

Emerging/Current

MEDICAL and

DRUG TRENDS



ADAM SEIDNER

MD, MPH
The Hartford

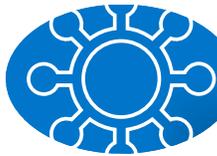


SILVIA SACALIS

BS, PHARM D
HealthSystems

Recent History Impacting Workers' Comp Healthcare

Global Pandemic



- Mental & behavioral health considerations
- Cognitive impacts (long COVID)

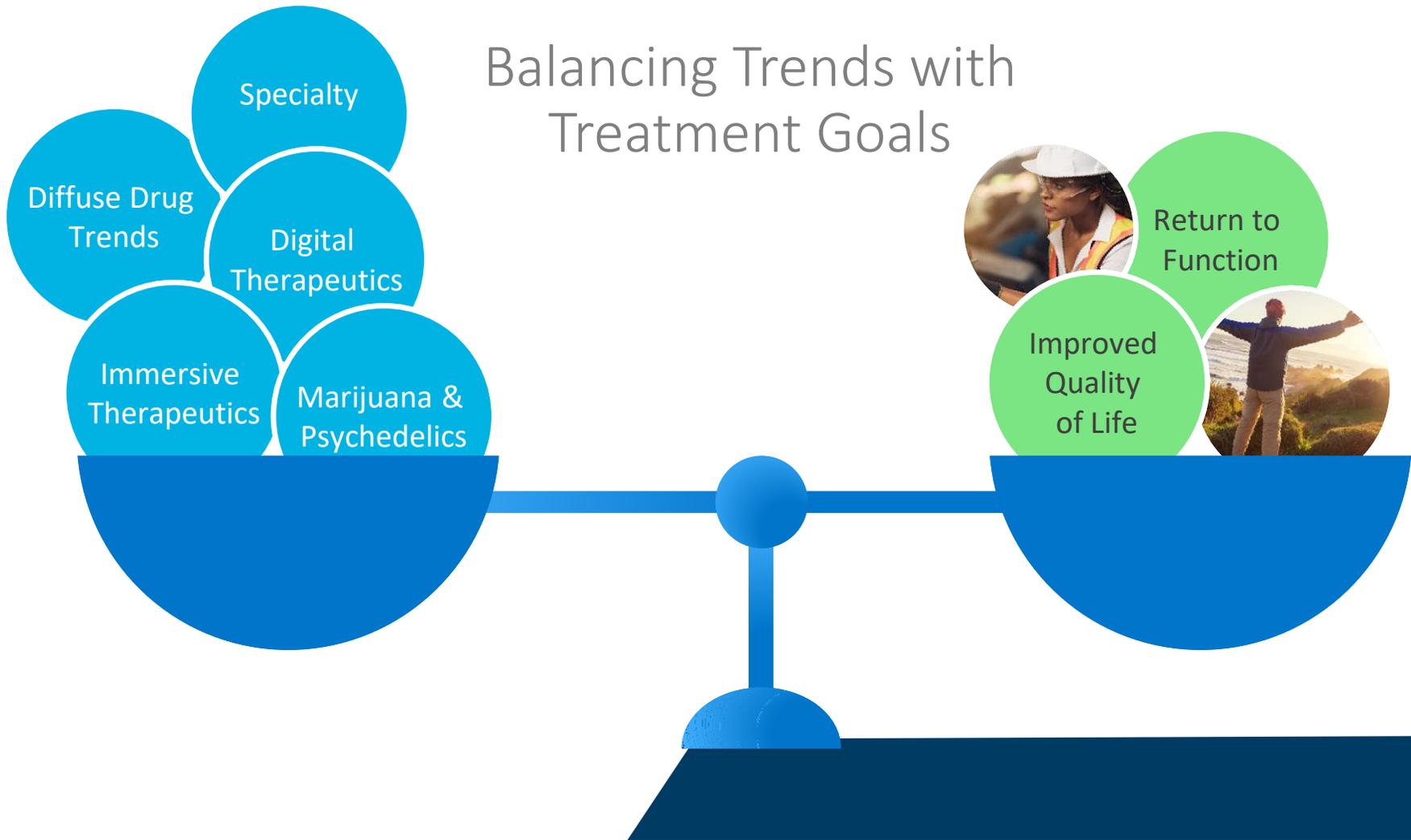
Opioid Epidemic



- Dispensing fell to 15-year low in 2020¹
- Diffuse Rx drug trends emerging

1. U.S. opioid dispensing rate maps. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last reviewed Nov 10, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/index.html>

Balancing Trends with Treatment Goals



Diffuse Drug Trends

Dermatologicals



of topical analgesics in 10 states were physician dispensed¹

Designer NSAIDs



California formulary loophole



Low-volume, high-price



Fenoprofen & ketoprofen exempt status

Anticonvulsants



of Rx drug payments in workers' comp

1. Thumula V, Liu TC. Topical analgesic use in workers' compensation. Workers' Compensation Research Institute. Aug 26, 2021.



COST

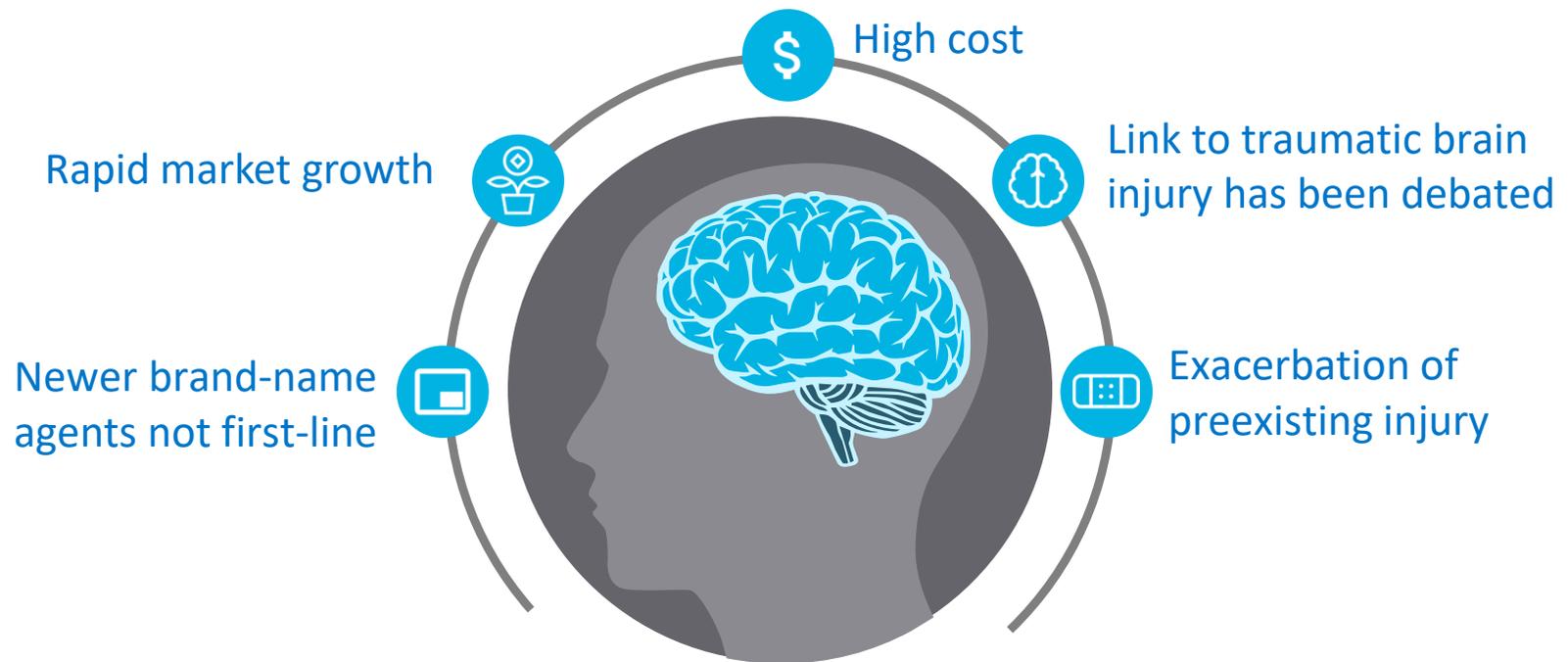


SAFETY

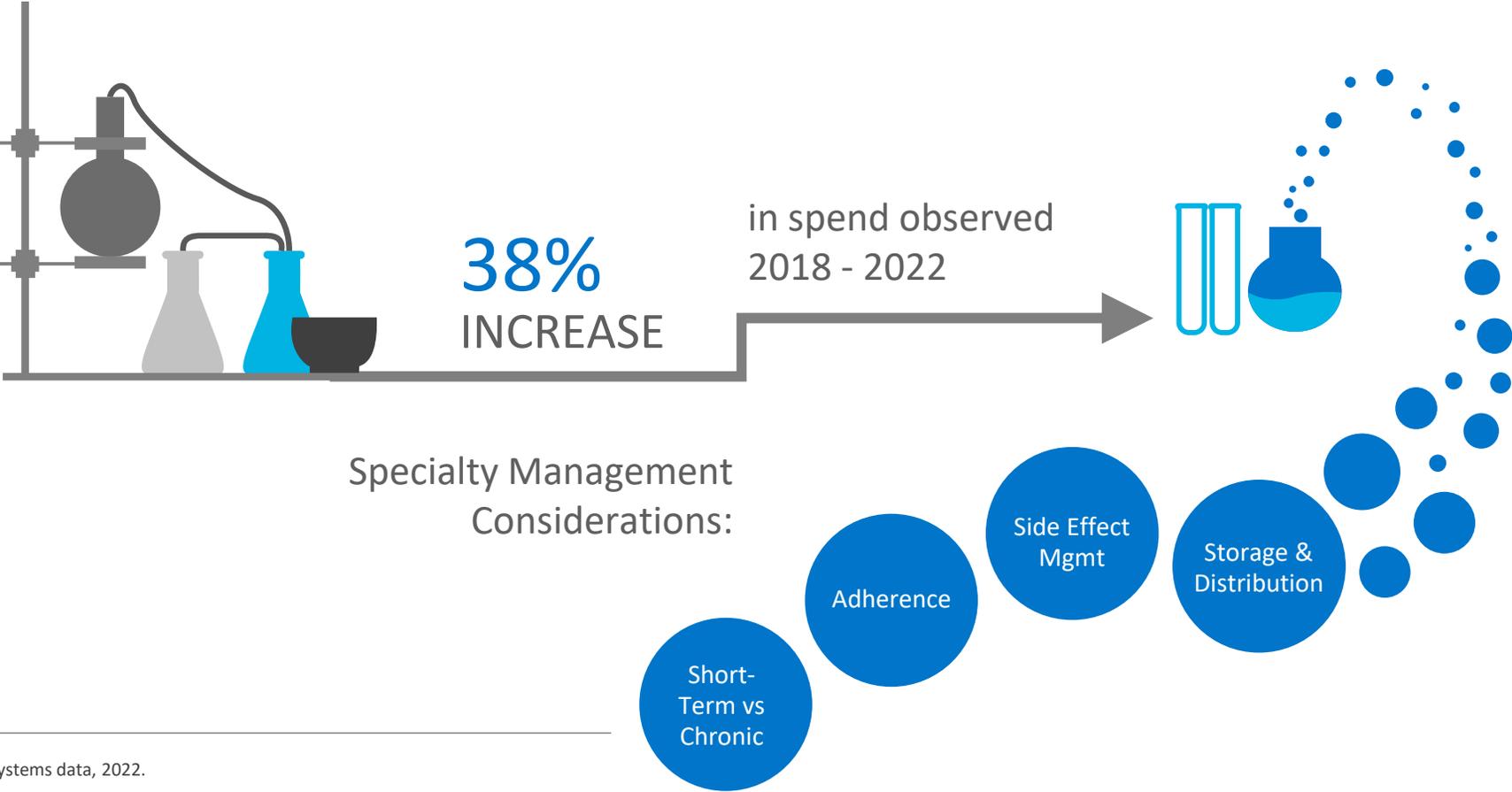


APPROPRIATENESS

The Rise of Migraine Agents

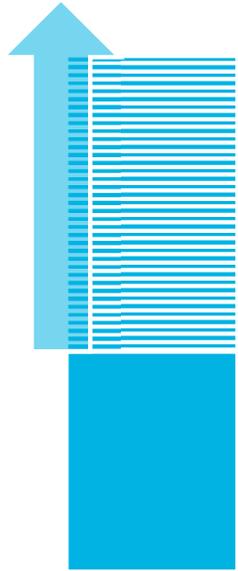


Continued Growth of Specialty



1. Healthsystems data, 2022.

Digital Therapeutics: A Rapidly Growing Subdivision of Digital Health



Funding for digital therapeutics rose

134%

from 2020-2021 to reach

\$8.9 billion

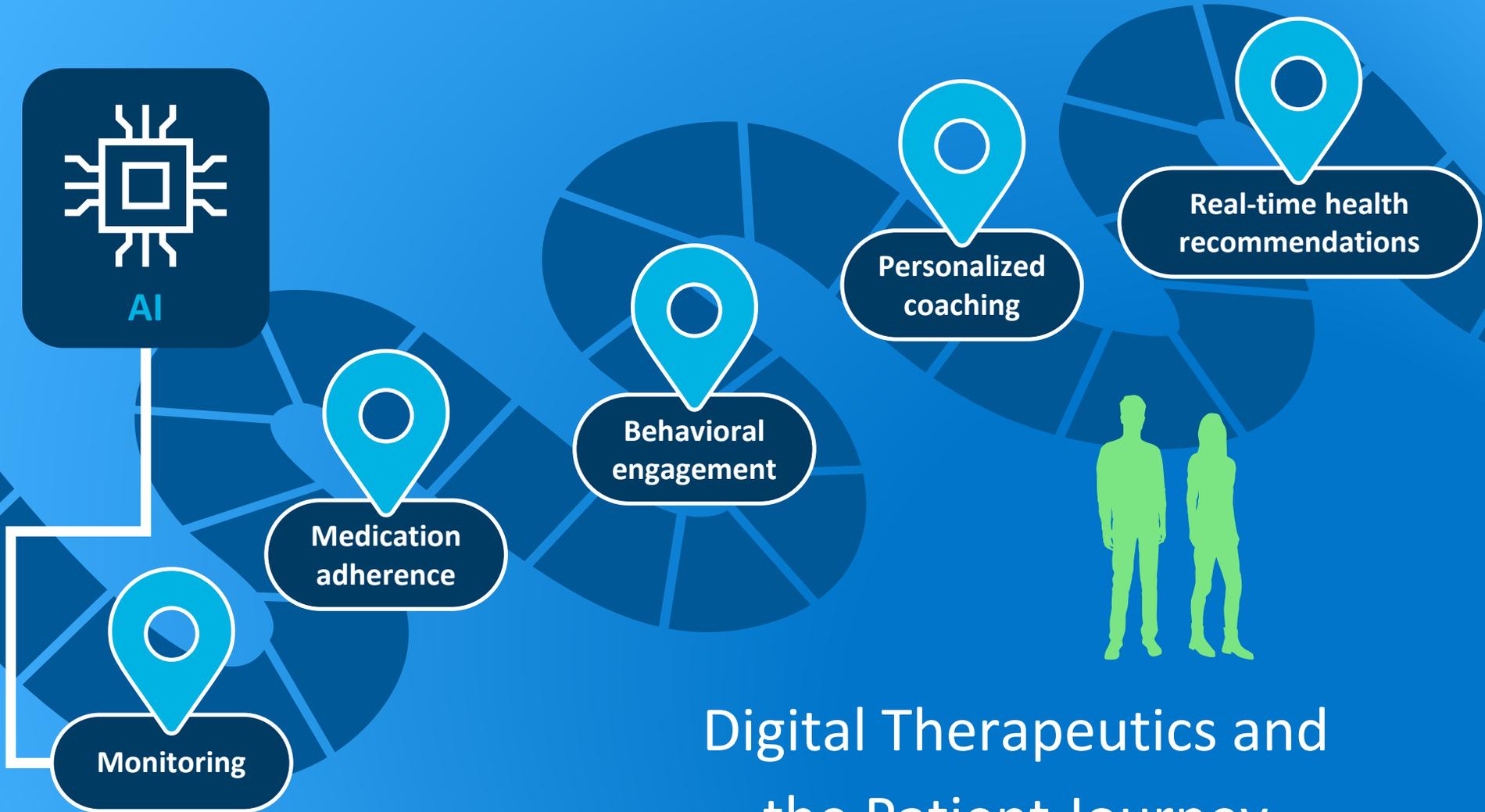
“

Delivering evidence-based therapeutic interventions to patients that are driven by software to prevent, manage, or treat a medical disorder or disease.”¹



1. DTA. Digital therapeutics alliance [homepage on the Internet] 2017. Available from: <https://www.dtxalliance.org/> Cited 2023 May 31.

2. Adatia C et al. The health benefits and business potential of digital therapeutics. McKinsey & Company. January 27, 2023 . <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/life-sciences/our-insights/the-health-benefits-and-business-potential-of-digital-therapeutics>



Digital Therapeutics and the Patient Journey

Immersive Therapeutics: Virtual Reality



PAIN MANAGEMENT

- SUD/AUD
- Behavioral/ mental health (PTSD, anxiety)



- Immediate/ sustained pain reduction
- Reduced opioid utilization
- Reduced depression
- Reduced fatigue
- Improved sleep
- Decreased symptoms of PTSD

This year CMS created first HCPCS Level II code for a virtual reality program (DME)

1. Abd-Elseyed A et al. Pain Ther. 2021 Dec;10(2):1731-1740.
2. Hoffman HG et al. Pain. 2000 Mar;85(1-2):305-9.
3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6713125/>

Workforce: Population Considerations



Substance Use

- Alcohol
- Illicit
- Tobacco
- Rx



Biologic Factors

- MSK health
- Obesity
- Comorbidities
- Deconditioning



Age

- Cognitive decline
- Physiologic changes
- Comorbidity

Impact of Aging on Recovery

4 of 5
Americans



aged 50+ have
1 or more
Chronic Conditions

6-9 days
for employees 25-44



VS



12-15

median days away
from work for injured
employees 45+

Marijuana



LEGALITY

EFFICACY

SAFETY

Psychedelics



Workplace: Creating a Safe Work Environment



Field Work Considerations



Risk Identification/
Monitoring



Policies, Procedures
& Training



Safety Programs



Questions

