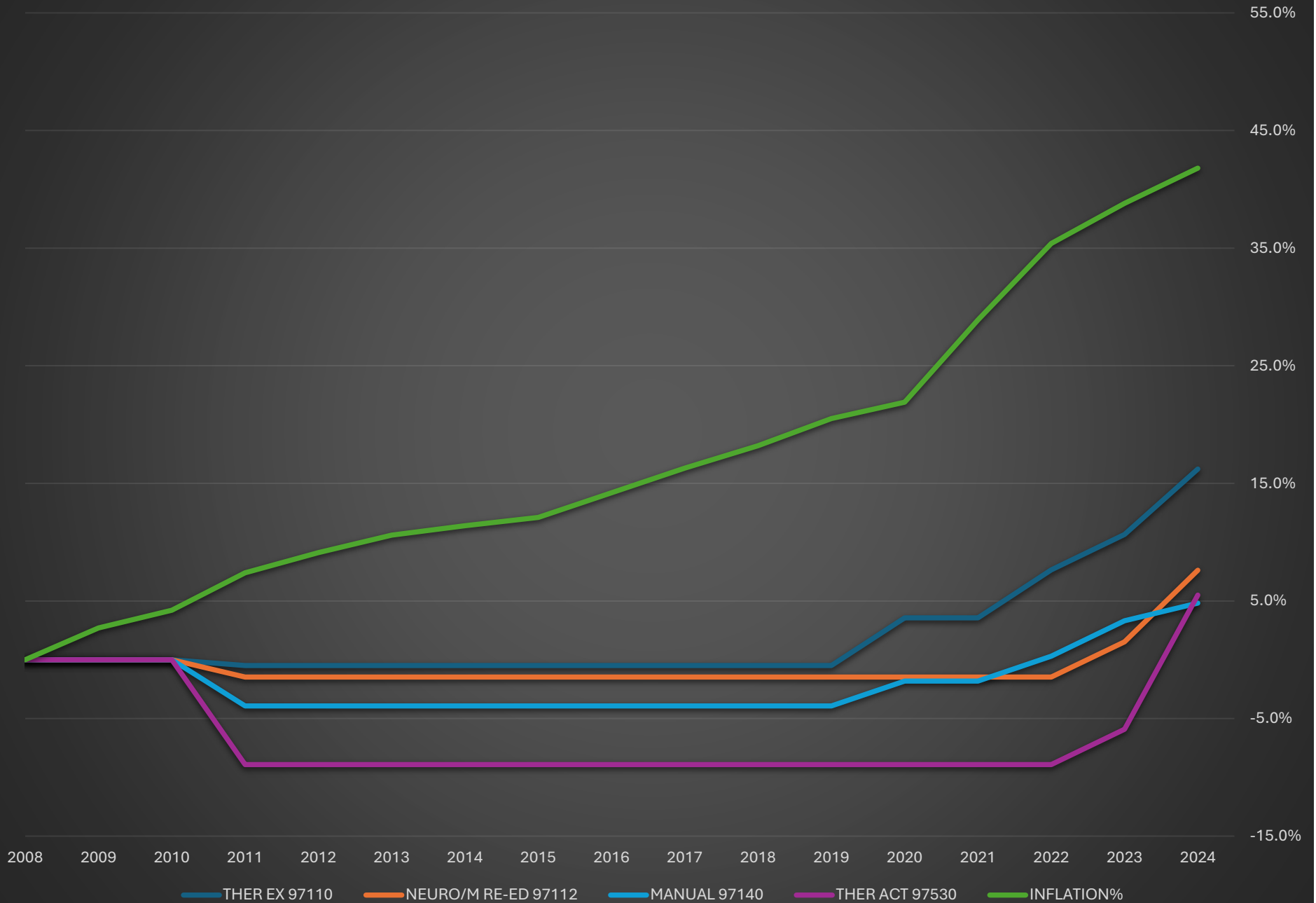


# PT Payments vs Inflation



# Recognize

- **Recognize the difference between critical care and outpatient care.**
  - Hospitals are the only places for care of the critically injured and ill.
  - Outpatient care can be served both in hospitals & with independents.
- **Recognize - UVMHC is a *mega-hospital system***
  - There is no solid evidence showing hospital mergers improve quality or affordability.  
<https://www.nihcm.org/publications/hospital-mergers-and-the-unrealized-promise-of-better-quality>
- **Recognize a Mega-hospital system that monopolizes a market**
  - Reduces competition
  - Reduces Innovation
  - Reduces Patient Choice
  - Increasing Prices
- **Recognize that a Mega-hospital system possesses the financial resources and power to influence, control, and legally challenge authority making regulation difficult.**

# SOLUTIONS to LOWERING Healthcare Costs

- **Shift care**
  - Hospital services are ALWAYS most expensive and least accessible
    - Most outpatient services can be better delivered in independent locations (quality, accessibility, and price).

## *HOW?*

- Prevent further erosion of independent care.
- Prevention. Incentivize business that keeps people OUT of the hospital.

## Specifically...

- **Site-neutral pricing**
  - Can be done in steps. Start with low-complexity services (PT, OT, Speech, Nutrition, Psychotherapy, Home Health) with few billable codes.
  - New York State Senate Bill 9952  
[https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S9952#:~:text=2023%2DS9952%20\(ACTIVE\)%20%2D%20Summary,to%20provide%20in%20all%20settings.](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S9952#:~:text=2023%2DS9952%20(ACTIVE)%20%2D%20Summary,to%20provide%20in%20all%20settings.)
- **Reference-based pricing**
  - Less effective than Site-neutral pricing and more complicated.
  - Better than doing nothing.

## **If Hospital Prices continue...**

- Premiums further escalate, as will school and town budgets...increased taxes.
- We lose more independents driving up the most expensive care.
- Patients will suffer more financially and in health.
- Other uses of tax money will suffer or fail to exist.
- Small businesses will struggle and close.

**Sustainability must focus on the healthcare system, not one part of it.**

**Focus on what is working and build upon it**

**Regulate what needs regulation**

