

2025: The State of AI in Healthcare

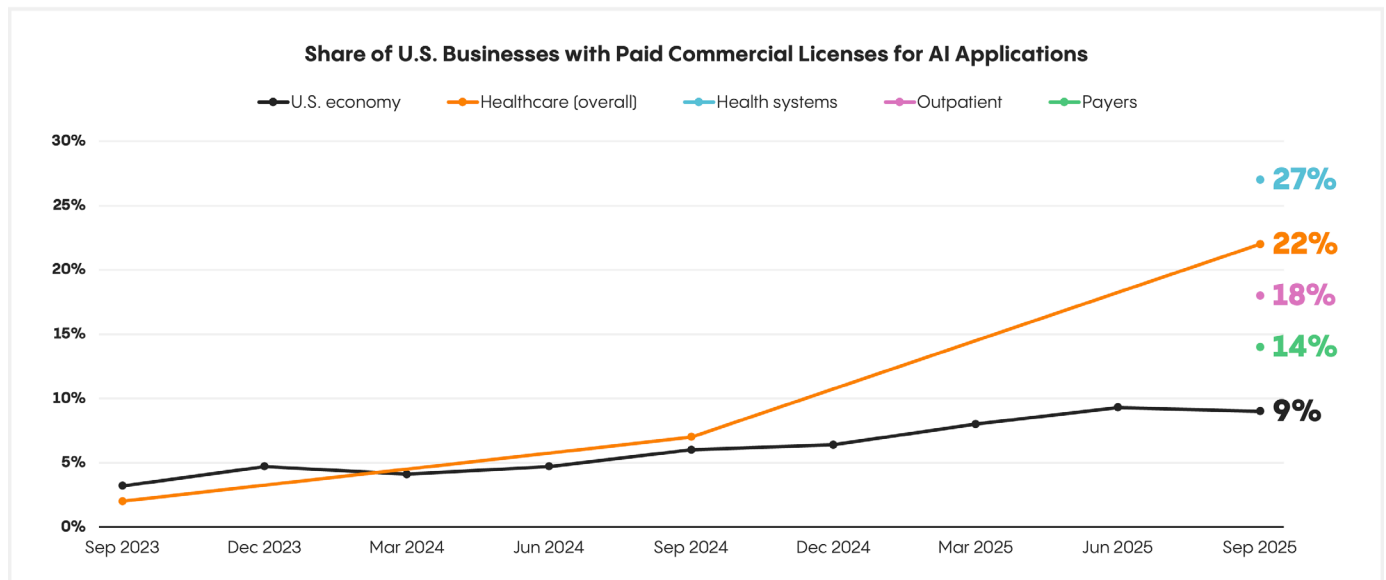
October 21, 2025 | Greg Yap, Derek Xiao, Johnny Hu, Ph.D., JP Sanday, and Croom Beatty

Healthcare is setting the pace for enterprise AI adoption.

Long dismissed as a digital laggard that trailed years behind every major innovation wave, healthcare has flipped the script. The **\$4.9 trillion** industry,¹ which represents **one-fifth** of the U.S. economy² but accounts for only **12%** of software spend,³ is now deploying AI at more than twice the rate (**2.2x**) of the broader economy.

Healthcare Is Winning the AI Race

22% of healthcare organizations have deployed commercial AI—more than double the **9%** adoption rate across the U.S. economy



Excludes consumer subscriptions like ChatGPT

The transformation happened fast. In just two years, healthcare went from 3% adoption to becoming America's AI powerhouse. Health systems are leading the charge at 27%, outpacing outpatient facilities (18%) and payers (14%).

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), [National health expenditure data, NHE Fact Sheet](#), December 2023
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), [National health expenditure data, NHE Fact Sheet](#), December 2023
3. Based on Menlo Ventures' survey data, we estimate that healthcare accounts for approximately 12% of total enterprise software spending—about \$65 billion out of the \$540 billion global subscription cloud software market. This calculation uses Menlo's measured healthcare software adoption rates and Gartner's 2024 forecast that 60% of the \$899 billion global cloud market is attributed to software subscriptions ([Market Share: Enterprise Software, Worldwide, 2024](#)).

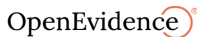







According to Menlo Ventures’ research, **22%** of healthcare organizations have implemented domain-specific AI tools, a **7x** increase over 2024 and **10x** over 2023. Health systems lead with **27%** adoption, followed by outpatient providers at **18%** and payers at **14%**. Life sciences companies are earlier in their journey but moving quickly, developing proprietary models built on decades of internal data to accelerate drug development. By contrast, AI adoption across the broader economy lags behind. Fewer than one in 10 companies (**9%**) has implemented AI,⁴ and most rely on general tools like enterprise ChatGPT instead of purpose-built solutions.

What’s driving the urgency? Industry conditions and market dynamics have made AI a strategic priority. For providers, administrative overhead continues to erode margins⁵ and burn out clinicians,⁶ compounding post-pandemic labor shortages. Payers face rising medical costs and constrained premium growth. Pharma and biotech struggle with stagnant productivity, long R&D timelines, and high costs. AI offers the potential for improved efficiency, economics, and outcomes.

Organizations are already investing real dollars behind the promise. Healthcare AI spending hit **\$1.4 billion** this year,⁷ nearly **tripling** 2024’s investment. To put that in perspective, our [2024 Enterprise AI report](#)⁸ estimated the

The New Unicorns: Where the Market Is Heading

Healthcare’s unicorn landscape reveals where the biggest opportunities and the most capital are concentrated

Category	Company	Valuation
Medical documentation	 OpenEvidence [®]	\$6.0B
	 ABRIDGE	\$5.3B
	 Ambience	\$1.3B
Back-office RCM (revenue cycle management)	 commure	\$6.0B
	 SmarterDx	\$1.0B
Front-office RCM + care navigation	 Elise ^{AI} *	\$2.2B
	 Hippocratic AI — Do No Harm —	\$1.6B
Payer operations	 Distyl *	\$1.8B

The concentration of **\$1B+** companies in medical documentation and RCM isn’t accidental; these are the largest areas of healthcare IT spend and the workflows where AI delivers **immediate, measurable ROI**.

Valuation is the post-money valuation of the company’s most recent equity round. *Elise and Distyl are multi-sector, not only healthcare, but have a significant healthcare presence.

These companies represent the leading edge of a transformation that’s reshaping how healthcare organizations operate, interact with patients, and manage their financials.

4. United States Census Bureau, [Business Trends and Outlooks Survey](#), September 2025

5. American Hospital Association (AHA), [Skyrocketing Hospital Administrative Costs](#), September 2024

6. National Library of Medicine (NLM), [Insufficient Time for Electronic Documentation and Clinician Burnout](#), January 2025

7. Market sizing includes dollars that went to healthcare-specific generative AI solutions across ambient scribing, coding & billing, patient engagement, prior authorization, payer engagement, and payer operations—including both startups and incumbents (e.g., Microsoft Nuance). Note that this does not include revenue from general AI solutions (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude), non-LLM AI, or API spend. Estimates based on Menlo Ventures’ 2025 Healthcare AI survey (N=700) and a bottoms-up revenue analysis.

8. Menlo Ventures, [2024: The State of Generative AI in the Enterprise](#), November 2024

entire vertical AI market, including sectors from law to design and breakout companies like [Harvey](#), [Eve*](#), [Midjourney](#), and [Higgsfield*](#), at just **\$1.2 billion** last year. Across the enterprise landscape, only horizontal chatbots and coding assistants are expanding faster.

This surge of activity has produced **eight healthcare AI unicorns** and many more rising stars valued between **\$500 million** and **\$1 billion**—more than any other vertical AI segment, including legal, financial services, and media. In this early phase of rapid transformation, AI is defining the future of how healthcare operates.

This report draws on comprehensive surveys of more than **700** healthcare executives across the United States, including senior leaders in insurance and benefits, executives in pharma and biotech, and technology decision-makers at healthcare provider organizations. It is further informed by conversations with dozens of additional industry stakeholders.⁹ The report offers a detailed look at healthcare's AI transformation, exploring where organizations are advancing from pilots to production, which business models are converting services into software, and where the next wave of category leaders is poised to emerge across care delivery, health insurance, and drug development.

The AI Imperative: Move Fast and Place Big Bets

Large-scale investment and adoption across leading players illustrates how dramatically the industry has transformed through AI in just the last 12 months:

- [Kaiser Permanente](#) deployed [Abridge](#)'s ambient documentation solution across **40** hospitals and **600+** medical offices, marking the largest generative AI rollout in healthcare history and Kaiser's fastest implementation of a technology in over **20** years.
- [Advocate Health](#) evaluated over **225** AI solutions to select **40** use cases to go live with, including the largest deployment of [Microsoft Dragon Copilot](#), imaging tools like [Aidoc](#) and [Rad AI](#), and AI for its call centers. These initiatives are projected to reduce documentation time by **more than 50%**, while automating prior authorizations, referrals, and coding workflows.
- [Mayo Clinic](#) is investing **more than \$1 billion** in AI over the next few years across more than **200** projects that go beyond administrative automation to include diagnostics and patient care.
- [SimonMed](#), one of the largest independent radiology groups in the U.S., has scaled its partnerships from co-building with **fewer than 10** vendors to piloting solutions from **more than 50**, including AI systems for intake, ambient scribing, and revenue cycle management.
- [Grow Therapy](#), a leading digital mental health platform, is building an AI care companion that bridges in-session therapy with 24/7 support and pioneering continuous measurement through voice and language analysis to replace static assessment tools like PHQ-9 and GAD-7.

⁹. Full methodology and data sources detailed at the end of this report.

How Leading Healthcare Organizations Choose AI

Healthcare's approach to AI adoption differs markedly from past technology waves. Unlike the EHR era, which was driven by regulation, centralized decision-making, and long implementation cycles, healthcare buyers now embrace rapid experimentation across the organization, often starting with low-stakes pilots in administrative functions to build AI expertise and adoption muscle.

Organizations that move quickly through this phase are capturing advantages in cost structure, patient satisfaction, and clinical outcomes. Those that move slowly risk falling irreversibly behind.

Leading health organizations like Mayo Clinic, [Cleveland Clinic](#), and Kaiser Permanente reflect this new approach. Working with AI partners, these systems prioritize:

- 1. Maturity of technology.** Buyers prioritize production-ready solutions that perform reliably at scale. The goal is to deploy proven systems quickly, without heavy R&D or custom development.
- 2. Level of risk to patient care.** Tools that don't directly interface with patients get faster approval, while higher-risk applications that are exposed to patients face deeper scrutiny and longer timelines.
- 3. Short-term value delivery.** Rapid ROI matters, but so does organizational confidence. Quick wins generate the momentum and credibility needed to drive sustained adoption.

By stacking early wins, they build operational muscle for long-term transformation.

Notably, cost is secondary in this framework. Organizations will pay a premium for trusted AI solutions in a space where the risks of failure (including operational disruption, patient harm, and reputational damage) are far greater.

AI Procurement Cycles: Providers Accelerate, Payers Deliberate

The shift toward rapid experimentation is reshaping how healthcare organizations buy technology. Our survey data shows that procurement cycles are compressing dramatically for health systems and outpatient providers.

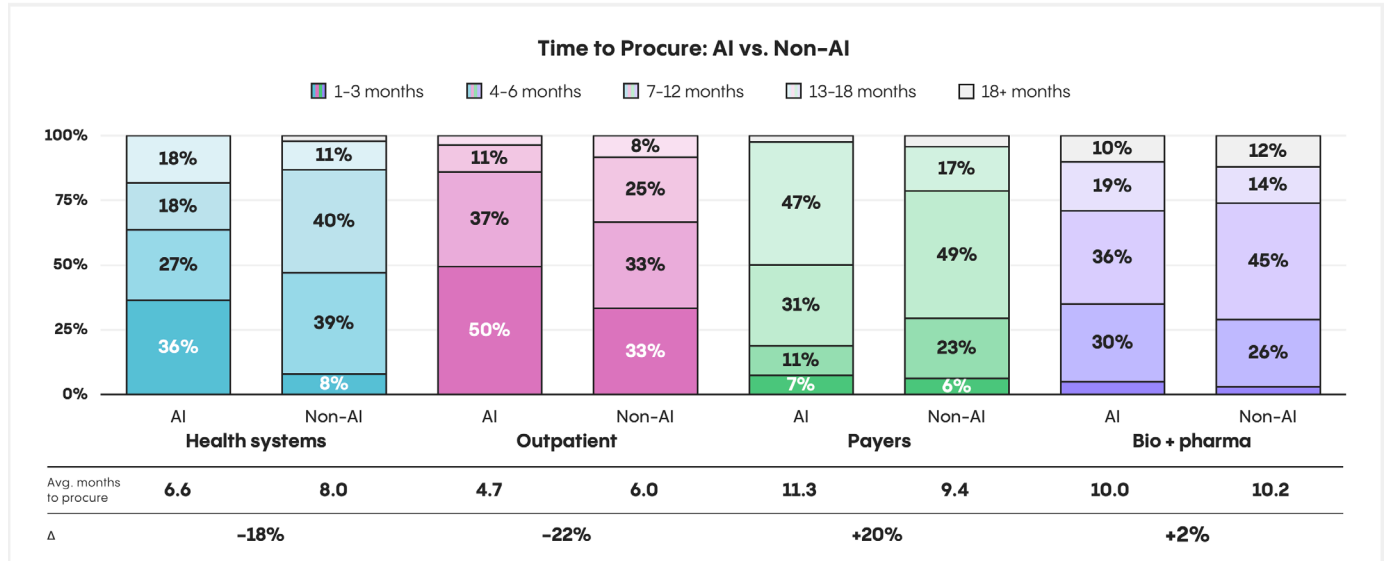
Health systems have shortened average buying cycles from **8.0** months for traditional IT purchases to **6.6** months, an **18%** acceleration. **Outpatient providers** have moved even faster, reducing timelines from 6.0 months to **4.7** months, a **22%** improvement.

Not all sectors are moving at this pace. **Payers** have seen buying cycles lengthen from **9.4** months to **11.3** months, while **pharmaceutical and biotech** companies remain steady at around **10** months.

This divergence reflects fundamentally different approaches to AI adoption. Historically known for slow technology uptake (many startups refer to provider purchasing cycles as "death by pilot"), leading providers have now crossed a threshold as they buy production solutions and deploy quickly, while payers and biopharma remain "AI-curious," still in piloting and experimentation mode.

AI's Impact on Procurement Cycles

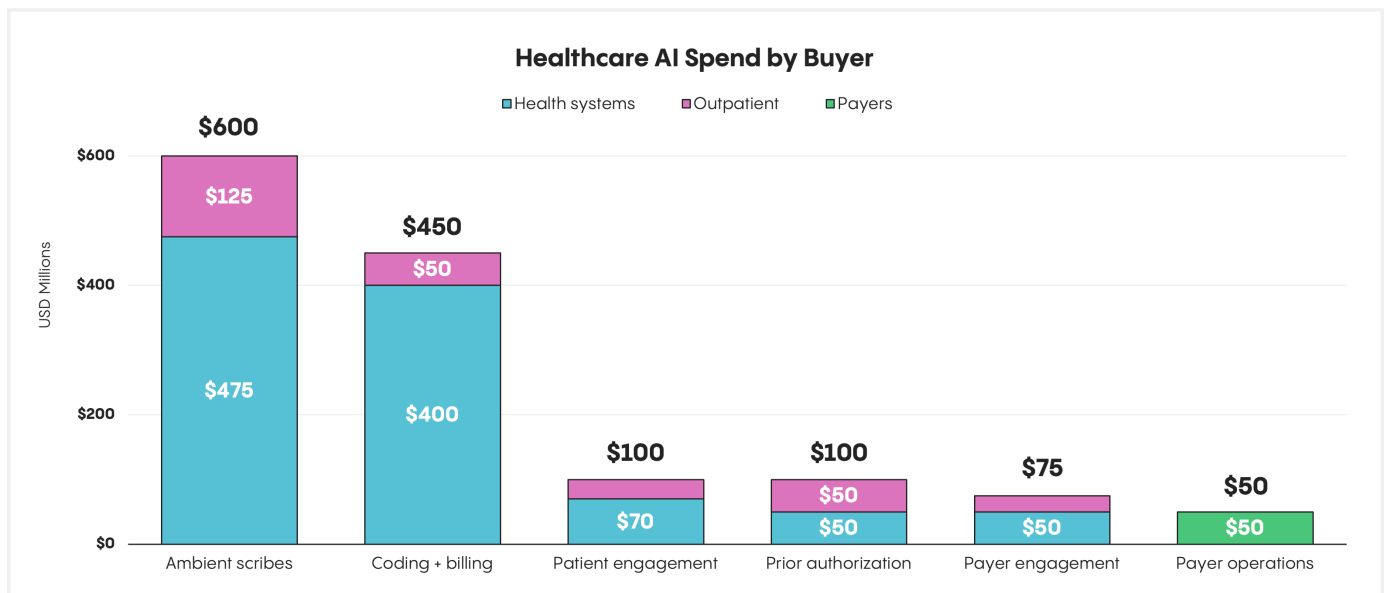
Health systems and outpatient providers are buying AI solutions up to **20%** faster than traditional tech, while payers and pharma continue to take a more considered approach



Healthcare AI Spend: Where Money Actually Flows

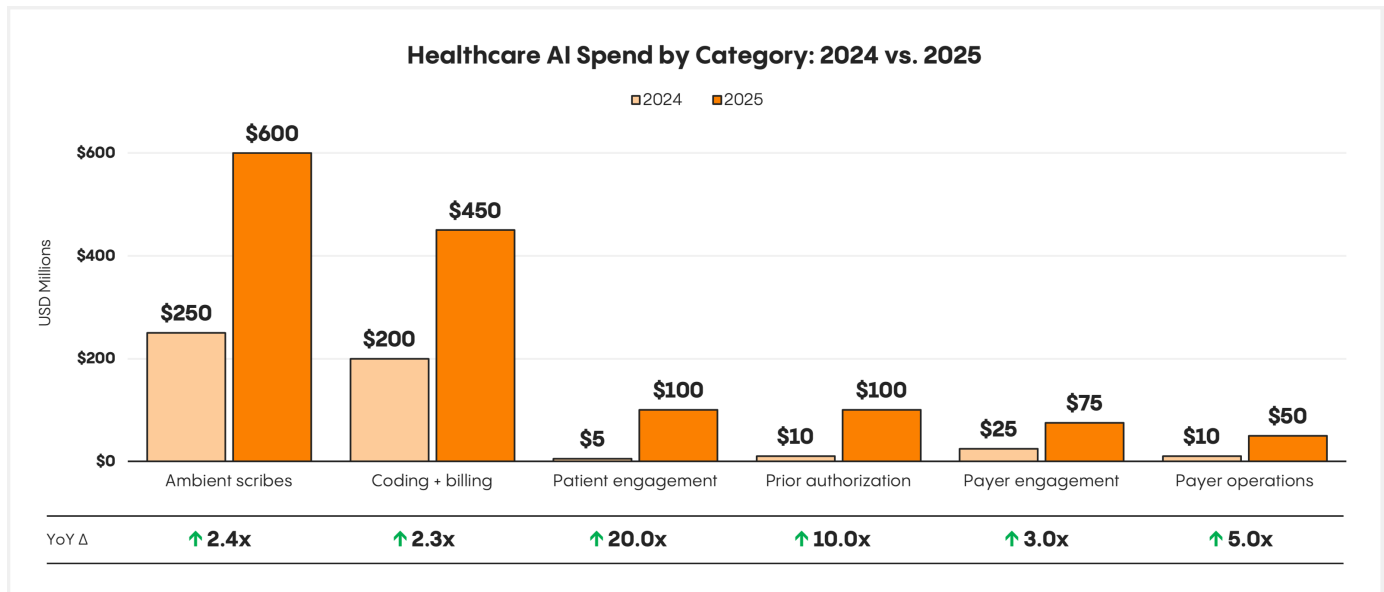
Dollars are following the pace of adoption. Providers dominate AI adoption in healthcare, especially health systems—supplying **\$1 billion** of the **\$1.4 billion** now flowing into healthcare AI, or **75%** of the total. Outpatient providers represent **\$280 million (20%)**, while payers contribute just **\$50 million (5%)**, and bio & life sciences less than that.

Where Does the Healthcare AI Budget Go?



Health systems are leading in AI because the level of need is highest and the ROI is obvious: thin margins, high staffing ratios and administrative costs, and staff shortages at all levels. AI agents offer the promise of improving efficiency and margins without compromising care quality.

Two categories that address acute operational pain points and deliver measurable ROI are ambient clinical documentation (**\$600 million**), which reduces physician burnout, and coding and billing automation (**\$450 million**), which recovers revenue lost to coding errors and denials.¹⁰ Other fast-growing categories include patient engagement (**+20x** year over year) and prior authorization (**+10x** year over year).



Startups Capture 85% of Spending

Our survey reveals that **85%** of all generative AI spend in healthcare currently flows to startups rather than incumbents. Even in spaces like ambient scribing where Microsoft’s [Nuance](#) had deployed DAX medical speech recognition solutions to **77%** of U.S. hospitals,¹¹ startups like [Abridge](#) and [Ambience](#) have captured nearly **70%** of the new market with superior performance.

Startups have some advantages: They can move faster and design products natively around AI capabilities, unburdened by legacy technical debt and the bureaucracy of larger organizations. Incumbents’ new AI offerings have largely been bolt-on features to legacy platforms. As a result, AI-native challengers have gained rapid adoption and market share.

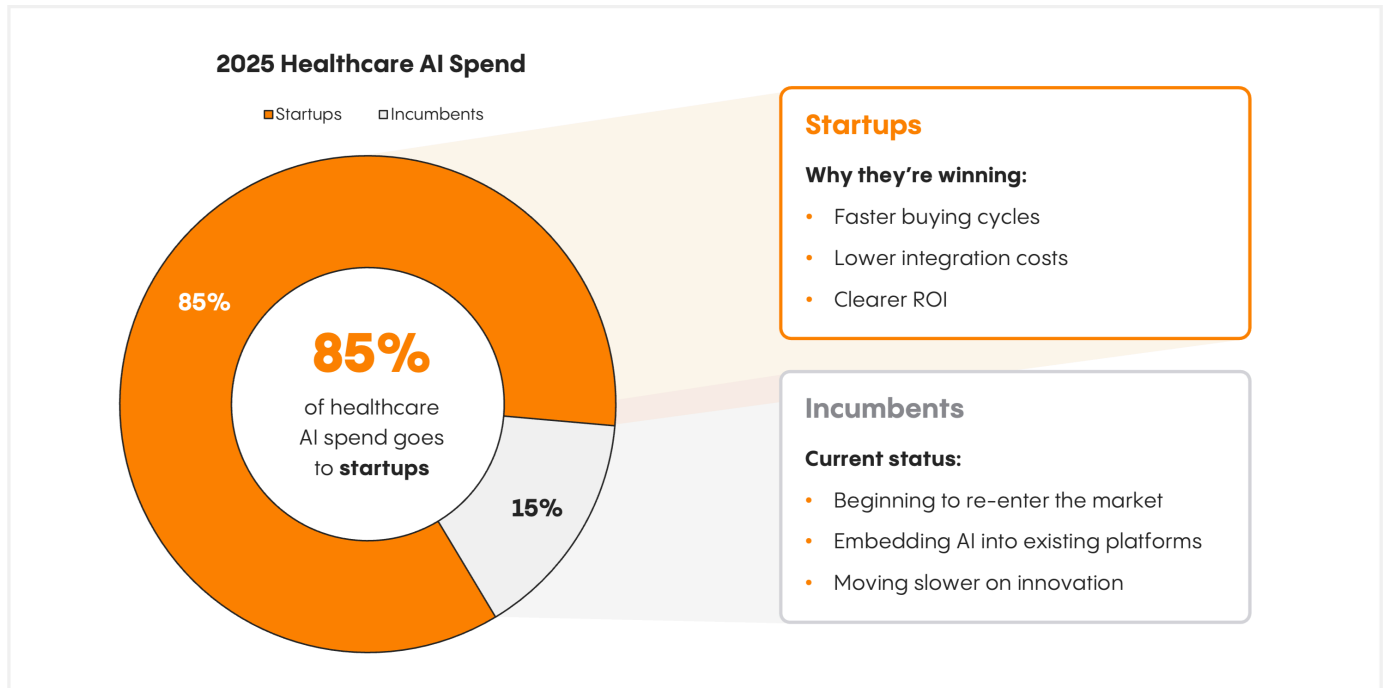
For healthcare IT giants like [Epic](#), [Oracle Health](#), [athenahealth](#), and [Change Healthcare](#), this marks a period of real disruption risk. Many AI-native solutions are starting with a single wedge like medical scribing and expanding to take on more capabilities to ultimately disintermediate incumbents over time. However, Epic and other incumbents are now reacting, leveraging their massive advantages in distribution, integration, and scale.

10. Simbo AI, [The Importance of Accurate Clinical Documentation and Coding in Ensuring Financial Stability for Healthcare Providers](#), 2024

11. Microsoft, [A Year of DAX Copilot: Healthcare Innovation That Refocuses on the Clinician-Patient Connection](#), September 2024

Healthcare AI Spend: **Startups vs. Incumbents**

Startups capture the vast majority of production AI spend, benefitting from agile deployment, transparent pricing, and proven ROI—giving them a decisive edge over slower-moving incumbents



Funding AI: From Reallocating IT Spend to Unlocking \$740 Billion of Services Dollars

Healthcare IT spend has historically been both limited and concentrated relative to the industry's massive scale. Our data reveals that total U.S. healthcare administration spending reaches **\$740 billion** annually, yet healthcare IT represents just **\$63 billion** of that spend.¹² Manual labor and human services still dominate healthcare and contribute to its high cost.

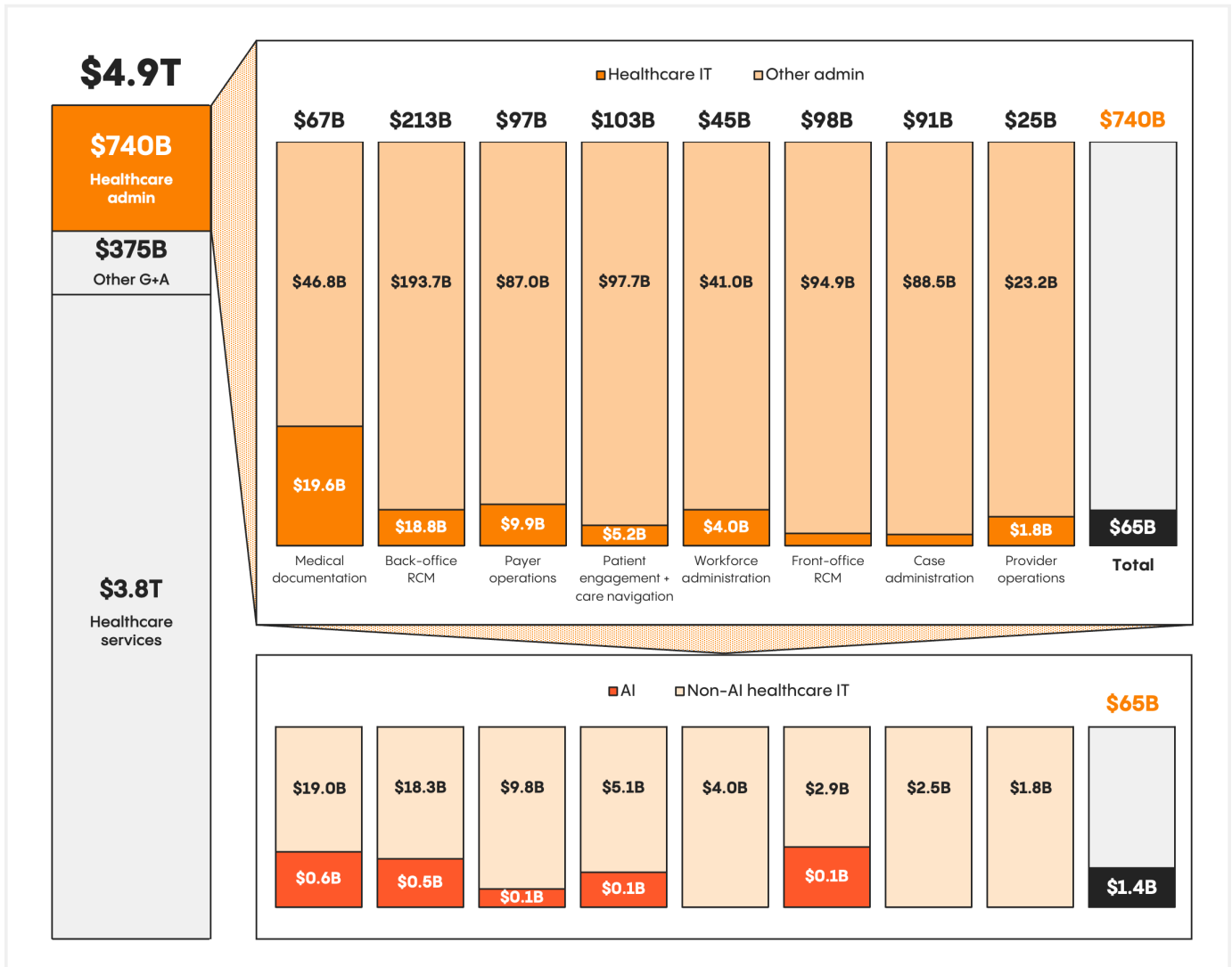
The market is concentrated: Epic built the dominant system of record for medical documentation. [R1 RCM](#), [Waystar](#), and [SSI](#) captured the back-office revenue cycle, selling software to streamline coding and billing. Together, medical documentation and back-office revenue cycle management (RCM) represent nearly **60%** of all healthcare IT spending, a combined market of roughly **\$38 billion**.

Within these dollar flows, AI is finding budget along two distinct paths. Many of AI's first winners have found success selling into existing IT budgets with solutions that augment existing IT systems with intelligent modules. But the larger and more transformative opportunity lies in automating manual workflows that were never part of IT budgets, effectively converting services dollars into software dollars for the first time.

12. Menlo Ventures analysis based on proprietary survey data and secondary market research. We estimated category-level administrative spending, determined the share allocated to IT, and triangulated those findings with a bottoms-up market-sizing model to derive total administrative and IT spending estimates.

A \$4.9T Opportunity: Converting Healthcare Services to Software

Of the nearly **\$5 trillion** the U.S. spends on healthcare each year, **\$740 billion** goes to administration; less than **0.1%** of that spend currently leverages AI



AI will lead the next wave of healthcare modernization, shifting administrative work from manual processes to intelligent automation.

Capturing Existing IT Spend

Medical documentation and **back-office RCM** comprise nearly **60%** of all healthcare IT spending:

- Medical documentation: **\$19.6B** market (**30%** of healthcare IT spend);
- Back-office RCM: **\$18.8B** market (**29%** of healthcare IT spend).

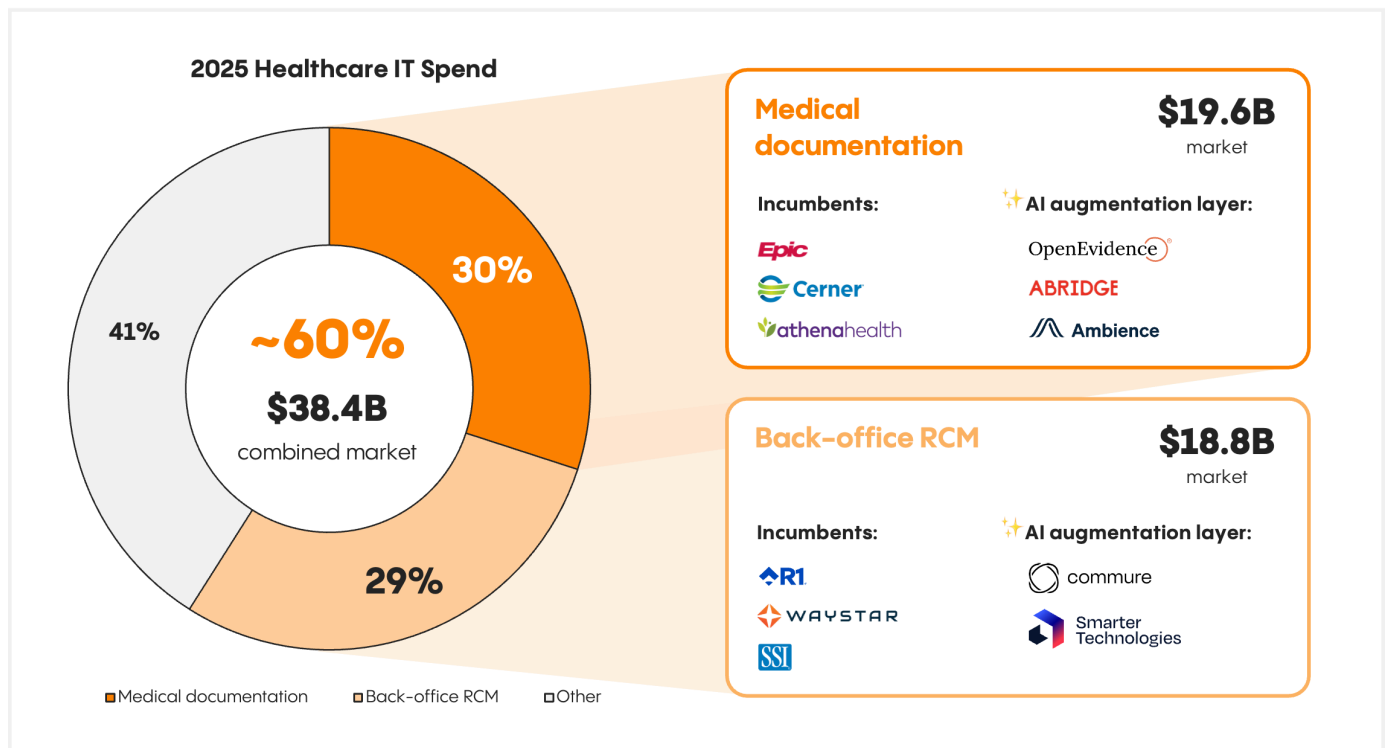
Companies like Abridge and [OpenEvidence](#) in documentation, and [Commure](#) and [Smarter Technologies](#) in back-office RCM, are competing for large pools of existing IT spend, not by replacing Epic or Waystar, but by augmenting them with automation that reduces required human clinical and administrative labor.

This integration strategy offers a clear path to scale. Rather than fighting uphill battles to displace entrenched incumbents, these AI companies become the system of work that sits between doctors and EHRs, or between billing departments and claims processors. From there, they can expand horizontally into adjacent modules and, in time, even move down-stack to challenge the underlying system of record.

Medical documentation and back-office RCM combined account for **60%** of healthcare IT spend, creating a **\$38 billion** opportunity to apply AI intelligence to established systems and workflows. Companies like Abridge and Smarter Technologies serve as the intelligence layers that once depended on clinical staff.

How to Create Value: Enrich Existing Products + Platforms

Medical documentation and back-office RCM account for **60%** of healthcare IT spend, creating a **\$38B** opportunity to apply AI intelligence to established systems and workflows, such as automating time-intensive tasks that once depended on clinical staff.



Expanding into Services Spend

Beyond existing IT budgets, even larger opportunities lie in administrative work that wasn't automatable before AI. Prior authorization, patient engagement, and front-office RCM operations have historically been people-intensive workflows funded through services budgets rather than IT budgets. Within the **\$740 billion** of total administrative spend, software and SaaS represent only a tiny fraction of these categories.

Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is healthcare's most reviled administrative process and one of the largest opportunities to streamline. Administrative services in front-office RCM currently total **\$98 billion** annually, of which software is only **3%**. AI has already created a **\$100+ million** market here, growing 10x year over year with substantial room to expand.

Legacy intake and electronic prior authorization solutions were largely digital forms that still needed manual completion. Clinical staff had to extract unstructured data from the EHR, apply clinical reasoning to determine medical necessity, and translate that into the formats insurers required—a process that could take days or weeks per authorization.

Companies looking to transform this space include [Latent](#), [Tandem](#), [Mandolin](#), and [Squad Health*](#) (prior authorization for specialty medications and infusions); [Silna](#) (prior auth for outpatient providers), and [Tennr](#) and [Valerie Health](#) (patient intake).

These solutions augment or replace nurses and front-office staff who previously spent hours filling out forms or on hold with insurers. The ROI is immediate: Authorizations that once took days and delayed or stopped treatments can be completed in minutes, reducing administrative costs and improving access to care.

Healthcare Front Door + Patient Engagement

Patient engagement and access account for more than **\$100 billion** in annual administrative spending, yet software captures only about **5%** of that total. AI is beginning to shift this dynamic, fueling a **\$100+ million** market that's growing **20x** year over year.

Problems start at healthcare's "front door." Patients struggle to access the right care at the right time, regardless of the type of care. After episodes of care, fragmentation and poor handoffs between different providers contribute to poorer outcomes, treatment abandonment, and lack of adherence. Providers historically do not follow up with patients, as the responsibility usually falls to overburdened nurses or outsourced call centers.

AI is attacking this across the entire patient journey.

- Consumer wellness companies like [Function Health*](#), [Ash*](#), and [SuppCo](#) help people take control of their own health through biomarker & lifestyle monitoring, tracking, and always-available engagement.
- AI triage platforms like [Doctronic](#), [Counsel Health](#), [Torch Health](#), and [Roona](#) assess symptoms conversationally and route patients to the appropriate level of care.
- Scheduling automation solutions like [Assort Health](#), [Hello Patient](#), and [Clarion](#) eliminate manual appointment booking and patient triage.
- Care navigation platforms like [Hippocratic AI](#), [Ellipsis Health](#), [Kouper Health](#), [Ferry Health](#), and [Solace Health*](#) manage ongoing patient communication—calling with results, scheduling follow-ups, answering questions, and coordinating care transitions.

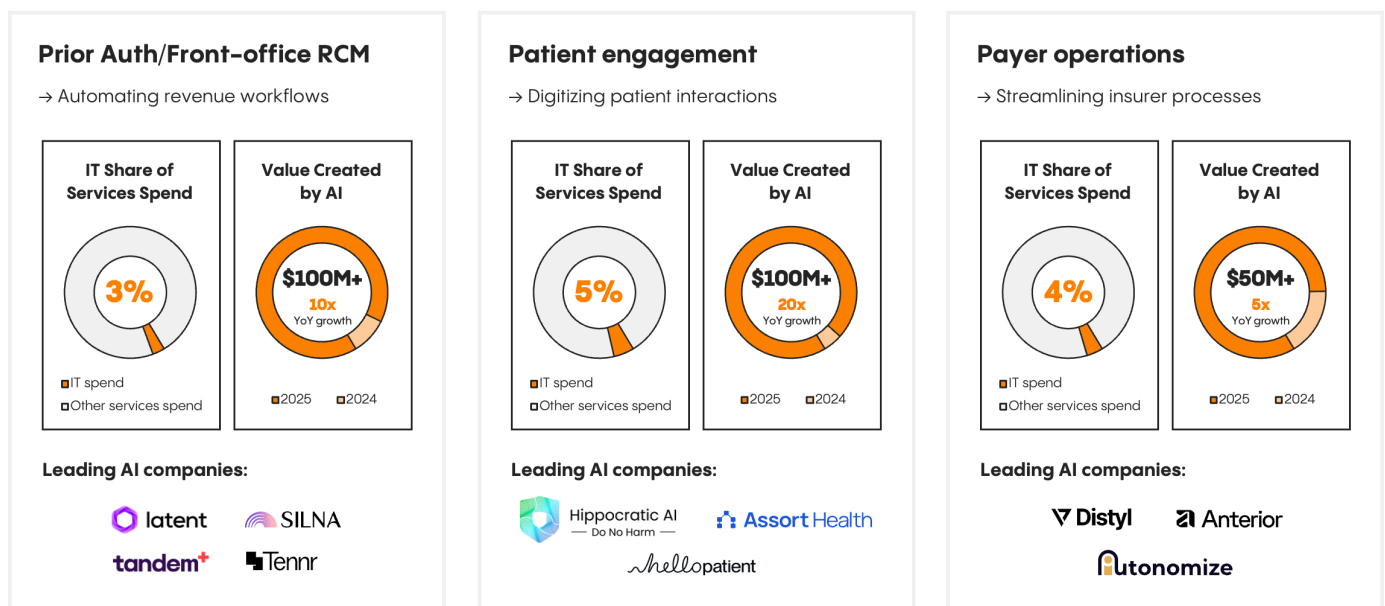
Payer Operations

AI has created a **\$50+ million** market selling to payers that is growing **5x** year over year. Companies include [Distyl](#), [Anterior](#), and [Autonomize](#).

This segment is more nascent than provider-side categories due to year-long sales cycles and payer enterprise requirements. But the opportunity is substantial: AI could transform core payer workflows including prior authorization, utilization management, payment integrity, and risk adjustment. Ultimately, provider AI agents could interface with payer AI agents to maximize administrative streamlining and minimize healthcare administrative costs and care delays.

Capturing Services Budgets: AI Is Unlocking New Markets in Healthcare

Services budgets dwarf IT spend. By automating manual workflows that were never part of IT budgets, AI companies are capturing value from the **>95%** of healthcare spend that still sits in services



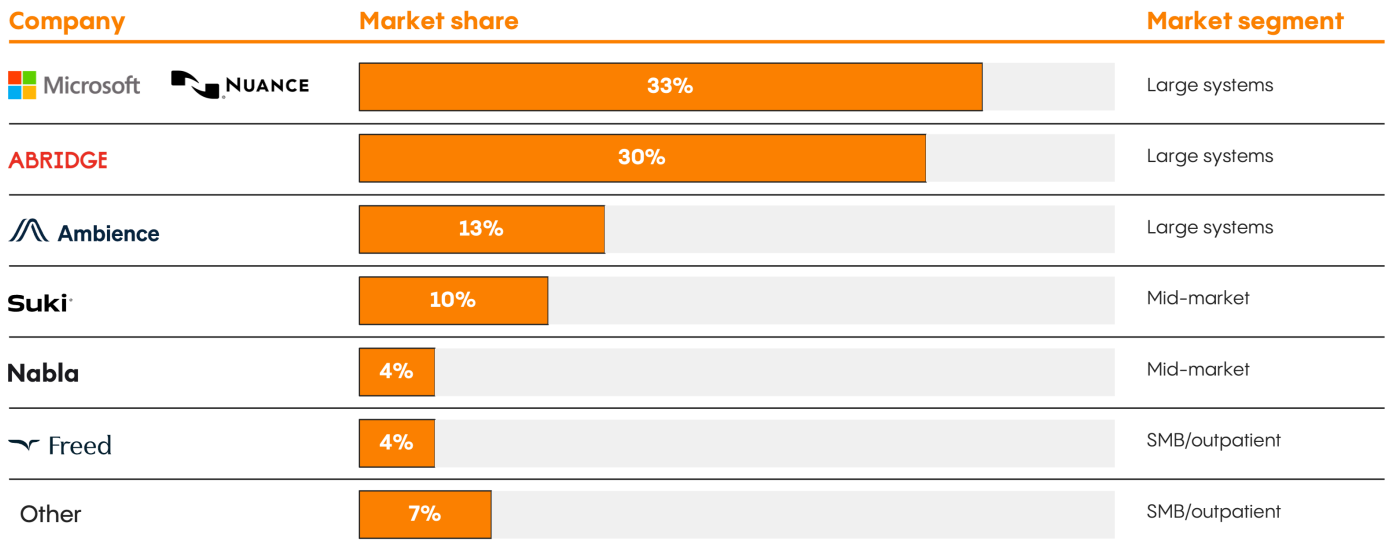
Ambient Scribes Reshaped Healthcare; Now the Empire Is Striking Back

Ambient scribes are healthcare AI's first breakout category, generating **\$600 million** in 2025 (**+2.4x YoY**), more revenue and attention than any other clinical application. The category crowned two new unicorns this year, Abridge (**30%** market share) and Ambience (**13%**), though both still trail incumbent Nuance's DAX Copilot (**33%**), according to our data.

The value proposition is straightforward and powerful: Physicians spend **one hour** on documentation (“pajama time” for the evenings it takes) for every **five hours** of patient care.¹³ Ambient scribes use AI to listen to patient-doctor conversations, generate clinical notes, and populate EHR fields automatically, transforming the provider experience.

Ambient Scribe Market Leadership Remains Contested

The top two vendors control **63%** of the **\$600M** market, but neither has decisive dominance. The remaining **37%** is fragmented across five players, signaling an unsettled competitive landscape



*Backed by Menlo Ventures

The Trouble with Being Just a Scribe

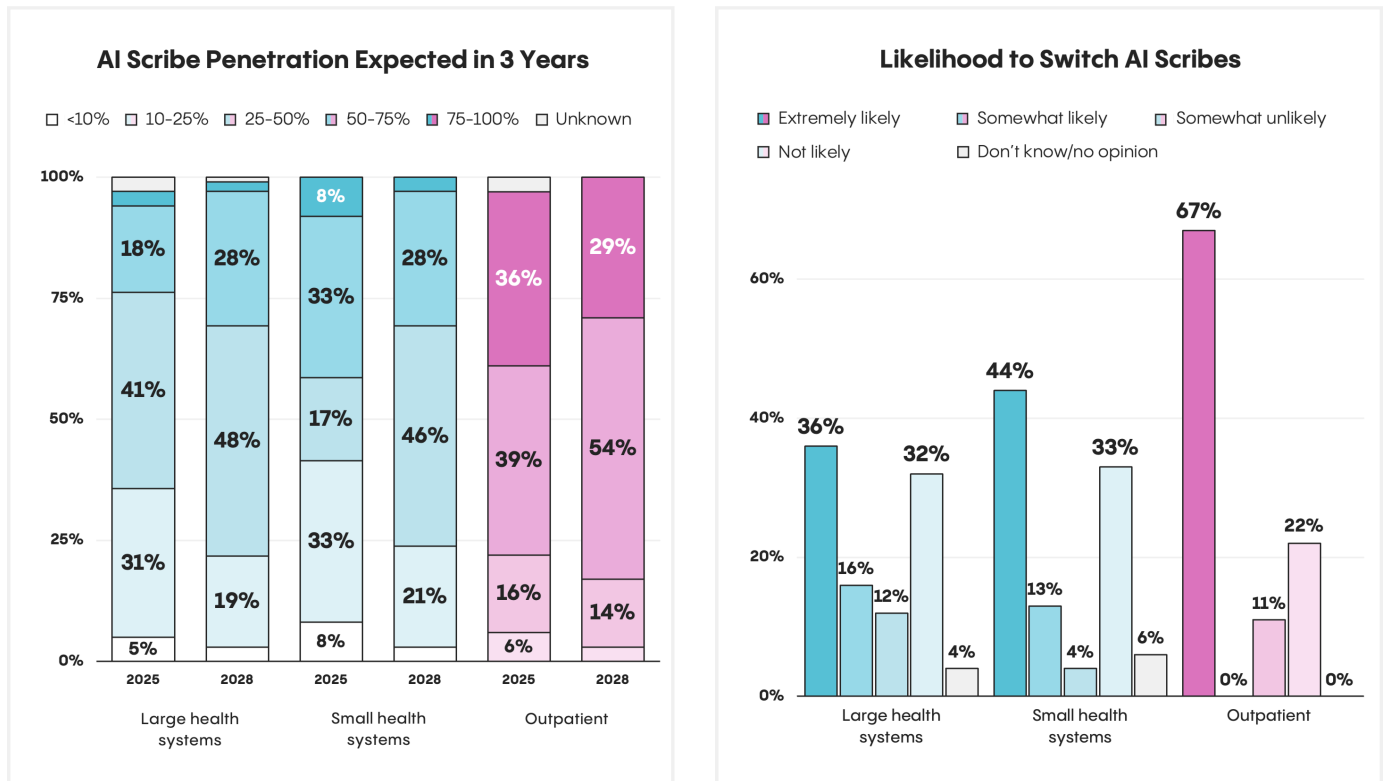
Early success doesn’t guarantee lasting value. As ambient scribes look to the next phase of growth, they face two fundamental constraints.

First, growth within existing customers faces headwinds. Customers expect penetration to plateau and pricing pressure to intensify. Survey respondents at large health systems estimate adoption at **35%** today but only expect adoption to reach **40%** over the next three years. Respondents at smaller health systems and outpatient providers also expect adoption to flatten. Early adopters are converting rapidly, but the data reveals more long-term holdouts than expected.

Second, stickiness appears weak. When we asked about plans over the next three years, large health systems using ambient scribes indicated they were just as likely to switch vendors as to stay with their current scribe. Among outpatient providers, the likelihood to switch rises to **67%**. Customers view scribing as becoming commoditized, and current switching costs are low.

13. Rotenstein LS et al., [System-Level Factors and Time Spent on Electronic Health Records](#), JAMA Network Open, 2023

Ambient Scribe Penetration + Stickiness



EHRs Strike Back While Startups Try to Expand

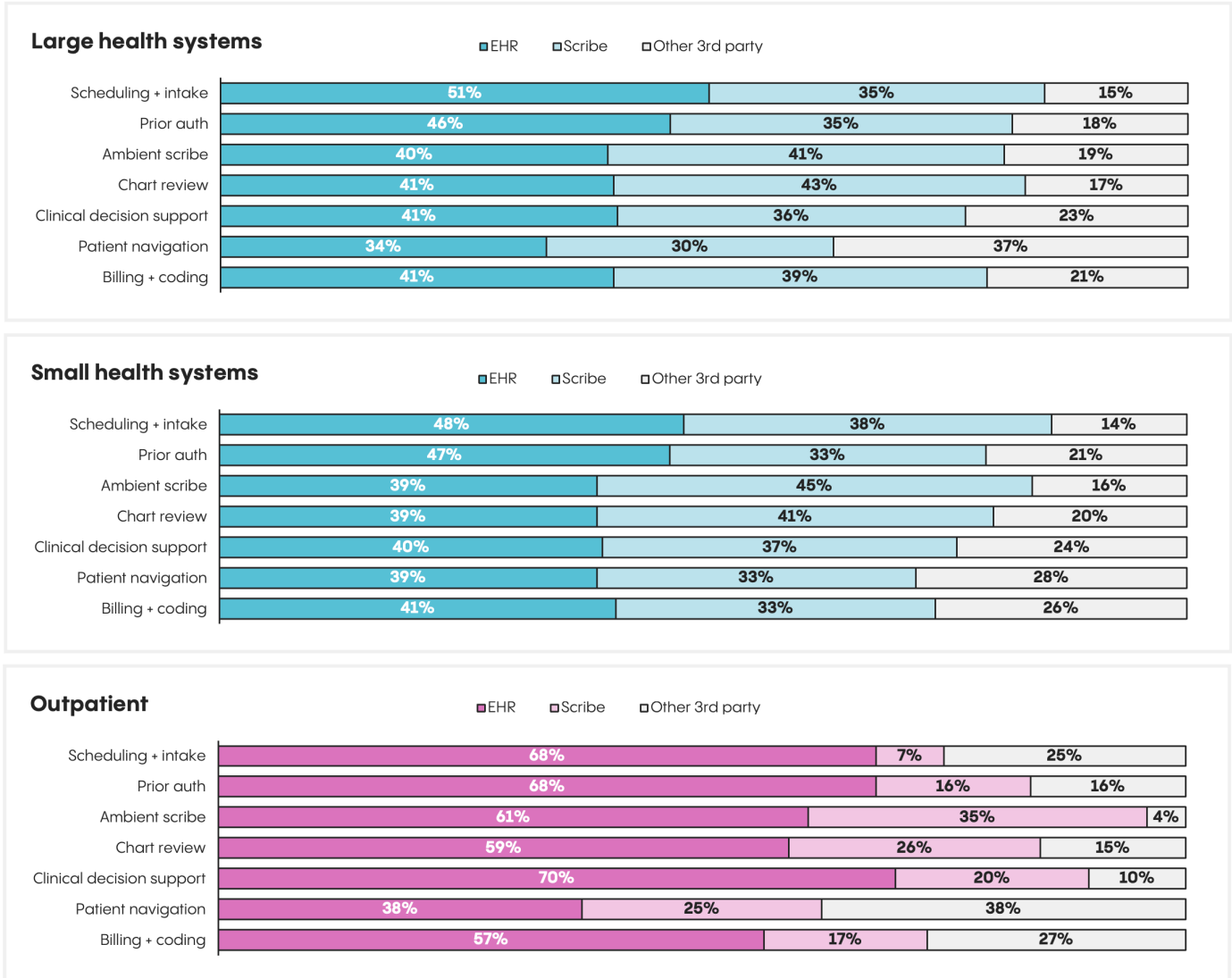
This explains why startups are racing to expand beyond documentation—becoming AI platforms for healthcare, not just point solutions. Abridge is partnering with [Highmark Health](#) to deploy AI for real-time prior authorization. Ambience’s pitch focuses as much on revenue integrity and coding as documentation. Mid-market and outpatient leaders like [Nabla](#), [Freed](#), and [Eleos Health*](#), the leading scribes for behavioral and post-acute providers, are extending across the value chain to build modules for compliance and other RCM workflows. A flood of startups are picking out wedge markets and trying to expand with a similar playbook: fast product velocity and AI-native architecture.

However, the EHRs are striking back. Epic, Oracle Health, and athenahealth have all introduced their own ambient scribes in recent months and are building AI directly into their platforms. The incumbency advantage shows clearly in our survey data: although startups currently capture **85%** of AI revenue among respondents, most customers say they prefer to buy AI from their incumbent EHR. Customers favor startups for ambient scribes and chart review, but prefer EHRs for everything else: coding, billing, prior authorization, scheduling, clinical decision support, and patient navigation.

Current customer preference is not inevitable. The field is changing fast, and if startups can deliver more value than incumbents, customer preference could change by the time of our next survey. But this data shows that the advantage of incumbent relationships should not be underestimated.

EHRs vs. Ambient Scribes

Customers prefer EHRs for most workflows but increasingly rely on ambient scribes for documentation and chart review



Payers: Watching, Worrying, and Building Defenses

As providers race to deploy AI across their operations, payers are watching closely, and with growing concern. Our survey highlighted two dominant fears about provider-side AI adoption and usage:

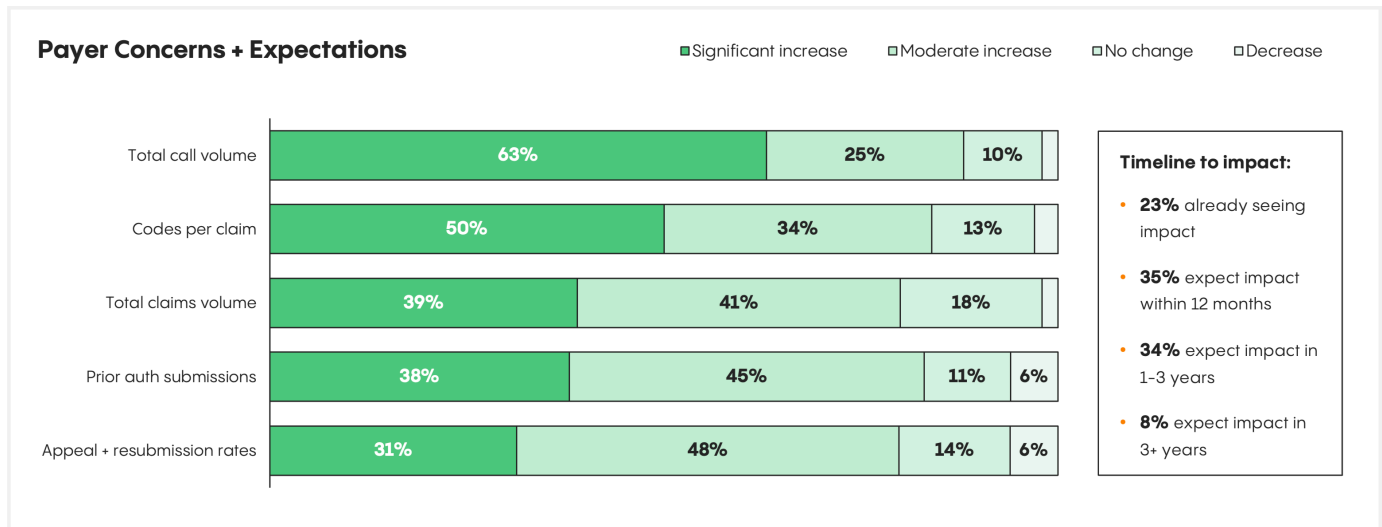
- 1. Surging call and claims volume.** Payers must staff against the flood of AI-enabled prior authorization and communication tools that let providers submit claims instantly, check status, and file appeals. Automation threatens to overwhelm call centers and review departments, eroding traditional controls.

- 2. Risk of increased costs.** Coding tools trained on vast data sets are designed to identify missed revenue opportunities and optimize billing codes to maximize reimbursement. Payers fear the risk of approving and paying for unjustified procedures, while also feeling the need to improve turnaround times and reduce monitoring costs. Some payers spoke about wanting to use AI to accelerate approvals, but requiring a human in the loop for rejections.

Payers are formulating responses, but few have finalized their approach. Options under discussion include updating policies around medical necessity, increasing audits across the board, developing anti-provider AI policies, and working with AI platforms like Distyl to stand up their own AI systems to match provider capabilities.

Payer Expectations for Provider AI Impact

Payers expect AI adoption among providers to significantly increase call and claim volumes, with most anticipating measurable effects within **12-36** months



Life Sciences: Building Proprietary Models for Drug Discovery

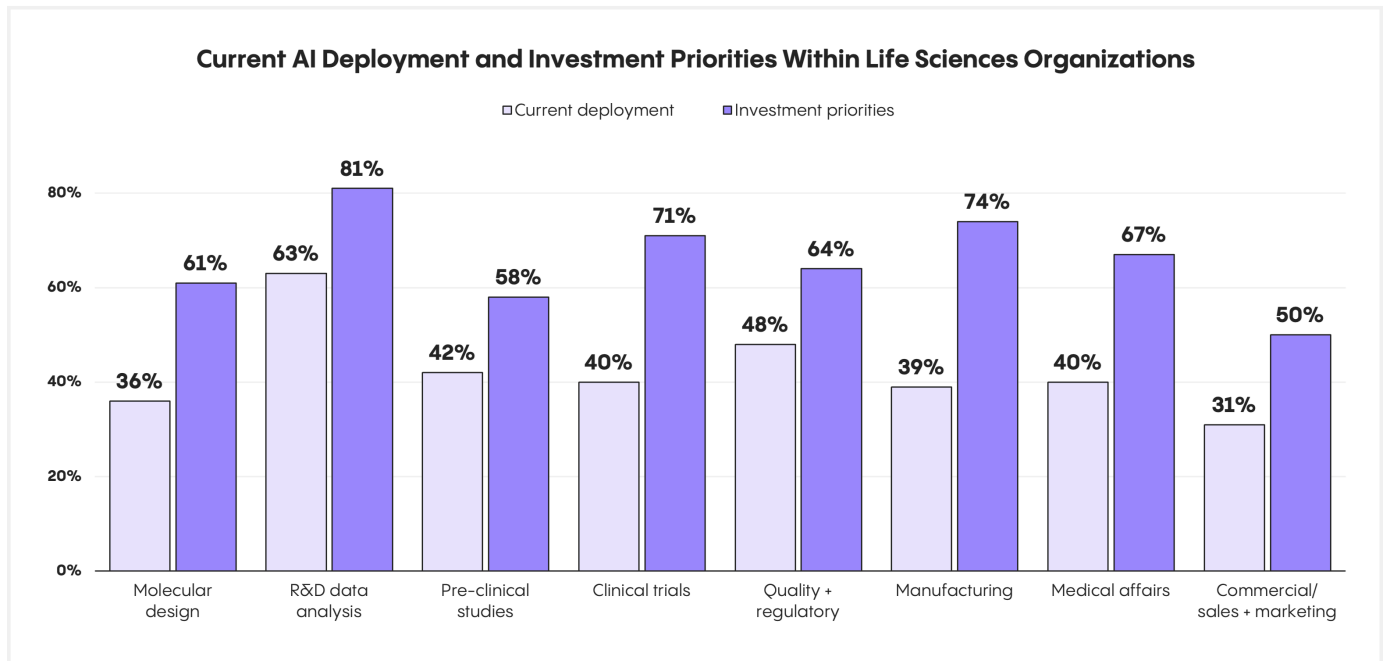
Pharmaceutical and biotech companies are also early in the AI adoption curve. Most life sciences organizations remain in experimentation mode, with limited production deployments of general-purpose LLMs like [Claude](#)*, [ChatGPT](#), and [Gemini](#).

Life sciences companies are experimenting with AI across the drug development lifecycle. Customers highlight R&D data analysis (**63%**) as the most common area of interest, where AI can be used to ingest public data, analyze experimental data, and ultimately design or conduct experiments. Systems of record like [Benchling](#)* are adding AI agents to their platform. Newer startups like [Lila](#), [Biomni](#), and Edison ([FutureHouse](#)) are building agents to augment scientists or make autonomous discoveries. General-purpose LLMs like Claude and ChatGPT will also solve various use cases. However, revenue remains nascent while customers evaluate various approaches.

Areas of interest and investment priorities for AI include: quality and regulatory (**48%**—companies include [Veeva](#), [Qualio*](#), [Enzyme](#), [Bluenote*](#)); pre-clinical studies (**42%**—companies include [Axiom](#), [Vivodyne](#)), medical affairs (**40%**—companies include [Veeva](#), [H1*](#), [Medidata](#)), and clinical trials (**40%**—companies include [H1*](#), [Tempus](#), [Unlearn](#), [ConcertAI](#)).

Our data shows that **66%** of pharma companies are also looking to build or fine-tune proprietary models, including various foundation models of biology and drug discovery. This may reflect the perceived value of proprietary data in drug discovery. Companies building various foundation models applicable to different categories of biology include [Xaira*](#), [Evolutionary Scale](#), [Recursion*](#), [Chai Discovery*](#), [Genesis Therapeutics*](#), [Cradle](#), and [Boltz](#).

AI Adoption in Life Sciences Is Underway and Accelerating



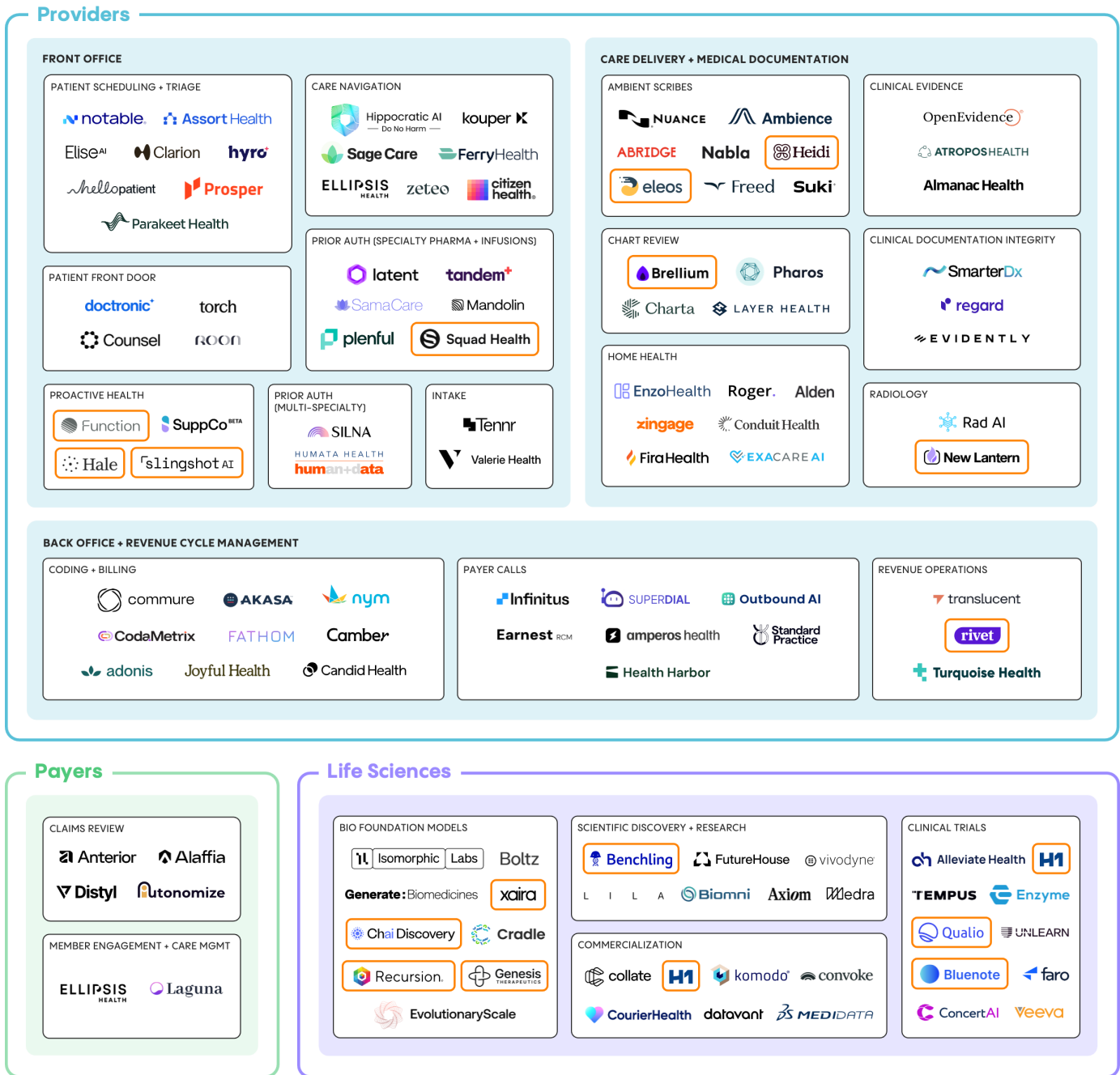
Organizations are expanding beyond R&D and clinical use cases into manufacturing, regulatory, and commercial functions.

It's Happening Now

Healthcare's AI moment is here. AI offers the potential to improve efficiency and quality of care. Providers are seeing products that deliver ROI and witnessing peers adopt at scale, and buying cycles have compressed from **12 to 18** months to under **six**. The conditions are aligned for rapid acceleration.

But **80% of the market remains untapped**. The next waves will come from companies automating services budgets, building voice interfaces for patient engagement, solving prior authorization at scale, and improving drug discovery.

Healthcare AI Market Map



Backed by Menlo Ventures

At Menlo Ventures, we invest at the intersection of technology and healthcare—backing founders who are reimagining how care is delivered and how medicine is discovered. We’ve invested across the entire AI transformation: leading general foundation models ([Anthropic](#)); automating provider workflows ([Brellium](#), [Eleos Health](#), [Heidi](#), [New Lantern](#), [Particle Health](#), [Rivet](#), [Squad Health](#)); improving care delivery ([Function Health](#), [Solace](#), [Delfi](#), [Ophelia](#), [Cartwheel](#), [Ash](#), [Colla Health](#)); reinventing drug discovery ([Recursion](#), [Xaira](#), [Chai Discovery](#), [Genesis Therapeutics](#), [Vilya](#)); and accelerating life sciences companies ([Benchling](#), [H1](#), [Bluenote](#), [Qualio](#)).

If you're building AI to redefine the future of healthcare, we want to hear from you.

Data Sources and Methodology

Menlo Ventures partnered with Morning Consult to conduct a study examining generative AI adoption and impact across the US healthcare system. In August and September 2025, Morning Consult surveyed 700+ executives (CxOs & SVP/VPs) involved in AI decision-making across three sectors: 410+ technology decision makers at provider organizations, 120+ senior insurance/benefits executives, and 170+ pharma/biotech executives.

The survey benchmarked current AI adoption, identified leading use cases and drivers, and explored implementation challenges and opportunities facing healthcare organizations. Respondents were sampled to be representative of the U.S. healthcare system across organization size, segment, and geography—including both national and regional insurers serving commercial and Medicare/Medicaid plans, and health systems and independent providers spanning primary and specialty care. Beyond this survey data, we conducted conversations with more than 20 industry stakeholders and incorporated our perspective as active investors at the forefront of healthcare and AI.

*Backed by Menlo Ventures