



### **Understanding Private Equity: Is it for you?**

The Business of Medicine: Private Equity, Marketing, Social Media – The New Era

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**AOSSM 2023 ANNUAL MEETING** 



#### Presenter



#### **Gary Herschman**

Member of the Firm Epstein Becker & Green, P.C. gherschman@ebglaw.com 973.768.8888 Gary Herschman is a national leader in health care M&A transactions. He has 30 years of experience negotiating and closing deals in over 20 states throughout the country on behalf of major physician groups, ASCs, home health agencies, hospitals and other providers.

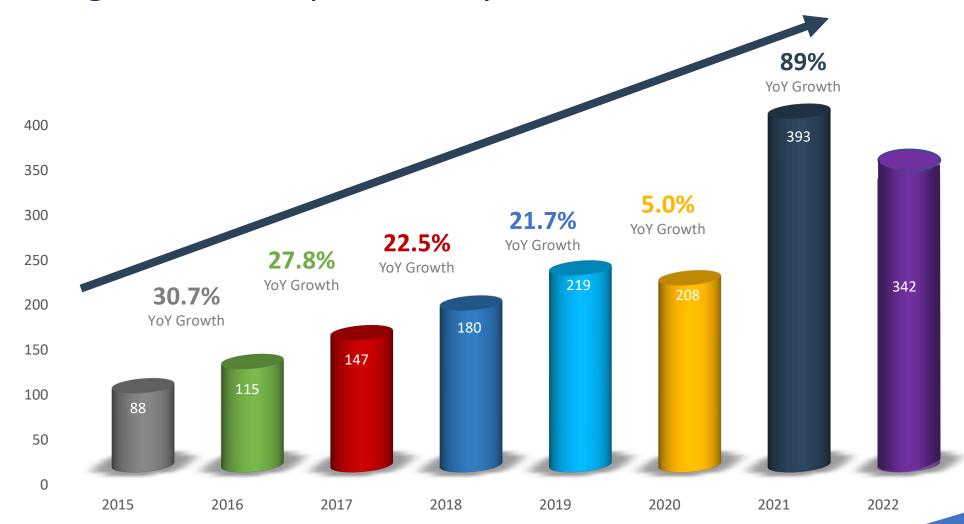
His last 15 years of practice has focused primarily on advising a wide array of physician groups – including *Orthopedics, Spine Surgery, Neurosurgery & Pain* -- on major strategic transactions with private equity investors, hospitals, mega-groups, and national healthcare companies.

Gary is sought-after by many national health care publications such as *Bloomberg Health*, *Crain's*, *Becker's*, *Journal of Orthopaedic Experience & Innovation*, *Orthopedics Today*, *Pitchbook*, *MergerMarket*, *Modern Healthcare*, *Fierce Healthcare*, *Healio*, *ACG*, and *MGMA*.

He is a frequent speaker at national health care industry conferences and podcasts, including recently for ICJR, IOEN, OSET/Ortho Summit, AAHKS, JOEI, Becker's Spine, Orthopedic, Pain & ASC Conference, Southern Orthopedic Association, and MGMA.



Soaring Rates of Reported Physician Practice Transactions





#### Select PE Platform Investments in Orthopedic Surgical Specialty Groups

Select Orthopedic M&A Platforms					
Major Affiliated Groups	Platform	PE Investor(s)	Initial Platform Date		
BONE & JOINT SURGEONS, P.C.	TRIUMPH	SHORE Capital Partners	September 2022		
RESURGENS ORTHOPAEDICS AEACHGMIGHE Orthoppedics & Spine Center	United Musculoskeletal Partners	WCAS  ALVAREZ & MARSAL  C A P I T A L	December 2021		
CFRS WANTED STREET OF THE CONTROL OF	Annius Ortopolic Farmer	STONE POINT CAPITAL	June 2021		
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY SPECIALISTS  NES  NORTHWEST EXTREMITY SPECIALISTS	UNITYMSK	TRINITY HUNT	June 2021		
BLUEGRASS ORTHOPAEDICS OF AUSTIN	GROWTHORTHO	<b>TRIVEST</b> .  Private Equity for Founders	January 2021		
COMPREHENSIVE PAIN CONSULTANTS of the Carolinas	partnercare	SHORE Capital Partners	October 2020		
SportsMED Southern Orthopaedic Surgeons as.  ANDREWS Sports Medicine BIENVILLE Orthopaedic Specialists  Orthopaedic Specialists	USØP	FFL	October 2020		



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Corthopaedic Accordance of Acc	OrthoAlliance of the control of the	REVELSTOKE CAPITAL PARTNERS	July 2019		
Specialists  Orthopaedic Associates  Specialists  Orthopaedic Associates  MIDDLETOWN  Orthopaedic Associates  MIDDLETOWN  ORTHOPAEDICA  ASSOCIATES  OFTHOPAEDICA  OFTHOPAEDICA  ASSOCIATES  OFTHOPAEDICA  ASSOCIATES  OFTHOPAEDICA	SPIRE OKTHOPEDIC PARTNESS	KOHLBERG & C O M P A N Y	July 2019		
WOSN  SEMANTICE STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P	ALIGNED ORTHOPEDIC PARTNERS	Atlantic Street Capital	September 2018		
Atlantic NeuroSurgical Specialists  Brain, Spine and Neurovascular Surgery	Altair Health	<b>Lorient</b> Capital	June 2021		
TUCSON OKTHOPAEDIC IN STITUTE  THE STEADMAN CLINIC STEADMAN PHILIPPON RESEARCH MISTRUTE  ORTHOPAEDIC STEADMAN PHILIPPON RESEARCH MISTRUTE  ORTHOPA	ORTHOPEDIC CARE PARTNERS	VARSITY REALTHCARE PARTNERS	November 2017		
Premier ORTHOPAEDICS  Spine Centers OF WISCONSIN  ORTHOPAEDICS  Spine Centers OF WISCONSIN  ORTHOPAEDICS  ORTHOPAE	HOPCo Healthcare Outcomes Performance <sup>2</sup>	△ Audax Private Equity  LINDEN <sup>7</sup>	August 2017		



# What Physicians Should Ask About Exploring a Strategic Partnership

## Transact or Stay the Course

- A potential strategic partnership may be beneficial
  - But it's not right for every physician
  - Some physicians will decide staying independent is best

## First Test the Market

- Before making the decision to "stay the course" forwardthinking physicians should at a minimum explore strategic alternatives
  - "Testing the market" to see options and terms
  - Ultimately assess the pros and cons of each

#### Make a Fully-Informed Decision

 Fully-informed decisions if a strategic transaction positions you for long-term success; or alternatively, that remaining independent is best



## 8 Key Considerations Facing Independent Medical Groups



**Market Consolidation** 



Consolidation is resulting in larger and more well-capitalized competitors



Reimbursement & Regulations



Uncertain reimbursement environment and future regulatory changes



Power Players Acquiring Referral Sources



Primary care referral sources are being gobbled up



Value-Based Payment



Shift from fee-forservice to value- / risk-based payment structures



# 8 Key Considerations Facing Independent Medical Groups (continued)



**Direct Contracting** 



Expertise in direct contracting with self-insured employers grows



**Capital for Healthcare IT & Ancillary Expansion** 



Capital to invest in IT, advanced analytics, EMR, virtual care, and new / expanded ancillary services and offices



Focus on Outpatient Setting



Setting of care shifting to ambulatory / outpatient setting



New Normal Post Pandemic



Uncertainty for "new normal" following pandemic



## Top 3 Reasons Groups Decide to Transact/Partner

Benefits of Larger Corporate Infrastructure for Growth & Success

1

Greater Access to Capital to Fund New Ancillaries, ASCs, and Physician Recruitment Experienced /
Sophisticated
Corporate Executive
Stewardship

Investment in Latest
IT / EMR / Data
Analytics

Cost Savings Through
Consolidated BackOffice Functions

Lower Operating Costs Via Group Purchasing



## Top 3 Reasons Groups Decide to Transact/Partner

Future Risks & Uncertainties in Medical Practice

2

Changes in
Reimbursement
Impacting Medicare
and Commercial
Payors

Heightened
Competition From
Hospitals and Health
Systems

Acquisitions of Independent PCP Referral Sources

Slow, but Continuous
Shift to Value-based
Payment Risk
Contracts

Continuing Growth of Direct Contracting
With Self-Insured
Employers





## Top 3 Reasons Groups Decide to Transact/Partner

Monetizing "True Value" of a Medical Practice

3

Resilient Market With High Valuations

Good Time to
"Monetize" at TaxAdvantaged Rate

Take Chips Off The Table

More Cash Upon "Exit" of Investor ("Second Bite") Much Higher Buyout of Rollover Equity upon Disability, Death, Retirement, etc.



## Private Equity as a Potential Partner

AS A PLATFORM, PROVIDERS WOULD SET THE STANDARD FOR AUTONOMY AND CLINICAL OPERATIONS.

Private equity firms attain a controlling interest by "acquiring" a majority of the practice.

Physician owners continue to own a minority interest via "roll-over equity" in the partnership investment platform.

Physician owners share along with the private equity investor in upside value appreciation post-transaction.





## How Private Equity Can Benefit All Partners

#### PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTMENT CAN PROVIDE VARIOUS BENEFITS TO ALL PARTNER COHORTS

	Newer Partners & Mid-Career	Late Career
Rollover Equity	<ul> <li>Retain higher equity percentage</li> <li>Participate in multiple transactions</li> <li>Buyout at fair market value upon disability, bona fide retirement (age 65+), death, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Retain equity / continue career (usually requires 5-year commitment)</li> <li>Second liquidity event (if still practicing, else buyout at Fair Market Value)</li> </ul>
Cash at Closing	<ul> <li>Retire any medical school or other debt</li> <li>Invest closing cash as each sees fit (e.g., stocks, retirement, college, 2<sup>nd</sup> house)</li> </ul>	Diversify wealth before retirement
Post-Closing Comp.	<ul> <li>Productivity-based / market rate (but for longer runway)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Productivity-based / market based</li> </ul>
Lifestyle Benefits	<ul> <li>Focus on practicing medicine</li> <li>Less stress and risk as an owner</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Focus on practicing medicine</li> <li>Less stress and risk as an owner</li> </ul>



# Can I Participate in a Lucrative Private Equity Partnership If My Group Is in a Hospital Professional Services Agreement (PSA) or If I Am Employed by a Hospital?

THE ANSWER IS POSSIBLY YES — BUT IT DEPENDS ON THE TERMS OF YOUR EXISTING PSA OR EMPLOYMENT

AGREEMENT WITH THE HOSPITAL

#### **Two Key Threshold Considerations:**

#### (1) When does the <u>current term</u> of the PSA or Employment Agreement end?

- Is 12 months' (or other) advance notice needed to avoid auto-renewal?
- Is there a right to terminate at any time with 12 months' (or other) notice?

#### (2) What are the terms of any binding <u>post-termination non-compete</u>?

- Some only restrict "deals" with competing hospitals & allow private practice.
- Others don't allow private practice within a certain region (e.g., a mile radius), in which case you can either:
  - If feasible, establish a practice (in partnership with a PE platform) outside of the covered region; or
  - Explore if the hospital would waive the noncompete and enter an agreement for ongoing clinical services (e.g., call coverage, directorships, etc.)



## Can I Participate in a Private Equity Partnership If My Group Is in a Hospital PSA or I am a Hospital Employee? (Cont'd)

THE ANSWER IS POSSIBLY YES — BUT IT DEPENDS ON THE TERMS OF YOUR EXISTING PSA OR EMPLOYMENT

AGREEMENT WITH THE HOSPITAL

#### **Other Considerations:**

- Is there a post-termination "transition" provision that allows you to buy back any practice assets sold to the hospital and take over office leases?
- Are all of your "partner physicians" aligned in transitioning to a private medical practice via a partnership with a PE Platform?
- What EMR will you use? Will the hospital allow you to "lease" its EMR on reasonable terms, or will you use the PE platform's existing EMR?
- Commercial Payor Agreements? If you are not joining an established PE platform, the new PE partner will need to establish key commercial payor agreements with the practice to "go live" on the date of the termination of the PSA or employment.
- Strict Confidentiality and Carefully Choreographing each step is Crucial!



## Is A Private Equity Backed Group Right for My Future?

#### 4 KEY QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1

## Fit of Potential Partner

The overall cultural fit, track record, and specialty expertise of the potential private equity partner organization

2

## Infrastructure and Growth

The need for working capital to invest and support practice infrastructure and growth (including the addition of more physicians, office locations, ancillary services, EMR, virtual care, etc.)

3

## Risks, Reimbursement and Regulations

Local and regional market risks impacting the practice within the context of the changing reimbursement and regulatory programs, and increasing uncertainty in the post-COVID-19 healthcare industry environment

4

## Monetizing Ownership

The importance of "monetizing" the value of historical physician ownership relative to forgoing non-clinical business and/or operational autonomy





## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Gary Herschman GHerschman@ebglaw.com 973.768.8888