



# ADVISORY COUNCIL

La Playa Beach & Golf Resort  
Naples, FL  
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*A Berkshire Hathaway Company*



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# The Past, Present and Future of Our Mortality Improvement Journey (MI+)

Johns Hopkins and Gen Re Collaboration



# Vision – Objective – Partnerships

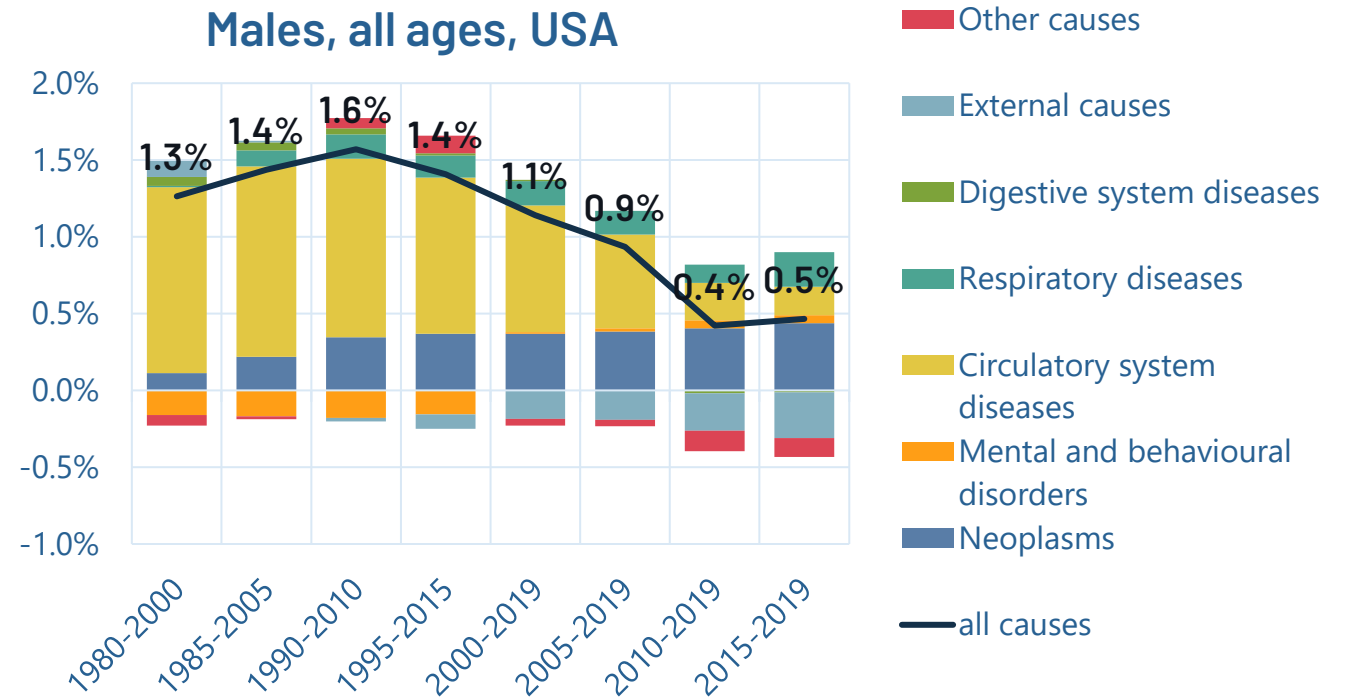
*Lengthening insureds lifespans while improving KPIs*  
***A win-win-win for all stakeholders***

*Reverse negative mortality trends through*  
***active interventions and wellness promotion***

***Partnership with JHU to explore three key areas and  
develop a deeper understanding of MI***

- Gen Re's examination of recent mortality trends versus historical mortality data show a slowdown in mortality improvement since 2011.
- Much of this is driven by significant decreases in mortality improvements for circulatory system diseases.
- These trends have continued to persist even after the pandemic.

## Decomposition of Mortality Trends by Cause of Death



Source: Human Mortality Database

# History of Behavioral Modification Efforts

## 2015-2019

- Improving wearable technology inspired a broad array of new health engagement tools designed for life insurance clients.
- Many insurance carriers attempted pilots, offering innovative health apps to inforce clients.
- Gen Re collaborated with Johns Hopkins and developed partnership with PAI health based on this research.

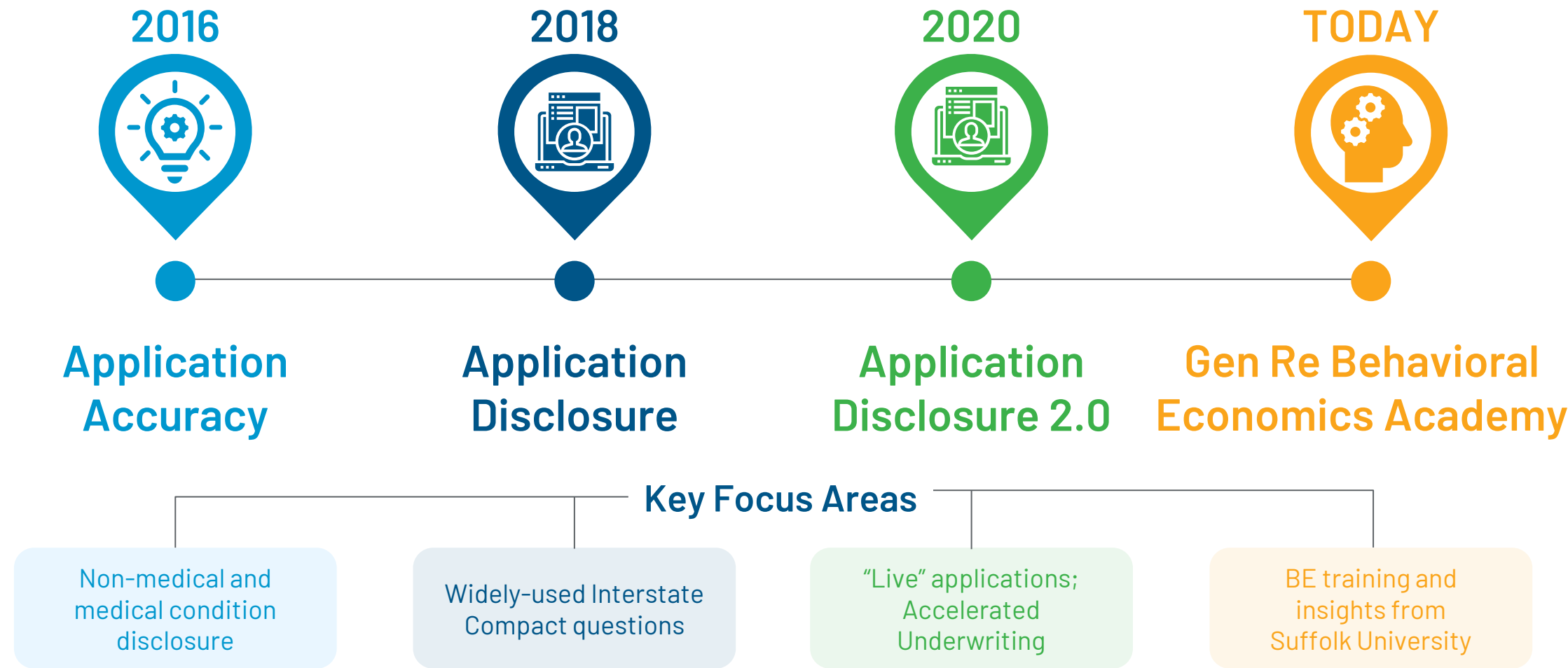
## 2020-2024

- COVID pandemic forced most carriers to focus innovation resources on new underwriting programs.
- Most inforce engagement pilots were paused or deferred.
- Many health engagement insurtechs folded or were bought out by bigger IT vendors.

## 2025 +

- Uptick in inforce engagement pilots as carriers explore ways to help clients live healthier.
- Health engagement ecosystem has started to rebound as carriers seek new tools to help inforce clients.





Clinical & Research  
experts at JHU to help identify  
promising new avenues

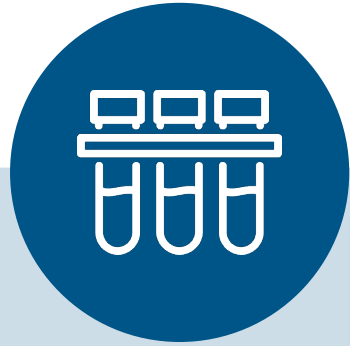


Synergistic  
Gen Re perspectives  
& skillsets



**Leading to 3 Main Areas  
of Research Investigation**





“Liquid biopsy”  
to aid in the detection of  
cancer disease



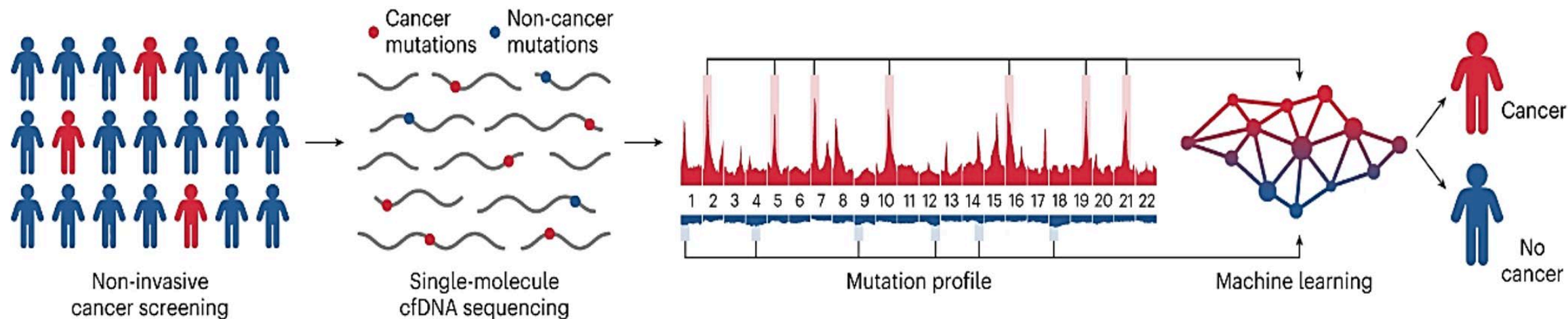
Cost Benefit Analysis of  
U.S. Preventive Services  
Task Force  
recommendations



Effectiveness of  
implementing  
behavioral health tools to  
decrease mortality

# Liquid Biopsy MCED Tests

- Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) tests are liquid biopsies that detect evidence of cancer
  - Blood tests that try to detect cancer DNA, sometimes augmented with protein biomarkers and AI modeling
- Galleri (GRAIL) is the only commercially available product
- CancerSEEK in development (Cancerguard, same vendor as Cologuard)



Source: Bruhm et al Nature Genetics 2023.

# Galleri Evidence in PATHFINDER Study



- Study comprised 6,621 people age > 50 who had no current cancer symptoms.
  - Most were current on screening (colonoscopy, mammogram, etc.)
- Sensitivity = 29% with 122 total cancers discovered during the study period
  - Galleri detected 35 cancers
  - 87 others manifest clinically during study period
- Positive predictive value = 38%
  - Likelihood that positive result is true
  - 57 false positive with no cancer found on clinical investigation
  - Nearly twice as many false positive as true positive
- Number needed to screen: 189

*Source: Blood-based tests for multicancer early detection (PATHFINDER): a prospective cohort study. Schrag, Deb et al. The Lancet, Volume 402, Issue 10409, 1251 - 1260*

## Benefits

- With MCED tests, cancer can be detected earlier with a better chance of a successful outcome.
- Provides potential solution for certain cancers with no current screening test (e.g., Pancreas)
- Less invasive than some other screening tests.

## Costs

- Financial Cost
  - Current retail price per test is roughly \$1,000.
  - Translates to roughly \$180K for each true positive cancer test
- Non-Financial Cost
  - Emotional impact on false positives with 162 days to complete clinical evaluation
  - 2% of false positives had surgical procedure

*No evidence yet for longer life, but studies are ongoing.*

- The USPSTF (US Preventive Services Task Force) is an independent panel that evaluates the efficacy of clinical services, providing recommendations graded from A to D based on the certainty and magnitude of health benefits.
- This study reviewed Grade A, B and C recommendations and looked to measure potential lifespan gain of high-impact recommendations.

*Focused on grade A  
recommendations with high  
probability of  
substantial net benefit*

*Recommendations to Study:*

- *Colorectal Cancer Screening  
ages 50-75 years*
- *Hypertension Screening in  
adult 18 or older*

*What is the cost-benefit and  
cost-effectiveness?*

- Analysis of USPSTF recommendations revealed marginal positive impact on years of life saved for Gen Re in-force clients
- Investigation of colon cancer screening with colonoscopy had limited impact on the insured population, due to high current uptake
- Hypertension treatment showed promise due to incomplete treatment
- Improved physical activity appears to have the most significant positive impact

# Meta-Analysis + Panel of Experts



**Lawrence Appel, M.D., MPH**  
*Professor*  
JHSOM, SPH



**Jennifer Schrack, Ph.D., MS**  
*Professor*  
JHU Bloomberg, SPH



**Seth Martin, M.D.**  
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Research, Innovation, and Education*  
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**Gerald Jerome, Ph.D.**  
*Professor*  
Towson University



**Graham Thomas, Ph.D.**  
*Professor*  
Brown Alpert Medical School



## 1. Systolic Blood Pressure

0.5 mm difference = Mortality reduction  
in IHD=2%, Stroke=3%

## 2. BMI

0.3 decrease for BMI>25 = 2-3% reduction in CV &  
all-cause mortality

## 3. Activity Level

Lowest vs 2<sup>nd</sup> activity  
quartile (5 min/day  
of moderate/vigorous  
activity) = 20% reduced CV &  
all-cause mortality





## Education

- Focus on the why, what and how of each behavior change
- Combination of reading with direct instruction
- Education alone is not the solution



## Goal setting & Self-Monitoring

- Goals must be SMART with regular review for accountability
- Monitoring can include mix of active (e.g. - weight or calorie tracking) and passive tools (e.g. - wearables)



## Feedback

- Electronic reminders, notifications, text messages, emails, etc.
- Can be pre-programmed or personalized to individual goals
- Can have scheduled delivery vs just in time
- Interventionist/coach can encourage better compliance

## Positive Impact Possible

Early data shows encouraging results across several dimensions:

- Improved mortality
- Improved persistency
- Positive selection bias.

## No Silver Bullet

- Inforce engagement is a big task with no silver bullet.
- Inforce engagement is not a core competency of life insurers, so outreach requires new skills and partners.

## No Half Measures

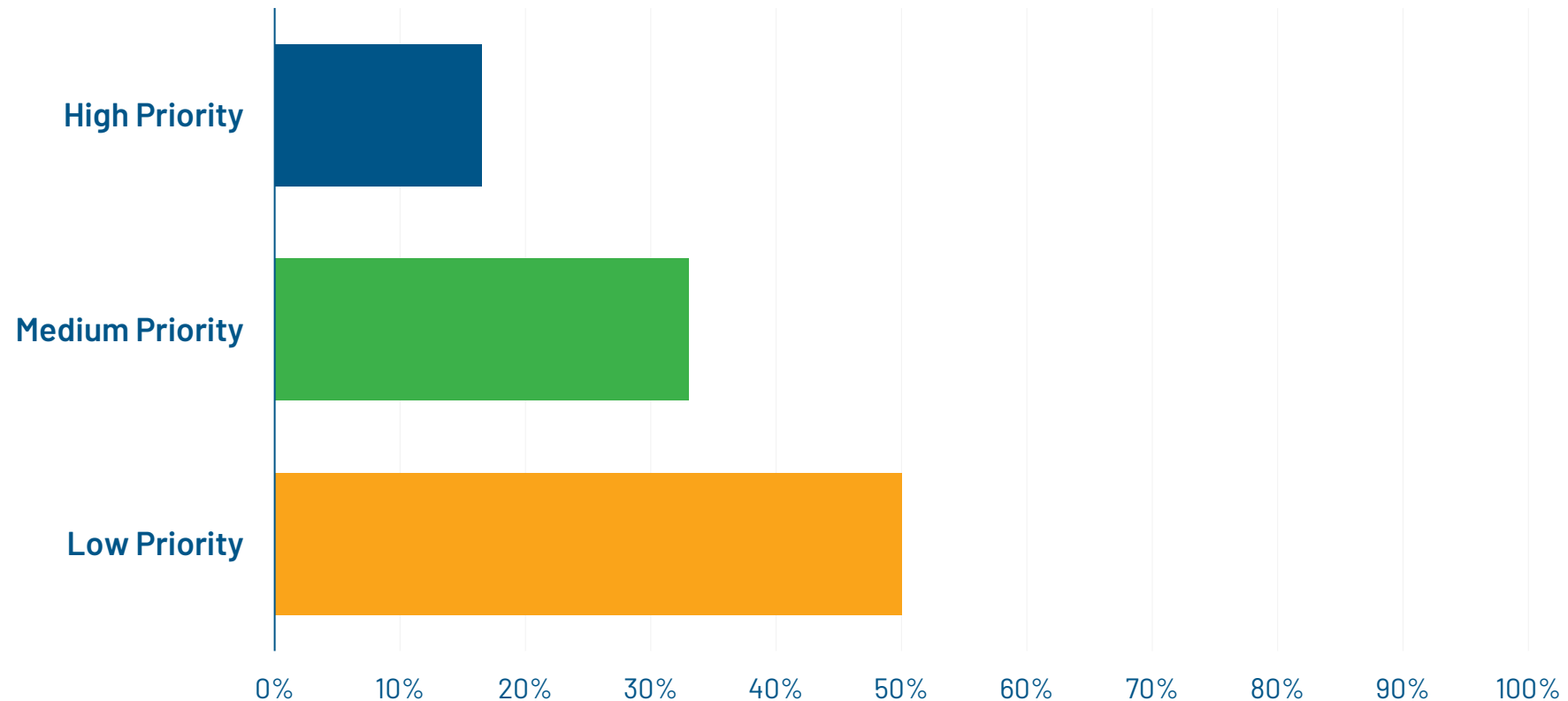
- Many pitfalls involved in DIY engagement approach.
- A robust inforce engagement investment is crucial to drive long-term impact.

## BE Expertise

- Need an effective behavioral economics framework to guide successful implementation.

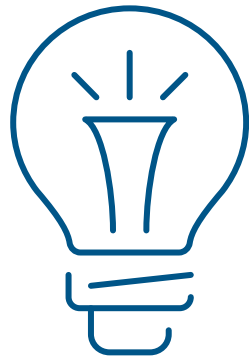
# Where are you on your journey?

Where do health engagement programs for inforce policyholders align as a company priority?

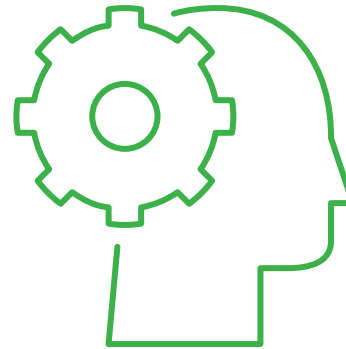


*Note: Based on 12 responses.*

Gen Re's goal remains creation of an ever-evolving mortality improvement toolkit based on these findings that our clients can provide to their new business and in-force population



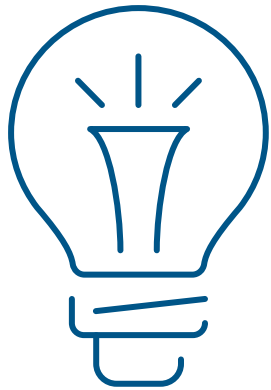
**Solution  
Identification**



**Knowledge  
Sharing**

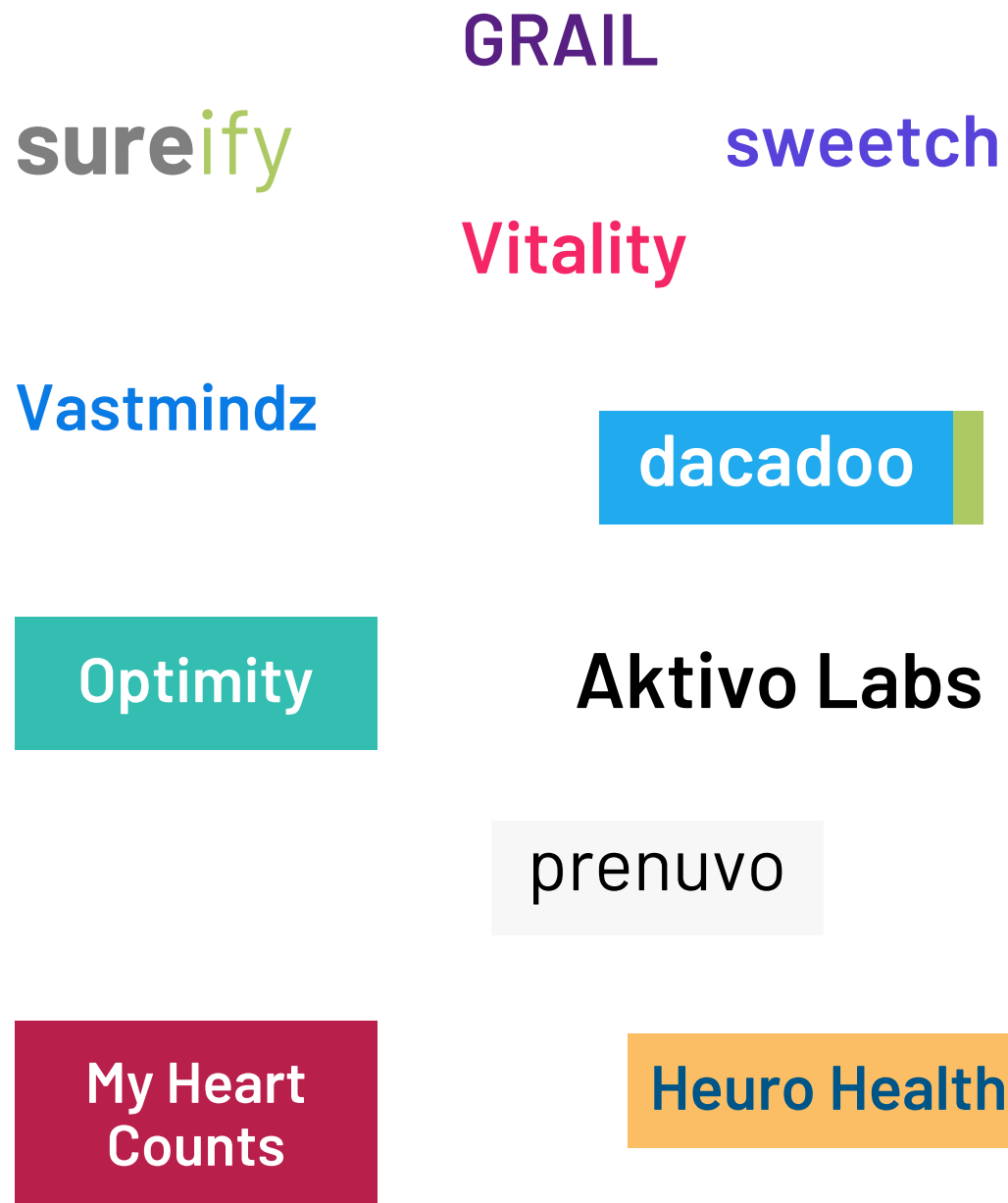


**Project  
Support**

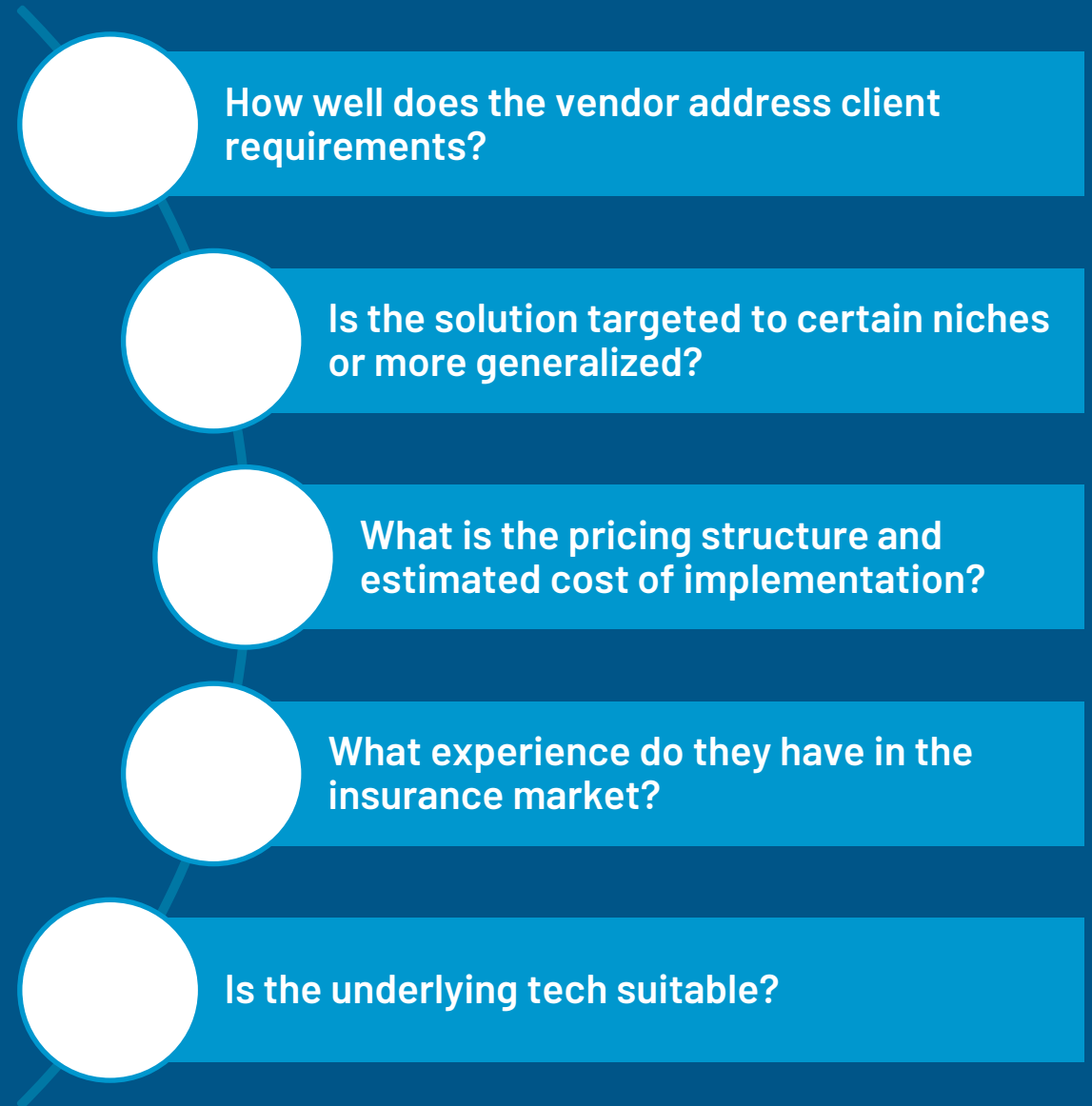


## **Solution Identification**

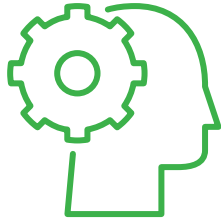
- Help you identify specific tools most likely to drive user engagement and behavior change
- We can provide recommendations on top engagement tool(s)
- Focus on tools that target the conditions that are best candidates for better mortality
- Principles driven by Gen Re and John Hopkins University knowledge and research.



## Solution Assessment







## Knowledge Sharing

- Evaluate delivery platforms in the industry against our research findings
- Guidance on potential impact to post-issue engagement as well as mortality improvement



## Project Support

- Potential cost sharing partnerships and implementation assistance on new initiatives
- Support to determine most cost-effective design of pilots
- Expert advice on key assumptions
- Potential risk sharing

**What is the current priority within your firm?**

**Where are you on your journey?**

**How can we help?**

# MI+ Team – Making the Impossible ... Possible



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Senior Medical Director



**Donna Sivigny**  
Head of Individual Life



**Frank Chechel**  
Head of Individual Life Underwriting



**Dr. Thomas Ashley**  
Chief Medical Director



**Aaron Nishimura**  
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**Heidi Alpren**  
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Professor of Health Policy & Management



# Thank you!



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