

Building Stronger Bones
With Technology:
Advanced Practice
Pharmacists Transform
Osteoporosis Care

#### THIS SESSION IS NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Applying for CE credit or need a Certificate of Participation? Be sure to snap a pic of the code shown at the end of this session.

**CE Deadline: 09/30/25** 





Building Stronger Bones with Technology: Advanced Practice Pharmacists Transform Osteoporosis Care



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Scripps Health, San Diego, CA

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### **Learning Objectives**



At the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Recognize the role of advanced practice pharmacists in optimizing medication management, enhancing adherence and standardizing the care of osteoporosis.
- Identify the cost-saving benefits and improved access to care achieved by expanding the role of pharmacists in osteoporosis management.
- 3. Recall strategies to leverage technology using an advanced practice pharmacist-run osteoporosis clinic to improve patient outcomes, streamline workflows and reduce delays in treatment initiation.



### **Outline**



- Scripps Health Overview
- Optimizing Care
- Benefits of Advance Practice Pharmacists
- Leveraging Technology
- Program Impact & Outcomes



### Scripps Health - Organizational Overview



#### Who We Are

- Scripps Health Plan & ACO
  - Private, Nonprofit Integrated Health System
  - Serving all of San Diego County, California
  - 69,000 Managed Care Lives
  - 75,000 additional ACO lives

#### **Key Facts**

- 4 hospitals across 5 campuses
- 5 affiliated medical groups with
   30+ clinics countywide
- 3,000+ affiliated physicians
- 16,000+ employees





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# Scripps Health Ambulatory Pharmacy Services

- Ambulatory Clinical Pharmacy Services:
   Scripps Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Services provides innovative, patient-centered care through integrated clinical pharmacy expertise
- Our Team: Advanced Practice Pharmacists & Clinical Pharmacy Specialists embedded in multiple specialties, including primary care, cardiology, oncology, rheumatology, advanced care, neurology, HIV, anticoagulation & specialty pharmacy

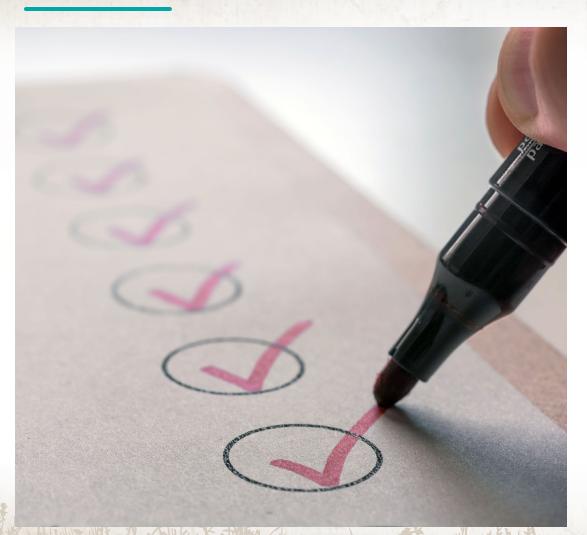


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### **Scripps Advanced Practice Pharmacists**



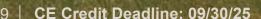


- Board Certified
- Advanced Practice licensed (California)
- 3+ years' experience working under Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)
- Credentialed & Privileged through Medical Staff Administration

Sources: Microsoft stock images.



# ROLE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PHARMACISTS IN OPTIMIZING OSTEOPOROSIS CARE



### Why Osteoporosis?



Managed Care

Pharmacy Leadership Medical Leadership

Medicine Specialties

Primary Care

Source: Getty Images. Used with permission of HealthTrust.

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### **Osteoporosis Overview**



#### Silent disease with real risk

- Gradual deterioration of bone quality, not seen or felt until fracture or Dualenergy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA)
- Chronic disease like hypertension or type 2 diabetes → treatments not curative
- Real risks with both disease & treatment

#### Major osteoporotic fracture:

- One-year mortality 20–30%
- 20% sustain second fracture within 4 years
- Economic burden: \$34,000-\$53,000
   per major fracture

Sources: Epidemiology of osteoporosis and fragility fractures | International Osteoporosis Foundation. Accessed 6/20/2025
The Association of Oral Bisphosphonate Use With Mortality Risk Following a Major Osteoporotic Fracture in the United Kingdom: Population-Based Cohort Study.

Doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2019.11.003

Economic Burden of Osteoporotic Fractures in US Managed Care Enrollees. Am J Manag Care. 2020;26(5):e142-e149. https://doi.org/10.37765/ajmc.2020.43156



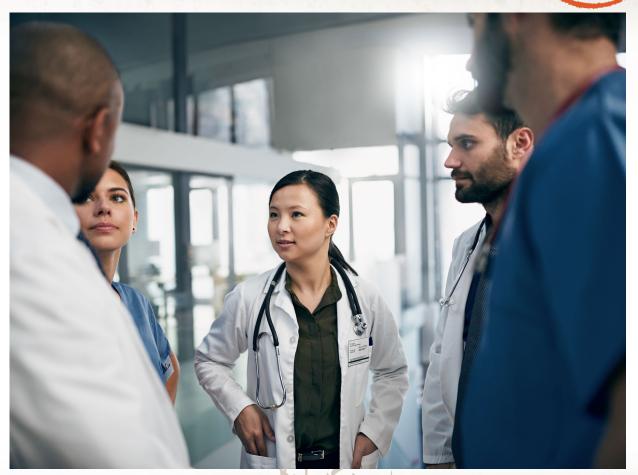
### Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)



## Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:

A pharmacist collaborative practice agreement (CPA) is a formal agreement between prescriber(s) & pharmacist(s).

A CPA allows licensed healthcare providers to make diagnoses, supervise patient care & refer patients to pharmacists.



Source: Pharmacy-Based Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence, CDC.gov: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/cardiovascular-resources/php/medication-adherence/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/cardiovascular-resources/php/medication-adherence/index.html</a> Accessed 6/18/2025.

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### California Law



#### CA Business & Professions Code Section 4052 & 4052.6:

- Under a collaborative practice agreement, Advanced Practice Pharmacist permitted procedures include:
  - Perform patient assessments
  - Order & interpret drug therapy-related tests
  - Refer patients to other healthcare providers
  - Participate in the evaluation & management of diseases & health conditions in collaboration with other healthcare providers
  - Initiate, adjust or discontinue drug therapy

Source: CA Board of Pharmacy Law Book. https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/laws/regs/pharmacy\_lawbook.shtml, Accessed 6/18/2025



### Workflow



Referral

**Initial** consultation

**Coordinate treatment** 

Injection/ Infusion appointment

Follow-up



### **Initial Consultation**

APP reviews detailed lifestyle recommendations:

- Diet
- Supplements
- Exercise
- Dental counseling



Sources: 2020 AACE/ACE Guidelines.

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Initial Consultation, continued

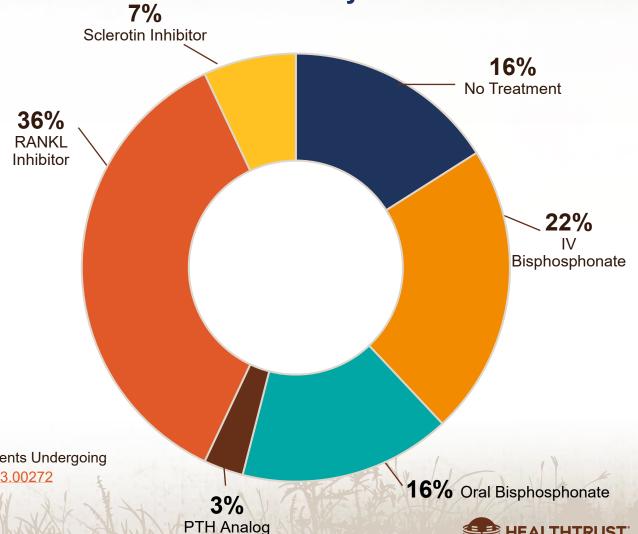
**Drug Class Prescribed by APP** 



Personalized approach, emphasis on

primary prevention

- Risk stratification
- Shared decision-making
- Collaboration with spine surgeons to improve surgical outcomes



Sources: 2020 AACE/ACE Guidelines.

Impact of Teriparatide on Complications and Patient-Reported Outcomes of Patients Undergoing Long Spinal Fusion According to Bone Density. http://dx.doi.org/10.2106/JBJS.23.00272 Scripps Osteoporosis Clinic. Do not reuse without permission of Scripps Health.

### **CPA – Osteoporosis Treatment Algorithm**



#### Scripps Adult Osteoporosis Treatment Algorithm

dapted from 2020 AACE/ACE Osteoporosis Guidelines

(Endocr Pract. 2020;26(Suppl 1)1-36)

Lumbar spine or femoral neck or total hip T-score of ≤ -2.5, a history of fragility fracture or high FRAX® fracture probability\*

#### Evaluate for causes of secondary osteoporosis

(glucocorticoids, androgen-deprivation therapy, other medicines; alcohol; tobacco; eating disorder; etc

- 1) zoledronic acid\*\* (\$)
- 2) denosumab (if CrCi <35ml/min) (\$\$\$)</li>
- 3) abaloparatide, teriparatide or romosozumab (\$\$\$\$)
- Alternate therapy: alendronate, risedronate (\$)

deficiency ary osteoporosis

vention, benefits and risks of medications

Very High Risk/(+)Fractures (T-score ≤-3, very high FRAX\*\*, high fall risk or h/o injurious falls, recent fx, fx on approved thx, multiple fxs, f while on meds causing skeletal harm

- 1) zoledronic acid\*\* (\$)
- denosumab (if CrCl <35ml/min) (\$\$\$)</li>
- 3) abaloparatide, teriparatide or romosozumab (\$\$\$\$)

Alternate therapy: alendronate, risedronate (\$)

therapy with

Reassess yearly for response to treatment. Consider FRAX®, BMD and/ or bone turnover markers as clinically indicated

or bone turnover markers as clinically indicated

Increasing or stable BMD and no Progr

Consider a drug holiday after 5 years oral or 3 years IV bisphosphonate therapy

fractures

Resume therapy when a fracture occurs, BMD declines beyond LSC, ITM's rise to pretreatment values or patient meets initial treatment criteria

Progression of bone loss or recurrent fractures

- Re-evaluate for causes of secondary osteoporosis and factors leading to suboptima response to therapy
- Switch to injectable

   antiresorptive if on oral agent

   Switch to anabolic if on injectable antiresorptive or at year high risk of fracture

Maloparatide or maloparatide for maloparatide for maloparatide for maloparatide for maloparatide for maloparatide or maloparatide for maloparatide or maloparatide for maloparatide or maloparatide for maloparatide or maloparatide for maloparatid

Continue
therapy or
onsider adding
PTH/PTHrP
analog if
rogression of
bone loss or
recurrent
fractures

Romosozum for 1 year

Sequential therapy with oral or injectable antiresorptive to maintain gains to bone

- If stable, continue therapy for
- years'
  If progression
  of bone loss
  or recurrent
  fractures,
  consider
  switching to

‡Consider a drug holiday after 6 years of IV zoledronic acid. During the holiday, an anabolic agent or raloxifene may be used.



<sup>\* 10-</sup>year major osteoporotic fracture risk- High Risk: ≥ 20% or hip fracture risk ≥ 3%; Very High Risk: ≥ 30% and ≥ 4.5% respective

<sup>\*\*</sup> Medications listed in order of preference due to efficacy and cost effectivenes

<sup>†</sup> Avoid PTH/PTHrP analogs in pre-existing hypercalcemia or underlying hypercalcemic disorders, hyperparathyroidism, Paget's disease, hx of bone cancer, hx of skeletal irradiation. Caution in severe renal impairment or h/o renal stones.

### Goal: Reduce treatment failure due to side effects & compliance issues

### Adherence & Follow-up



- Scheduling: Proactive approach Closely track treatment due dates, timely outreach & follow-up to prevent delays
- Lab Monitoring: Monitor & address issues early to avoid treatment interruptions
- Side Effect Management: Early identification & resolutions

Address side effects, compliance, costs & other med access issues

 Scheduled Follow-Up: 1 week for initial injections or infusions; 2 & 6 months for new prescriptions



### **Coordinated Patient Access**



#### **Estimates**

- Providing estimates up-front for high-cost treatments
- Switch to alternatives when cost-prohibitive



#### **Prior Authorization**

- Payor & Plan-specific ordering requirements to shorten wait time
- Coordinate with Prior Auth team to obtain authorization, appeals





#### **Financial Assistance**

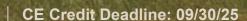
Liaise with Financial
 Assistance team to obtain manufacturer assistance & grants when available



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### Financial Efficiency & Cost Containment



#### **Enhancing Financial Efficiency & Accuracy**

- Error Identification & Resolution: Addressed billing errors & systemic issues related to unit size
- Charge Accuracy: Improved reimbursement & prevented double-billing
- Cost-Conscious Protocols: Followed standardized protocols prioritizing cost efficiency when clinical outcomes are equivalent
- Denial Management: Implemented a robust denial tracking & resubmission process to recover payments & minimize financial losses



### **Improving Access: Bringing Care** to the Patient



- Care Where Patients Are
  - Treatment delivered in clinics countywide
- Embedded Expertise **Advanced Practice Pharmacists** in clinics
- Expanded Access Faster appointment with APP versus specialists



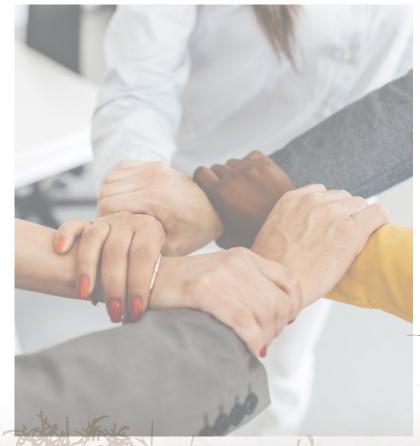
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### Optimizing Care: A Systemwide Approach



- Standardized Treatments: Guideline-directed therapies ensuring all patients receive consistent, high-quality care by adhering to the latest clinical guidelines
- Standardized Workflows Across Rx Teams:
   Unified processes between Osteoporosis APPs, prior authorization, financial assistance, retail & specialty pharmacies to enhance efficiency
- Centralized Care Management: Pharmacist Osteoporosis Clinic managing patients across 30+ clinics
- Systemwide Engagement: Standardized workflows rolled out to primary care & specialty clinics → creating a more cohesive & efficient care system



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### Partner with Information Systems (IS)





What tools are available in your EHR for Care management or **Population Health** management?

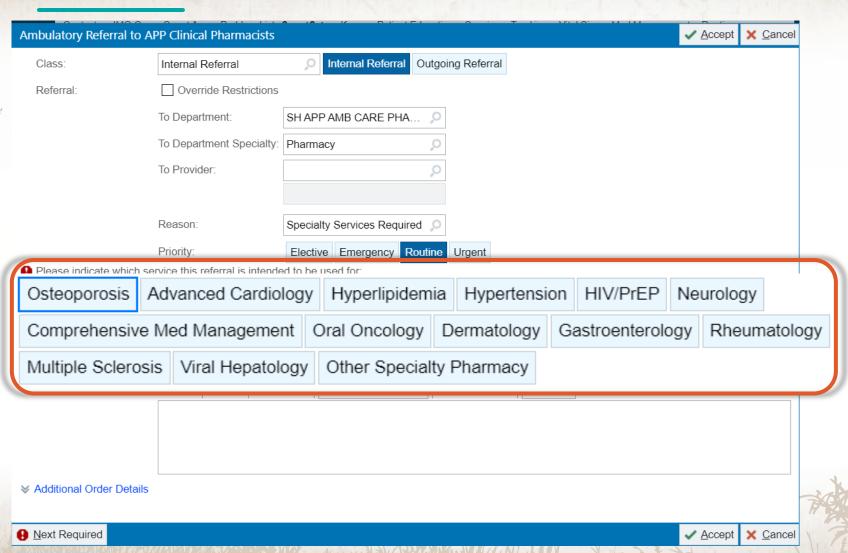
What have we done at Scripps?

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### **Provider Referral**





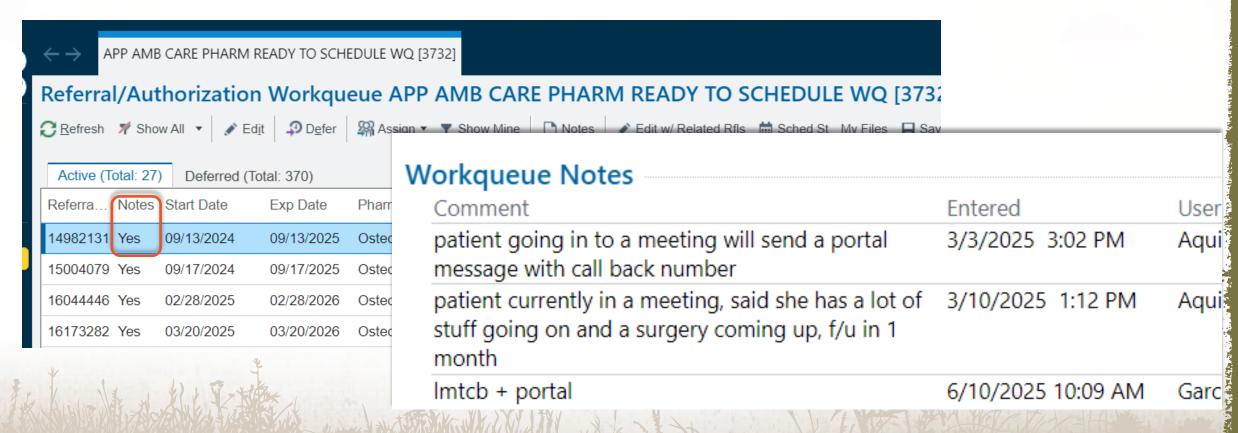
- Used for all **Amb Clinical Pharmacy** services
- Familiar process to providers
- Training & tip sheets provided on how to order referral to our team



### Referral Workqueue



Track & manage incoming referrals; manage deferrals; appointment cancellations & follow-up process; shared notes





### **Intra-departmental Notes**



"Blue sticky" with patient details, viewable for all in dept:

- Referring provider, date & reason
- Labs or imaging due
- Patient preferences (clinic location, preferred APP, route of billing)
- Patient-specific details (hard of hearing, speak with family member, schedule extra time)

\*Convenient place to dictate info when pre-charting without needing to bounce between areas within Epic.

#### **Pharmacy Comments** Enc - poonam 4/14/25 Walker, ( MD Dexa 4/21/22 Labs utd On Alendronate, but reporting severe GERD. Needs to stop alendronate. Please assess. Needs some med due to prednisone, risk of accelerated osteoporosis.

Source: Scripps Osteoporosis Service. Not for reuse without permission of Scripps Health.

Last updated: 2 months ago by Aquino,



### **Pre-enrollment Questionnaire**



# Osteoporosis-specific questionnaire

- Sent prior to initial consultation to gather key information
- Guides risk stratification & treatment options

Question	5/30/2025 12:41 PM PDT - Filed by Patient
Do you have any history of non-traumatic fractures as an adult (e.g., after tripping or falling from standing height)?	No
Do you have any history of falls?	No
Have you lost any height?	No
Has anyone in your immediate family (parents or siblings) ever broken a hip?	No
Does anyone in your immediate family (parents or siblings) have osteoporosis that you know of?	Yes
Relationship to you?	Mother & grandmother
Have you ever taken medication(s) to treat Osteoporosis (e.g., Fosamax (alendronate), Actonel (risedronate), Reclast (zoledronic acid), Prolia (denosumab), Forteo (teriparatide))?	Yes
Name of the medication(s)?	Actonel, Zometa, Fosamax
Estimated start and stop date of each medication taken?	2011- Fosamax but got diarrhea then switched to Actonel 2011 to 2013 - stopped in 2013 during chemotherapy. Received a dose of Zometa in 2014 but had diarrhea so switched back to Actonel, Restarted 2014 to 2023.
Do you have a history of Rheumatoid Arthritis?	No
Have you ever taken a staroid medication such as produicane, cortisone (or any other) to	rNo

#### Question

Do you have any history of non-traumatic fractures as an adult (e.g., after tripping or falling from standing height)?

Do you have any history of falls?

Have you lost any height?

Has anyone in your immediate family (parents or siblings) ever broken a hip?



# **Leveraging Technology**

### **Streamlining Tasks**



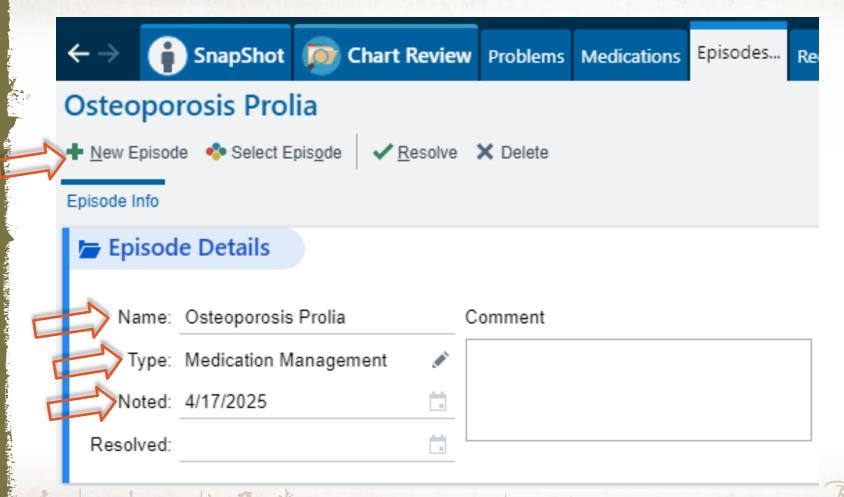
#### Need for efficient, structured care management

- EpicCare Ambulatory Episodes of Care
   Functionality embedded in EHR based on assigned tasks, daily/weekly/monthly reports
  - Reduced manual tracking: Eliminated errors
  - Bulk patient lists for outreach & follow-up
  - Simplified collaboration across the team, promotes continuity of care
  - Standardized care pathways
  - Increased reporting capabilities



### **Episode of Care**





Patients are enrolled in an episode of care

**Episode Name** Filter & track sub-populations

**Noted & Resolved** Track enrollment & discharge dates

Sources: : https://galaxy.epic.com Plan Your Remote Patient Monitoring Strategy.pdf Scripps Osteoporosis Service. Not for reuse without permission of Scripps Health.



### **Checklist Tasks**

Checklist Tasks enable team to collaborate effectively by assigning responsibilities & due dates.

Each user or group works from a daily report to stay organized & track progress:

- Shared across the team
- Easily accessible in patient's chart
- Assign Responsible User or Pool & Due date
- Task Groups: Assign multiple related tasks simultaneously, typically performed together or in sequence, with pre-assigned Responsible User or Pool



	All				
		JUN 19 2025	Appointment scheduling TECHNICIAN AMB CARE (APP CLINIC) POOL	Not Started	6/18/2025
			Inj @ Enc due 7/18/25, B&B		
		JUL 13 2025	Labs TECHNICIAN AMB CARE (APP CLINIC) POOL	Not Started	6/5/2025
			Needs VitD by 7/15/26		
		_	DEXA Amy Catherine Turner, PharmD	Not Started	6/18/2025
			Due 8/20/26 Mercy Hosp		
	<b>~</b>	JUN 19 2025	(Re)order medication Completed by Turner, Amy Catherine on 6/19/2025	Completed	6/18/2025
	<b>✓</b>	JUN 19 2025	Copay Completed by Turner, Amy Catherine on 6/19/2025	Completed	6/18/2025
	Source	o: Scrippe O	stooperesis Service Net for rouse without permis	sion of Scripps Hoal	th 5

Source: Scripps Osteoporosis Service. Not for reuse without permission of Scripps Health.



### Daily reports -> Checklist Tasks



Tasks Due	Patient Notes	Episode Name	OST Med	Pharmacist	Episode Creation Date	
06/20/2025	Comments: Annuals in June, Prolia Husband John NEXT DOSE DUE: 07/13/25 Patient Injection Clinic: SCEN Buy and Bill: Yes 340B workflow: Specialty pharmacy:	Osteoporosis Prolia	Prolia syringe - 60 mg m	croll to selecti	Due Soon  Tolerability/adherence Assigned to: Poonam Due: 6/20/2025. 06/06/25- reported diarrhea after 3 doses, send portato follow up after 1-2 weeks. Pdp 2 month Fosamax, send portal  Upcoming  Tolerability/adherence Assigned to: Technician Amb Care (App Clinic) Pool. Due: 10/10/2025. 6 month Fosamax  Appointment scheduling Assigned to: Technician Amb Care (App Clinic) Pool. Due: 3/10/2026. Schedule annual Fosamax due 04/10/26  DEXA	
06/21/2025	Comments: initial 2018, annual 08/20/24 Reclast Infusion, Recalst infusion 9/27/24 NEXT DOSE DUE: 9/27/25 Patient Injection Clinic: COJF Buy and Bill: Specialty pharmacy:	Osteoporosis Reclast	zoledronic acid-mannitoL water - 5 mg/100 mL	- Poonan		
06/23/2025	Comments: initial 04/25/24. Evenity started 12/6/24 NEXT DOSE DUE: 6/20/2025 Patient Injection Clinic: SCEN	Osteoporosis Evenity	romosozumab-aqqg - 210mg/2.34mL ( 105mg/1.17mLx2)	Poonan	Assigned to: Poonan Last 02/13/25, ENC	Due: 1/13/2027.



Buy and Bill: Yes

### **Checklist Tasks**



AUG 19 2025	Appointment scheduling Date Added: 6/17/2025 Evenity # 5	Not Started	×
DEC 28 2027	DEXA D Lam, PharmD Date Added: 5/6/2025 Last 1/28/25 ME	Not Started	×
_	(Re)order medication  Date Added: 3/26/2025	Not Started	×
JUN 17 Appointment scheduling Completed by Larr ) on 6/17/2025  Date Added: 4/8/2025 Completed: 6/17/2  Evenity 6/9/25 ka - Imtcb, need to reschedule 04/15/25 pl- Imtcb + portal Evenity #3			



### Reports for Clinic Management



Management Reports - Weekly & Monthly Use to monitor workload, assess daily & long-term staffing needs, employee productivity, program referral volume, lost-to-follow-up

- Resolved Episodes
- **Incomplete Tasks**
- **Completed Tasks**
- **Master List**
- Revenue
- Pharmacist Appointments
- No Assigned Tasks

Source: https://galaxy.epic.com/Redirect.aspx?DocumentID=100239494&PrefDocID=161881, last accessed 6/17/2029



### **Additional Tools**





Note Dictation Tools



Video & Telehealth Visits



**Other EHR Tools** 

FYI Flags for Financial Assistance
Problem List
Care Team
Shared templates
MyChart Care Companion

Sources: Microsoft stock images.

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#### **Future Opportunities for Implementation**



#### **Compass Rose**

- Additional Tasks functionality & automation
  - Outreach Tasks in addition to Checklist Tasks
  - Specific Lab Tasks w/ links to order
- Automation responsible user & due dates for standardized groups of tasks
- Case Team in addition to Care Team
- Social Determinates of Health for complex case management
- Management Enhancements
  - Dashboards
  - Additional Reports

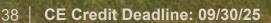
#### **Artificial Intelligence**

- Functionality under development:
  - Ambient note writing, patient message responses, results responses
  - Diagnostics
  - Imaging
  - Administrative efficiencies
  - Virtual Health Assistants
  - Population Health management
  - Remote monitoring & wearables
  - o & more

Sources: 1. www.galaxy.epic.com Galaxy - Overview of Compass Rose Comprehensive Care Management; 2. www.galaxy.epic.com Galaxy - Compass Rose Programs Setup and Support Guide: 3. Compass Rose™ Implementation in a Large Academic Medical Center doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2024.100462

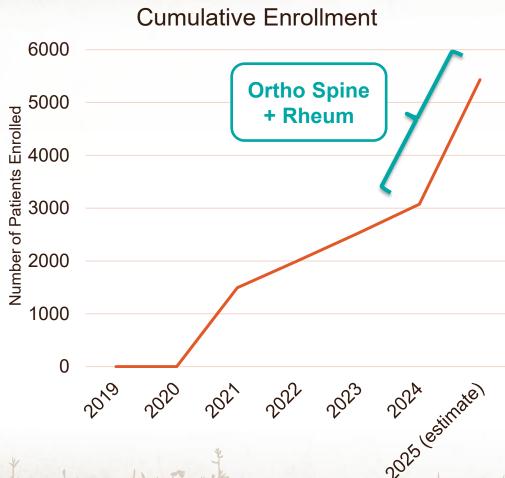


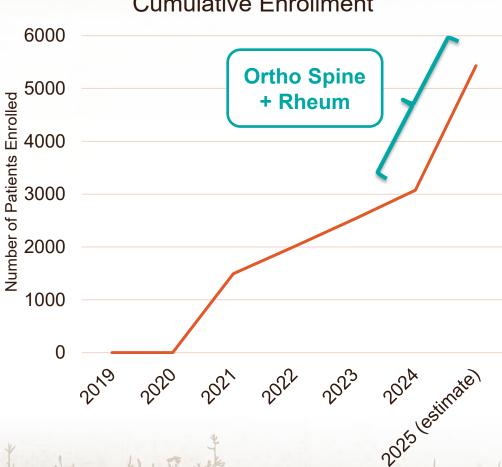
### PROGRAM IMPACT & OUTCOMES

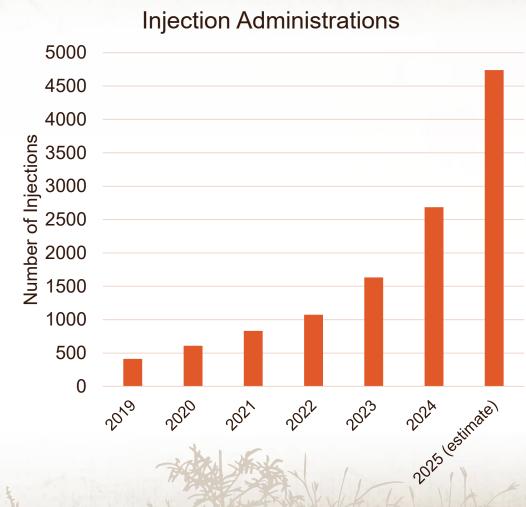


#### **Sustained Growth Over Time**





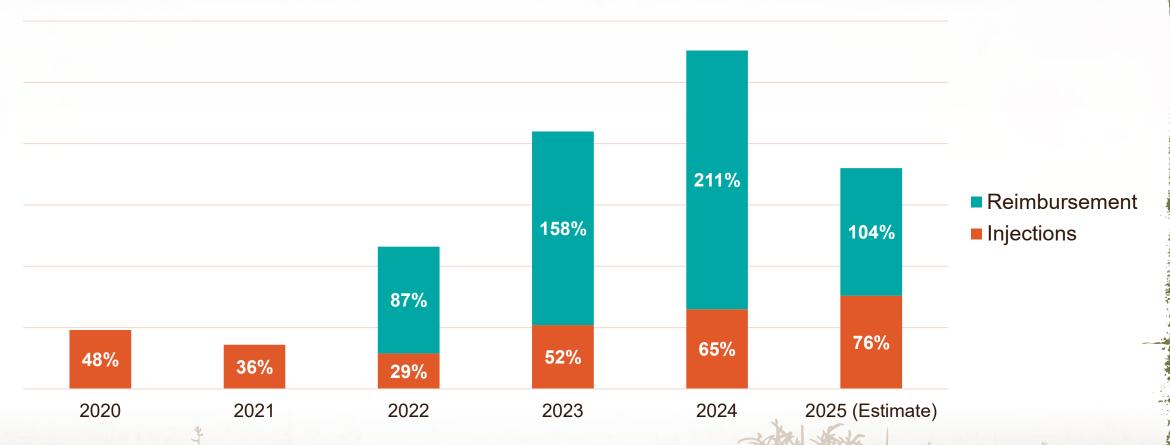






#### **Year-over-year Program Growth**

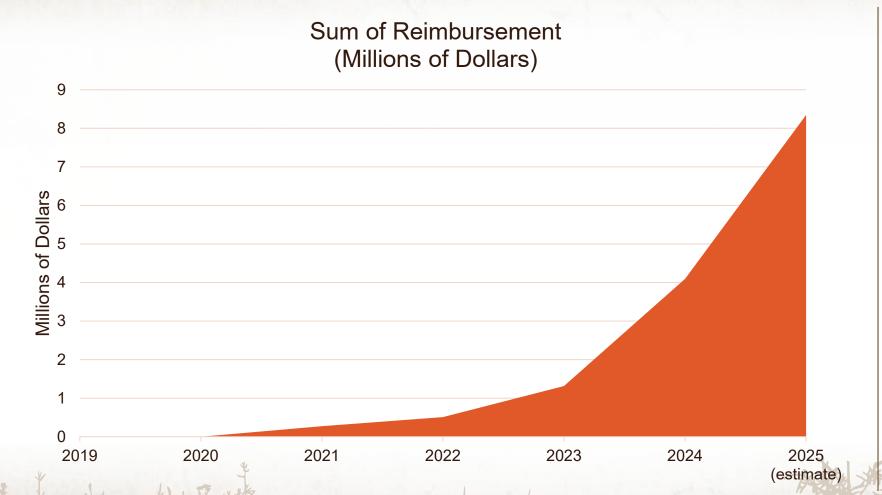






#### Improved Reimbursement





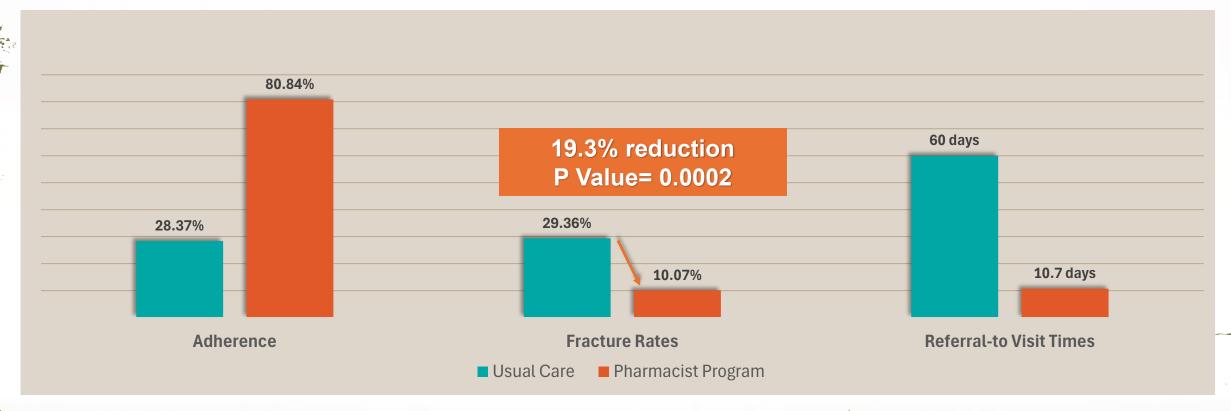
**Health System** reimbursement by year, shown in millions of dollars. **Dollars are not** cumulative.



#### **Improved Patient Outcomes**



#### **Medication Use Evaluation**



Improved adherence

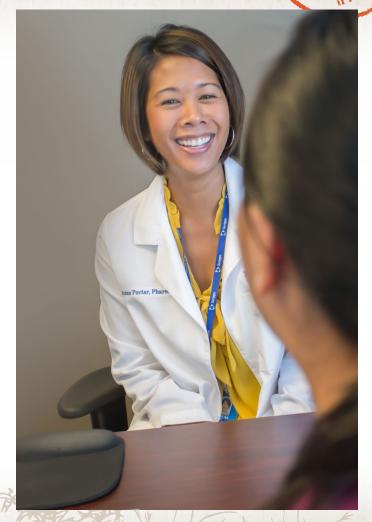
**Reduced fracture risk** 

increased access



#### **Summary: Process Improvements & Outcomes**

- Improved Access
   Reduced wait times & enhanced access to rheumatologists for timely diagnosis & treatment
- Patient Repatriation
- Reimbursement Optimization
   Refined billing processes to contain drug costs while maximizing reimbursement
- Standardized Osteoporosis Management
   Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) & protocols
   to ensure systemwide consistency
- Improved Patient Care: Fracture reduction



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Source: Microsoft stock images.

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#### **Assessment Question #1**



## Which of the following is a key responsibility of Advanced Practice Pharmacists in osteoporosis care?

- A. Initiating or adjusting therapies
- B. Monitoring labs to prevent treatment delays
- C. Conducting early assessments for side effects & cost concerns
- D. Standardizing protocols for medication use
- E. All of the above



#### **Answer: Assessment Question #1**



## Which of the following is a key responsibility of Advanced Practice Pharmacists in osteoporosis care?

- A. Initiating or adjusting therapies
- B. Monitoring labs to prevent treatment delays
- C. Conducting early assessments for side effects & cost concerns
- D. Standardizing protocols for medication use
- E. All of the above



#### **Assessment Question #2**



## How do pharmacists enhance adherence in osteoporosis treatment?

- A. By providing one-week, two-month, & six-month follow-ups
- B. By addressing compliance & access issues early
- C. Both A & B
- D. Neither A nor B



#### **Answer: Assessment Question #2**



## How do pharmacists enhance adherence in osteoporosis treatment?

- A. By providing one-week, two-month, & six-month follow-ups
- B. By addressing compliance & access issues early
- C. Both A & B
- D. Neither A nor B



#### **Assessment Question #3**



#### What key outcomes were achieved through leveraging technology in the Advanced Practice Pharmacist-run osteoporosis clinic?

- A. Improved patient therapy compliance from 20% to 80%
- B. Reduced fracture rates by 20%
- C. Optimized billing practices, decreased referral times & expanded access to care
- D. All of the above



#### **Answer: Assessment Question #3**



# What key outcomes were achieved through leveraging technology in the Advanced Practice Pharmacist-run osteoporosis clinic?

- A. Improved patient therapy compliance from 20% to 80%
- B. Reduced fracture rates by 20%
- C. Optimized billing practices, decreased referral times & expanded access to care
- D. All of the above



#### References



- 1. Epidemiology of osteoporosis and fragility fractures | International Osteoporosis Foundation. Accessed 6/20/2025
- 2. The Association of Oral Bisphosphonate Use With Mortality Risk Following a Major Osteoporotic Fracture in the United Kingdom: Population-Based Cohort Study. Doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2019.11.003">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2019.11.003</a>
- 3. Economic Burden of Osteoporotic Fractures in US Managed Care Enrollees. *Am J Manag Care.* 2020;26(5):e142-e149. <a href="https://doi.org/10.37765/ajmc.2020.43156">https://doi.org/10.37765/ajmc.2020.43156</a>
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