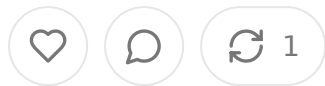


PICKING YOUR POISON: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PRICED ROUNDS, SAFES, AND CONVERTIBLE NOTES IN HEALTH TECH ANGEL INVESTING

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Abstract

This essay examines the three primary investment instruments available to health tech angel investors: priced equity rounds, Simple Agreements for Future Equity (SAFEs), and convertible notes. Each mechanism presents distinct advantages and trade-offs that become particularly pronounced in the healthcare technology sector due to longer development cycles, complex regulatory pathways, and significant capital requirements.

Key points covered:

- Priced equity rounds provide immediate ownership and clarity but require extensive legal work and negotiation
- SAFEs offer simplicity and speed but can create misalignment between founders and early investors
- Convertible notes balance investor protections with operational efficiency but introduce debt dynamics

- Health tech specific considerations including FDA approval timelines, reimbursement uncertainty, and clinical validation requirements
- Practical scenarios demonstrating when each instrument makes strategic sense
- Common pitfalls and negotiation strategies for angel investors

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INTRODUCTION

So you're writing checks into health tech startups and someone just sent you the term sheet or investment docs and you're staring at it wondering whether you should be excited about that SAFE with a twenty million dollar cap or concerned that they're trying to raise a priced round at a fifteen million pre-money valuation when they got nothing but a PowerPoint and a partnership with a single community health center. Welcome to one of the more consequential decisions you'll make as an angel investor, and one that doesn't get nearly enough attention in all those Medium posts about how to build a killer portfolio.

The instrument you choose or accept isn't just about the math, although the math definitely matters and we'll get into that. It's about alignment, it's about what happens when things go sideways, and it's about whether you'll have any meaningful say in the company's future or whether you'll just be along for the ride hoping that Series A investors don't totally screw you with their participation rights and liquidation preferences. In health tech specifically, where the journey from idea to revenue can take five to seven years instead of the two to three you might see in pure software plays, these decisions compound in weird and often painful ways.

I've seen brilliant companies raise on instruments that made zero sense for their business and trajectory, and I've seen founders make choices that seemed smart at the time but created cap table disasters that ultimately killed their ability to raise follow-on funding. I've also personally made the mistake of accepting whatever docs the lead investor wanted to use without really thinking through whether those docs served my interests as a small check angel investor, and I've paid for that mistake when those companies had down rounds or complex recaps that left me with almost nothing despite the company technically being worth more on paper.

PRICED EQUITY ROUNDS: THE GOLD STANDARD WITH A PRICE TAG

Let's start with priced equity rounds because despite being less common at the earliest stages these days, they're still the most straightforward to understand and they're what everything else eventually converts into anyway. A priced round means you're literally buying shares of the company at a specific price per share. The company is valued at X dollars, they're selling Y percent of the company, you will have Z dollars, and boom you own a precise percentage of the company with all the rights and protections negotiated in that round's documents.

The beauty of priced equity is the clarity. You know exactly what you own from the start. If you invest fifty thousand dollars in a company at a five million dollar pre-money valuation buying Series Seed Preferred shares, you own one percent of the company's fully diluted cap table at that moment. Not approximately one percent.

something that might be one percent later depending on what happens, but actually one percent. You get all the rights that come with being a preferred shareholder which typically includes things like liquidation preferences meaning you get your money back before common shareholders in an acquisition, information rights so the company has to actually tell you what's going on, and often pro-rata rights letting you maintain your ownership percentage in future rounds.

For health tech specifically, this clarity matters a ton because you're likely going to be in this investment for a while. Digital health companies that are doing anything interesting usually need at least three to four rounds of funding before they're profitable or attractive acquisition targets. Medical device companies need even more often five to seven rounds as they work through FDA clearance and then actually get physicians to adopt their technology. Knowing exactly what you own and what your rights are becomes really important when you're sitting through your fourth board update explaining why reimbursement conversations are taking longer than expected.

The protection that comes with preferred equity also matters in health tech because so many of these companies end up being acqui-hires or soft landings rather than huge wins. When that happens, the one times liquidation preference you negotiated means you get your money back first. I've seen companies sell for eight million after raising six million where the preferred shareholders basically got their money back and common got very little. Without that liquidation preference, everyone would have gotten equally screwed.

But here's where priced rounds get messy, especially for smaller rounds and especially when you're not the lead investor. The legal costs are substantial. A properly done priced round with all the right docs probably costs the company fifteen to thirty thousand dollars in legal fees, sometimes more if there are complicated terms or difficult negotiations. For a company raising five hundred thousand or a million dollars, that's a meaningful percentage of the round that's going to lawyers instead of into building the product. Some founders look at that and decide it's not worth it, particularly if they're already struggling to get the round done.

The negotiation process also takes time. Like real time. I've seen priced rounds take two to three months from first term sheet to closed round because investors want to negotiate specific terms, the lawyers had to draft everything, everyone had to review, there were revisions, signatures needed to be collected, and then inevitably someone was on vacation in Europe and couldn't sign until they got back. For an early stage health tech company that's burning thirty to fifty thousand a month and already getting nervous about their runway, that timeline can be genuinely scary.

The other issue with priced rounds is that they force everyone to agree on a valuation right now, and that can actually kill deals. I've watched founding teams walk away from good investors because they couldn't agree on whether the company should be valued at four million or six million pre-money, which in retrospect was an insane reason to not do a deal because the company ended up being worth way more than either number. But in the moment, with everyone's egos and spreadsheets involved, those conversations get contentious.

There's also a psychological thing that happens with priced rounds that's worth mentioning. When you buy actual equity at a specific price, you feel more like an owner and you act more like an owner. Sometimes that's great because engaged investors who are actually paying attention and making introductions are valuable. Sometimes that's terrible because you've got fifteen angels who all think they should have a say in whether the company pivots from remote patient monitoring to car coordination, and now the founders are spending half their time managing investor relations instead of building the product.

SAFES: THE DARLING OF SILICON VALLEY

Now let's talk about SAFEs, which have basically taken over early stage investing in the last decade and which Y Combinator deserves both credit and blame for popularizing. A SAFE is technically not equity and not debt. It's this weird instrument that says you're giving the company money now in exchange for the right to get equity later when the company does a priced round. The terms you negotiate upfront are basically the valuation cap, which sets a maximum valuation at which your invest

will convert to equity, and sometimes a discount rate that gives you a better price than the Series A investors.

The genius of SAFEs is their simplicity. The standard SAFE document is like five pages and costs basically nothing in legal fees. A founder can accept ten or twenty SAFE investments using the exact same document just with different dollar amounts and caps, and the whole process can happen in days instead of months. For super early stage companies, this is amazing. You can close angels as they commit rather than waiting to get the whole round together, which means money hits your bank account faster and you can actually start spending it on things like developers and pilots for hospital systems.

From an investor perspective, SAFEs also let you move quickly when you see a deal you like. I've committed to SAFE investments on a Monday and had the money wired and docs signed by Friday. Try doing that with a priced round. This speed matters in competitive deals where other angels are circling and you want to make sure you get your allocation.

The valuation cap structure also creates this nice alignment in theory. If you invest in a SAFE with an eight million dollar cap and the company raises their Series A at twenty million dollar pre-money, your SAFE converts at the eight million valuation, which means you get more equity than you would have gotten investing at twenty million. You're rewarded for taking earlier risk with better economics. That makes sense and feels fair to most people.

But here's where SAFEs start to get problematic, particularly in health tech where rounds are often spaced far apart and valuations can be all over the place. The fundamental issue is that SAFEs create uncertainty about ownership and dilution persists until they convert, and in health tech that might be two or three years. In that time, the company might raise multiple SAFE rounds at different caps, and nobody actually knows who owns what percentage of the company. I've looked at spreadsheets where there were eight different SAFE rounds outstanding with caps ranging from six million to fifteen million, and good luck doing the math on what everyone actually owns once all that converts.

This uncertainty creates real problems when the company needs to make strategic decisions. How do you grant employee options when you don't really know how diluted the existing shareholders are? How do you think about selling the company when some of your investors own actual equity and others own these weird SAFE instruments that might or might not be in the money depending on the acquisition price? I've been in situations where companies couldn't cleanly model the cap table because there were too many outstanding SAFEs with different terms, and that complexity definitely scared off some potential acquirers who didn't want to deal with figuring it all out.

The bigger problem though is misalignment. With a SAFE, you as the investor want the company to raise their next round at the highest possible valuation because that means your cap converts at a lower percentage of the company, which is great for you. But that might not actually be what's best for the company. Maybe the company should raise at a more modest valuation to bring in a great lead investor who can really help them navigate health system sales. Maybe they should raise a bridge round instead of going straight to Series A. But if they do that and the valuation is below or close to your cap, you're not getting the benefit you expected from your early risk, so you might push them toward choices that serve your interests rather than the company's interests.

There's also this brutal thing that happens when companies struggle. If you invest with a SAFE with a ten million cap and the company raises their Series A at a five million pre-money because things haven't gone well, your SAFE might convert at the Series A price rather than your cap, and now you've basically gotten nothing for taking the early risk. Or worse, sometimes SAFEs are structured so they don't convert at all until the next down round, and now you're in this weird limbo where you've given the company money but you don't own anything. I've seen SAFE investors completely wiped out in recaps because they had no formal rights as shareholders and the Series A investors negotiated terms that essentially zeroed out the SAFEs.

In health tech, this risk is particularly acute because health tech companies often face these moments where they need to reset expectations. Maybe the FDA process took longer than expected. Maybe reimbursement didn't materialize. Maybe their pilot

with the large health system showed promising clinical outcomes but terrible user engagement with physicians. These are normal challenges in health tech but they often result in down rounds or flat rounds, and that's when the limitations of SAFEs become really apparent.

The other thing about SAFEs that drives me crazy is they've created this race to the bottom on valuations at the earliest stages. When you can raise money on a piece of paper with no real ownership being transferred, it becomes really easy to just keep increasing the cap to get the round done. I've seen pre-product companies raise SAFE notes with twenty or twenty five million dollar caps, which is frankly absurd but investors accept it because it feels less real than buying actual equity. Then when those companies try to raise a real priced round, they've backed themselves into a corner where they need to justify a valuation way higher than what the company is actually worth at that stage, and the round falls apart.

CONVERTIBLE NOTES: THE MIDDLE GROUND

Convertible notes are the instrument that splits the difference between priced rounds and SAFEs, and they've been around way longer than SAFEs but have fallen out of favor somewhat in recent years. A convertible note is actual debt. The company borrows money from you, that debt accrues interest at some rate usually between six and eight percent, and then when the company raises a priced round the debt plus interest converts into equity at either a discounted price or using a cap, similar to a SAFE.

The debt structure creates some really useful protections for investors that SAFEs don't have. If the company fails before raising another round, you're a creditor not just some random person who gave them money, which means you have more rights to whatever assets remain. In practice this rarely results in angels actually getting their money back because early stage companies usually have no meaningful assets, but it's still better than nothing. I've been in situations where companies shut down and

convertible note holders got a few cents on the dollar back from selling the company IP or customer list, whereas SAFE holders would have gotten literally zero.

The interest component also creates a nice incentive alignment. The company has a reason to raise their next round relatively quickly because the debt is accruing interest that will increase dilution the longer they wait. This is particularly useful in health tech where founders sometimes get comfortable with slow progress because they're scientists or clinicians who are used to things taking forever. Having debt accruing on the books creates a gentle pressure to move with more urgency.

Convertible notes also have maturity dates, typically eighteen to twenty-four months, which forces a conversation if the company hasn't raised a priced round by then. The note either needs to convert at some predetermined valuation, get extended, or get paid back. This creates a natural checkpoint to evaluate whether the company is actually making progress or whether everyone needs to admit this isn't working and move on. With SAFEs, companies can just kind of drift indefinitely without that forcing function.

The legal costs for convertible notes are usually more than SAFEs but less than priced rounds, maybe five to ten thousand dollars, which feels reasonable for most seed rounds. The documents are more standardized than priced equity docs but more involved than a SAFE, so you get some level of customization and protection without going completely overboard on legal spend.

But convertible notes have their own set of problems that angels need to think through. The big one is the debt dynamics are weird for companies that aren't generating revenue and might not for years. In health tech, it's totally normal for a company to be pre-revenue for three or four years as they work through pilots and clinical validation and reimbursement conversations. Having debt on the books during that period creates this strange dynamic where technically the company owes you money plus interest but everyone knows they're never paying it back in cash and only converting to equity.

The maturity date can also create unnecessary stress. If the company is making progress but just hasn't gotten to a priced round yet, now everyone has to deal with extending the notes or negotiating what happens at maturity. Usually this gets worked out fine but it's another conversation and negotiation that takes founder time and energy away from building the company. I've seen note extensions get contentious when some investors wanted better terms to extend and others were fine extending the same terms, and that kind of investor drama is the last thing an early stage health tech company needs.

The interest accrual can also create cap table weirdness. If you invested one hundred thousand dollars and it's been accruing interest at five percent for three years by the time the company raises their Series A, that's now one hundred fifteen thousand hundred sixty three dollars converting to equity, and the other angels who invested at different times will all have different amounts. This makes the cap table messier and makes it harder to cleanly model ownership percentages.

There's also this psychological thing where debt feels more serious than SAFEs, though economically they're pretty similar instruments. Some founders really dislike having debt on the books, even if it's convertible debt, because it feels like a liability and creates this nagging worry about what happens if they can't raise the round. For founders who are already stressed about all the other challenges of building a health tech company, adding that debt anxiety might not be worth the marginal benefits the notes provide over SAFEs.

HEALTH TECH SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Alright, so now that we've covered the basic pros and cons of each instrument, let's talk about what's different in health tech specifically because there are some real considerations that don't apply to your typical SaaS startup or marketplace company.

First is timeline. Health tech companies take forever to get to meaningful revenue compared to other sectors. A digital health company selling to health systems might have six to twelve month pilots followed by another six to twelve months of procurement before they get their first real contract signed. Medical device companies

need FDA clearance which can take one to three years depending on the pathway. Clinical decision support tools need validation studies showing they actually improve outcomes. All of this means your investment is going to be locked up for a long time before there's any realistic chance of an exit.

This timeline issue makes instrument choice really important. If you're investing in a SAFE and it takes the company four years to raise a Series A, you've been sitting in this uncertain state of not actually owning equity for four years. That's a long time not to know what you own. Priced equity at least gives you the certainty of ownership even if the company's progress is slow. Convertible notes with their maturity date force conversations at regular intervals which can be helpful for keeping things moving but can also create unnecessary drama if the company just needs more time.

The second big consideration is regulatory risk. Health tech companies face a meaningful risk that their product won't get cleared by FDA or won't get the reimbursement codes they need or won't meet HIPAA requirements or whatever regulatory hurdle applies to their specific product. This risk is basically binary: you get approval or you don't, and if you don't the company's probably dead. Traditional venture risk is more continuous - your product might be better or worse than expected, growth might be faster or slower, but there are usually paths forward. With regulatory risk, you either clear the hurdle or you're done.

This binary risk makes the downside protection of convertible notes more appealing. If the company fails to get FDA clearance and shuts down, at least you're a creditor rather than someone holding a SAFE that's worth nothing. It's also an argument for priced equity with strong liquidation preferences, because if the company does manage to sell their IP or remaining assets to someone else, you want to be first in line to get whatever proceeds exist.

Third is capital intensity. Health tech companies, especially those doing anything with medical devices or diagnostics or digital therapeutics, need a lot more capital than typical software companies. You can't just MVP your way to product-market fit; you need to run a clinical trial with two hundred patients across six sites. This capital intensity means companies will definitely need to raise multiple rounds, which r

whatever instrument you choose is definitely going to convert or be diluted by future rounds. You're not investing in a company that might just bootstrap to profitability.

This reality makes the conversion mechanics really important. You need to understand not just how your SAFE or note converts in the next round, but how it gets diluted in subsequent rounds. If you invest on a SAFE with a ten million cap and the company raises a Series A at twenty million, you're feeling great because your conversion price is half what the Series A investors paid. But then they raise a Series B and Series C and suddenly your ownership percentage has been diluted down by subsequent rounds of equity issuance, and maybe you ended up with less ownership than you thought you'd get.

Fourth is the technical and clinical complexity. Health tech companies need to actually work with doctors and nurses and patients and health systems to validate that their product does what they claim. This validation process is expensive and time consuming and often reveals problems that require meaningful product pivots. I've seen digital health companies go through three or four different product iterations based on feedback from their clinical partners before they found something that actually worked in real-world clinical workflows.

This pivot risk is relevant to instrument choice because it affects valuation and timing. If you invest in a priced round at a high valuation and the company needs to pivot significantly, that might trigger a down round which is painful for everyone, especially for earlier investors who don't have strong protective provisions. With SAFEs or notes, you at least have the flexibility of conversion mechanics that can adjust based on what the company's valued at when they finally raise, but you also don't have any say in whether the pivot makes sense or not because you're not yet a shareholder.

WHEN EACH INSTRUMENT MAKES SENSE

So given all these tradeoffs, when should you actually use each instrument? Let me give you some practical scenarios that I think make sense, acknowledging that every situation is different and you need to evaluate based on the specific circumstances.

Priced equity rounds make sense when the company is far enough along that you actually value it with some degree of confidence. If they've got a working product, pilots with credible hospital systems, some early revenue or at least a clear path to revenue in the next twelve months, and they're raising a meaningful seed round of a million plus with a lead investor who's going to do real work, then a priced round is probably the right call. The legal costs are justified by the round size and the protection you get as a preferred shareholder matters because there are real assets at risk.

For angels who want to maintain their ownership percentage through multiple rounds, priced equity with pro-rata rights is really the only way to do that cleanly. If you invest fifty thousand on a SAFE and the company eventually raises five rounds of equity before exiting, you're getting massively diluted by all those rounds and you can't really participate in them because you're not technically a shareholder until the SAFE converts. With priced equity and pro-rata rights, you can write follow-on checks in each round to maintain your percentage.

Priced rounds also make sense in situations where there's meaningful negotiation happening around terms. If you're investing enough that you want board observer rights, or specific information rights, or you want to negotiate protective provisions around future fundraising, you need actual equity with negotiated terms. You can't get any of that with a SAFE or note.

SAFEs make sense when the company is super early and just needs to get money in the bank quickly to start building. If they're raising a small friends and family round of two hundred fifty thousand or less, if they don't have a product yet, if they're still figuring out exactly what they're building, SAFEs let them move fast without spending money on lawyers or spending weeks negotiating terms. For companies that are pre-product and just need runway to get to the point where they can raise a real seed round, SAFEs are perfect.

SAFEs also work well when you're doing a rolling close and want to bring in angels as they commit rather than waiting to batch everyone together. Digital health companies that are popular with physician angels often do this, they'll keep a SAFE round open

for a few months and close investors weekly or monthly as commitments come in, it lets them start spending the money immediately rather than waiting for everyone to commit.

The simplicity of SAFEs is also valuable when you're syndicating a deal across a small check angels. If you're putting together a round where twenty angels are each investing five to ten thousand dollars, the administrative overhead of coordinating a priced round across all those investors is painful. Better to just use a standard SAFE that everyone signs on their own timeline.

Convertible notes make sense in the situations between those two extremes. When a company has made meaningful progress and is raising a real seed round of five hundred thousand to a million, but they're still not quite far enough along to confidently price a round, notes give you the protection and forcing functions you want without the cost and complexity of priced equity. The maturity date creates a natural milestone to evaluate progress, and the debt structure gives you slightly more protection than a SAFE.

Notes also work well when there's some specific event coming that will significantly change the company's valuation. Maybe they're waiting for FDA clearance or they're about to sign a big contract with a health system or they're finishing a clinical study that will either validate or invalidate their whole thesis. In those cases, it makes sense to invest with a note that matures after that event happens, rather than trying to price the equity before you know the outcome.

For angels who are investing in international health tech companies, notes often make more sense than SAFEs because the legal frameworks are more established. SAFEs are very much a US startup ecosystem thing, and while they're becoming more common internationally, many jurisdictions still prefer convertible debt because the legal framework is clearer.

COMMON MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Let me wrap up by talking through some of the dumb mistakes I've seen angels make with these instruments, including mistakes I've made myself.

Mistake one is accepting whatever instrument the founder wants to use without thinking through whether it actually serves your interests. I've done this more times than I'd like to admit. A founder I liked sent me a SAFE with an aggressive cap and I just signed it because I wanted to be supportive and I didn't want to seem difficult. Looking back, I should have at least had a conversation about whether a note might make more sense given where the company was, and I definitely should have negotiated the cap down because it ended up creating real problems when they went to raise their Series A.

The key is to remember that the instrument isn't just a formality, it's a meaningful part of the deal. You're giving someone tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars so you're entitled to have an opinion about the structure. Good founders will respect that and be willing to have the conversation. If a founder gets defensive or pushy when you ask questions about the instrument, that's actually a yellow flag about how they're going to handle harder conversations down the road.

Mistake two is not understanding the conversion mechanics and how you'll get diluted in future rounds. So many angels invest on a SAFE with a cap and they do the math on what percentage they'll own if the Series A happens at X valuation, and they're shocked when they actually convert and own way less because there were SAFEs that converted first or because there was a bunch of dilution from option expansion or because the Series A investor negotiated participation rights that changed the math.

Before you invest on any instrument that converts later, you need to actually model out a few scenarios. What happens if the Series A is at your cap? What happens if it's above your cap? What happens if it's below your cap? What if there are other SAFEs or notes that convert at better terms than yours? What if the company raises a bridge round before the Series A? Run these scenarios and make sure you're comfortable with the range of outcomes, not just the best case.

Mistake three is investing too much on instruments that don't give you meaning rights or protection. I have a personal rule now that I don't invest more than two five thousand on a SAFE unless I really trust the founders and have some other relationship that gives me visibility into the company. For larger checks, I want priced equity or at minimum a convertible note that gives me some information and creates maturity date forcing functions. The reason is that when you invest a larger amount, you need to be able to protect that investment and at least know what's going on with the company.

I've made the mistake of writing a fifty thousand dollar check on a SAFE and then basically going dark for two years because the founder stopped sending updates and had no formal rights to information. When the company finally raised their Series A, I found out they'd raised two more SAFE rounds in the interim that totally changed the cap table and significantly diluted my potential ownership. If I'd invested on a priced equity with information rights, I would have known what was happening and could have made different decisions.

Mistake four is getting too hung up on valuation at the earliest stages. I've watched angels walk away from amazing companies because they wanted to negotiate the valuation down from eight million to six million or because they thought the company should be priced lower. In retrospect, that was insane because the companies ended up being worth way more than either number, but in the moment it felt important to get the right valuation.

The reality is that for your earliest investments, the difference between a six million cap and an eight million cap just doesn't matter that much in the context of power law returns. If the company is a big winner, you'll make great money at either valuation; if it's not, you'll lose your money at either valuation. What matters way more is the quality of the founding team, the size of the market opportunity, and your ability to add value. Save your valuation negotiations for later stage rounds when there's enough data to actually have an informed discussion.

Mistake five is not maintaining enough capital reserves to follow on in future rounds, especially when investing in priced rounds with pro-rata rights. If you invest in a

priced seed round and negotiate pro-rata rights, you're implicitly committing to having capital available to exercise those rights in future rounds. If you don't, you're going to get diluted significantly and your seed investment won't be worth as much.

I've made this mistake where I invested most of my available capital in the seed round and then didn't have enough to follow on in the Series A, and I got diluted from point five percent down to point six percent ownership. In hindsight, I should have invested less in the seed to keep capital in reserve, or I should have invested on a SAFE that didn't come with any expectation of following on. The lesson is you need to think about your total capital allocation to a company across multiple rounds, not just optimize your ownership in the first round.

CONCLUSION

So where does all this leave us? The truth is there's no universally right answer as to which instrument to use in health tech angel investing. It depends on the stage of the company, the size of the round, your relationship with the founders, how much you're investing, what kind of rights and protections matter to you, and what you think the company's trajectory looks like over the next few years.

What I can tell you is that the instrument matters more than most angels realize, particularly in health tech where the timelines are long and the path to exit is uncertain. Taking the extra time to really understand the conversion mechanics, think through different scenarios, to negotiate for the rights and protections you want, that work pays off in the long run even if it feels tedious in the moment.

My general heuristic at this point is to default to priced equity when the round is large enough and the company is mature enough to justify it, to use convertible preferred for most seed rounds where there's real substance but still uncertainty, and to use SAFEs only for the very earliest stage investments where speed and simplicity are paramount. But those are just defaults, and I'll absolutely make exceptions based on the specific situation.

The most important thing is to go into each investment with eyes open about what you're actually buying and what rights you're actually getting. Read the documents carefully. Ask questions when things are unclear. Model out the scenarios. And remember that as an angel investor, especially in health tech where you're going in these investments for years, the terms you agree to today will matter a lot more than you think they will when you're eventually trying to figure out what your stake is worth in an acquisition or IPO.

None of this is medical or investment advice obviously, I'm just some person on the internet who has made a lot of these investments and learned some things the hard way. But hopefully this gives you a framework to think through your own investments and make more informed choices about which instruments serve your interests as you build your health tech portfolio.

If you are interested in joining my generalist healthcare angel syndicate, reach out at treylawles@gmail.com or send me a DM. We don't take a carry and defer annual for six months so investors can decide if they see value before joining officially. Accredited investors only.

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