, PharmD, is the Senior Vice President, Business Development & Pharmacy Services at HealthTrust. With more than 25 years of experience across a variety of healthcare settings, she leads HealthTrust's Pharmacy GPO, Pharmacy Benefits Program Coalition and Sales. Prior to joining HealthTrust, Fried held Vice President/Chief Pharmacy Officer positions at Wellmark BCBS, Cigna, HealthPartners, an IDN in the Midwest and United Here Health, a national Taft Hartley Fund. Other leadership positions were at Advocate Health Care, a regional health system in the Midwest, and HCSC (BCBSIL and BCBSTX). Fried earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Illinois in Chicago and an M.S. degree in Applied Pharmacoeconomics from the University of Florida.

Panelists:

Nancy Price is the Vice President of HR Strategic Sourcing at HealthTrust, where she oversees a Pharmacy Benefits Program with \$7.2 billion in annual spend, 3.2 million plan participants and 391 clients. With more than 25 years of experience in employer-sponsored health plans, strategic sourcing and large-scale benefits contracting, Price has held senior leadership roles overseeing compensation and benefits strategy for large national organizations, including responsibility for health and welfare plans, benefit plan assets, compliance, analytics and vendor negotiations. She obtained a B.S. degree in Public Administration from The University of Texas.

Kevin Carter is the Assistant Vice President for Pharmacy Benefit Strategy at HealthTrust, where he leads clinical strategy and champions a "clinical first" philosophy. With more than 30 years of industry experience, including 25 years at CVS Health, Carter specializes in sustainable pharmacy benefit design, formulary development and data-driven cost containment. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



MONDAY, July 20 | 3:30 – 4:30PM

It Takes a Village: Transforming Value Analysis, One Step at a Time

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive, Nursing

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center, Physicians

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Performance Improvement, Value Analysis—CE

Presentation Summary

This value analysis journey proves that when innovation meets persistence, value analysis becomes more than a process—it becomes a catalyst for lasting change. The Value Analysis Redesign Program is not just a story of improvement, but a demonstration of measurable impact that continues to shape healthcare organizations today. During this session, presenters not only celebrate the Value Analysis Redesign Program’s success at their organization but also recognize its future potential—a model for continuous improvement that others can adapt and build upon.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recognize a comprehensive, predictable and consolidated value analysis structure and process.
2. Identify key stakeholder roles and responsibilities and the organizational change required to support an effective value analysis structure and process.
3. Recall examples of key performance indicators (KPIs) that will measure the results of an effective value analysis program.

Biographies

Moderator:

Vicki Alberto, BSN, RN, is a Vice President of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where she oversees value analysis process improvement, strategies and work plan as well as the identification of cost-savings initiatives. She seeks to create innovative approaches to medical-surgical, perioperative services and cath labs to enhance an organization’s patient experience, manage costs and improve quality. With more than 40 years of experience in the healthcare industry, Alberto has served acute care facilities, including critical care, med-surg and nursing leadership. She has managed healthcare strategic performance improvement projects in academic medical centers, pediatric facilities, large IDNs and community hospitals. She attended the Far Eastern University School of Nursing, in Manila Philippines, and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Panelists:

Julie London, BSN, RN, is Senior Director of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where she assists members with the development and growth of comprehensive value analysis programs. She has 16 years of nursing experience, serving acute care facilities as a clinician. London has spent the last 10 years in Clinical Operations, specializing in contract management, compliance and value analysis. Her experience includes leading projects such as hospital systemwide product inventory reduction and standardization, cost savings and formulary initiatives across multiple service lines, and developing an implementation launch process that includes compliance and savings realization.

Kevin Moraski, MBA, CPA, is the Vice President of Supply Chain Management at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady of Health System. In this strategic leadership role, he oversees the entire supply chain to ensure efficiency, cost-effectiveness and alignment with organizational goals. Moraski obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Amy Webb, CMRP, is the Senior Director of Strategic Sourcing and Value Analysis at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System. In this role, she oversees the organization’s value analysis program efforts and supply chain operations, driving initiatives that balance cost management with quality improvement. Her leadership ensures that clinical and operational priorities align, supporting sustainable outcomes across the health system. Webb earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- ECRI. Navigating the evolving landscape in healthcare value analysis: strategies for success. ECRI Blog. Accessed April 16, 2026. <https://home.ecri.org/blogs/ecri-blog/navigating-the-evolving-landscape-in-healthcare-value-analysis-strategies-for-success>
- ECRI. Fostering the value of the value analysis process in healthcare. ECRI Blog. Accessed April 16, 2026. <https://home.ecri.org/blogs/ecri-blog/fostering-the-value-of-the-value-analysis-process-in-healthcare>
- J. Hudson Garrett Jr., Ph.D., MSN, MPH, MBA, FNP-BC, IP-BC, PLNC, VA-BC, BC-MSLcert™, MSL-BC, CPHRM, LTC-CIP, CPPS, CAE, CPHQ, CVAHP™, CMRP, CPXP, CDIPC, FACDONA, FAAPM, eFACHDM, FNAP, FACHE, FAPIC, FSHEA, FIDSA, FAHVAP, Aligning Value Analysis with Strategic Priorities Driving Quality Outcomes and Cost Stewardship
- Planview. Mastering value stream analysis: a comprehensive guide to optimizing business processes. Accessed April 16, 2026
- 6Sigma.us. Value analysis. Accessed April 16, 2026. <https://www.6sigma.us/six-sigma-in-focus/value-analysis>
- The Decision Lab. Value analysis. Accessed April 16, 2026. <https://thedecisionlab.com/reference-guide/economics/value-analysis>
- Definitive Healthcare (Source Medicare Cost Report; Data is from the Definitive Healthcare HospitalView product. Data is sourced from the Medicare Cost Report. Results based on 5,145 U.S. hospitals with reported NPR and 5,324 U.S. Hospitals with reported OpEx data each year from 2015 to 2020
- Kumar. Value analysis engineering (VA/VE): optimizing cost, maximizing value. LinkedIn. Accessed April 16, 2026
- Value Analysis Magazine. Making a difference with savings beyond price optimization. Accessed April 16, 2026.



MONDAY, July 20 | 3:30 – 4:30PM

Implementing a Successful Diversion Monitoring Program From Cradle to Grave

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Nursing

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center, Physicians

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

Approximately 10% of healthcare workers will misuse medications or alcohol at some point in their careers. This statistic highlights the importance of a comprehensive Medication Diversion Prevention Program which helps prevent negative patient outcomes and avoids fines from the Drug Enforcement Agency. It also promotes a culture of safety where staff feel empowered to speak up about concerns. Organizations may wonder where to begin or how to strengthen an existing program. By incorporating advanced technology and proactive rounding strategies, a diversion program can become a model for the industry. Presenters will share how engaging key stakeholders in the development process further supports a strong “see something, say something” culture.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall the vulnerabilities of not implementing a comprehensive Medication Diversion Prevention and the importance of having a program from a patient safety standpoint.
2. Identify physical and behavioral signs of medication diversion in a hospital setting.
3. Recognize novel, diversion detection technology tools used to support suspicion of medication diversion.

Biographies

Sarah Mattmuller, PharmD, BCPS, is currently the Division Director of Pharmacy Operations for the South Atlantic Division of HCA Healthcare. She has held the positions of Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Operations Manager–Trident Medical Center and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Cardiovascular Critical Care while at Greenville Health System. Mattmuller received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. She completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency and a Critical Care Specialty Residency at Shands at the University of Florida. Mattmuller has been a presenter, moderator and program chair at several state, national and international pharmacy meetings.

Jeremiah McKinley, PharmD, RPh, CPh, is the North Florida Division Supply Chain Vice President of Pharmacy Services for HCA Healthcare. Over the last 13 years in pharmacy leadership, McKinley has been involved with Medication Diversion Prevention programs. During this time, he started medication diversion programs at two new HCA hospitals. While in these division roles, he has performed related assessments, trained new nurse leaders on diversion prevention and presented on diversion prevention division calls with facility leadership. McKinley obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Pharmacy.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Institute for Safe Medication Practices - Medication Safety Alert: Vol 28; Issue 4 (2/23/2023).
- HCA Healthcare Medication Diversion Prevention Program.
- ASHP Guidelines on Preventing Diversion of Controlled Substances - AM J Health-Syst Pharm: Vol 79; Number 24 (12/15/2022)
- Best Practices for Preventing Drug Diversion - US Pharmacist: 2021;46(4):HS-10.



MONDAY, July 20 | 3:30 – 4:30PM

New Hospital, New eHR...New Health System!

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Nursing, Supply Chain

Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Physicians

Course level: Basic

Category: Pharmacy Leadership—CE

Presentation Summary

Health systems may increase the number of acute care centers either by new construction or acquisition. Significant planning is required just for the opening and integration of the new locations. Opening a new hospital and transitioning to a new electronic health record are significant projects that, even when taken separately, require substantial organization and coordination across a health system's many departments. But what happens if you complete both within five days of each other? This presentation will share the planning beforehand, and the subsequent lessons learned following a successful new hospital opening and eHR implementation, transforming a single academic health center into a system of six hospitals. Strategies for instituting systemwide policies and establishing a single medication formulary will be shared, as well as plans for ongoing clinical governance.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall steps required to ensure operational readiness and regulatory compliance of a newly opened acute care hospital.
2. Recognize various approaches and strategies for standardization of policies and processes across previously existing and independently operating acute care hospitals, including formulary standardization.
3. Identify key aspects of a governance structure for implementing new ideas and optimizing existing build of a newly launched electronic health record.

Biography

Robert Eastin, PharmD, is the Executive Director of Pharmacy Services at UCI Health, overseeing the shared pharmacy services across the six-hospital health system, including the clinical pharmacy, medication safety, education, procurement, informatics and investigational drug service programs. He is the co-chair of the Inpatient Pharmacy Governance Subcommittee, coordinating oversight of UCI Health's Epic system implementation and ongoing optimization. Previously, Eastin was the inpatient pharmacy director of UCI Health Orange and oversaw pharmacy operations for the infusion center pharmacies. He earned a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of the Pacific and completed his PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Scripps Mercy Hospital.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Christopher Urbanski, Ryan Cello, Brian Luby, Karl Gumpfer, Doina Dumitru, Formulary management guiding principles for automated systems, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, Volume 79, Issue 18, 15 September 2022, Pages 1599–1606, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxac123>
- UCI Health- Irvine Opens Its Doors. 10 December 2025. <https://www.ucihealth.org/about-us/news/2025/12/uci-health-irvine-now-open>
- Christy Ciccarello, Molly Billstein Leber, Mandy C Leonard, Todd Nesbit, Mary G Petrovskis, Emily Pherson, Heidi A Pillen, Celia Proctor, Jennifer Reddan, ASHP Guidelines on the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and the Formulary System, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, Volume 78, Issue 10, 15 May 2021, Pages 907–918, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxab080>
- Michael Stepanovic, Cassandra L Bright, Uyen N Doan, Sooyeon Kim, Amanda Kirolos, Talia Raman, Stephen F Eckel, Kathryn A Morbitzer, Developing core concepts in pharmacy administration and leadership training, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, 2026;, zxag107, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxag107>





Breakout Session Details for Education,
Professional Development & Micro Education

TUESDAY, July 21, 2026

Note: Information up to date as of **April 23**. Presenters and CE credit proposed vs. awarded subject to change.

KEY

CE-based Education Sessions | HT Members & HT Staff; **Suppliers, only where highlighted**

Professional Development Sessions | All Attendees, including Suppliers (No CE credit)

Micro Education Sessions | HT Members & HT Staff Only (No CE credit)

Crimson type | **Category/track**

30-Minute Micro Education Sessions | No CE credit

9:45 – 10:15AM Time Block

MICRO EDUCATION | **Workforce Solutions** | **No CE**

Aligning Contract Labor to Demand: All the Cost Savings, None of the Disruption

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Supply Chain, Nursing Leaders

Workforce strategy requires more than addressing immediate staffing gaps. This session focuses on how health systems can take a more structured approach to managing contract labor through a managed service provider (MSP) model. Through a member-led discussion, participants will examine how standardizing vendor management and pricing can create greater consistency, transparency and cost savings without requiring changes to existing staffing partners.

The conversation will highlight practical considerations for implementing an MSP approach, including how to maintain access to preferred agencies while improving rate competitiveness and contract oversight. Attendees will also explore how baseline analytics can support better visibility into labor utilization and cost savings, enabling more informed decisions while preserving workforce continuity.

Presenters:

Sara Bailey, Vice President Account Management, HealthTrust Performance Group

Jeff Greenlund, Vice President Strategic Accounts, HealthTrust Workforce Solutions



MICRO EDUCATION | Performance Solutions | No CE
Pulse Check: The Future of Heart, Hips & High-tech Surgery

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Service Line Leaders, Supply Chain, Physicians, Value Analysis

Stay ahead of the curve with this session exploring the latest developments across the cardiovascular, robotics and total joint markets. Participants will examine emerging technologies, evolving clinical trends and recent reimbursement and market shifts shaping these high-value service lines. The discussion will also highlight how providers can evaluate innovation, assess market movement and better understand the operational and financial implications tied to these areas of growth. Attendees will leave with a broader perspective on where these categories are headed and practical insight to support more informed planning and decision-making.

Presenters:

Thomas Payne, M.D., is the National Medical Director of Robotics for HCA Healthcare and his primary passions are to champion advancements in the surgical sciences, build excellence in robotic programs and work with HCA's surgeon leaders and administrators who lead the world in performing and teaching complex robotic surgery. His pioneering work as a surgeon and educator has helped patients and surgeons worldwide shape the present and future of Robotic Assisted surgery. Payne received his medical degree and completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and Health Sciences Center.

Drew Torres is Assistant Vice President of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where he leads a team partnering with hospitals and ASCs to optimize implant service lines through data-driven sourcing and analytics. With 16 years of healthcare leadership experience in medical device management, value-based initiatives and contract implementation, Torres has a proven track record of driving operational excellence. Before joining HealthTrust, he held various commercial leadership roles at Medtronic. Torres earned an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Appalachian State University, blending his clinical insight with strategic expertise to deliver innovative solutions in healthcare management.



MICRO EDUCATION | Performance Solutions | No CE
Planes, Trains & Medical Devices: From Ordering to Outcomes

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Service Line Leaders, Supply Chain, Physicians, Value Analysis

From ordering to outcomes, medical devices move through a complex chain of coordination before they ever reach the point of care. This session will explore why efficient, compliant freight management plays a critical role in supporting timely delivery, operational continuity and patient care.

Key Takeaways:

- Examine the logistics challenges tied to PPI, including coordination across vendors, sites and clinical teams
- Review practical strategies for navigating disruptions, maintaining compliance and improving visibility across the process
- Through real-world examples, gain a clearer understanding of how freight decisions can influence both supply chain performance and clinical readiness

Presenters:

Jason Hanson serves as Vice President of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where he leads strategic initiatives in supply chain architecture, warehousing and freight management. With over two decades of leadership experience in healthcare and global distribution, Hanson specializes in optimizing end-to-end operations to drive efficiency and cost savings. His expertise is rooted in managing complex logistics networks and strategic sourcing, ensuring critical medical supplies move seamlessly from the dock to the clinical setting.

Chris J. Stewart serves as Vice President of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where he leads a team of medical device specialists who work with hospitals to actively manage their clinically sensitive implant service lines through data-driven custom sourcing and analytic engagements. The results include improved cost-per-case, reduction of unnecessary financial and clinical variation and better physician alignment. Stewart has 20 years of healthcare leadership experience in medical device PPI management, value-based initiatives, technology development, supply chain transformation and digital acceleration. He obtained a B.S. degree from the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee.



MICRO EDUCATION | Performance Solutions | No CE

From Silos to Strategy: Practical Tools for Cross-functional Decision-making

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Service Line Leaders, Supply Chain, Physicians, Value Analysis

Misalignment across finance, supply chain, service line leadership and physicians can slow decision-making, create friction and limit overall impact. This session examines how evidence-based insights and strategies can be used as a practical alignment tool to bring diverse stakeholders together around shared priorities and informed decisions to drive product conversions at scale. Attendees will learn how to facilitate more productive conversations, reduce variation in decision-making and strengthen collaboration across departments.

Presenters:

Stephanie Thompson, PharmD, MBA, is a Vice President of Performance Solutions with HealthTrust. She is a seasoned healthcare executive with more than 20 years of experience in bedside, facility, regional and enterprise leadership. Her expertise lies in the discovery, strategy and scalable execution of standards of excellence. Thompson drives value through evidence-based decisions, clinical performance, value analysis, physician engagement, and knowledge management across complex health systems. A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of TN Doctor of Pharmacy program, she completed a post-doctoral residency at MUSC. Thompson specialized in adult and pediatric critical care before focusing on clinical economics strategy.

Dawn Thackston, RN, B.S., M.S., is the Director of Value Analysis for Franciscan Alliance where she leads the Supply Chain Value Analysis program. As a registered nurse leader with strong clinical knowledge, she has served on multiple advisory committees, developed education programs, clinical protocols and pathways, and provided national guidance on patient care. Thackston has successfully developed and led a clinically integrated supply chain model to manage physician preference items, clinical spend utilization and standardization initiatives, and built strategic business partnerships to enhance value to the organization and its patients. Thackston holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Business at Indiana Wesleyan University.



MICRO EDUCATION | Regard | No CE

The “Complexity Tax”—Cutting Hidden Manufacturing Costs Through Strategic Standardization

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: Supply Chain, Sourcing, Clinical Resource Directors, Value Analysis, Clinicians

In healthcare, “customization” often creates a “Complexity Tax,” a hidden financial and operational burden that adds cost without improving clinical outcomes. This session deconstructs the manufacturing lifecycle of high-volume medical essentials, such as patient slippers and emesis bags, to reveal how excessive SKU variety triggers production downtime, inflates raw material costs and reduces overall manufacturing capacity. Attendees will move beyond surface-level pricing to explore the “iceberg costs” of variety, gaining a practical framework to balance clinical preference with supply chain resilience. By learning to partner with suppliers on strategic standardization, leaders can stabilize product availability, lower total cost of ownership and ensure frontline staff have the reliable tools they need for high-quality care.

Key Takeaways:

- The Complexity Tax: Deconstruct the manufacturing process to see how "special requests" such as custom dyes will trigger costly line changeovers, drain production capacity and increase costs.
- Resilience through Standardization: Learn how SKU rationalization acts as a primary hedge against product shortages, price inflation and supply chain volatility.
- The Partnership Advantage: Discover how strategic collaboration with suppliers helps secure your supply chain, delivering the consistency clinicians need and the predictable performance your operations require.

Presenters:

Rick Parrish, MHA, serves as Assistant Vice President of Sourcing and Clinical Solutions with Resource Optimization & Innovation (ROi) at HealthTrust Performance Group. With more than 18 years at ROi, he has built deep expertise in medical supply manufacturing, sourcing, and clinical implementation. His experience spans clinical operations and business process improvement, enabling him to align clinicians with product strategy and clinical performance. Parrish is a 20-year active-duty Army veteran, including 16 years in perioperative services where he developed deep expertise in clinical operations and supply chain management. He brings a mission-driven, disciplined approach to advancing innovation and improving healthcare delivery.

Missy Pennington, RN, BBA, is Vice President of Clinical Operations for HCA Healthcare Supply Chain. Her past clinical experience in the OR has guided her 24-year career in supply chain value analysis. Previously, Pennington served as both a facility and division Clinical Resource Director as well as various leadership roles on the Corporate Supply Chain Clinical Value Analysis team. She leads a team of clinicians driving enterprise clinical standardization, new technology evaluation and financial resiliency initiatives across HCA Healthcare. Pennington earned a Nursing Diploma from Saint Luke's School of Nursing and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from WGU Tennessee.

Donald Cope is Director of National Sales with Resource Optimization & Innovation (ROi) at HealthTrust Performance Group, representing the Regard brand of medical supplies. He partners with healthcare organizations to deliver innovative, value-driven solutions that enhance clinical outcomes and optimize supply chain performance. Prior to joining HealthTrust, Cope spent nine years with Cardinal Health as an OR Specialist and Medical/Surgical Products Sales Representative. He developed deep expertise in clinical and operational workflows, helping providers improve product utilization, streamline processes and drive efficiency. Cope brings a practical, solutions-oriented perspective and is passionate about advancing innovation and sustainable results in healthcare.



MICRO EDUCATION | [Valify](#) | No CE

What You Should Tackle Next: An Insightful Approach to Purchased Services

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: CFO, Supply Chain, Finance, Operations, IT

Purchased services often represent one of the largest and least standardized areas of non-labor spend. Yet many organizations rely on fragmented reports or retrospective reviews that make it difficult to prioritize action. This micro education session examines structured approaches to analyzing purchased services data in a way that supports clear prioritization and disciplined execution. Designed for supply chain leaders, it answers the critical question: “What should we work on next?”

Participants will explore how scoring methodologies can be used to evaluate opportunity size, likelihood of success, operational readiness and contract alignment. The session will also review common barriers to improving purchased services performance, including decentralized ownership, limited visibility into contract utilization and misalignment between finance, supply chain and operational stakeholders.

The goal of this session is to provide a repeatable framework for bringing greater transparency, consistency and measurable improvement to purchased services management.

Through practical examples, key takeaways will include:

- Shift from reactive spend review to proactive opportunity identification
- Prioritize initiatives based on impact and achievability, not spend alone
- Assess contract utilization and identify gaps in alignment with existing GPO agreements
- Translate analytic findings into structured action plans with clear accountability

Presenters:

Jon Pruitt serves as Senior Vice President of Community Hospital Corporation (CHC) Supply Trust. He is responsible for implementing and administrating a quality-based, comprehensive supply chain management strategy for CHC’s supply expenditures and resource utilization. Previously, he served as Vice President, Supply Chain Integration for Tenet Healthcare-United Surgical Partners International (USPI) and has also served in executive positions with healthcare companies, including UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, VHA/Provista (Vizient), Texas Purchasing Coalition, LifeCare Hospitals and The Broadlane Group. Pruitt is a retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army Reserves and holds an M.S. in Healthcare Administration from Texas Woman’s University and a BBA in Finance from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Cole Waylett, Vice President Spend Management, Memorial Care

Brandi Wight is the Director of Client Success at Valify. She brings more than 25 years of experience in the healthcare industry, specializing in client success and strategic partnerships. Wight began her career in the healthcare supply chain within the GPO sector, where she worked closely with hospitals and non-acute members to enhance supply chain performance. Wight holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Texas Woman’s University.



MICRO EDUCATION | Pharmacy | No CE

Pharmacy 360: Advancing Supply Stability & Non-acute Alignment

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Who will benefit from this session: C-suite, Supply Chain, Legal, Finance, Pharmacy

This micro education session examines a 360-degree framework for pharmacy strategy, focusing on how health systems can strengthen supply continuity, align site-of-care support and improve operational coordination across the continuum. This discussion centers on practical approaches organizations can use to navigate drug shortages, support non-acute settings and integrate pharmacy more fully into enterprise planning.

Participants will explore the core components of an effective drug shortage mitigation strategy, including forecasting, supplier diversification, internal communication protocols and clinical substitution planning. The session will also address the operational realities of serving ambulatory surgery centers

and other non-acute environments, with attention to inventory management, contracting alignment and workflow integration.

Presenters:

Jason Braithwaite, PharmD, M.S., BCPS, is Senior Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations & Business Development for HealthTrust, where he oversees clinical strategy and member support for acute and non-acute sites. His team analyzes the pipeline for biosimilars and provides clinical and economic evaluations on \$17B+ in related spend that guides utilization and contracting decisions. He has developed and grown multiple residency and fellowship programs during his career, including the PGY-2 Corporate Pharmacy Leadership Residency and oversight for the 2-year Drug Information Fellowship Programs for HealthTrust. He obtained Bachelor and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Hawaii and a Master of Science from the University of Utah in Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research and Health Policy. Braithwaite completed PGY-1 and PGY-2 residencies at Intermountain Healthcare.

Aigner George, PharmD, is Assistant Vice President of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust, where she is dedicated to engaging with client members in consulting and leadership, working with more than 100 healthcare facilities in the provision of advisory services. With more than 20 years of healthcare experience, she has been involved in various aspects of pharmacy operations, facilitating initiative implementations which include operations, formulary management, safety and quality initiatives, supply expense management, leadership development and transformation. George earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Hampton University.



2:30 – 3:30PM Time Block

TUESDAY, July 21 | 2:30 – 3:30PM

Fear Less, Do More

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Category: Professional Development—No CE

Biography: Michelle Poler is a social entrepreneur, keynote speaker and author of *Hello, Fears: Crush Your Comfort Zone* and *Become Who You're Meant to Be*. As the founder of the global movement **Hello Fears**, she inspires millions to step outside their comfort zones and unlock their full potential through courage and action. A creator of the viral project **100 Days Without Fear**, Poler has shared her message on stages like TEDx and at companies including Google, Facebook, Netflix and Microsoft.



TUESDAY, July 21 | 2:30 – 3:30 PM

One Team, One Strategy: Aligning Lab & Supply Chain for Contract & Supply Optimization

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Healthcare Executives, Nursing

Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Performance Improvement—CE

Presentation Summary

The current laboratory space is diverse and operates in a complex and highly specialized environment. As a result, contract oversight and supply standardization efforts are often minimal, leading to inefficiencies and higher costs. This session highlights how Laboratory leadership can partner with Supply Chain to build a shared contract review process for placed equipment agreements and standardize high-volume lab supplies such as urine collection products and swabs. Discover how this collaboration improves contract visibility, strengthens compliance with reagent commitments, reduces variation and off-contract purchasing and supports better pricing control. Learn how standardizing supplies also improves inventory management, reduces waste and strengthens negotiating leverage across the organization.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recognize collaboration models for the Laboratory and Supply Chain to support enhanced contracting and supply standardization.
2. Identify key placement contract risks and cost drivers, including pricing discrepancies, overcharges and off-contract purchasing.
3. Recall supply standardization strategies to improve compliance, reduce variation and strengthen purchasing leverage.

Biographies

Moderator:

Tabatha East, MBA, LBBP, MLS(ASCP), is the Director of Laboratory Portfolio & Services at HealthTrust. With a career spanning 22 years, she has spent 11 years in leadership, managing complex operations across community hospitals, academic medical centers and public health sectors. East serves as a clinical resource to HealthTrust's Strategic Sourcing team. She earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from Western Kentucky University, a B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science & Medical Technology from Eastern Kentucky University and an MBA from Western Governors University.

Panelists:

Steve Johnson has more than 20 years of Supply Chain contracting experience. Currently, he is a Strategic Sourcing Manager at Scripps Health, where he manages a team of Analysts and Category Managers who process supplies contracts with spend in excess of \$500M annually, as well as a medical capital equipment, with an annual budget of \$40M. Johnson provides leadership and support to the

contracting team and service lines through a robust Value Analysis model, in pursuit of the best quality products, technology, equipment and services to provide the best outcomes for patients at the best value.

Jennifer Merski, B.S., RRT, is Senior Director of Clinical Resource Analysis at HealthTrust, supporting HCA Healthcare’s Clinical Supply Chain. She has more than 25 years of healthcare experience, including a clinical background as a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Merski leads strategic initiatives for the Laboratory, Respiratory and Nursing portfolios. As an RRT, she specialized in critical care, emergency medicine and neonatal intensive care. Merski is a graduate of Gannon University with a bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences.

Becky O’Neal, MBA, CLS, is Senior Director of Performance Solutions for HealthTrust. Her 30+ years of experience in laboratory science and healthcare leadership include working in healthcare systems of all sizes and testing complexities. She has spent years in corporate and executive leadership to standardize and optimize operations across multiple facilities. O’Neal earned a bachelor’s degree in Clinical Laboratory Science & Medical Technology from Armstrong State University and an MBA from Western Governors University. She holds a CLS certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Deloitte (2023): Healthcare supply chain resilience report
- ISO (2022): ISO 15189: Medical laboratories—Requirements for quality and competence
- CLSI (2023): Quality management system: A model for laboratory services (QMS01)
- Additional resources include the College of American Pathologists (CAP), Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine (ADLM), and Medical Laboratory Observer (MLO)



TUESDAY, July 21 | 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Non-traditional Strategies for Managing Purchased Services

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Nursing, Healthcare Executive
Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Performance Improvement—Purchased Services

Presentation Summary

Does the complexity of purchased services overwhelm you? Learn how three IDNs took control of this area of spend by developing and implementing effective Purchased Services programs. Panelists from Beacon Health, LifePoint and Orlando Health will share how they developed processes and policies to support implementation and long-term sustainability for their respective programs, including some non-

traditional cost control strategies that go beyond RFPs and negotiating contracts. This session will provide best practices in working through category analysis, strategy development, contract implementation, and a heightened focus on the value of total cost of ownership.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recognize the structure and support needed as the foundation for developing and implementing an effective Purchased Services program from infancy to maturity.
2. Recall critical components to managing a Purchased Services program.
3. Identify critical benchmarks when reviewing Purchased Services categories and how to explore the details for hidden opportunities.

Biographies

Moderator:

Andy Motz is the Vice President of Advisory Services & Custom Contracting with Valify Solutions Group (VSG), launched by HealthTrust in 2020. His experience includes serving as Chief Procurement Officer for a Midwest health system and more than 10 years of Supply Chain consulting at academic medical centers, community hospitals and large IDNs. Motz focuses on assessing Supply Chain and Purchased Services spend and leading clients through implementing cost savings initiatives in both clinical and non-clinical areas. He started his healthcare career in the 1990s, developing price-management databases. Currently, he focuses on growing the GPO portfolio and advisory solutions. Motz earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Mount St. Joseph University.

Panelists:

Charlie Dakin is Assistant Vice President of Strategic Sourcing for Lifepoint Health with expertise in operations leadership, cost and efficiency-oriented strategic sourcing, and end-to-end global Supply Chain Management, integrating dispersed locations and cross-functional areas. Prior to his current role, Dakin held supply chain and/or sourcing roles with Radient Living, Buffy and Central Home Brands. He earned a B.A. in Supply Chain Management and Chinese from Michigan State University and an M.S. in Supply Chain Management from the University's Eli Broad College of Business.

John Eaker, MBA, is Assistant Vice President of Strategic Sourcing & Contracting with Orlando Health. With more than 20 years of healthcare experience, he has expertise in Resource and Supply Chain Management in both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, in acute care and home care business units, including roles with The Resource Group, Ascension and Tenet Healthcare. Eaker's healthcare leadership responsibilities have included supply chain operations leadership, divestitures, service line growth, expense management, contract negotiations, change management, and team development. Eaker earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas and an MBA from LeTourneau University.

Ashley McDaniel serves as Director of Supply Chain Operations for Beacon Health System, overseeing operations across nine hospitals and 100+ care sites. There, she leads systemwide initiatives, including LUM optimization, courier insourcing and the integration of newly-acquired Michigan facilities. Her work focuses on strengthening clinical partnerships, developing high-performing teams and advancing resilient, data-driven supply chain operations that elevate patient care in support of Beacon's mission. McDaniel brings 15 years of previous experience in manufacturing supply chain leadership, with deep expertise in inventory strategy, operational excellence and large-scale transformations. She obtained a BBA from Purdue University in Logistics, Materials and Supply Chain Management.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- American Hospital Association: AHA.org
- Health Sector Resource Hub: HHS.gov
- Becker's Hospital Review: Beckershospitalreview.org



TUESDAY, July 21 | 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Sterile Processing Standardization: Cost Containment, Staff Satisfaction & Joint Commission Preparedness

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Healthcare Executives, Nursing

Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center

Course level: Intermediate

Performance Improvement, Supply Chain Management—CE

Presentation Summary

Sterile Processing Departments (SPDs) are at the intersection of patient safety, regulatory compliance and operational efficiency. This session examines how SPD standardization—combined with supply chain integration—can deliver measurable improvements in cost containment, staff satisfaction and Joint Commission preparedness. Participants will explore enterprise supply chain strategies, optimize inventory and instrument management, and discover steps for fostering a culture of engagement and accountability. Through this session, attendees will gain actionable insights to reduce variability, improve compliance and strengthen organizational performance.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall evidence-based protocols for standardized sterile processing that reduce variability, improve resource utilization and support cost containment across the supply chain.
2. Identify standardization strategies that enhance staff satisfaction through streamlined workflows, clear expectations and integration with supply chain processes.
3. Recognize a compliance-driven framework that ensures Joint Commission readiness while also maintaining operational efficiency and quality assurance by a streamlined Supply Management Standardization team.

Biographies

Moderator:

Jeanette Maze, BSN, RN, is the Director of Clinical Resource Analysis at HealthTrust Supply Chain, supporting HCA Healthcare, where she drives strategic supply initiatives that optimize commodity item standardizations within surgical service. She previously served as Clinical Resource Director for HCA's

Capital Division, where she led cost-reduction strategies for reducing supply expense. Maze began her career in perioperative nursing before transitioning to supply chain in 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Radford University.

Panelists:

Robert Corley, MBA, BHA, CRCST, is Clinical Operations Director—Clinical Services Group for HCA Healthcare, where he specializes in Sterile Processing and Endoscopy, leading enterprise programs to elevate regulatory compliance, workforce excellence and operational performance. Previously, Corley was the Vice President of Surgical Services at HCA Florida Memorial Hospital, where he standardized perioperative workflows, resulting in improved OR efficiency, reduced turnover time and strengthened adherence to regulatory standards. Corley graduated from Ashford University with a Bachelor of Healthcare Administration and he earned an MBA with a healthcare focus from Western Governors University. He also holds a CRCST certification from HSPA.

Blake McAbee, MBA, BSN, RN, is Senior Director of Clinical Resource Analysis for HCA Healthcare, where he leads the development of strategies to manage supply expenses for surgery, including the oversight of high impact physician preference items. His previous clinical roles include OR nurse at Erlanger, a level 1 trauma center and Parkridge Medical Center. Prior to joining HealthTrust, McAbee spent 10 years with Ascension as the OR Manager for Saint Thomas Midtown and then as a Senior Critical Product Manager for The Resource Group. He holds an RN/BSN from UT Chattanooga and an MBA from Western Governors University.

Katie Scaggs, MSN, RN, CNOR, is Vice President of Clinical Operations for HealthTrust, supporting HCA Healthcare. She joined HealthTrust in 2022 as a Clinical Resource Director, bringing more than 20 years of experience leading level one, nationally ranked procedural areas, including zero citations in 23 regulatory site visits in one year. Scaggs is a strategic leader with a proven record of driving operational excellence, cost optimization and quality improvement across diverse care settings; leading large teams; implementing LEAN strategies; and delivering measurable results in financial performance and patient outcomes. She earned a Masters in Nursing Administration from Barnes-Jewish College of Nursing (St. Louis).

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Rutala, W. A., et al. (2023). Disinfection, sterilization and antisepsis: An overview. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 51, A3-A12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2023.01.001>
- Speth, J. (2025, April). Guidelines in Practice: Sterilization. *AORN*, 121(4), 280-289. <http://doi.org/10.1002/aorn.14316>
- Seavey, R. (2019). Using a systematic approach for adopting new technologies in sterile processing departments and operating rooms. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 47, A67–A71. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2019.01.016>



TUESDAY, July 21 | 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Creating a Leadership Launchpad: Fueling the Next Generation

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Nursing, Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive
Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Leadership—CE

Presentation Summary

Sharply lower pharmacy school enrollment has contributed to a challenging pharmacist recruitment environment. At the same time, health system medication management has grown increasingly complicated, requiring sophisticated business skills to steward finances and keep patients safe. The U.S. is also facing a severe, long-term nursing shortage, with projections indicating a deficiency of over 78,000 full-time Registered Nurses (RNs) in 2025 and over 63,000 by 2030. In this session, discover how HealthTrust/HCA launched the Pharmacy Leadership Development Program to secure the future of its pharmacy leadership through a 10-month strategic initiative which transforms high-potential managers into directors by equipping them with sophisticated business and clinical acumen. Presenters will share how this program can be appropriately scaled to provide many healthcare candidates with training to master both the practical tools and the leadership mindset required to successfully step into director roles.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall the key components of an effective administrative structure for maintaining a sustainable leadership training program.
2. Recognize key learning objectives that are needed for a successful leadership training program.
3. Identify the key role of homework assignments and mentoring relationships that support a leadership training program.

Biographies

Jenny Burnette, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, serves as Vice President of Pharmacy for HCA Healthcare's Central & West Texas Division, where she supports a team of 10 leaders and 300 pharmacy team members. In addition to exceeding clinical, financial and operational goals, Burnette is proud of formalizing growth opportunities through the StaRx program and CWT Pharmacy Leadership program. Prior to this role, she served in various pharmacy leadership roles at academic medical centers. Burnette's strength in building partnerships with leaders has led to consistent positive results for health systems. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Florida and completed a pharmacy administration residency.

Nathan Hanson, PharmD, M.S., BCPS, FASHP, is the Vice President of Pharmacy for the HealthTrust/HCA Healthcare MidAmerica Division, encompassing seven hospitals in Kansas and Missouri. In this role, he supports the Directors of Pharmacy in all areas of oversight. He is the founder and RPD for a PGY-2 Health System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership residency, and is involved with the local college

of pharmacy. Hanson enjoys leadership development and activities where rules and data intersect with people and processes, and is passionate about serving leaders to reach their full potential. He earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University and an M.S. degree in Pharmacy Administration from The University of Kansas.

Sarah Hardt, PharmD, is the Division Director of Pharmacy Operations for the HealthTrust HCA Healthcare Central & West Texas Division. In her role, she supports nine hospitals with regulatory compliance, medication distribution, diversion prevention and inventory management. Pharmacy leader and student development are passion projects for Hardt. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, where she now serves as adjunct faculty and holds the role of Regional Director for Experiential Education.

Katie Sherman is a Senior Project Manager supporting the HealthTrust Supply Chain corporate team in the Pharmacy, Procure to Pay and Expanse efforts. Throughout her career, Sherman has managed numerous projects of various scale and complexity within the healthcare space. She enjoys utilizing her organizational and collaborative skills to assist in initiatives that strengthen the strategic efforts of business owners and peers. Previously, Sherman worked as a coordinator on the Human Resources team and within the Clinical Services Group at HCA Healthcare before transitioning into project management. Sherman earned her degree at the University of Findlay and is currently working toward her Project Management Professional certification.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Chen D, Amerine LA, Kernan W. Pharmacy executive and mid-level manager perceptions of leadership in contemporary health-system pharmacy. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2025;00:1-24
- Edward G. Nold, William T. Sander, Role of the director of pharmacy: The first six months, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, Volume 61, Issue 21, 1 November 2004, Pages 2297–2310,
- White SJ, Tryon JE. How to find and succeed as a mentor. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2007;64:1258-1259.
- Amerine LB, Granko RP, Brummond PW, et al. ASHP statement on the roles and responsibilities of the pharmacy executive. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2022;79(6):497-499.
- Ellinger LK, Trapskin P, Black R, Kotis D, Alexander E. Leadership and effective succession planning in health-system pharmacy departments. *Hosp Pharm.* 2014;49(4):369-375.
- Sara J. White, Jennifer E. Tryon, How to find and succeed as a mentor, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, Volume 64, Issue 12, 15 June 2007, Pages 1258–1259. <https://www.southuniversity.edu/news-and-blogs/2025/12/pharmacy-student-shortage> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacists.htm#tab-6> <https://www.ksmu.org/news/2024-09-16/pharmacy-school-enrollment-in-the-u-s-is-dangerously-low-especially-in-missouri>
- <https://pr.mo.gov/boards/pharmacy/PerfectStormv5.pdf> <https://www.ashp.org/Professional-Development/ASHP-Podcasts/Practice-Journeys/Developing-Emerging-Leaders-Leveraging-ASHP-Resources>



TUESDAY, July 21 | 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Multidisciplinary Process for the Review of Existing & Emerging Biosimilars

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy

Course level: Basic

Category: Pharmacy Clinical—CE

Presentation Summary

Everyday healthcare providers are bombarded with emails and calls about new biosimilars entering the market. Choosing the best workhorse biosimilar requires a systemic, multidisciplinary approach. Learn how Scripps Health opted for a scheduled rotating review of four to five biosimilar compounds per quarter, along with a complete review of each compound annually and semi-annually for financial consideration. Reaching the goal required the health system to establish a working group, consisting of clinical pharmacists from both the inpatient and outpatient sites of care, experts from the prior authorization department, retail pharmacy, information technology and pharmacy administration. Presenters will share how they utilized available tools from their wholesaler, the GPO and commercial health plans to select workhorse and backup biosimilar compounds.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify work group team members critical for a successful multidisciplinary biosimilar review process.
2. Recognize required task delegation to team members, based upon their expertise.
3. Recall some of the tools available for biosimilar clinical and financial comparisons.

Biographies

Angela Rosenblatt, M.S., PharmD, BCPS, APH, CPEL, is Corporate Director of Pharmacy, Ambulatory Services at Scripps Health. Board certified in pharmacotherapy and advanced practice licensed, Rosenblatt has a background in critical care and emergency medicine and extensive experience advancing inpatient and ambulatory pharmacy practices. She previously led pharmacy operations for five oncology infusion centers, improving workflows, outcomes and patient care, and served as Clinical Manager and Pharmacy Director at Scripps Green Hospital. Rosenblatt completed a residency at the University of Southern California and is a Certified Pharmacy Executive Leader (CPEL). She has expanded ambulatory pharmacy services, integrating Advanced Practice Pharmacists into specialties such as geriatrics, cardiology and neurology.

Sherrie Todd, RPh, is the Director of Pharmacy Purchasing and 340B for Scripps Health. With more than 20 years of experience, Todd has worked within pharmacy purchasing/contracting and 340B as well as spending more than 10 years as Director of Purchasing for a \$350 million annual spend organization. Todd obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Oregon State University and a B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Oregon.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2023). ASHP guidelines on the pharmacy and therapeutics committee and the formulary system. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, 80(16), e51–e64.
- Berkowitz, S. A., Engen, J. R., Mazzeo, J. R., & Jones, G. B. (2012). Analytical tools for characterizing biopharmaceuticals and the implications for biosimilars. *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*, 11(7), 527–540.
- Cohen, H. P., Blauvelt, A., Blank, N., Genovese, M. C., Goel, N., & Tesser, J. R. (2018). Switching reference medicines to biosimilars: A systematic literature review of clinical outcomes. *Drugs*, 78(4), 463–478.
- Institute for Clinical and Economic Review. (2023). *Biosimilars: Opportunities to increase competition and reduce overall costs* [White paper]. ICER.
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (n.d.). *Biosimilar and interchangeable biologics: More treatment choices* [Information sheet].
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2015). *Scientific considerations in demonstrating biosimilarity to a reference product: Guidance for industry*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2021). *Questions and answers on biosimilar development and the BPCI Act: Guidance for industry* (Rev. 3). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.





Breakout Sessions in Detail

WEDNESDAY, July 22, 2026

Note: Information up to date as of **April 23**. Presenters and CE credit proposed vs. awarded subject to change.

KEY

CE-based Education Sessions | HT Members & HT Staff; Suppliers, only where highlighted

Crimson type | Category/track

7:00 – 8:00 AM Time Block

WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 7:00 – 8:00 AM

Medical Group Practices—What are they using & where are they getting it?

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive

Certificate of Participation: Allied Health

Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

Have you ever wondered what the medical group providers are using in their outpatient clinics? Do you know where they are getting their drugs? If your answer is “I have no idea,” then how do you know if the medical group practices are compliant with your policies and contracts? In this session, you will learn how to gain visibility into medical group practices and assist them in optimizing their drug procurement as well as discover the importance of standardization in decision-making.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recognize evidence-based strategies to gain visibility into medical group drug procurement practices and vaccine strategies.
2. Recall steps to register medical group practices with your Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) and create purchasing accounts with your wholesaler.

3. Identify how to optimize purchasing within medical group practices to maximize savings.

Biographies

Brad Cook, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, is the Group Pharmacy Director for Prime Healthcare in Kansas and Missouri, where he leads four inpatient pharmacies and one retail pharmacy. Cook graduated from the UMKC School of Pharmacy and received an MBA from West Texas A&M. He completed a pharmacy residency at Barnes Jewish Hospital and is board certified in pharmacotherapy. He has worked in leadership roles in both clinical and administrative settings. Cook is involved with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists as well as the local and state affiliates in Kansas and Missouri, where he has held leadership roles.

Duc Mai, PharmD, APH, is a Director of Pharmacy for Prime Healthcare where he is responsible for supporting systemwide operations and leading key strategic initiatives. For the past five years, he has overseen enterprise vaccine initiatives, focusing on brand standardization, cost optimization and program compliance. Mai earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Roseman University.

Quyêt Tran, RPh, MBA, FACHE, is a Regional Director of Pharmacy for Prime Healthcare, where he led the wholesaler conversion project for 100+ outpatient clinics and ambulatory surgery centers. Tran has corporate oversight for the hospitals within his region. Prior to Prime Healthcare, he held leadership positions within Cardinal Health and several hospital systems in various areas, including operations, sales and business development. Tran earned a B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Louisiana, Monroe, and an MBA from Purdue University. He is also a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. ASHP guidelines on medication cost management strategies for hospitals and health systems. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2008; 65:1368-84.
- Maki, W. (2019). Medication Management in the Clinic Setting. *Pharmacy Purchasing and Product*, Sept, pp. 10-19.
- Koray Parmaksiz, Elizabeth Pisani, Roland Bal, Maarten Olivier Kok. A systematic review of pooled procurement of medicines and vaccines: identifying elements of success. *Globalization and Health.* 2022;18(1):1-17. doi:10.1186/s12992-022-00847-z
- Parmaksiz K, Bal R, van de Bovenkamp H, Kok MO. From promise to practice: a guide to developing pooled procurement mechanisms for medicines and vaccines. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy & Practice.* 2023;16(1):1-15. doi:10.1186/s40545-023-00574-9
- Tichy, E. M., Rim, M. H., Cuellar, S., Tadrous, M., Schumock, G. T., Johnson, T. J., Newell, M. K., & Hoffman, J. M. (2025). National trends in prescription drug expenditures and projections for 2025. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, 82(14), 806–821. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxaf092>



WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 7:00 – 8:00 AM

A Mile High View of Pharmacy Performance: Developing a System-level Director of Pharmacy Dashboard

OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Healthcare Executive

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

Due to the challenging task of objectively assessing a Directors of Pharmacy's (DOPs) performance across multiple hospitals, leaders at one IDN developed a centralized dashboard with well-defined measures of performance and a scoring rubric. Join us to discover how the DOP Dashboard is used to assess the regulatory, operational, accreditation, financial and clinical performance of each DOP on a semiannual basis. Presenters will share how outcomes can be trended and shared with each hospital's leadership team in support of opportunities for developing similar dashboards for leadership improvement and accolades for achievement across an enterprise.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify measurable performance indicators that can be used to assess a Director of Pharmacy's (DOPs) performance.
2. Recall an example of a scoring rubric for each DOP measure of performance.
3. Recognize comparable measures to be reported to senior leadership in evaluating DOP performance.

Biographies

Bryan Jones, DPh, M.S., is Assistant Vice President, Acute Pharmacy Operations for Lifepoint Health. There, he provides operational oversight for 29 acute care hospitals, supervision of 30 remote order entry pharmacists and management of strategic relationships with outsourced remote order entry vendors. While completing an ASHP-accredited residency in Pharmacy Administration, Jones earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis and a Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration from the University of Tennessee.

Grant Sivley, PharmD, BCPS, serves as Director of Pharmacy Data Analytics at Lifepoint Health, where he leads enterprisewide pharmacy analytics across more than 60 acute care hospitals and a broad network of rehabilitation and behavioral health facilities. His work focuses on formulary compliance, financial stewardship, purchasing optimization and cost-savings initiatives. Sivley earned a PharmD at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and completed PGY-1 and PGY-2 residencies in Pharmacy Informatics through Lifepoint Health, in partnership with Lipscomb University, and is a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

Todd White, RPh-KY, PharmD, MBA-HM, BCSCP, is Assistant Vice President, Acute Pharmacy Operations for Lifepoint Health, providing operational oversight for 31 acute care hospitals and serving as the subject matter expert for pharmacy automation, sterile/non-sterile compounding, accreditation, regulation, and pharmaceutical waste management. White earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Creighton University and a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management from Western Governors University. He is a Board Certified Sterile Compounding Pharmacist.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Minimum-standard-pharmacies-hospitals.pdf
 - ASHP minimum standards for hospital pharmacy services.
- <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewj197TrivQAxV9MdAFHcbhAIEQFnoECDUQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublications.ashp.org%2Fpreviewpdf%2Fbook%2F9781585284030%2Fch004.xml%3FpdfJsInlineViewToken%3D904866345%26inlineView%3Dtrue&usg=AOvVaw3BMKHJGw2CVxmdonFKx4St&opi=89978449>
 - Director of Pharmacy Competency as published by ASHP PDF
- Health System (Director)
 - APA Career Pathways – Roles and Responsibilities of a DOP
- Lindsey B Amerine, Robert P Granko, Philip W Brummond, Samuel V Calabrese, Kristine K Gullickson, Lindsey R Kelley, Jeffrey D Little, Mark Sullivan, ASHP Statement on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Pharmacy Executive, American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy, Volume 79, Issue 6, 15 March 2022, Pages 497–499, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxab340>
 - ASHP published article on the key roles of a pharmacy executive. A little above the scope of a DOP, but does contain some citable traits that could be included.
- Key performance indicators for pharmaceutical services: A systematic review - ScienceDirect
- Systematic review of KPIs for pharmaceutical services. This study brings together several studies that may be beneficial in supporting the presentation. This is more of a clinical performance resource vs an operational performance review. This is our best source and has multiple studies that may be able to support this presentation. medication-cost-management-strategies-hospitals-health-systems.pdf
 - ASHP description of guidelines to manage drug costs in a hospital – Covers any potential citations for budget management. Would also cover things such as contract purchasing compliance and invoice management. Inventory turns recruitment-selection-retention-pharmacy-personnel.pdf
 - ASHP coverage of recruitment and retention. May have some things that could be included related to staffing management.
- 8.4_Preparing_for_a_DEA_Inspection.pdf (SECURED)
 - a.DEA published presentation with requested items during an inspection
 - b.Home | DEA.gov
- pharm2511_accp-therapintchg.pdf
- a. ACCP coverage of Therapeutic interchange and the requirement for P&T involvement
- Pharmaceutical Waste - ASHP
- a. ASHP about pharmaceutical waste
- 2025 Hospital Survey Scoring Algorithm_20250401_v10.0.pdf
 - a. Next steps – including pharmacy based measurements from leapfrog.
- <https://www.usp.org/compounding/general-chapter-797>
- a. USP 797 inclusion as part of our measures.
- hospital-core-elements-H.pdf
- a. Antimicrobial stewardship measure. CDC
- MCM16-285 Antibiotic Stewardship in Community Hospital.pdf (SECURED)
- a. ASHP presentation at midyear. Talks about days of therapy.
- Standards | Joint Commission
- a. Joint Commission MM standards for accreditation



WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 7:00 – 8:00 AM

340B Neutral Inventory in Med Central Services Center Repackaging & Low Unit of Measure Distribution

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive

Course level: Advanced

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

This session will demonstrate how one large, 46-hospital health system with a Pharmacy Central Services Center (CSC), combined inventory into a neutral inventory space while maintaining the necessary 340B compliance measures to meet improved operational efficiencies to distribute low unit of measure medications to pharmacies and pharmacy automation locations. Presenters will share strategies for the use of inventory management software combined with purchasing control and purchase/utilization analytics in maximizing the central distribution efficiencies. Content from this session will be beneficial to those who currently have 340B programs, those who may be pursuing a 340B program and those without a CSC, but who are using local inventory.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall the regulatory requirements for 340B medication purchasing and inventory management in centralized locations.
2. Recognize the benefits of neutral inventory in pharmacy warehouse space to allow full-service distribution of low unit of measure medications to all pharmacies within a health system.
3. Identify the audit and compliance requirements of 340B inventory management in mixed use locations being served from a central warehouse.

Biographies

Moderator:

Daniel Good, M.S., RPh, FASHP, is Vice President of Pharmacy for Mercy Health with responsibilities for hospital-based medication management, 340B and centralized repackaging across Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He is a consumer and advocate of patient-focused clinical pharmacy services; dedicated to mentoring pharmacy practice residents and students. Good earned a B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Washington, an M.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Kansas, while completing a residency in Pharmacy Services. As a past president of the Missouri Pharmacy Association and the Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists, he holds the Garrison Achievement Award. Good is also a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Panelists:

Terry Copeland, RPh, MBA, MPH, ACE, serves as Division Assistant Vice President of 340B Programs for Methodist Healthcare in San Antonio, Texas. With more than 20 years of experience in the 340B industry, he brings deep expertise in program strategy, operations and compliance from both healthcare provider and industry service perspectives. In his role, Copeland leads a team of analysts

and coordinators responsible for implementing and maintaining compliant 340B programs, while optimizing savings across the organization's participating facilities. He is a graduate of the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford University and earned an MBA and an MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Copeland also maintains the Apexus Advanced 340B Operations Certificate.

Mike Loftus, BS, MBA, 340B ACE, is the Executive Director of Pharmacy Integration and Performance at Mercy Health and is a nationally recognized leader in 340B compliance and operations. His centralized team for 340B has oversight for 31 hospitals in the 340B program for Mercy, spanning locations in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. Loftus is a graduate of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy with an MBA and he also completed an Apexus Advanced 340B Operations Certificate, which he still maintains. He is passionate about staying on top of the changing landscape that is the 340B space.

Jeffrey B. Mandel, PharmD, MBA, is Vice President of Pharmacy Services for Methodist Healthcare, where he provides executive oversight of pharmacy services across a multi-hospital system in San Antonio, Texas, including pharmacy strategy, centralized services and supply chain integration. Mandel has led the implementation of centralized pharmacy services infrastructure, including consolidated purchasing, distribution, repackaging and low unit of measure distribution models across acute and ambulatory settings. He has also led the design and implementation of systemwide 340B strategies. Mandel earned PharmD and MBA degrees from the University of Southern Nevada; he completed a PGY-1 residency with the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System and Nellis Air Force Base.

Jennifer Reeves, RPh, is the Repack Pharmacy Manager with Mercy. With more than 30 years of experience in pharmacy operations, regulatory oversight and medication safety, she has been a key player in enhancing pharmacy services at Mercy. Reeves has held various roles previously, including Clinical Pharmacist, Facility Site Manager and System Assistant Director of Pharmacy. She completed a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Joseph T DiPiro, Todd W Nesbit, Charles Reuland, Francesca E Cunningham, Pamela Schweitzer, Marie A Chisholm-Burns, Leyner Martinez, Rita Shane, Christopher M Scott, Scott D Nelson, Dara L E Mize, Elva Angelique Van Devender, Lance Oyen, ASHP Foundation Pharmacy Forecast 2023: Strategic Planning Guidance for Pharmacy Departments in Hospitals and Health Systems.
- American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy, Volume 80, Issue 2, 15 January 2023, Pages 10–35, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zxac274>.
- The Silent Emergency: Jay Bhaumik on the Drug Shortage Crisis, USA Today, March 28, 2025, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/special/contributor-content/2025/03/28/the-silent-emergency-jay-bhaumik-on-the-drug-shortage-crisis/82709124007/>
- Ashmore AW, Akrap A, Aschermann L, Irvine C, Foley J, Scheper JD, Tarpey R, Stevenson JG. Understanding the problem of digital medication inventory visibility in health systems. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2023 Sep 7;80(18):1255-1263. doi: 10.1093/ajhp/zxad130. PMID: 37288781.
- Abdul Kader Akter. Optimizing hospital pharmacy inventory management systems: Challenges and Solutions. *J. Pharm. Hosp. Pharm.* 2024;1(1):07-10. DOI: 10.33545/30790522.2024.v1.i1.A.3



9:30 – 10:30AM Time Block

WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Financial Fitness Starts in the OR: Tackling Osteobiologic Variation

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Supply Chain, Nursing, Healthcare Executive
Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Physicians

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Performance Improvement—CE

Presentation Summary

Osteobiologic utilization is one of the most variable and costly areas in surgical care. Rapid product proliferation, limited comparative evidence and vendor-driven influence have led to inconsistent practices and escalating spend. This session will explore a structured approach to reducing clinical variation and costs through an evidence-based osteobiologic formulary and vendor consolidation strategy. Attendees will learn how to align surgeon choice with quality and safety standards, eliminate bill-only practices and leverage vendor partnerships for significant financial impact.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recognize strategies to reduce osteobiologic variation and systemwide spend through evidence-based standardization.
2. Recall methods to streamline logistics by eliminating bill-only practices and item adds, while also enhancing product safety and availability.
3. Identify the components of financial resiliency in the context of osteobiologics and vendor consolidation to drive sustainable value.

Biographies

Moderator:

Justin Smolder, MSN, MBA, RN, is the Senior Director of Clinical Resource Management at HealthTrust, where he helps lead the clinical value analysis program for HCA Healthcare. He has held this role since 2022, focusing on ensuring clinical value and resource efficiency across the system. As a Registered Nurse, he brings a strong clinical foundation to resource management. Prior to his current role, Smolder held various leadership and education-focused positions at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. He earned both a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from West Virginia University.

Panelists:

Joshua Herzog, M.D., holds faculty appointments at Baylor University, Texas Tech University and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Services. Most recently, he was Chair of the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. He graduated from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa and received a medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Herzog completed both an internship and

residency at Madigan Army Medical Center in Fort Lewis, Washington, along with a spine fellowship at Harvard in Boston. He has served five combat tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Susan Thornton, MSN, RN, is an accomplished healthcare leader with more than 30 years of experience in nursing and clinical resource management. Currently serving as Clinical Resource Director at CJW Medical Center, she specializes in supply cost management, product standardization and strategic collaboration with physicians and hospital executives. Known for her expertise in clinical operations, project management and data analytics tools, Thornton is passionate about improving patient care through innovation and cost-effective solutions. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing as an Acute Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner from Walden University and a BSN from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jessica West, MSN, RN, CVAHP, is an experienced healthcare executive with more than 17 years of experience and a decade of specialization in clinical value analysis across integrated delivery networks. As Vice President of Clinical Operations for HealthTrust's Capital Division, she directs supply expense strategies for 18 hospitals across three states and leads a high-performing team of 10. Under her leadership, the division has saved \$26M through stakeholder alignment, standardization and contract compliance. West is known for building strategic partnerships to enhance quality, optimize resources and reduce costs. She obtained an MSN in Nursing Informatics from Walden University and a BSN in Nursing from Austin Peay State University.

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- Govoni M, Vivarelli L, Mazzotta A, et al. Commercial Bone Grafts Claimed as an Alternative to Autografts: Current Trends for Clinical Applications in Orthopaedics. *Materials (Basel).* 2021; 14 (12): 3290.
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WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 9:30 – 10:30 AM

One System, One Strategy: Driving Smarter Purchasing

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Supply Chain

Course level: Intermediate

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

Health systems often face fragmented medication purchasing structures, leading to inconsistent workflows, preventable waste, misaligned formularies and financial instability—particularly across hospital, retail and ambulatory settings. Discover how one health system transformed a fragmented, reactive medication purchasing environment into a unified, data-driven strategy that strengthens safety, reduces waste and drives financial performance. Retail pharmacy losses and global complexities created urgency for systemwide alignment across inpatient, retail and more than 300 clinics. Learn how this health system established consistent processes and reduced variation through standardized workflows, formulary integration, improved vaccine and medication purchasing practices, and centralized shortage mitigation.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify gaps commonly seen in fragmented medication purchasing structures and describe the impact both operationally and financially.
2. Recognize standardized workflows, formulary alignment principles and technology tools to improve consistency in systemwide purchasing.
3. Recall strategies for drug shortage mitigation, expiration reduction and optimization of perpetual inventory systems to strengthen supply reliability and reduce waste.

Biographies

Heather Evans has 26 years of experience within St. Luke’s Health System, advancing through roles as Pharmacy Technician, Buyer and Analyst. Currently, as the System Pharmacy Purchasing Manager, she

leads pharmacy purchasing across inpatient, retail and more than 300 clinics, driving initiatives that standardize and optimize technology to create smarter, safer and more cost-effective operations. Evans actively mentors pharmacy buyers and analysts, developing talent and fostering collaboration to strengthen team performance. Her leadership in building consistent systems and guiding strategic improvements has elevated efficiency and reliability across the organization.

Stephanie Fisher, CPhT, is a seasoned Pharmacy Buyer with more than 20 years of experience in pharmacy operations and procurement. Currently she is a System Pharmacy Buyer 3, for St. Luke's Health System. Fisher is skilled in project management, having successfully led and supported initiatives that improved workflows, optimized purchasing processes and enhanced operational efficiency. Her leadership in coordinating cross-functional teams and fostering collaboration has been instrumental in driving consistent results. Fisher's expertise, dedication and problem-solving mindset make her a valued contributor to pharmacy purchasing operations.

Neily Martin is an experienced Pharmacy Buyer with technical proficiency in inventory and procurement systems. Currently she is a System Inpatient Pharmacy Buyer, for St. Luke's Health System, where she leverages one of the leading, comprehensive Electronic Health Record (EHR) software companies and other inventory management tools to optimize purchasing workflows and ensure accurate medication supply. Her ability to analyze data, troubleshoot system issues and implement process improvements enhances operational efficiency across retail and specialty pharmacy settings. She obtained an Associate of Science in Pharmacy degree from the University of Phoenix, and she is PTCB and Immunization certified. Martin also has a 340B Apexus Advanced University completion.

Mike Willens is a dedicated Sourcing Manager supporting Pharmacy with contracting, purchasing strategies and vendor management. With more than 15 years of Procurement experience both inside and outside of healthcare, he combines his operational knowledge with leadership in process improvement and system optimization. Willens has led initiatives that enhanced system ordering processes, driven contract compliance with GPOs and manufacturers, and formulated purchasing strategies leading to increased hard dollar savings. He obtained a B.A. from St. Mary's College of California.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- ASHP. Drug Shortages Statistics and Trends. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
- FDA. Drug Shortages: Root Causes and Potential Solutions. U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). Guidelines for Safe Medication Use Systems.
- HealthTrust. Supply Chain and Pharmacy Strategic Guidance.
- Epic Systems. Willow Inventory and Perpetual Inventory Optimization Resources.
- Premier Inc. Medication Purchasing and Contract Optimization Benchmarking Reports.
- Becker's Hospital Review. Strategies for Reducing Medication Waste and Improving Purchasing Alignment.



WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 9:30 – 10:30 AM

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Revolution: Evolving Your Leadership Efficiency

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive

Course level: Basic

Category: Pharmacy Leadership—CE

Presentation Summary

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) continues to accelerate in all areas of our professional and personal lives at a rapid pace. As healthcare professionals, it is critical to learn which tools we can trust while staying within regulatory requirements. And, as most healthcare leaders have been asked to do more with less resources, tools that can assist with being more efficient will be explored. Presenters will focus on unlocking tools and technologies in the AI landscape that pharmacists can apply in daily practice to help them and the teams they manage with workflow efficiency, communication, and educational activities and materials.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify the types of artificial intelligence and how it differs from machine learning.
2. Recall methods for integrating AI into pharmacy practice, education and precepting.
3. Recognize considerations for information integrity and challenges of using AI in professional practice.

Biographies

Erica Little, PharmD, BCIDP, is an Infectious Diseases Pharmacist Specialist at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. There she serves as Director of the PGY-2 Infectious Diseases pharmacy residency program and is co-chair of the health system's Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee. Little has more than 7 years of experience in antimicrobial stewardship and infectious diseases clinical practice. She graduated from Butler University and completed 2 years of post-graduate residency, specializing in infectious diseases at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Chicago.

Anna Stewart, PharmD, BCPS, is an Acute Care Pharmacist Specialist at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. There, she serves as leader of the PGY-1 pharmacy residency and student programs. She is involved with and serves as a subject matter expert on several health system and local committees, including P&T, Clinical/Operational Pharmacy, Education and Informatics. Stewart has more than 15 years of experience in leadership, education, clinical pharmacy and acute care clinical practice. She graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, completed a post-graduate pharmacy residency at HSHS, and currently holds board certification.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- AMA Steps Forward Toolkit – Governance for AI: <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/steps-forward/module/2833560>
- Angus DC, Khera R, Lieu T, et al. AI, health, and health care today and tomorrow. JAMA. 2025;334(18):1650-1664. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2840175>

- Pavuluri S, Sangal R, Sather J, et al. Balancing act: the complex role of artificial intelligence in addressing burnout and healthcare workforce dynamics. *BMJ Health Care Inform* 2024;31:e101120. doi:10.1136/bmjhci-2024-101120
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). ASHP policy 2413, Role of Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice. In: *ASHP Policy Positions 1982-2024*. Accessed September 20, 2024. <https://www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/policyguidelines/docs/browse-by-document-type-policy-positions-with-rationales-pdf>
- Smoke S. Artificial intelligence in pharmacy: a guide for clinicians. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2024;81:641-646. doi: 10.1093/ajhp/zxae051



WEDNESDAY, July 22 | 9:30 – 10:30 AM

340B—The Legal Landscape for 2026

NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

CE Credit proposed: Pharmacy, Supply Chain, Healthcare Executive
Other Target Audiences who may be interested (no CE): Ambulatory Surgery Center

Course level: Advanced

Category: Pharmacy Operations—CE

Presentation Summary

The 340B program is one of the most consequential and dynamic federal programs affecting the healthcare industry. In recent years, its stakeholders have taken unprecedented actions in the 340B program with impacts on covered entity savings, contract pharmacy services, manufacturer discounts, HRSA auditing activities, and federal court precedent. Join this session as a 340B leader from the legal industry reviews the current landscape. Discover in-depth updates on recent events, including drug manufacturer policies and responses from industry stakeholders, program barriers and how to accelerate program growth. Audience participation is encouraged to receive take-home strategies for implementation.

Learning Objectives | *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:*

1. Recall the 340B program’s unique structure and significant developments in the 340B legal landscape over the prior year.
2. Recognize program growth opportunities and 340B best practices.
3. Identify audit and operational risks of 340B expansion strategies.

Biography

Steven Schnelle, J.D., is a partner with McDermott, Will & Emery in New York where he provides strategic legal solutions and insight to investors and business operators in the healthcare and life sciences industries to navigate complex legal structures and regulatory issues. He assists with third-party

payor revenue optimization, reimbursement, coding and billing strategies. Schnelle provides advice on federal healthcare program audits, investigations and appeals, and leads compliance program structuring and drug pricing issues relating to the 340B program. He earned a bachelor's degree at New York University and a Juris Doctor at Georgetown University Law Center.

List of Evidence-based References and/or Industry Resources Consulted:

- Government Accountability Office: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-107.pdf>
- Health Resources and Services Administration: <https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/updates/2021-340b-covered-entity-purchases>
- 340B Patient Definition: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/opa/programrequirements/federalregisternotices/patientandentityeligibility102496.pdf>
- Genesis HealthCare v. Becerra: <https://www.ca4.uscourts.gov/opinions/201701.P.pdf>
- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: <https://www.irs.gov/inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>
- 340B Statute: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/rural-health/phs-act-section-340b.pdf>
- 59 Fed. Reg. 47884 (September 19, 1994): <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/opa/outpatient-hospital-facilities.pdf>
- October 2023 Notice: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-10-27/pdf/2023-23702.pdf>
- 75 Fed. Reg. 10272 (March 5, 2010): <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2010-03-05/pdf/2010-4755.pdf> • 340B Statute: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/rural-health/phs-act-section-340b.pdf>
- National Association of Community Health Centers: https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/340b-restrictions-summary-chart1_.pdf
- 340B Litigation Tracker: <https://www.mcdermottplus.com/340b-litigation-tracker-registration/>
- HELP Committee: <https://www.help.senate.gov/ranking/newsroom/press/ranking-member-cassidy-seeks-information-from-major-contract-pharmacies-as-part-of-ongoing-340b-investigation>
- Patient Definition: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/opa/programrequirements/federalregisternotices/patientandentityeligibility102496.pdf>
- Hospital OPPS Final Rule: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-07-31/pdf/2023-14768.pdf>
- Baptist Health v. Humana Docket: <https://dockets.justia.com/docket/alabama/almdce/2:2024cv00077/82283>
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Bulletin: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/cib010820.pdf>
- Memorial Care Settlement: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/oc-based-health-care-organization-agrees-pay-over-315-million-settle-claims-it>
- Pomona Valley Medical Center Settlement: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/pomona-hospital-agrees-pay-more-2-million-after-self-reporting-overbilling-medi-cal>
- SUSTAIN 340B Act Discussion Draft: https://www.thune.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/5e99f492-7a5e-428d-a25e-f4722cfd4b38/26132C0D072A3EF9EB32FB58CFEF5819.340b-discussion-draft-explanatory-document-and-subsequent-rfi.pdf
- 340B Access Act: <https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/340B-ACCESS-Act-Text.pdf>

