

hfma
wisconsin chapter

MASTERMIND your Margin



Aligning Compassion with Cash Flow through Digital Engagement

Get to Know Your Speakers



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Core Objectives

- Understand the root causes of patient financial friction in today's self-pay environment
- Recognize how financial experience directly impacts patient trust, satisfaction, and loyalty
- Learn how modern, digital, patient-friendly self-pay approaches drive higher collections and lower costs
- Identify practical strategies to improve both patient outcomes and cash flow utilizing the today's technology, with a consideration on future technology as well
- See how technology, policy, and workflow alignment support sustainable results



From Fragmented Outreach to Connected Engagement

Old Patient Engagement



New Patient Engagement



Front End Registration
& Scheduling

Point of Service
Collection

Self-Pay

Statement Cycle

Early-Out Self-Pay
Follow Up

Primary Bad Debt

Secondary Bad Debt

Mastermind your Margin

The Self-Pay Challenge Today

- Growth of patient responsibility & common pain points for patients and providers
 - In the April-May edition of HFM, it was indicated that 29% of American consumers believe affordability is the most urgent healthcare problem, up for 23% a year ago.
 - Healthcare costs continue to shift to the patient, with higher deductibles and co-insurance
 - National Health Expenditure 2024 data indicated out of pocket spending grew to 5.9% and was 11% percent of total spend.
 - Affordable Care Act
 - Rising cost of living
 - Medical Debt Credit Reporting



Understanding Patient Financial Friction

- Healthcare billing and reimbursement is confusing
- Patients of lack understanding of healthcare plan benefits and/or networks
- Delayed patient statements lead to confusion and patient calls
- Ease of making payment
- Patient feedback/surveys
 - Patient Advisory Council



The Business Case for Compassion

- Goal: clarity, flexibility, relevant communication
- The link between patient experience and collection performance
- Why traditional collection approaches underperform
 - Not being responsive to the patient's communication preferences
 - Lack of follow-up on communications that are made
 - No personalized or custom messaging
 - Payment plan offers that are not flexible or that do not take into consideration the patient's current financial situation



The Business Case for Compassion

Traditional Self-Pay Strategy

- High-volume outreach
- One-size-fits-all messaging
- Rigid payment workflows
- Limited personalization
- Focus on activity instead of outcomes

Intelligent Compassion-Based Strategy

- Personalized outreach timing
- AI based, consumer behavior insights
- Omnichannel engagement
- Flexible resolution pathways
- Focus on meaningful engagement

Smarter engagement outperforms higher activity.
18% increase in bad debt liquidation rates using
intelligent compassion-based strategies



New Era Patient Communication Sources



Email

- Sending a statement or a link to a statement
- Sending links to payment portals
- Sending links to financial assistance applications, COB letters, or other important communications



Text

- Short Message Service – SMS
 - 160-character length
 - Quick and simple communications
- Multimedia Messaging Service – MMS
 - Extends SMS and allows for the sending of media files such as photos, videos, website links and can have 1,600 characters
- Branded Text Messaging – showing your company logo when the text is sent



Online

- Portal
 - Payment Interactions
 - Billing Questions
 - Financial Assistance
 - Notifications
- Chat
 - AI Enabled Responses
 - Human Supported Responses



Better Data Cleansing = Better Text & Email Delivery



Outbound Text Message Status Codes March 2026	AT&T Wireless # of Outbound Texts	AT&T Wireless % by Status Code	Tmobile # of Outbound Texts	Tmobile % by Status Code	Verizon # of Outbound Texts	Verizon % by Status Code	Overall % by Status Code
Deactivated Number	1	0.01%	2	0.02%	5	0.03%	0.02%
Delivered	12048	89.45%	7188	85.03%	13266	90.79%	88.97%
Invalid destination address	506	3.76%	798	9.44%	757	5.18%	5.64%
Message Expired	269	2.00%	145	1.72%	179	1.23%	1.62%
MMS Content Blocked	152	1.13%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%	0.42%
MMS Unsupported	0	0.00%	19	0.22%	0	0.00%	0.05%
Queued to carrier	2	0.01%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%	0.01%
System Error	2	0.01%	249	2.95%	145	0.99%	1.08%
Unable to forward	71	0.53%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%	0.20%
Undeliverable	350	2.60%	249	2.95%	88	0.60%	1.88%
Undeliverable - Handset Error - Permanent	1	0.01%	49	0.58%	0	0.00%	0.14%
Undeliverable - Handset Error - Review	67	0.50%	2	0.02%	63	0.43%	0.36%
Total Texts Sent	13469		8453		14611		36533

**Branded MMS
Messaging Delivers
Results!**

Logo, direct phone
number, and
payment website in
a single touchpoint,
builds immediate
trust and credibility.

Your Email Domain Reputation Drives Deliverability

Email providers use the sender reputation as a key factor in deciding whether or not to deliver an email to a main inbox, the spam folder, or even reject it entirely. Learn about domains, warmup accounts, and seedlists to increase deliverability by obtaining a ‘High’ reputation rating from inbox providers such as Gmail and Outlook.

94.21%

Overall March Text
Delivery Rate – strong
data hygiene and well-
structured messaging

1.68%

Overall Text March
Opt-Out Rate – 16%
lower than 2%
industry standard

New Era: Digital Engagement Maturity



Agent Enablement

Guardrails in place, digital SOP's, visibility into digital experience, initiate links



Conversion Economics

Dynamic payment offers and options, automated digital abandonment follow-up



Compliance & Quality Assurance

Consent capture, lock templates, automated compliance checks, audit processes

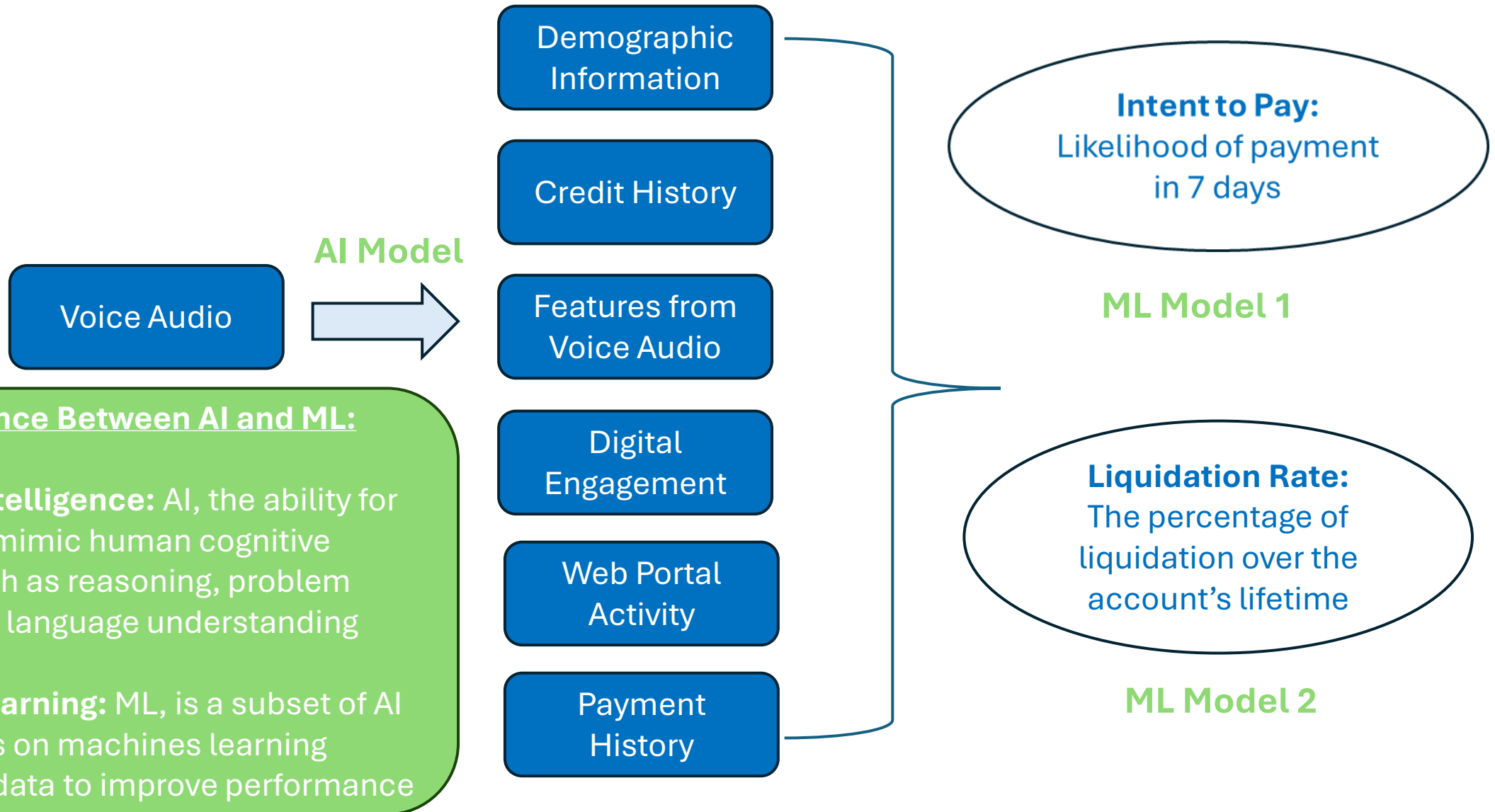


Data & Integration

Near real-time event propagation, syncing of payments, opt-outs, and disputes



What the New Era of Revenue Cycle Needs in a Digital Self-Pay Strategy



What the New Era of Revenue Cycle Needs in a Digital Self-Pay Strategy



Multi-modal AI Models: Combine voice sentiment, digital engagement, payment history, demographics, and credit data to generate Intent-to-Pay and Probability of Recovery scores for every account, every day

Real-time feedback loops: Every consumer interaction, payment, email, call outcome, feeds back into the model, sharpening the recommendations over time

Account Prioritization Metrics: Determining the minimum guidelines for work activity, balanced by the strategy for who to contact, how often, and through which channels

Hourly Contact Recommendations: By the hour pilot program for whom to call, for the best time to reach a consumer

AI-powered template personalization: Customized verbiage for text, email, and voice interactions for each patient based on their historical information

The Result: An 11% increase in average payment size across self-pay primary bad debt collection accounts when these practices are utilized.

Smarter Self-Pay Strategies

- Pre-Service
 - Prior Authorizations
 - Insurance Eligibility Estimates
 - Collections, Payment Plans
- Flexible payment options and automation
 - Prompt Pay Discount
 - Financing partner – considerations for this strategy
- Digital-first, patient-preferred channels



Aligning Teams Policies & Technology

- Cross-functional alignment (access, financial counseling, billing)
- Consistent policies that balance fairness and compliance



Results that Matter



Key Takeaways & Next Steps

Building your roadmap for continuous improvement in
"A New Era of Revenue Cycle"



**Establish agent
enablement
foundations**



**Implement
smarter self-pay
strategies**



**Achieve cross-
functional
alignment**



**Deploy multi-
modal AI & ML
models**



**Activate real-
time feedback
loops & account
prioritization**



**Measure &
optimize
conversion
economics**

