

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Revenue Cycle and Finance Conference**  
**Building Beyond: Leading the Future of Revenue & Finance**

**AI Cracks the Code: How UMass Memorial Health  
Eliminated Backlogs and Boosted Efficiency  
with Coding Automation**



January 15, 2026

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# Meet Your Speakers



**Barbara Scully**  
AVP of Physician Billing  
at UMass Memorial Health



**Michael Mercurio**  
SVP of Customer Success  
at CodaMetrix

# A Growing Industry Challenge



- Health systems facing severe operational + financial pressure
- Workforce shortages worsening; coder retirements outpacing new entrants
- Backlogs, slower throughput, higher error risk, burnout
- Claim denials rising; increasing payer complexity

# Scrutiny is Rising. Denials are Up. Staffing is Down.

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Coding-related  
denials  
— are up —

0%

Sources: 1. MDaudit (2024); JAMA (2023); Experian (2025); Premier Inc. HFMA (2024)

# Why Autonomous Coding?

- Growth plans made manual scaling unrealistic
- Need accuracy, consistency, and reduced operational burden
- AI handles repetitive work at scale and frees coders for complex cases requiring clinical nuance
- Accelerates claim submission and backlog clearance



# AI Vendors:

## Choose a Partner, Not just a Tool



**Stakeholders involved:**  
RCM, coding leaders,  
IT, compliance,  
finance



**Clinical accuracy:**  
Model performance,  
quality controls,  
handling edge cases/  
Ensure ongoing  
model improvement +  
clinical sophistication



**Integration strength:**  
Seamless Epic/EHR  
integration; minimal  
workflow disruption



**Scalability:**  
Ability to support  
multiple service lines  
and future expansion



**Partnership:**  
Dedicated support,  
frequent updates,  
long-term  
commitment

# Real World Impact of Autonomous Coding at UMass

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# Future Proofing Your AI Buy

- Select AI built for future service-line expansion that can scale ROI
- Ensure ongoing model improvement + clinical sophistication
- Strong EHR backing to accelerate integration – can they integrate with Epic? Cerner?
- Hyper focused on quality – accuracy is critical as payor scrutiny increases and guidelines change
- High-quality AI reduces denials, rework, and admin burden
- Scaling AI requires process + workflow evolution, not just more software



# Thank You!

