## Avoidable ED Visits: Old Problem, New Solutions

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### Shaping The Future Of Healthcare In Louisiana **And The Gulf South**

**OUR MISSION** 

SERVE, HEAL, LEAD, EDUCATE &

#### OUR VISION

Inspiring healthier lives and stronger communities.



Ochsner serves patients throughout LOUISIANA, EVERY STATE in the nation, and in more than 62 COUNTRIES.



Healthy State by 2030 is a bold and collaborative plan to realize a healthier Louisiana by addressing the top drivers of poor health.

48

Owned. Managed, & Affiliated Specialty Hospitals

38K

**Employees** 

4.2M Clinic Visits in 2022

Health Centers

**Medical Specialties** & Urgent Care Centers & Subspecialties

1.477.988

**Patients Served in 2022** 

patients enrolled in digital medicine in 2022

## The current state of Emergency Dept Visits



The number of Emergency Department (ED) Visits are significantly increasing, leading to long wait times, high costs, and unnecessary visits for minor conditions. Many patients with low-acuity issues could receive care in more appropriate and cost-effective settings.



of ED users stated ER was more convenient than Primary Care 1

#### 42%

Of non-urgent ED patients chose ED because of payment flexibility



Of non-urgent ED pts during business hours were advised to go by



Cost savings nationwide by increasing ambulatory acces for

Non-emergent ED users <sup>2</sup>

- •ED visits are expensive Avg. cost: \$1,389³ vs. lower-cost outpatient or virtual care.
- •Longer wait times Non-urgent patients could wait hours for care.
- •Unnecessary ED utilization Many ESI level 4 & 5 patients don't require in-person emergency care.
- •Burden on healthcare system Critical resources are diverted from high-acuity cases.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4129795/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20820018/

https://www.usatodav.com/storv/news/health/

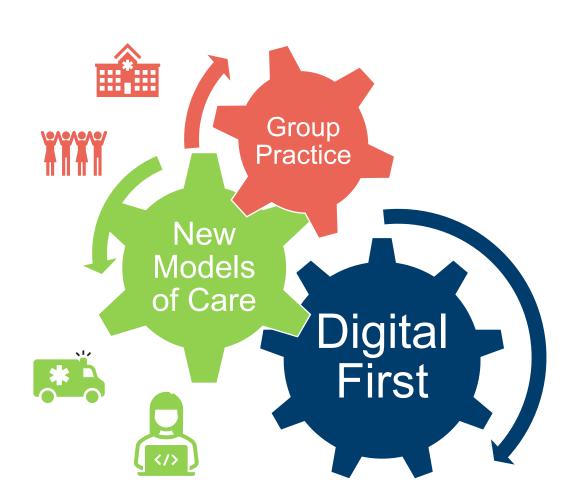
## A 3-Pronged Approach to Reducing Avoidable ED Visits

ED Utilization			
Access to Care	Physician & Patient Education		Management of High Utilizers
Preventative Strategies  Open Access (Baton Rouge) Next Available Provider (NAP) Urgent Care (in-person) Urgent Care (virtual) Ochsner 65+ Total Care Clinic for Employees E- visits OOC scheduling directly into physician alternative visit workque Patient education for alternative sites of care Physician education for alternative sites of care Connecting patients with a PCP ED U-turn		Reduction Strategies  • ED to Home Health • Self-redirection at the ED • ED to Cardiology • ED to PT/OT • Enrollment into OPCM • Connecting patients with a PCP • Use of ED Navigators • Use of CHWs • ED U-turn	

## Ochsner Virtual Emergency Department (OvED)

#### The Evolution of the Patient Journey

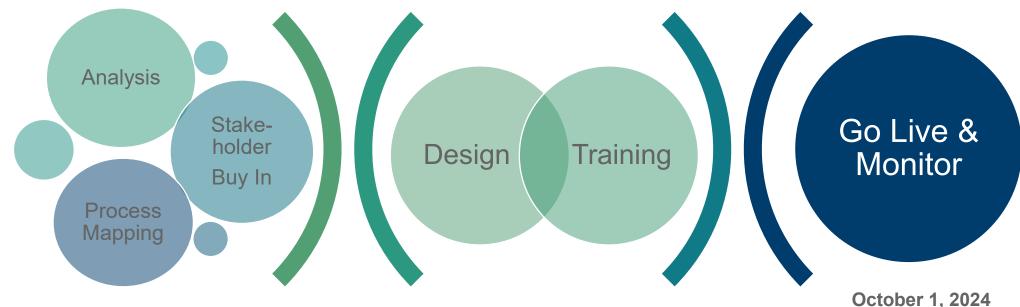
#### Ochsner virtual Emergency Department (OvED)



#### 24/7 Centralized Patient Placement

- Reduce direct care costs
- Improve throughput
- Improve patient experience
- Improve outcomes
- Dedicated Physician
  - 8am- 8pm, 7 days/week with ED Navigator
- OvED Scope:
  - Southshore, Northshore, Bayou, Baton Rouge (will expand)
- Customers Served:
  - Urgent Care
  - Primary Care
  - Nurse On Call
- Dedicated ED Navigator
  - Ensures patients getting to the right care in the right place
  - Provides continuity of care / linkage to care for pt follow up

## OvED Planning & Implementation Process



#### August 2024

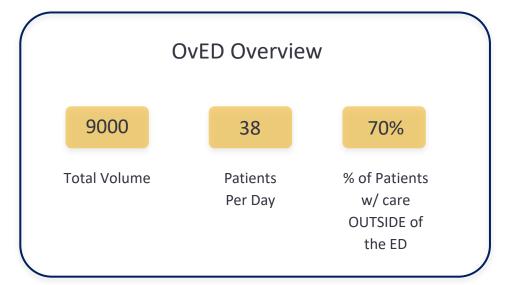
- Identified key operational leaders
- Dedicated PMO Support
- 'Voice of the Customer'
- Primary Care, UC, OOC Collaboration

#### September 2024

- EPIC and Ops workflow mapping/testing
- Collaboration with Lab, Radiology, Pharmacy
- Project scope defined
- Physician and Patient Navigator training

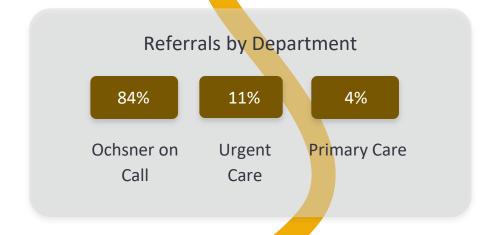
- On site leadership support
- On site Epic Academy support
- Adapted workflows
- Ongoing training and optimization

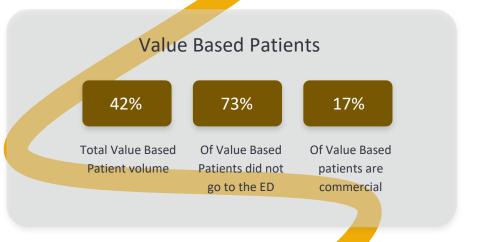




# Measuring OvED's Success







## Questions?

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