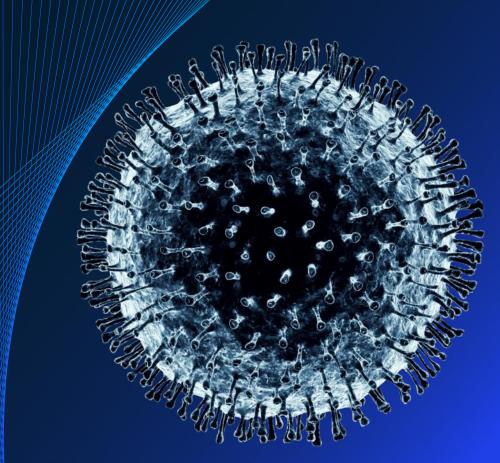
McKinsey & Company

# NCOIL: COVID-19 implications for U.S. Insurance Carriers

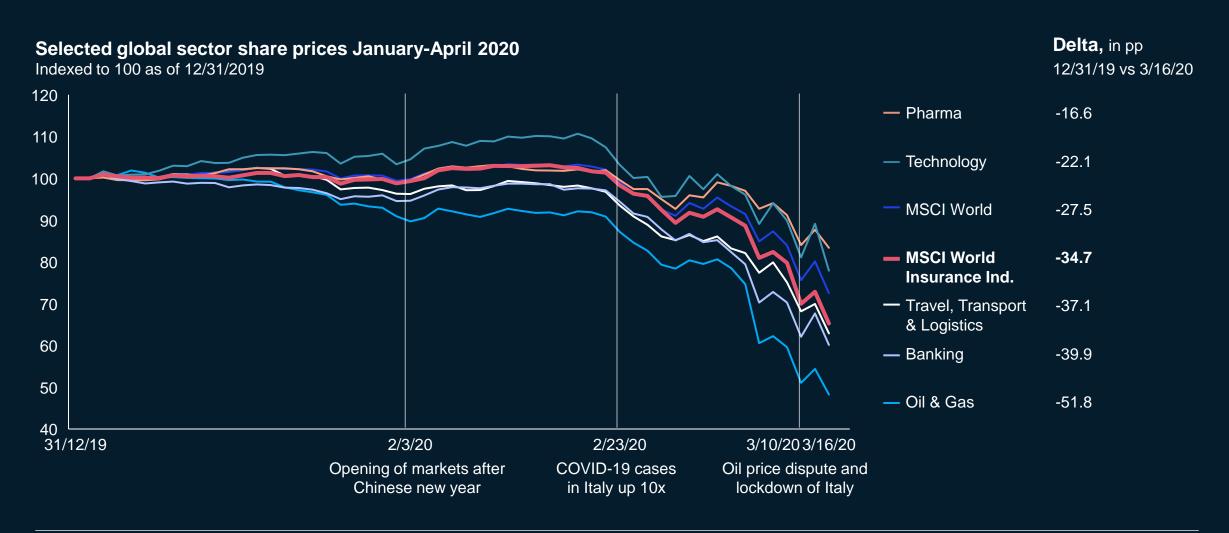
September 26, 2020



- A Impact of COVID-19 on life insurers
- **B** Acceleration in digital and analytics
- **C** Imperative for product innovation
- **D** Actions related to in-force



### Insurance has been impacted more than many other sectors



### North American insurance carriers face a multi-pronged challenge



### **Operational disruptions**

Question of whether COVID-19 is covered from a commercial insurance perspective

Potential reduced appetite for higher value policies given economic volatility

Disruption of new business and underwriting processes due to dependence on paper and in-person blood draws for life insurance

Inforce operation disruptions (e.g., call centers with performance erosion in the absence of robust remote capabilities)

Cyber exposures due to remote ways of working



### Pricing, product and balance sheet disruptions

Low interest rates forcing life carriers to examine pricing and products

Fewer miles driven forcing P&C carriers to examine pricing and give premium rebates

Significant pressure on inforce blocks with rate sensitive guarantees, particularly those written before the Global Financial Crisis

Potential credit migrations leading to further balance sheet challenges (e.g., declining reserve ratios)

Risk of broader instability in financial markets (e.g., disruption of normal money movements)

Possibility of variable annuities with equity linked guarantees breaking their hedges in case of further declines in equity markets

### Navigating these challenges requires a comprehensive response



# Drive digital and analytics

Promote digital channels for all steps of the value chain (e.g., remote capabilities for advisors, digital payment submission and claims)

Potentially shut down paper forms for portions of certain processes

Use advanced analytics across a broader set of use cases



# Innovate the product portfolio

Shift away from capital intensive, rate-sensitive products with embedded guarantees to more capital efficient products

Accelerate advancement of products that can be priced and underwritten without a medical exam



# Make inforce management a strategic priority

Explore reinsurance, buyouts and closed block transfers

Consider a broader set of levers (e.g., retention optimization, cross-sell and upsell, data-driven management of claims)



## Get serious on cost

Adopt practices adopted by restructuring industry to address the fact that industry's cost structure as percent of premium remained unchanged since the crisis

Consider other levers such as zero-based budgeting mindset



# Exploit strength

Take a long-term view and leverage M&A to accelerate fee-based earnings growth or gain scale (providing the carrier is well capitalized or can access relatively inexpensive sources of capital)

Explore opportunities to partner with private capital



# Upgrade talent and shift ways of working

Go beyond hiring within the industry and extend to hiring scarce digital and analytical talent

Reskill employees to operate in a more digital world and embed new ways of working including remote deployment of agile practices



### Accelerate the move to fee-based earnings

Accelerate execution of inflight initiatives

Reassess portfolios to determine whether to invest in logical adjacencies (organically or inorganically)

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# Trends significantly accelerated with COVID-19: Digital agendas across industries have leapfrogged by 5+ years in past ~6 months



Winning in digital is more important than ever in a post-COVID world; customers are now accustomed to Digital interactions across categories (e.g., up by 2-3X in insurance)



Life and annuities agents are looking to carriers to support them by providing more digital tools, self-service capabilities, and lead generation support



Analytics has evolved rapidly from a foundational capability to a real differentiator and unlock of business value; insurance as an industry lags behind (e.g., only 17% of carriers have a defined, sustainable analytics roadmap in place)



Leaders in analytics 2x more likely to use agile teams, 2.5x more likely to employ more analytics talent, and 4x more likely to devote invest in "last mile" adoption



CIOs are taking bold actions to reach an efficient digital frontier by reimagining the role that technology function plays with respect to other business functions

They are shifting their operating model to enterprise-wide agility as a means to support CEO aspirations for revenue acceleration and faster time to market



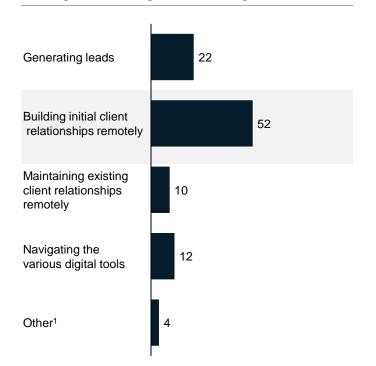
Establishing **technology foundations as consumable services (**e.g., micro-services on cloud) has become table-stakes to delivering on these aspirations

### A Agents are expecting carriers to support them with digital capabilities, including self-serve capabilities and lead generation

#### **Building new customer relationships** remotely has been the biggest challenge for agents during the COVID crisis...

Q: What has been the biggest challenges working with customers during the COVID-19 pandemic?

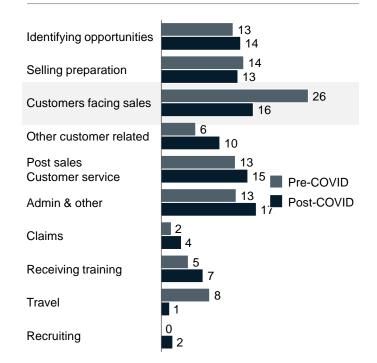
% of Agents Ranking Each Challenge #1



#### ...with agents having to spend less time on sales and more on service & admin

Q: What portion of your time do you spend on the following activities in a typical week?

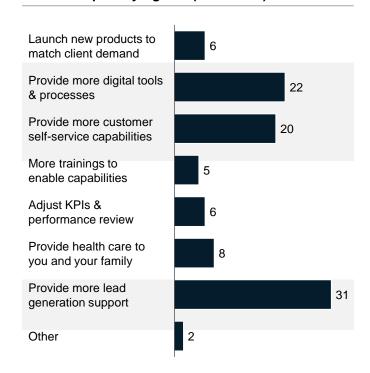
#### % of time spent by Agents



### To support them, agents are looking to carriers to provide more digital tools and lead generation

Q: What can carriers do to best help you through this crisis?"

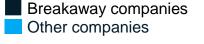
#### % of time spent by Agents (Ranked #1)



Other includes: lack of face-to-face meetings, reaching clients, and general client anxiety

# B Successful companies tend to focus on several key "rules" that enable them to drive significant analytics impact vs. competitors

Breakaway companies set a sound strategy for scaling analytics





# $2\boldsymbol{X}$ more likely to use cross-functional, agile teams

% of respondents who strongly agree that their analytics operating model revolves around crossfunctional teams



# 2.5X more likely to establish decision-making rights and accountability

% of respondents who agree that their organization has established clear accountability and decision rights by role, with clear escalation processes



# 1.5X more likely to continually refine decision making

% of respondents who strongly agree that their organization continually refines as it learns more



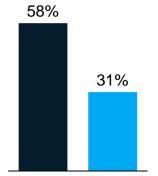
# 2.5X more likely to employ more analytics talent (incl. translators)

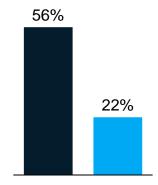
% of respondents with more than 25 analytics professionals per 1,000 FTEs

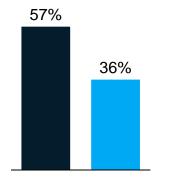


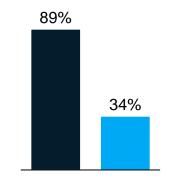
# 4X more likely to devote more of analytics spend to "last-mile"

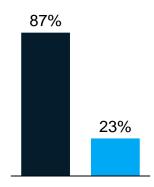
% of respondents spending >50% of analytics budget on embedding<sup>1</sup>











<sup>1</sup> For example integrating analytics into workflow

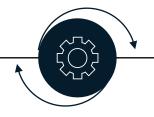
# © Successful carriers are shifting their operating model to continuously deliver impact for the top business priorities

Iterative process to derive agile operating model











### **Value**

Understand where value is created in the industry and where company needs to be distinctive

Define end-to-end value streams

Identify elements that can benefit from greater agility, either more dynamic or stable

### **Structure**

Design the overall structure (e.g., organizational axes, reporting lines)

Identify organizational groupings, informed by value streams to create an organization map

Define the "capability" axis, e.g., chapters or disciplines

### Agile teams

Identify teams and define missions to deliver value streams

Select best agile way of working for each mission, e.g., cross-functional, flow to work

### **Backbone**

Outline requirements on the core processes, people, and technology to enable agility

Select best agile way of working for each mission, e.g., cross-functional, flow to work

### Road map

Decide on implementtation approach

Develop high-level road map

Create backlog

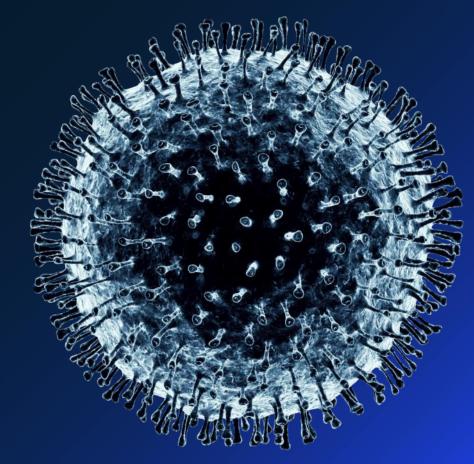
Prioritize for immediate next steps

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## **COVID-19** is driving renewed product innovation

- **Carriers that rapidly introduced new products** increased market share during periods of high market volatility
- Sustained, low interest rate environments globally require life insurers in particular to innovate as traditional guaranteed products are less viable
- Carriers in countries with persistent low interest rates have aggressively pivoted their source of **risk** exposure or exited the market
- Lessons in agile product development from the technology industry can be appropriated by the life insurance and annuities industry



**Lessons from Japan:** Carriers have long faced ongoing low-rates and managed to create value for shareholders, while "untethering" from the 10-year rate



### Carriers can still perform when rates are at zero

Indexed to 100 as of 2/28/2009, SNL Japan Life insurance index, Japanese 10 y bond yield



Jan-09 Jan-10 Jan-11 Jan-12 Jan-13 Jan-14 Jan-15 Jan-16 Jan-17 Jan-18 Jan-19 Jan-20 Jan-21

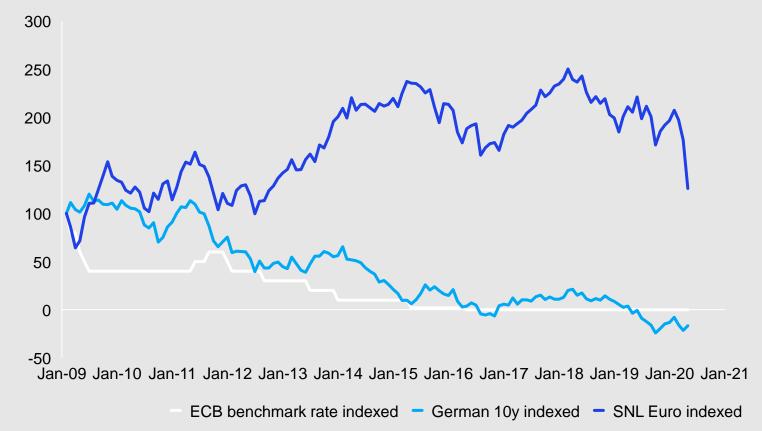
Japanese 10y indexed SNL Japan indexed

Lessons from
Europe: European
carriers have
aggressively pivoted
their source of risk in
the past decade



### Carriers can still perform when rates are at zero

Indexed to 100 as of 12/31/2008, SNL EU Life insurance index, ECB benchmark rate, German 10 y bond yield

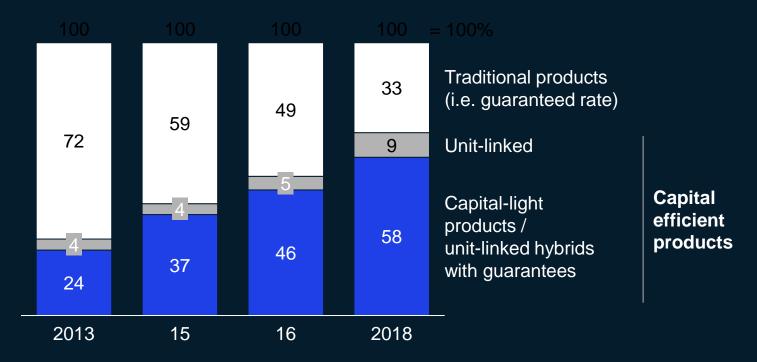


ource: SNL McKinsey & Cor

# In Germany, carriers shifted to selling capital efficient and disability products

### Sales of capital efficient products increased from ~28 to ~67%

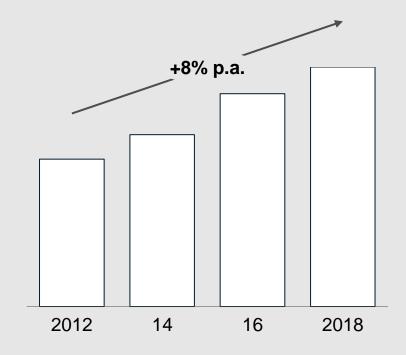
Share of new business sales<sup>1</sup> by product category, %



- 1. New business sales defined in terms of APE: Annualized Premium Equivalent
- 2. Traditional products with capital or rate guarantee
- 3. Fixed exchange rate used: EUR/USD of 1.11 as of Dec 2019

# German disability market has grown by 8% p.a.

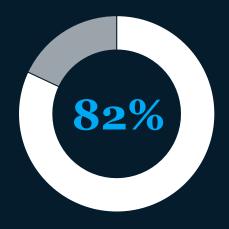
Disability insurance Sales<sup>3</sup>, USD Bn<sup>4</sup>



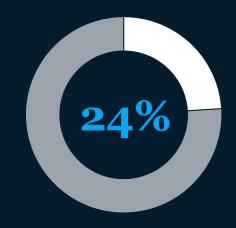
Source: Corporate disclosures, expert interviews

# How to move quickly: Lessons in agile product development can be appropriated by the insurance industry

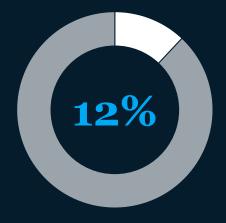
### Of insurance senior management surveyed ...



Believe product development is a core competency



Do not have a defined product development strategy



Believe they have a process that delivers strong product innovation

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### Typical challenges with in-force management actions

### Why it is challenging to act on inforce



### What can be done?

No one owns inforce... or has any incentive to act

Creating a cross-functional process – that drives the process across all impacted functions and clearly articulates trade-offs

There is a risk of "backlash" from customers, distributors and regulators

Consumer and distributor reactions will need to be taken into account, but carriers who have taken inforce actions have been able to avoid major push-back

Lots of ideas and things to do... where should we start?

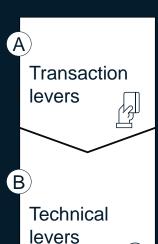
Leveraging an exhaustive list of levers, and quickly prioritize (80/20) based on the structure of the book and contracts

Terms & conditions are largely defined at inception. Degrees of freedom are limited.

Within contracts, there is often substantial room to adjust and improve inforce economics. Given the volume, even small changes have major impact

### There are 3 main value drivers behind effective inforce management

### Value driver and non-exhaustive description of levers



Operational

levers

#### Various types of capital transactions

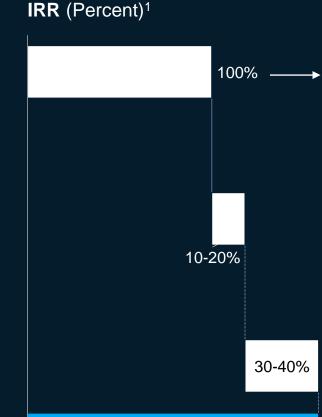
- Buy-outs
- Reinsurance
- Whole block sale/purchase

#### Technical value creation, e.g. through:

- · Improved asset management
- Capital and tax management
- Reinsurance optimization
- Hedging performance
- Pricing

#### **Operational excellence**, e.g. through:

- End to end expense optimization
- · Customer value management
- Strategic outsourcing
- · Data driven claims management
- Segmented service models
- Commission optimization



For closed block transactions – benefits from transactional levers such as price and financing costs of acquisition etc. are factored in here

Total IRR after synergies

Based on real cases and transactions

140-150%

# Depending on desired balance sheet exposure and operating model, carriers choose different strategic postures

