

A decorative graphic consisting of blue circuit lines with circular nodes, extending horizontally from the left and right sides of the central black box.

# HEALTH POLICY AND PHYSIATRY

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# CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

NOTHING TO DISCLOSE



# HOW HUMAN GROUP DECISIONS ARE MADE

- Three major domains
  - Technical
  - Economic
  - Political
- Usually at least two of the three domains must be in alignment for change to happen



# Examples

## Going out to dinner

- Technical – consensus on what cuisine to eat
- Economic – how much can we afford to spend tonight
- Political – who is the alpha leader within the group?

## Success of a new product – Apple Vision Pro vs. Meta Quest 3

- Technical – superior technical performance of Apple Vision Pro
- Economic – Substantial price difference
- Political – the social public opinions of the Apple vs. Meta brands

# CLINICAL EXAMPLE

- Choosing an inpatient rehabilitation setting
  - Technical – the need for rehab services in a supervised setting
  - Economic – the cost: to the payer, to the patient, to the facility
  - Political – who advocates the hardest for the setting choice; discharge planners, clinicians, family



## HOW THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT IN A SOCIETY ARE CREATED AND ENFORCED

- Brute force
- Consensus development
- Government
  - Laws
  - Regulations
  - Enforcement
  - Executive administration

# HOW THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IS IMPACTED

- **Technical**
  - **Licensure:** Permission to practice medicine, the scope of practice of physicians, the scope of practice of other license holders
  - **Oversight:** Board of Medicine monitoring of performance, DEA monitoring (i.e., Prescription monitoring)
  - **Enforcement**
    - Civil: Malpractice lawsuits, complaint adjudication by licensing authorities
    - Criminal




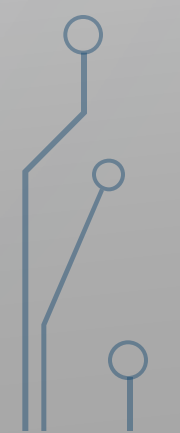
# HOW THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IS IMPACTED

- Economic
    - Medicare Fee schedules, payment regulations
    - Participation in governmental and commercial reimbursement programs
  - Political
    - Hospital privileges and practice constraints
    - Medical specialty competition
    - Competition with other disciplines of providers
    - Reputation and public opinion
    - Brand identity via social media, marketing,
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# TOUCH POINTS FOR ADVOCACY

- Individual patient needs
  - Groups of patients and patient advocates
  - Individual providers
  - Groups of providers
  - Caregiving organizations (hospitals, rehab hospitals, SNFs, etc.)
  - Payers (commercial and governmental)
  - Local, State Federal and International governmental agencies
  - Local, State Federal and International legislative bodies
  - Public awareness (press, media, social media, presentations, etc.)
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# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY TOUCHPOINTS

- Legislative
  - Individual Members of Congress
  - Caucuses
  - Congressional Committees with Jurisdiction
    - House Ways and Means
    - House Energy and Commerce
    - Senate Finance
  - MedPAC
  - GAO
  - OMB
  - Current Examples
    - Prior authorization bill – Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act
    - Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY TOUCHPOINTS

- Regulatory Agencies
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
    - Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ)
    - Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)
  - US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
  - Regulation Examples
    - IRF PPS Annual Payment Update Rule
    - Public Health Emergency Waivers
      - 60% Rule and 3-hour rule suspension
      - Telehealth constraint waivers

# HOW PHYSIATRY IS IMPACTED AND IMPACTS POLICY (CURRENT EXAMPLES)

- Oversight and enforcement
  - Office of the Inspector General (OIG) (Dept. of Health and Human Services) audit of IRF admission claim payment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - CMS Center for Program Integrity (CPI) proposed “Review Choice Demonstration Project”
  - Congressional oversight committee hearings
  - Dear Colleague Congressional sign-on letters
  - Congressional Inquiry letters
- Executive administration
  - Office of Disability Policy
  - National Council on Disability



# HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED AND HAVE A VOICE

- Advocating for the needs of your patient
- Individual partisan political activity
  - Vote
  - \$ - Support candidates and parties of your choice
  - Engage in legitimate civil political discourse
- Professional groups and associations
  - Local hospital medical staff activities
  - State medical society
  - State PM&R society
  - National PM&R organizations



# NATIONAL MEDICAL REHABILITATION ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

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American Academy of PM&R

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Association of Academic Physiatrists

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American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

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American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

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American Medical Association

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American Osteopathic Association

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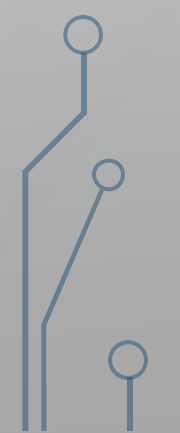
American Hospital Association

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Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (<https://drrc-coalition.org/>)



# HOW TO HAVE AN IMPACT

- Speak out (constructively)
  - Volunteer
  - Groups have more impact than individuals
  - Be focused on the issue of importance
  - Communicate effectively
  - Sometimes stories are more impactful than data
  - Make it personal to the listener
  - Be persistent
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# Discussion and questions