

## Covid-19 Healthcare Challenges and Abzooba's Way Forward

With the Covid-19 pandemic raging across the globe, loss of revenue plagues healthcare. At a high level, we found out that revenues have reduced due to suspended elective services – people have been opting out from elective surgeries and physician visits while demanding online physician consultancy at lower charges. Despite stimuli boosts such as 20% increase in Medicare reimbursement for COVID-19 cases, propelled by the \$2 trillion [federal stimulus bill](#), and the CARES Act promise to pump in [\\$117 billion for hospitals](#) seems inadequate. Strata Decision Technology revealed that hospitals, on an average, were estimated to [lose about \\$1,200 per COVID case and up to \\$6,000 to \\$8,000 per case, based on their payer mix](#). Similarly, the [American Hospital Association](#) estimated a \$202.6 billion in losses for America's hospitals for four months.

However, [latest research by Kaufman Hall](#) shows hospital revenues in USA would likely be around \$53B and \$122B – a less pessimistic scenario than earlier projections. The report considers factors such as:

- Degree and pace at which inpatient, outpatient, and emergency department volumes return
- Availability of COVID-19 vaccines, speed of distribution, and the prioritization of different populations for vaccination
- Rate and pace at which COVID-19 cases decline, based on public use of social distancing and achievement of herd immunity

Thus, it seems that margins of America's hospitals are likely to return gradually through 2021, although the financial health of rural hospitals will be significantly affected. Hence, hospitals need an effective financial recovery plan to reduce the impact of such losses. Also, while the rise and adaptation of tele-health and remote patient monitoring has created an opportunity for hospitals, to implement it and achieve adequate efficiency can be a challenge.

### AI-powered Solutions and Abzooba:

- **Elective surgery recovery plan** – Hospitals can assess the impact of suspended elective surgeries on revenues in different geographies with the help of AI-based solutions. Inputs such as in-person visit data, appointments, cancelations, and past patient records empowers AI systems to categorize patients and suggest advice accordingly. Based on this, a patient may be re-engaged for surgery, an in-person visit, or for tele-health consulting. Using this data, hospitals can access their capacity and safely plan to re-engage patients.
- **Hospital Resource Optimization** – Abzooba has successfully created AI-powered solutions that can predict peak utilization for beds at hospitals and ICUs, and ventilators that assists more efficient equipment procurement, capacity utilization, and alert systems for both lack of and availability of facilities.
- **Chronic Disease and Comorbidity Prediction** – We have also enabled creating early intervention plans and cost savings by predicting progression of comorbidities with 90% accuracy in members with T2DM, CKD, and ESRD.

- **Hospital Readmission Analytics** – We have also identified patients with high probability of readmission within 30 days of discharge. This can enhance readmission rate reductions and create better personalized intervention plans for high-risk patients.
- **Remote Healthcare** – During the COVID-19 induced lockdown, demand for tele-health and remote patient monitoring have surged. Wearables such as health bands, smart watches, and mobiles are capturing patient data, enabling patients with self-management and empowering clinicians to better monitor patients. Using the patients’ medical profile and their current lifestyle, AI-powered solutions are providing suggestions for effective patient care management. We have developed goal-based intervention plans and incentive-based community health reward programmes (by leveraging SDoH factors) that is driving higher patient engagement and adherence.

As the situation seems to be stabilizing slowly with the onset of vaccines, we anticipate that post-pandemic, elective surgeries, and physician visits will rise again due to pending surgeries leading to an increased demand.

Want to learn more about how our AI-based solutions for healthcare industry can help minimize the impact on your financial revenues?

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## **About us:**

### **Accelerate Digital Transformation**

**Abzooba** is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) company that instruments the cognitive journey for enterprises. As a trusted AI partner, **Abzooba** has expertise in end-to-end AI solutions that augment the digital transformation journey and delivers disruptive value.

### **Embark on your Cognitive Journey**

**Abzooba** builds AI and Cognitive Solutions for its customers. We assess the cognitive maturity of our customers’ processes and build smart solutions to infuse the power of cognition and insights into decisioning.

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