We have found that to help address the increased administrative burden on the provider with the inception of the EHR, and regulatory data capturing requirements (MU, MIPS, MACRA, etc.), we have had to greatly reduce the actual number of patients seen by the provider each day. This is a true crisis for the Rheumatology profession. There has been a continual shortage of Rheumatology providers. This is being seen nationwide. Now, with the reduced spots available, new patients are seeing increased wait times to see a physician. As you may be aware, early diagnosis and treatment of auto immune diseases is paramount to a positive outcome. The longer it takes to get in the door – the more damage is being done to patient’s health and wellbeing. Currently, the wait time for a new patient in our practice is 6 months and up!

Also important is the fact that while reimbursements keep going down, the cost to treat is on a steady rise. Computer and software costs continue to rise; along with the necessary steps needed to mitigate the threat of keeping the data safe.