

# Disrupting the Prescription Drug Market with AI and Data



**Dr. Luyuan Fang**

Chief AI and Data Officer, Prescriptive Health

# Agenda

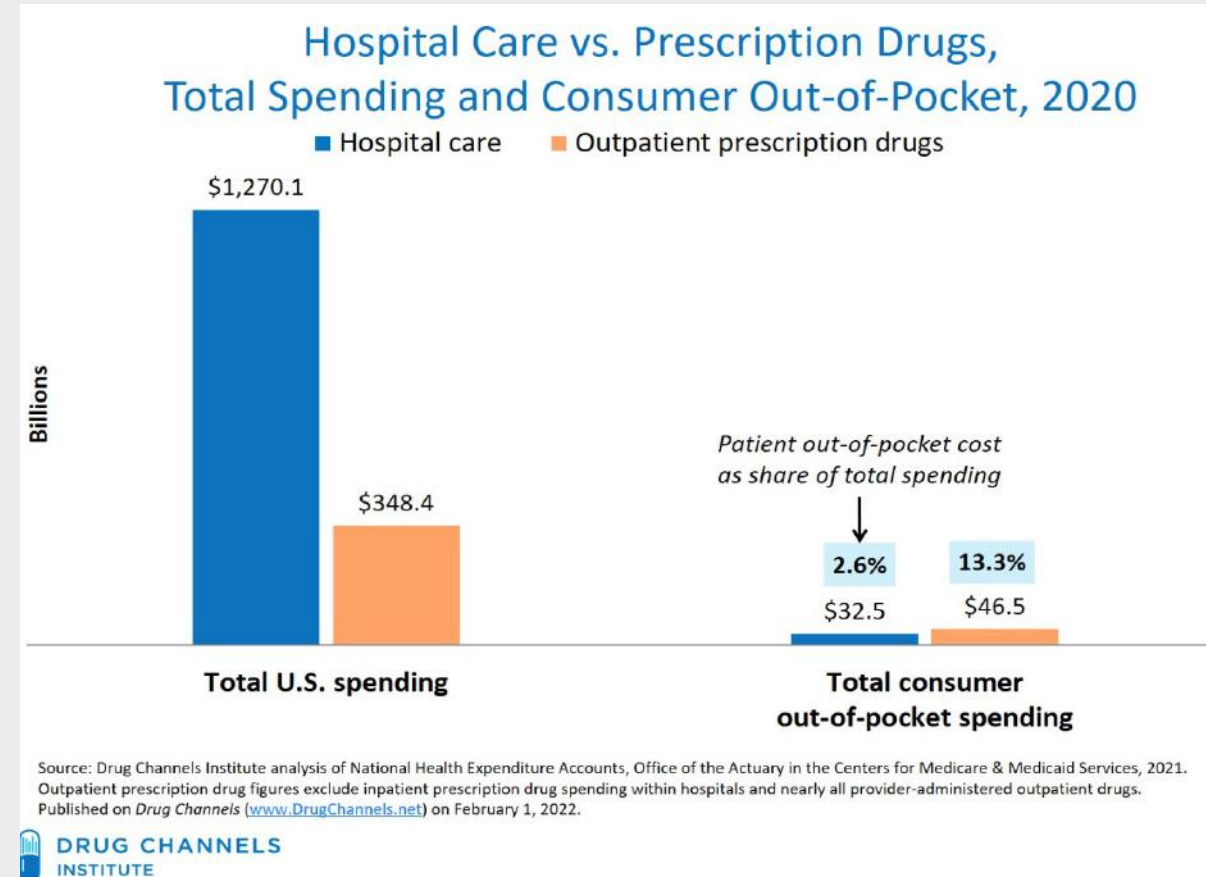
## Topics for this session

- The US prescription drug system is broken: PBM's, Spread, and No Transparency
- Disrupting the market with AI: bringing transparency, affordable drugs, and better care to people
- Building blockchain-based Rx solutions, and Data + AI Pharma/Healthcare Platform on Databricks
- Our AI and Data service architecture
- Case study: myRx AI Pricing
- Next steps and conclusions



# U.S. prescription drug spending

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2. Patient out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs are **13.3%** while hospital care is 2.6%



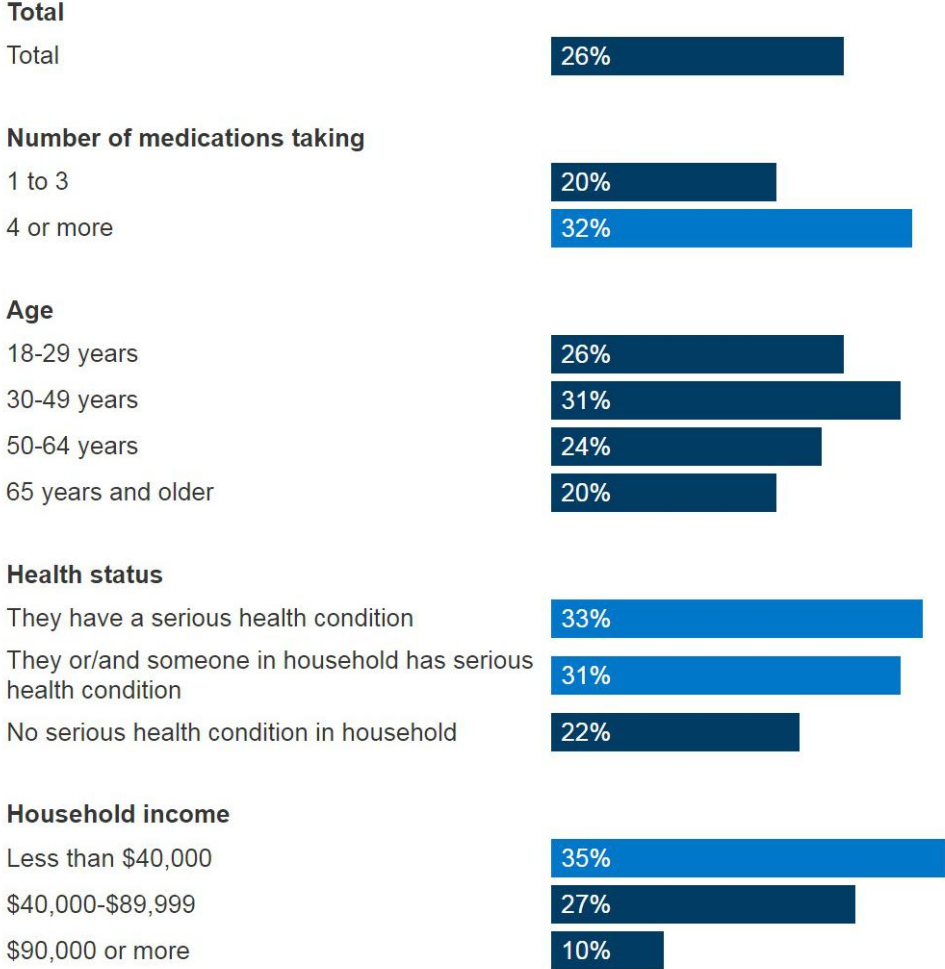
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- 3. Prescription drug prices in the U.S. are **256% higher** than those in other countries on average

Source: "International Prescription Drug Price Comparison", RAND Corporation, 2021

## Who Has Difficulty Affording Their Prescription Drugs?

Percent who say it is difficult to afford the cost of their prescription medicine:



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.  
SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (Sept. 23- Oct. 4, 2021) • PNG

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Source: "International Prescription Drug Price Comparison", RAND Corporation, 2021
4. Prescription **affordability** impacts patient **adherence**

## About Three In Ten Say They Haven't Taken Their Medicine As Prescribed Due To Costs

Percent who say they have done the following in the past 12 months because of the cost:

Not filled a prescription for a medicine



Taken an over-the-counter drug instead



Cut pills in half or skipped doses



Did at least one of the above



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (March 15-22, 2022) • PNG

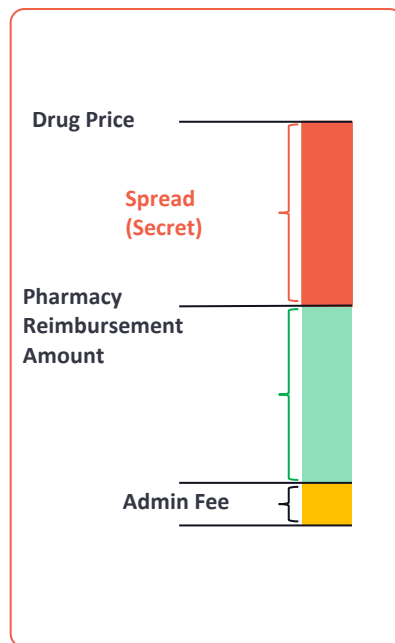


# US Prescription Drug Market:

## The Traits of a Broken System

Legacy PBM's, Spread, and Lack of Transparency are making drugs unaffordable AND are killing the pharmacies

### The Spread (Secret)



- Legacy Pharmacy Benefit Managers - PBM's (middlemen) and Discount Cards set a Drug **Sale Price** but a **different (lower) Reimbursement Amount** to Pharmacies
- PBM's and Discount Cards pocket the **Spread**
- Endemic **lack of transparency** and **regulatory oversight** gives PBM's and Discount Cards the upper hand
- **Pharmacies → Razor-thin margins**
  - For some drugs pharmacies even sell at a loss: reimbursement price below acquisition cost

"PBM spread pricing costs federal and state taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year. It does nothing to reduce the cost of drugs [...], and it drives local pharmacies out of business"

"If the goal for policymakers is to provide the best health care to low-income residents at the best price for taxpayers, they must eliminate spread pricing"

"Federal and state taxpayers are getting ripped off, local pharmacies are being squeezed out of the programs, and the PBMs are making a fortune."

**B. Douglas Hoey**

Chief Executive Officer

National Community Pharmacists Association

<https://ncpa.org/newsroom/news-releases/2021/09/15/community-pharmacy-makes-goal-line-push-eliminate-pbm-spread>

# Disrupting the prescription market with AI and Data



## Goals

- ✓ Bring transparency into the drug market
- ✓ Deliver benefits directly to consumers and the first-line providers
- ✓ Use platform to scale prescription marketplace

## How?

- ✓ Unleash the power of AI to break the barrier of non-transparency issues
- ✓ Use Blockchain/Web 3.0 to give the power to the consumers/providers
- ✓ Build scalable Data + AI Pharma/Healthcare Platform as foundation

# Data + AI: challenges, strategies, and execution

## Challenges

- ✓ Legacy and ad hoc data solutions
- ✓ Lack of real-time capabilities
- ✓ Lack of scalable, performing, and automated Data + AI pipelines

## Strategies

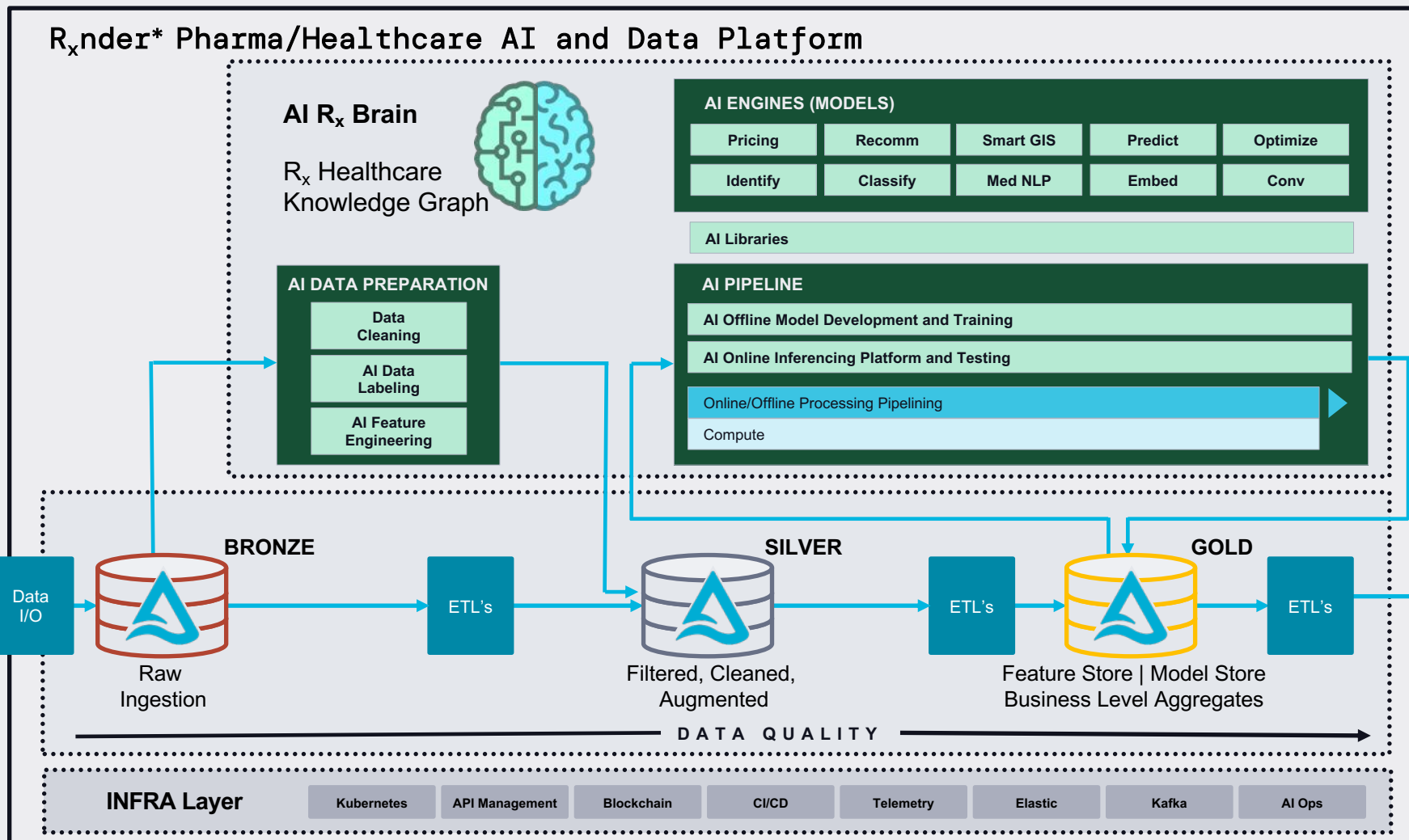
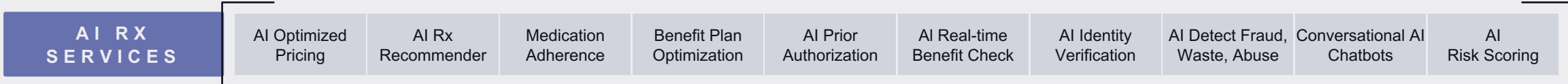
- ✓ Invest in single Data + AI platform as infra-foundation
- ✓ Design scalable, secure, and performing intelligent platform
- ✓ Produce real-time healthcare AI and BI

## Execution

- ✓ Build Data + AI with Databricks Lakehouse
- ✓ Deploy AI and BI solutions quickly, incrementally
- ✓ Implement real-time solutions to unleash the power of AI

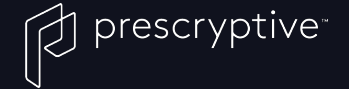


# AI and data platform on Databricks



\*Alexander Fleming: 1981-1955

# Healthcare AI and data at scale



Working with Databricks to make it happen

Jump-started with  
Databricks collaboration

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Continued learning,  
building, and deploying  
with Databricks  
Lakehouse



## Databricks Professional Services

Architecture design

Insight of Databricks platform capabilities

Initial AI use cases on prescription drug pricing



## Data ingestion (batch and streaming), ETL

Standards and external (NCPDP, NADAC, MEDISPAN)

Claims data; etc.



## AI Production Services

Model deployment

Data processing pipeline

Healthcare KG building



## BI Production Services

Moving onto single data platform

Real-time BI reporting and dashboards

# Case study

## AI-optimized prescription drug pricing

We use AI and blockchain to fix the notoriously broken prescription system to bring price transparency and benefits directly to pharmacies and consumers



AI Innovation powers a new, game-changing business model



Enables pharmacies to stay competitive and profitable

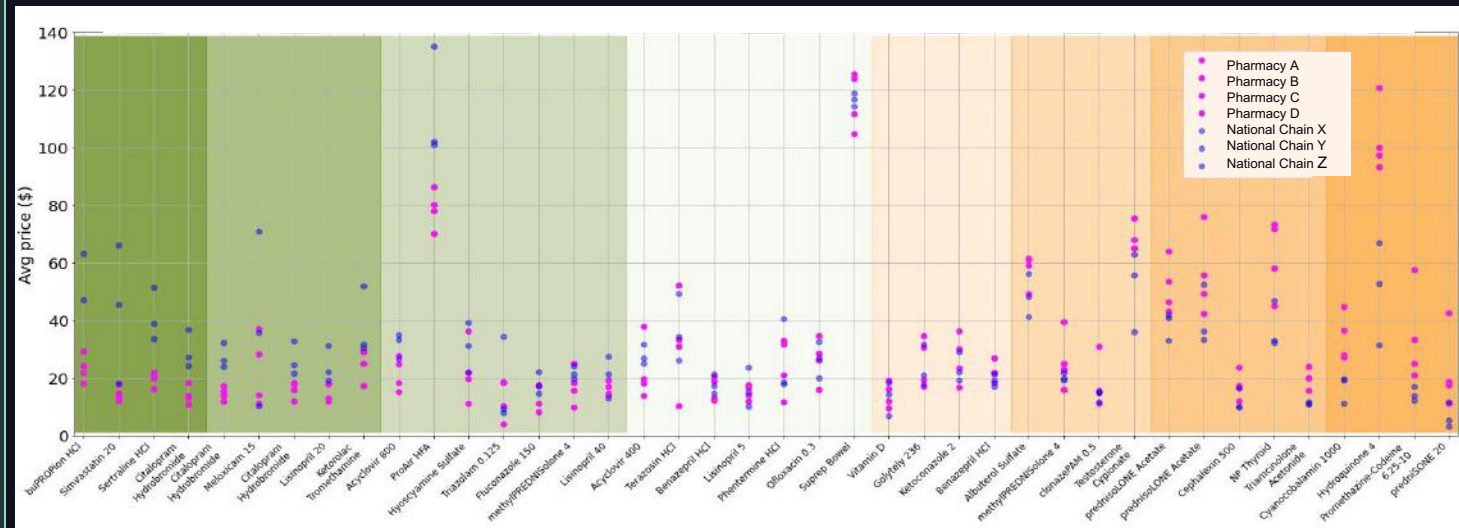


Eliminates "spread pricing" and other opaque PBM practices

# Use AI to eliminate Spread & optimize pricing

Find the *best competitive price* for each drug, personalized per pharmacy

- Build and deploy AI Models on Databricks platform, provide accurate estimate of Willingness-to-Pay (WtP) and Price-Demand Elasticity (PDE) per drug, per pharmacy.
- Models account for all factors affecting WtP and PDE, such as *competition, geolocation, demographics, therapeutic, profitability, popularity, and seasonality.*
- **NO SPREAD**, no claw back charge to pharmacies.
- **FULL PRICE TRANSPARENCY** to patients and pharmacies.



## Competitive Analysis Examples:

- Pharmacy A, B, C, and D are four independent pharmacies in US Northwest
- National Chains X, Y, and Z are nationwide pharmacy chains in the same locations

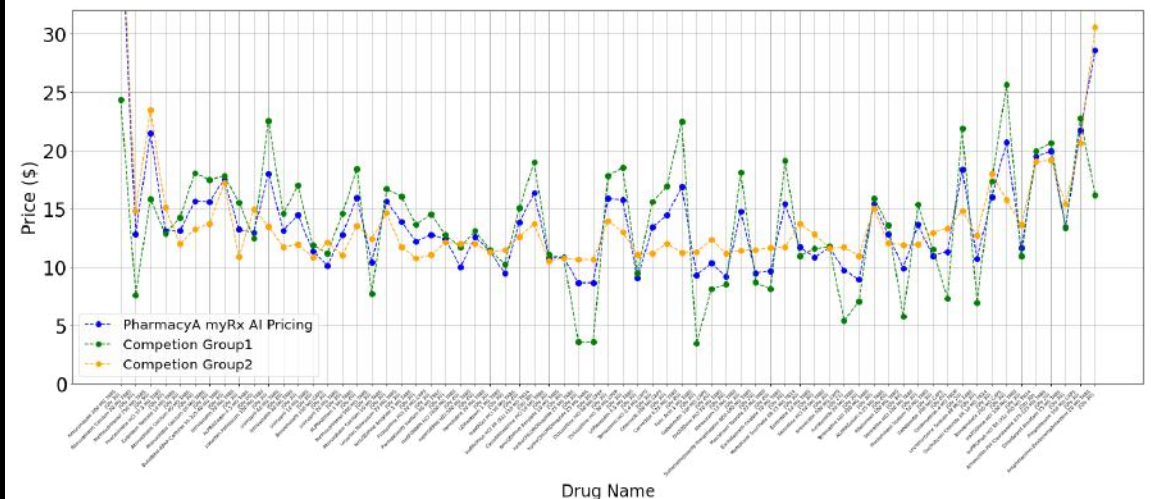
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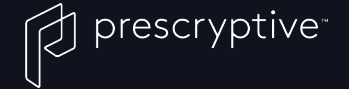
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**SAMPLE DATA: FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY**

**Pharmacy Name vs. Competitor Pricing**



# Pharmacy customer case study



## Purdy Costless Pharmacy, Gig Harbor, WA

We partnered closely with Purdy Costless Pharmacy of Peninsula, in Gig Harbor, WA using myRx AI pricing services to enable sustainable profitability growth.

- 1 After just six weeks of myRx AI Pricing in place, Purdy Costless Pharmacy saw a profitability increase of 21%.

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- 2 Targeting even higher profitability growth in the next 12-18 months while maintaining competitiveness, so they can continue serving their local community with better personalized services.

But the only  
data point  
that *really*  
matters is ...  
**Delighting the  
customer!**

“I was taken aback with the thoroughness and sophistication of the analysis and the solution ... We got down to the drug-level, detail-by-detail.”

“Once we got the model in place, the business impact was noticeable in just a matter of days ... I look forward to expanding the solution across all of my pharmacies in 2022.”

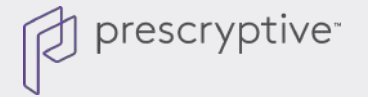
### Jeff Harrell, PharmD

CEO of Peninsula Pharmacies  
Co-owner of 26 Independent Pharmacies, including Purdy  
Costless Pharmacy  
National Community Pharmacists Ass. (NCPA) BoD Member  
Technology Advocate and influential leader

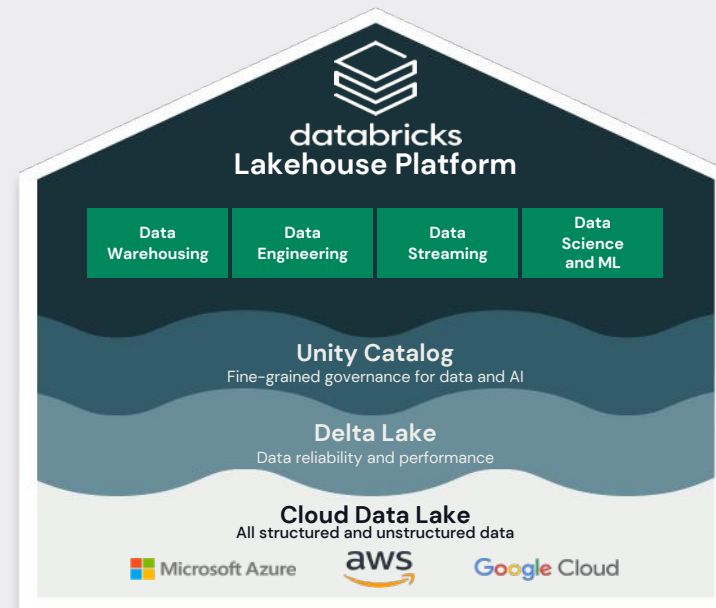
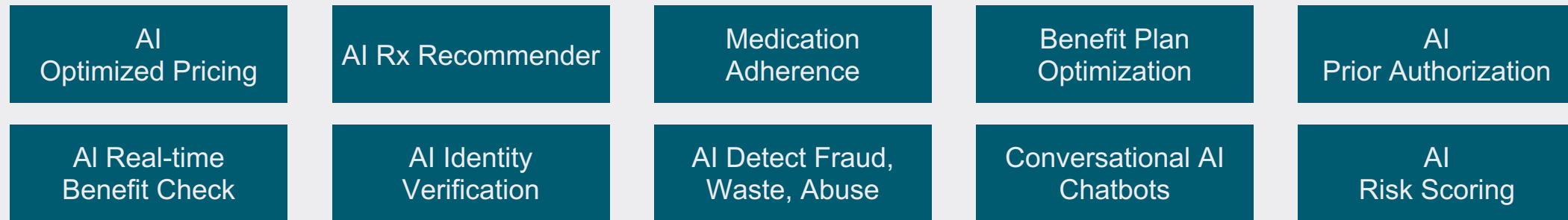


<https://prescriptive.com/project/purdy-case-study/>

# Coming next: Building out myRx AI service portfolio



An array of AI-Driven Pharma and Healthcare services to empower providers and patients and elevate patient care





# Conclusions

We are on a mission to fix the broken prescription drug system and bring affordable drugs and better care to communities coast to coast



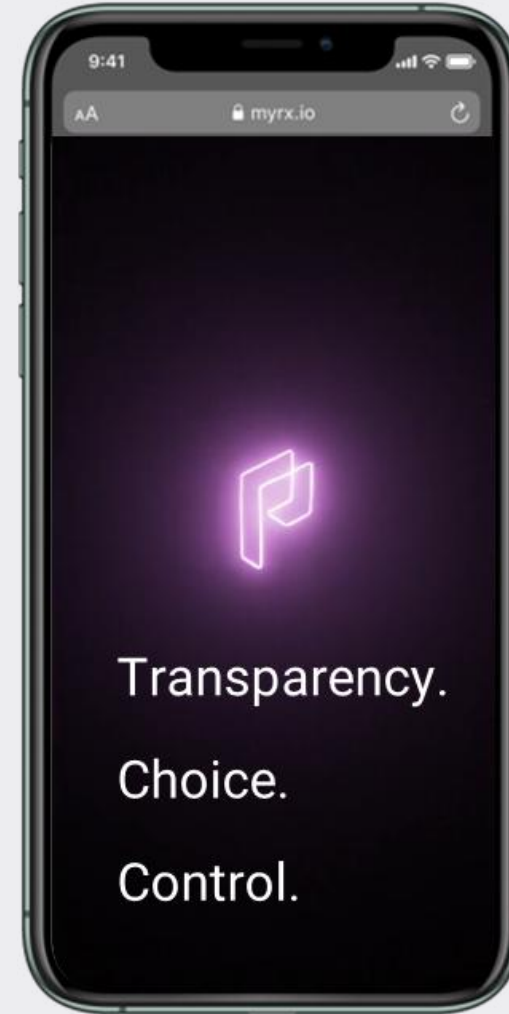
AI and data as enablers to achieve unparalleled transparency



Delta Lake allows us to support AI and BI on the same platform, with real-time applications



Our AI pricing solutions are built and deployed on Databricks platform – with much more to come!



Rewriting the Script™

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**Thank you!**



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