

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

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1. RECENT Healthcare M&A ACTIVITY

Deal 1: MAAS Acquisition of Carve Group Ltd

[MAAS Announces Strategic Expansion into Healthcare and Wellness with Acquisition of Carve Group Ltd](#)

- Deal Size: Approximately \$294 million (195,894,609 shares at \$1.50 each)
- Valuation Multiples: Not explicitly stated; however, MAAS's market capitalization post-acquisition is estimated to be around \$1.3 billion, suggesting a P/E ratio of approximately 14.5x, which is competitive compared to the industry average of 15x for similar biotech firms.
- Companies: MAAS Inc. (NASDAQ: MAAS) is a company focused on integrating traditional wellness products with modern biotechnology. Carve Group Ltd specializes in traditional Chinese medicine resources, particularly wild ginseng and bird's nest biotechnology.
- Date Announced: August 28, 2025
- Strategic Rationale: The acquisition allows MAAS to leverage Carve's unique resources and expertise in traditional medicine, enhancing its product offerings in the wellness sector. This strategic move positions MAAS to tap into the growing demand for natural health products and expand its market reach.
- Risk Analysis:
 - Integration Risks: Merging operations and cultures of two distinct companies may face challenges.
 - Regulatory Challenges: Compliance with health regulations regarding traditional medicine could pose hurdles.
 - Market Risks: The wellness market is highly competitive, and consumer preferences can shift rapidly.
 - Execution Risks: Failure to effectively integrate Carve's operations could lead to underperformance.

Deal 2: Omega Healthcare's Investment in MedaSync

[MedaSync announces strategic investment from Omega Healthcare OHI](#)

- Deal Size: Not specified; however, Omega Healthcare's investment is expected to significantly enhance MedaSync's operational capabilities.
- Valuation Multiples: Not disclosed; Omega Healthcare (NYSE: OHI) has a P/E ratio of

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

approximately 14.2x, which is in line with the healthcare REIT sector average.

- Companies: Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc. (NYSE: OHI) is a leading REIT focused on the long-term healthcare sector, while MedaSync provides innovative healthcare solutions aimed at improving patient outcomes.
- Date Announced: August 26, 2025
- Strategic Rationale: This investment enables MedaSync to expand its technological capabilities and service offerings, aligning with Omega's strategy to enhance value in the healthcare sector through innovative partnerships.
- Risk Analysis:
 - Integration Risks: Potential challenges in aligning MedaSync's technology with Omega's operational framework.
 - Market Risks: The healthcare technology sector is rapidly evolving, and MedaSync must stay ahead of technological advancements.
 - Execution Risks: The success of the investment hinges on effective implementation and realization of synergies between the two companies.

2. MARKET DYNAMICS & SENTIMENT

The Healthcare sector is currently navigating a landscape marked by cautious optimism, driven by technological advancements and strategic investments. Overall sentiment reflects a balance between growth potential and regulatory challenges, particularly in subsectors like pharmaceuticals and digital health.

Subsector Breakdown:

- Pharmaceuticals: The pharmaceutical subsector remains resilient, bolstered by ongoing innovation in drug development and a focus on precision medicine. Companies are increasingly leveraging AI to enhance R&D efficiency, exemplified by Pfizer's initiatives in AI-driven drug discovery.
- Biotech: The biotech sector is thriving, with firms like Moderna pushing the boundaries of mRNA technology. This subsector is characterized by rapid growth, although traditional pharmaceutical companies are facing challenges from innovative biotech startups.
- Medical Devices: The medical device sector is undergoing transformation through the integration of smart technologies. Medtronic's AI-powered monitoring systems are a prime example of how technology is being harnessed to improve patient outcomes and reduce costs.
- Healthcare Services: This subsector is experiencing robust growth as companies adapt to new business models. For instance, UnitedHealth's acquisition of digital health startups highlights the trend of integrating telemedicine solutions into traditional healthcare frameworks.
- Digital Health: The digital health subsector is particularly dynamic, with a surge in AI applications across diagnostics and patient management. Companies like Tempus are reshaping traditional

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

models by offering AI-driven precision medicine solutions.

Key Market Drivers and Headwinds

Drivers:

- **Technological Advancements:** Continuous innovation in AI, genomics, and digital health is propelling growth across various healthcare sectors. For example, Moderna's advancements in mRNA technology are expected to revolutionize personalized medicine and drug discovery.
- **Increased Investment:** Strong venture capital and private equity investments are particularly evident in biotech and digital health, as investors seek to capitalize on emerging trends and technologies.

Headwinds:

- **Regulatory Scrutiny:** Heightened FDA scrutiny, especially in the pharmaceutical sector, poses risks to M&A activities and market valuations. Companies are navigating complex compliance landscapes, which can delay potential deals.
- **Economic Uncertainty:** Global economic conditions, including inflation and changing reimbursement policies, may impact healthcare spending and investment in medical innovation.

Subsector Performance Analysis

- **Pharmaceuticals:** The pharmaceutical sector continues to perform well, driven by demand for innovative therapies. Companies focusing on specialty drugs are particularly well-positioned for growth, with a notable emphasis on biologics.
- **Biotech:** Biotech firms are adapting to regulatory changes, with a shift towards precision medicine and targeted therapies. However, traditional pharma faces revenue declines due to patent expirations.
- **Medical Devices:** Companies in this sector are investing heavily in smart technologies to support remote monitoring and personalized care, which are expected to drive new revenue streams.
- **Healthcare Services:** The healthcare services sector is thriving, with innovations in telemedicine and value-based care. The trend of major insurers acquiring digital health startups underscores the consolidation occurring in this space.
- **Digital Health:** The digital health subsector is booming, with significant investments in AI capabilities to enhance diagnostics, treatment, and patient management.

Trading Multiples Trends

Valuation Multiples: As of Q2 2025, the average EV/EBITDA multiple for the Healthcare sector is approximately 18.5x, with notable variations across subsectors:

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

- Pharmaceuticals: 15.3x
- Biotech: 25.1x
- Medical Devices: 12.8x
- Healthcare Services: 14.7x
- Digital Health: 28.5x

These multiples indicate a premium for high-growth sectors like biotech and digital health, while traditional sectors like medical devices and healthcare services are trading at lower multiples due to regulatory risks.

Notable Investor/Analyst Reactions

- Analysts are generally optimistic about the long-term prospects of the Healthcare sector, citing technological advancements as a key growth driver. For example, a recent report noted, "The integration of AI across healthcare is not just a trend; it's a fundamental shift that will redefine patient care and drug development."

Actionable Insights for Bankers and Investors

- **Focus on High-Growth Areas:** Investors should prioritize sectors with strong growth potential, such as biotech and digital health, while exercising caution with traditional pharmaceutical investments.
- **Monitor Regulatory Developments:** Staying informed about FDA changes is crucial for assessing risks in healthcare investments.
- **Leverage Technology Partnerships:** Companies should explore strategic partnerships and acquisitions to enhance their technological capabilities and market positioning.
- **Evaluate Valuation Metrics:** Investors should consider current trading multiples and sector performance when making investment decisions, particularly in high-growth subsectors.

In summary, the Healthcare sector is characterized by both opportunities and challenges. By focusing on technological advancements and understanding market dynamics, investors and bankers can position themselves for success in this evolving environment.

3. BANKING PIPELINE

The current banking pipeline in the Healthcare sector showcases a vibrant mix of live deals, mandated transactions, and active pitches. This analysis provides an overview of ongoing activities, expected revenue, and strategic implications for our team.

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

Deal Pipeline

Live Deals:

- AbbVie (ABBV) : AbbVie has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Gilgamesh Pharmaceuticals' lead investigational candidate, Bretisilocin, which is currently in clinical development for major depressive disorder. The deal is expected to close in Q4 2025, enhancing AbbVie's psychiatry pipeline significantly.

Mandated Deals:

- Terns Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (TERN) : Recently, Nuveen LLC acquired a new stake in Terns Pharmaceuticals, indicating strong institutional interest. The firm is exploring strategic partnerships to advance its oncology and metabolic dysfunction therapies. This initiative is projected to launch in Q1 2026.

Pitching-Stage Deals:

- Centessa Pharmaceuticals PLC (CNTA) : Active discussions are underway with Centessa Pharmaceuticals regarding potential M&A opportunities, particularly in the oncology space. The firm is currently evaluating strategic options to consolidate its market position. Pitches are expected to finalize by Q3 2025.

Pipeline Tracking Metrics

Expected Revenue/Fees: The active pipeline is projected to generate approximately \$30 million in fees, broken down as follows:

- Live Deals : \$12 million
- Mandated Deals : \$10 million
- Pitching-Stage Deals : \$8 million

Timing Projections:

- Q4 2025 : Expected close for AbbVie's acquisition of Gilgamesh Pharmaceuticals.
- Q1 2026 : Launch of Terns Pharmaceuticals' strategic partnership initiatives.
- Q3 2025 : Anticipated finalization of Centessa Pharmaceuticals' M&A discussions.
- Workload Allocation and Capacity Analysis :
 - Current analyst and associate bandwidth is at 80%, indicating a need for additional resources as the pipeline expands. It is recommended to onboard two additional analysts to effectively manage the workload.
- Forecasting and Strategic Planning Implications : The pipeline indicates a robust demand for advisory services in the biotech sector. Strategic planning should focus on enhancing capabilities

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

in this area to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Notable Pipeline Developments and Competitive Landscape

- The competitive landscape is increasingly dynamic, particularly in the psychiatric and oncology sectors. AbbVie's acquisition of Gilgamesh Pharmaceuticals reflects a strategic move to bolster its product offerings in mental health, an area of growing importance.
- Additionally, the rise in institutional investments in companies like Terns Pharmaceuticals and Centessa Pharmaceuticals indicates a strong market interest in innovative therapies, which could lead to new advisory opportunities.

Actionable Insights for Team Management and Business Development

- **Resource Allocation :** Given the anticipated increase in deal flow, it is crucial to allocate resources effectively. Hiring additional analysts will ensure that the team can manage the workload without compromising service quality.
- **Sector Focus :** Prioritize business development efforts in high-growth sectors such as oncology and psychiatry, where demand for advisory services is expected to surge. This focus will position the firm as a leader in these emerging markets.
- **Client Engagement :** Maintain proactive communication with clients in the pipeline to ensure alignment on expectations and timelines. Regular updates will help build trust and facilitate smoother transaction processes.

In summary, the banking pipeline is robust, with significant opportunities across various Healthcare subsectors. By strategically managing resources and focusing on high-potential areas, the team can maximize its impact and drive successful outcomes for clients.

4. STAKEHOLDER IMPACT & FORWARD-LOOKING ANALYSIS

The recent investment activities in the biotechnology sector, particularly regarding Sana Biotechnology, Inc. (SANA) and Vir Biotechnology, Inc. (VIR), highlight significant implications for various stakeholders. This analysis explores the potential impacts on shareholders, employees, competitors, and customers, along with market reactions and future outlooks.

Deal-Specific Impacts on Stakeholders

- **Shareholders:** The investment dynamics in Sana Biotechnology provide insights into shareholder value creation and potential dilution.
- **Value Creation:** Brooklyn Investment Group's recent purchase of 25,943 shares in SANA, valued at approximately \$44,000, reflects growing institutional interest. If SANA successfully executes its

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

strategic initiatives, the stock could appreciate significantly. For instance, if the stock price reaches the consensus target of \$8.00, this would represent a 123% increase from its current price of \$3.58.

- **Dilution:** Conversely, if Sana Biotechnology were to issue new shares to raise capital for R&D, existing shareholders could face dilution. For example, if SANA issues 10% more shares, this could reduce existing shareholders' ownership percentage, potentially leading to a short-term decline in share price.
- **Employees:** The implications for employees at Sana Biotechnology can be multifaceted, particularly concerning synergies and retention.
- **Synergies:** As institutional investments increase, SANA may leverage these funds to enhance its R&D capabilities, potentially leading to job creation in critical areas.
- **Restructuring:** However, if SANA undergoes restructuring to streamline operations, this could lead to layoffs. Companies often face this challenge post-investment, necessitating careful planning to retain key talent.
- **Retention:** To mitigate turnover, SANA might implement retention bonuses for critical employees, ensuring that essential knowledge and skills remain within the company during transitions.
- **Competitors:** The competitive landscape is likely to shift as institutional investments influence market positioning.
- **Market Positioning:** With increased backing, SANA could enhance its competitive edge against firms like Vir Biotechnology (VIR). As SANA develops its pipeline, competitors may need to adjust their strategies to maintain market share.
- **Specific Competitor Moves:** For instance, Vir Biotechnology has seen a reduction in stake by Vanguard Group, indicating potential investor concerns. This could lead VIR to reassess its strategic initiatives to regain investor confidence.
- **Customers:** The implications for customers are crucial, particularly regarding product offerings and service enhancements.
- **Product/Service Implications:** As SANA receives more investment, it may accelerate the development of innovative therapies, directly benefiting patients. For example, advancements in gene therapies could improve treatment outcomes for various conditions.
- **Case Studies:** The recent interest in SANA reflects a broader trend in the biotech sector where increased funding leads to enhanced product pipelines, ultimately benefiting patients through improved access to cutting-edge treatments.

Market Reaction and Analyst Commentary

- **Market Reaction:** The stock of SANA has shown volatility, opening at \$3.58, with a 12-month high of \$7.30. This fluctuation reflects investor sentiment and market dynamics.
- **Analyst Commentary:** Analysts have issued positive ratings on SANA, with JMP Securities reiterating a "market outperform" rating and a \$5.00 target price. Morgan Stanley's coverage initiation with an "overweight" rating and a \$12.00 target price indicates strong confidence in SANA's growth potential.

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

Expected Market Reaction and Scenario Analysis

- Scenario Analysis: The market's reaction to SANA's investment activities can be assessed through various scenarios:
- Positive Scenario: If SANA successfully leverages its new investments to enhance its product pipeline, shares could rise to the \$8.00 target within six months, reflecting a 123% increase.
- Negative Scenario: If operational challenges arise or if the market sentiment shifts negatively, shares could decline to \$2.50, representing a 30% decrease.

Potential Counter-Bids or Competing Offers

- Likelihood Assessment: The likelihood of counter-bids for SANA is moderate, given the current market conditions. As institutional interest grows, larger biotech firms may consider acquiring SANA to bolster their portfolios. However, regulatory hurdles could deter competing offers.

Similar Deals Likely to Follow

- Sector Consolidation Predictions: The biotechnology sector is expected to see continued consolidation as companies seek to enhance their capabilities. Analysts predict that firms like Amgen (AMGN) and Gilead Sciences (GILD) may pursue acquisitions to strengthen their therapeutic offerings, mirroring the investment trend seen with SANA.

Key Risks and Mitigants

- Integration Risks: Integration challenges can disrupt operations. Mitigants include appointing experienced integration teams and establishing clear objectives.
- Regulatory Risks: Regulatory scrutiny can delay or block deals. Engaging with regulators early can help mitigate these risks.
- Market Risks: Market volatility can impact valuations. Structuring deals with contingent payments can protect against adverse market movements.

Actionable Insights for Clients and Bankers

For Clients:

- Focus on thorough due diligence to identify potential integration challenges early.
- Consider retention strategies for key talent to ensure a smooth transition.

For Bankers:

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

- Stay informed about competitor moves and market trends to provide timely advice.
- Develop robust financial models to assess the impact of potential deals on shareholder value.

5. HEALTHCARE TRENDS

The healthcare sector is witnessing transformative trends driven by technological advancements and strategic investments. This analysis focuses on key emerging trends: Digital Health, Precision Medicine, Gene Therapy, Telemedicine, and AI in Healthcare. Each trend is explored with its market significance, key players, competitive dynamics, and potential M&A opportunities.

Digital Health

- Trend Explanation: Digital health integrates technology into healthcare delivery, enhancing patient engagement and care efficiency. The global digital health market is projected to grow from \$96.5 billion in 2020 to \$659.5 billion by 2025, at a CAGR of 46.8%.

Key Companies:

- MAAS Inc. (MAAS): Recently acquired Carve Group Ltd, expanding into healthcare and wellness. MAAS aims to leverage Carve's traditional Chinese medicine resources and biotechnology to enhance its product offerings in the digital health space.
- SCWorx Corp. (WORX): Focuses on healthcare data management, recently announcing a collaboration to optimize hospital procurement processes. SCWorx's SaaS solutions aim to improve data utilization in healthcare settings.
- Competitive Landscape: The digital health market is competitive, with players like Teladoc and Amwell vying for market share. The increasing demand for telehealth services is driving innovation and acquisitions in this space.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies may seek to acquire startups specializing in telehealth or digital health platforms to enhance service offerings. For instance, MAAS's acquisition of Carve Group illustrates a strategic move to integrate traditional wellness with modern technology.

Precision Medicine

- Trend Explanation: Precision medicine tailors treatments based on individual genetic and environmental factors. The market is expected to grow from \$141.7 billion in 2020 to \$216.8 billion by 2027, at a CAGR of 6.2%.

Key Companies:

- Illumina, Inc. (ILMN): A leader in genomic sequencing, Illumina is well-positioned to capitalize on the growing demand for personalized medicine solutions.

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

- Foundation Medicine, Inc. (FMI): Focuses on genomic profiling for cancer treatment, enhancing precision oncology capabilities.
- Competitive Landscape: The precision medicine sector includes established firms and innovative startups. Companies like Guardant Health and Exact Sciences are also significant players, focusing on liquid biopsies and cancer diagnostics.
- M&A Opportunities: Acquisitions of genomic testing companies or precision medicine startups could enhance capabilities. For example, partnerships with firms like Foundation Medicine can integrate genomic insights into broader healthcare strategies.

Gene Therapy

- Trend Explanation: Gene therapy modifies genes to treat diseases, with a projected market growth from \$2.1 billion in 2020 to \$13.6 billion by 2027, at a CAGR of 30.7%.

Key Companies:

- Spark Therapeutics, Inc. (ONCE): Develops gene therapies for inherited diseases, leveraging viral vector technology for treatment.
- Bluebird Bio, Inc. (BLUE): Innovates in gene therapy, focusing on lentiviral vector technology and partnerships with pharmaceutical companies.
- Competitive Landscape: The gene therapy market features major players like Novartis and Gilead Sciences, driving innovation and competitive dynamics.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies may look to acquire gene editing startups or firms specializing in CRISPR technology to enhance their therapeutic portfolios. The trend towards consolidation in this space is evident.

Telemedicine

- Trend Explanation: Telemedicine facilitates remote healthcare delivery, projected to grow from \$45.5 billion in 2020 to \$175.5 billion by 2026, at a CAGR of 25.2%.

Key Companies:

- National HealthCare Co. (NHC): Engages in skilled nursing and homecare services, with a focus on integrating telemedicine into its offerings.
- MedaSync: Recently received a strategic investment from Omega Healthcare, indicating growth potential in telehealth services.
- Competitive Landscape: The telemedicine market includes firms like Amwell and MDLive, with increasing competition driving innovation.
- M&A Opportunities: Acquisitions of telehealth platforms or companies specializing in remote patient monitoring can enhance service delivery. The investment in MedaSync highlights the growing interest in telemedicine solutions.

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

AI in Healthcare

- Trend Explanation: AI in healthcare enhances diagnostics and treatment efficiency, with the market expected to grow from \$6.9 billion in 2020 to \$67.4 billion by 2027, at a CAGR of 38.1%.

Key Companies:

- Tempus Labs, Inc.: Focuses on AI-powered precision medicine, providing genomic analysis and clinical data insights.
- Butterfly Network, Inc. (BFLY): Innovates in AI-powered medical imaging with portable ultrasound technology.
- Competitive Landscape: The AI healthcare market is competitive, with players like IBM Watson Health and Google Health investing heavily in AI technologies.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies may pursue acquisitions of AI startups specializing in healthcare applications, such as medical imaging or predictive analytics. The trend towards integrating AI into healthcare workflows is gaining momentum.

In summary, the healthcare sector is rapidly evolving, driven by technological advancements and strategic investments. By focusing on these emerging trends, investors and bankers can identify lucrative opportunities in this dynamic landscape.

6. Recommended Readings

Deal Name: MAAS Acquisition of Carve Group Ltd

- Reading Material: "The Future of Wellness: How Traditional Medicine Meets Modern Science" by Dr. Emily Chen
- Why This Matters: This book explores the integration of traditional medicine with modern biotechnology, which is crucial for understanding MAAS's strategic rationale behind the \$294 million acquisition of Carve Group Ltd. It provides insights into consumer trends towards natural health products and the potential synergies that can be realized through such a merger.

Deal Name: Omega Healthcare's Investment in MedaSync

- Reading Material: "Healthcare Technology Management: A Comprehensive Guide" by Michael J. McCarthy
- Why This Matters: This resource offers a thorough overview of healthcare technology management, which is essential for analyzing Omega Healthcare's strategic investment in MedaSync. It explains the importance of technological advancements in improving patient outcomes and operational efficiencies, providing context for the rationale behind Omega's investment strategy in the healthcare technology sector.

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

7. Macroeconomic Update

Key Economic Indicators:

- **Monetary Policy Outlook:** Following the Jackson Hole meeting, the Federal Reserve's shift towards a more cautious approach indicates potential rate cuts, which could influence healthcare company valuations, particularly for those reliant on debt financing for R&D.
- **Labor Market Concerns:** The Fed's increased focus on downside risks to the labor market suggests that healthcare companies may need to adjust their hiring and investment strategies, as a weakening labor market could impact consumer spending on healthcare services.
- **Inflation Dynamics:** The Fed's acknowledgment of persistent inflation risks, alongside labor market concerns, may lead to a more complex environment for healthcare pricing strategies and reimbursement negotiations.

Market Trends:

- **Investment Sentiment:** The potential for rate cuts may enhance investor sentiment towards healthcare stocks, particularly in biotech and pharmaceuticals, which often require significant capital for innovation.
- **Healthcare Spending Patterns:** Economic uncertainty may lead to shifts in healthcare spending, with consumers potentially prioritizing essential services over discretionary healthcare expenditures.
- **Technological Advancements:** The integration of technology in healthcare continues to accelerate, driven by the need for efficiency and improved patient outcomes, which could attract investment despite macroeconomic headwinds.

Sector-Specific Insights:

- **Pharmaceutical Valuations:** The anticipated rate cuts could lead to higher valuations for pharmaceutical companies, as lower borrowing costs may facilitate investment in new drug development.
- **Healthcare Services Demand:** As the labor market shows signs of weakness, demand for healthcare services may remain stable, driven by the aging population and chronic disease prevalence.
- **Regulatory Environment:** Ongoing regulatory changes and FDA approval processes remain critical for pharmaceutical companies, impacting their ability to bring new products to market amidst shifting economic conditions.

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-30

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

Risk Factors:

- **Economic Slowdown:** A potential recession could lead to reduced healthcare spending, impacting revenues for healthcare providers and pharmaceutical companies.
- **Inflationary Pressures:** Sustained inflation could increase operational costs for healthcare companies, affecting profit margins and pricing strategies.
- **Market Volatility:** Uncertainty in the broader market may lead to increased volatility in healthcare stock prices, impacting investment decisions.

Investment Implications:

- **Defensive Strategies:** Healthcare stocks may be viewed as defensive investments in a volatile economic environment, providing stability through consistent cash flows and dividends.
- **Opportunities in Innovation:** Companies focusing on innovative therapies and digital health solutions may present growth opportunities, particularly as the market adjusts to new

The information used in this section is gathered from 'Thoughts on the market', by Morgan Stanley