



**BLACK**

& Employer Sponsored Health Plans

**SWAN**



# BLACK

# SWAN

The term "Black Swan" was used in the 16th century discussion of impossibility (all swans known to Europeans are white.)

Explorers arriving in Australia discovered a species of what that is black .

The term is now used to refer to events that occur though they had not been thought to be impossible.

## *Key Objectives*

1

“Black Swan” Events  
Why the Unexpected Can Be So Impactful

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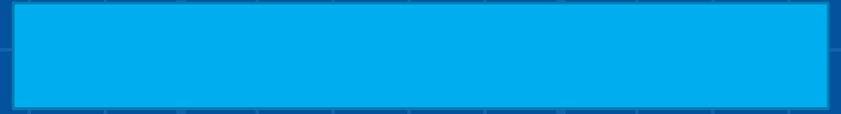
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Health Care in a post “Black Swan” World:  
What happened & What We Thought We Knew

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3

Key Trends and Strategies:  
Health and Welfare/Total Rewards in Post-Pandemic World

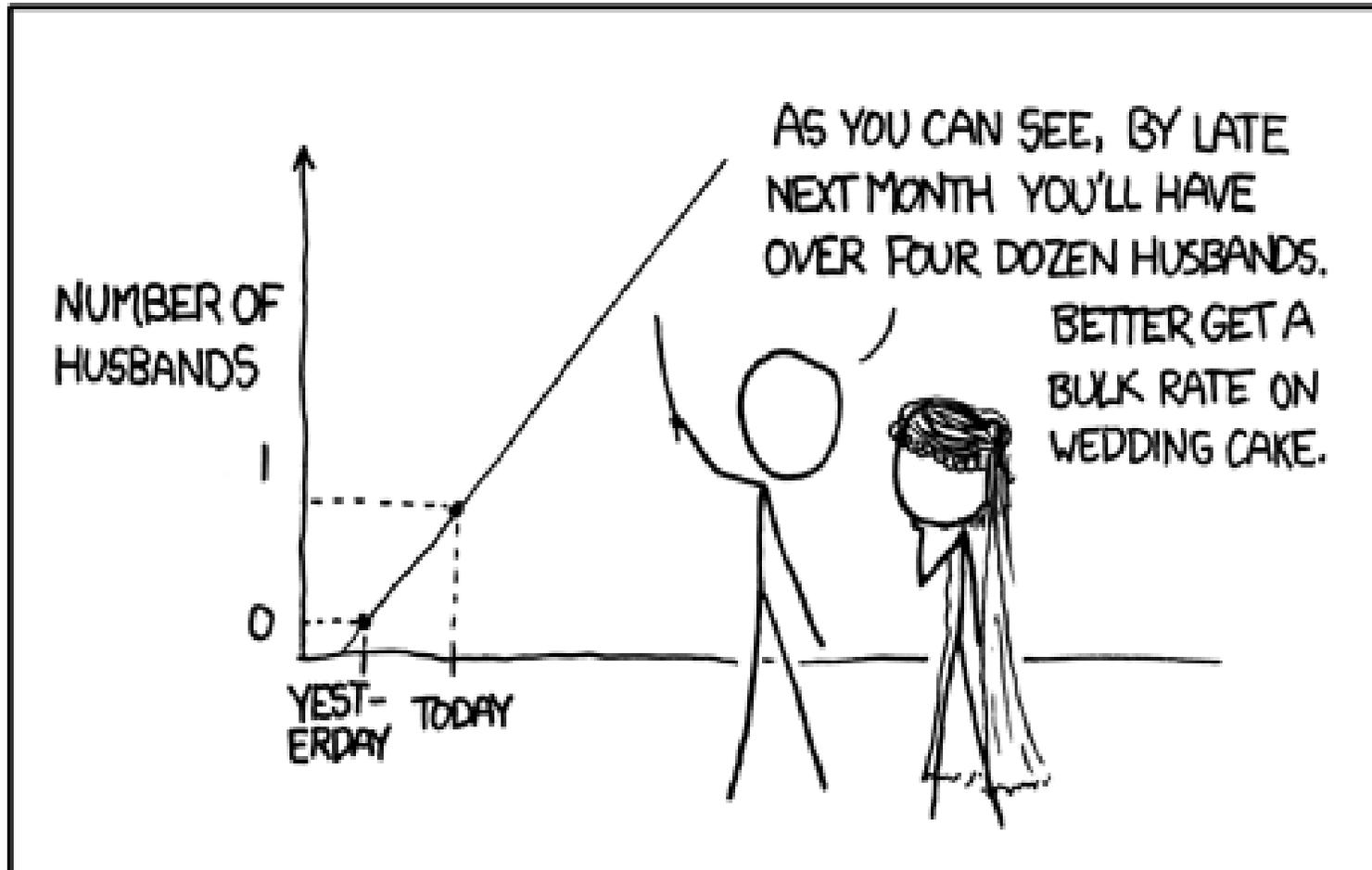


## Black Swan Events

Disproportionate Impact of Random Event & Inductive Learning

# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOSITY

## MY HOBBY: EXTRAPOLATING





## A Turkey

Is fed for 1000 days

Each passing day confirms to its statistics department that the human race cares about its welfare 'with increased statistical significance'

On the 1001th day, a little before Thanksgiving, the turkey has a surprise

# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOSITY

**In risk analysis, these are called “unexampled events” or “outliers or “Black Swans”**

“ Things that have never happened before, happen all the time.”

- Scott d. Sagan, The Limits of Safety: Organization Accidents, and Nuclear Weapons 1993

## Example of deductive reasoning:

- Premise 1: All humans are mortal.
- Premise 2: Socrates is a human.
- Conclusion: Socrates is mortal.

This is a valid argument. If the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true too.

## Example of inductive reasoning:

- Premise: The sun has risen in the east every morning up until now.
- Conclusion: The sun will also rise in the east

tomorrow.

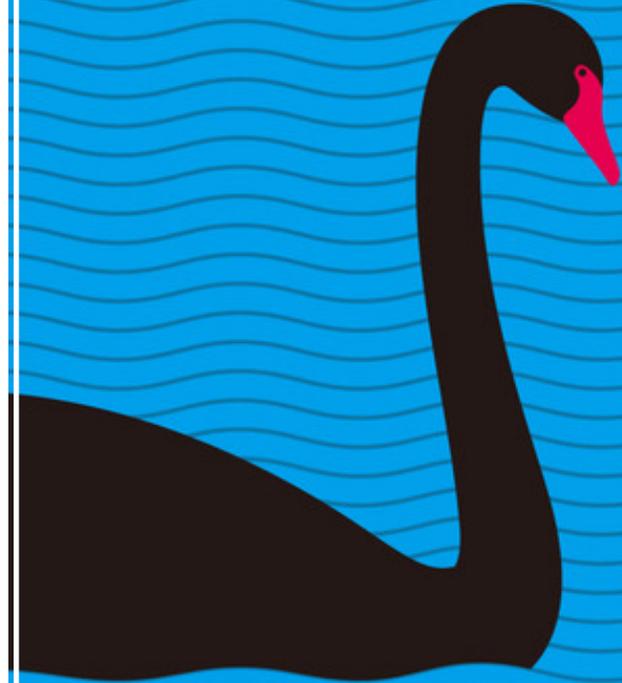
# Black Swan

## Characteristics

- **An outlier**
  - Lies outside the realm of regular expectations
  - Nothing in the past can convincingly point to its possibility
- **Carries an extreme impact**
- **In spite of its outlier status, it is often easy to produce an explanation for the event *after the fact***

## Note that

- a black swan event may be a surprise for some, but not for others; it's a subjective, knowledge-dependent notion
- Warnings about event may have been ignored because of strong personal and organizational resistance to changing beliefs and procedure



# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOSITY

Europeans “discovering”  
America was a black swan  
event to the native  
population.



## Rare Events Are Not all Black Swans



**The Fukushima Daiichi tsunami  
(March 2011, 14m wave)**

Was caused by a  
magnitude 9  
earthquake

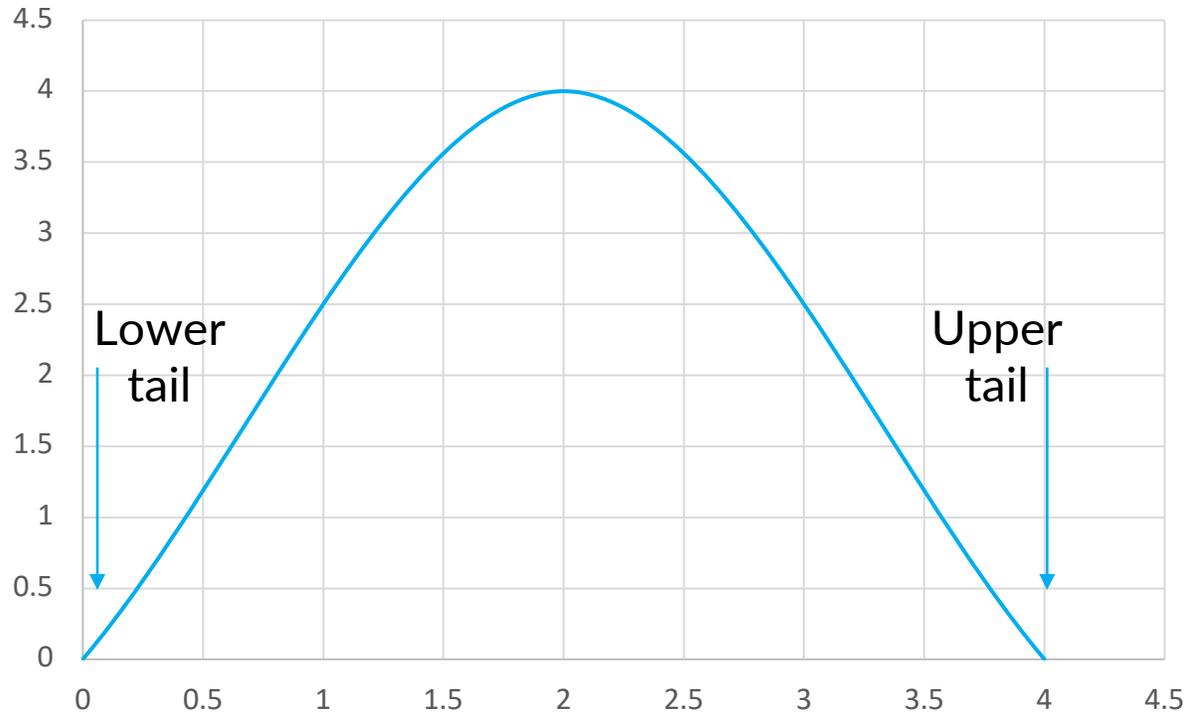
**9th Century**

Earthquake  
estimated 8.6  
magnitude

**17th Century**

Earthquake of estimated  
8.1 magnitude, 20m  
tsunami

*Statistical modeling could have imagined the tsunami in 2001  
using available historical modeling.*

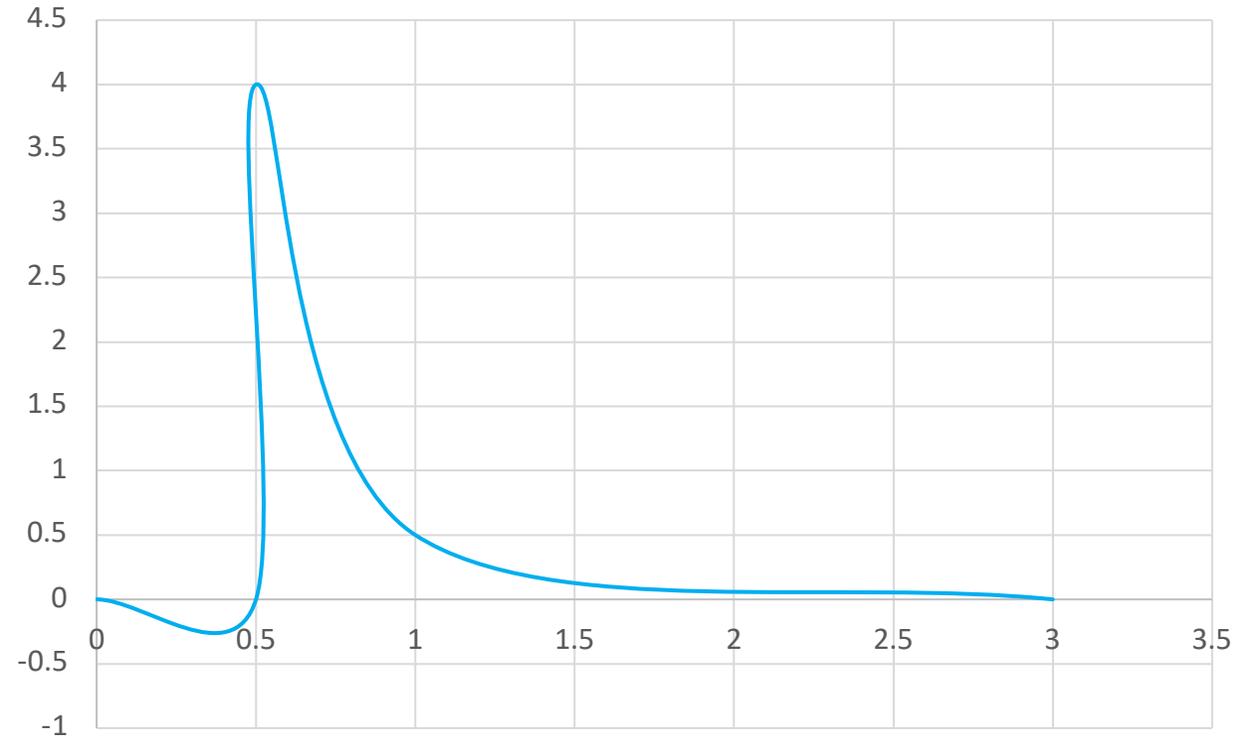


## “Thin-tailed” Probability Distributions

- The “tail” of a probability distribution is the part which is far away from the mean
- Normal (or Gaussian) distribution

## “Fat-tailed” Probability Distributions

- Extreme events carry significant weight
  - Fairly high probability of something “unusual” occurring
- Large losses for workers compensation, energy released by earthquakes
- Pareto Distribution
- Asymmetric impact





## Two Caricatures Of Probability Distributions

### Mediocristan – “Thin Tailed”

Events are easy to predict  
Exceptions occur, but don't carry large  
consequences



### Extremistan – “Fat

Tailed”  
Exceptions can be everything

Winner takes all effect (sales of novels,  
albums)

Future is hard to predict from past  
information

(Inductive Reasoning misleading)



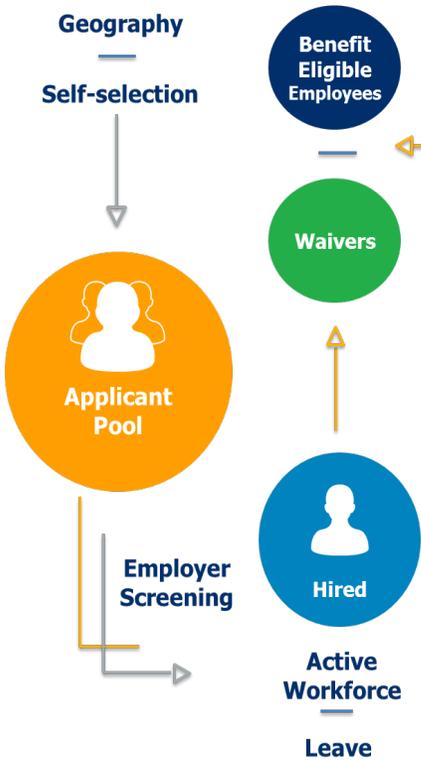
## Black Swan Events

Are employer sponsored medical plans in “Extremistan”?

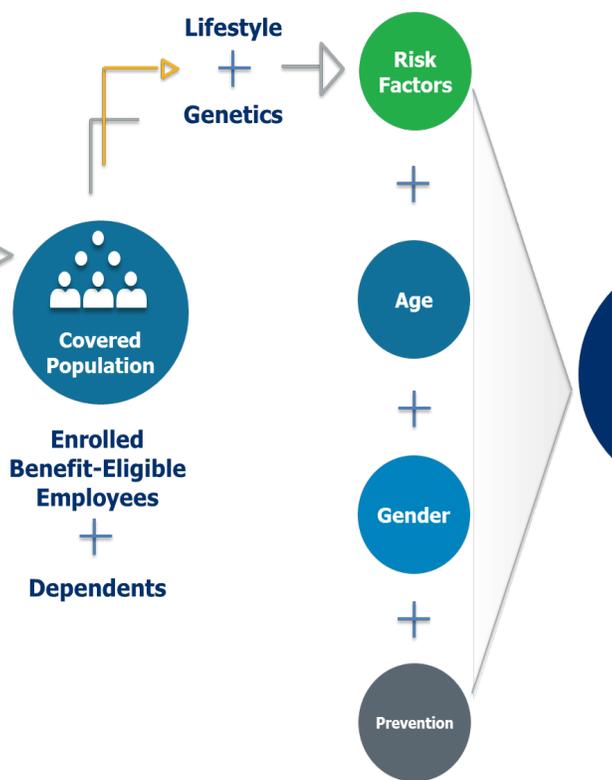
# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOUSITY

## Employer Healthcare Calculus & Cost Continuum

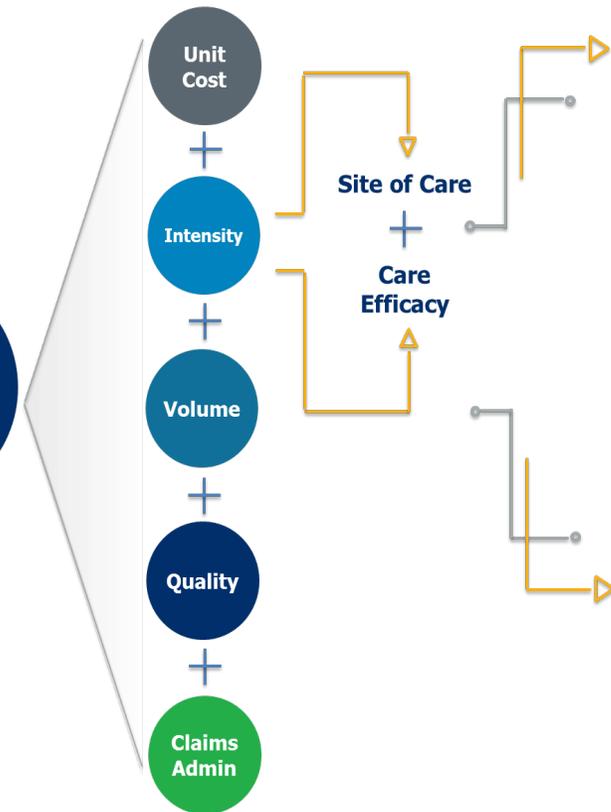
### 1 Who is Covered?



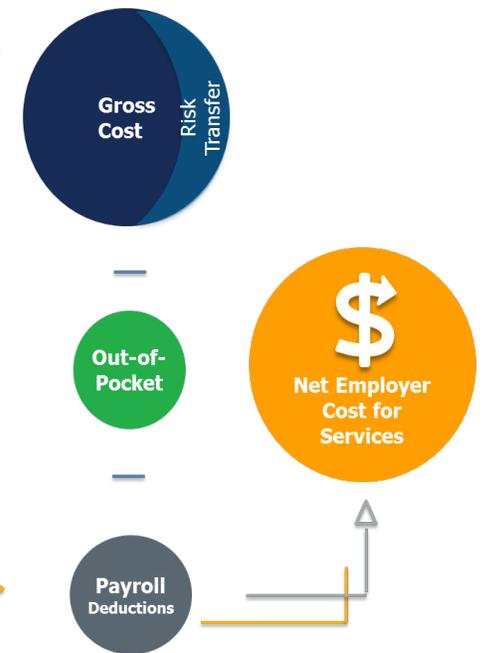
### 2 What Care do They Need?



### 3 What Does it Cost?

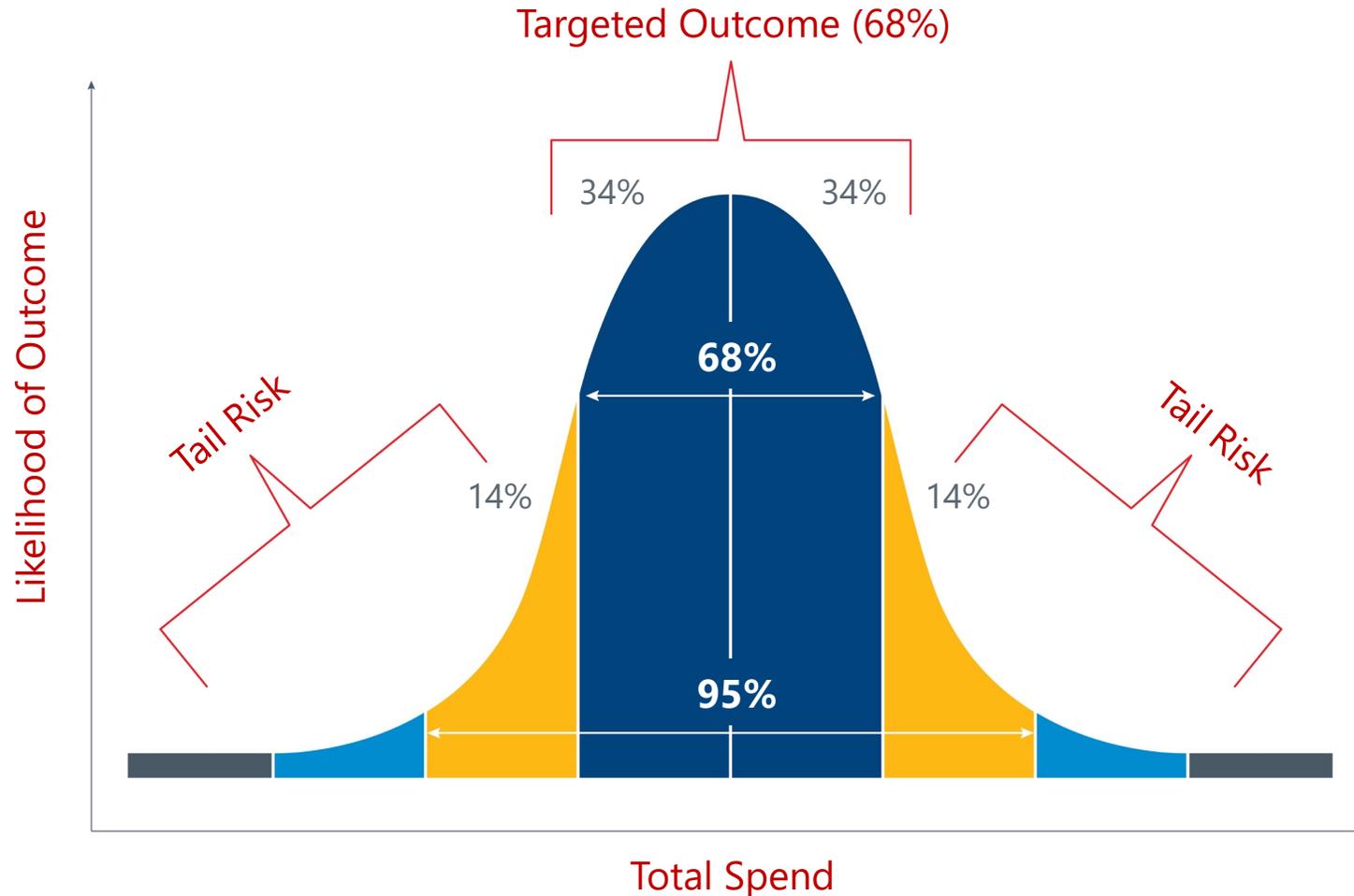


### 4 How do you Share the Cost?

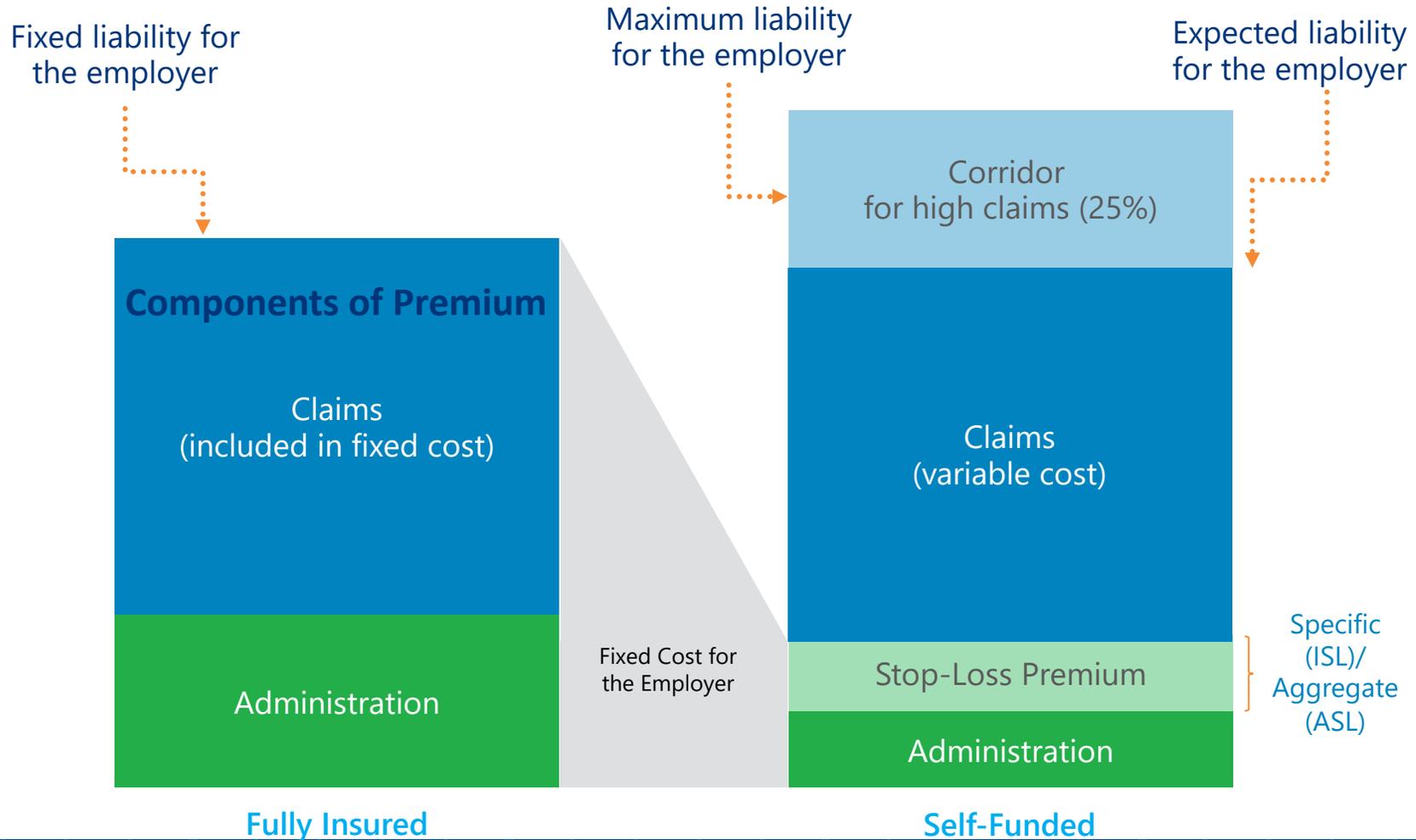


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## Bell Curve - Where is the Risk?



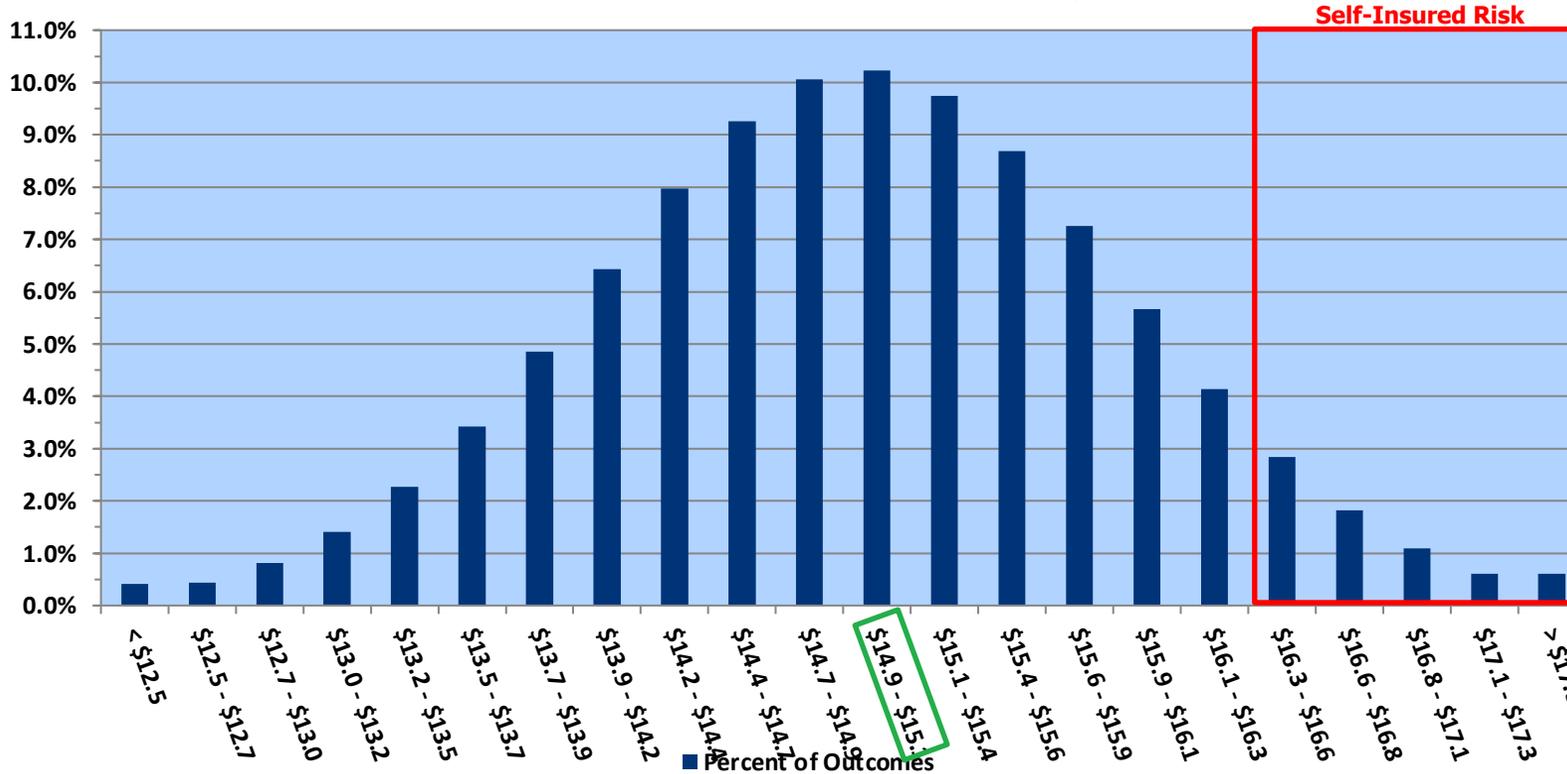
# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOSITY



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## Risk Distribution

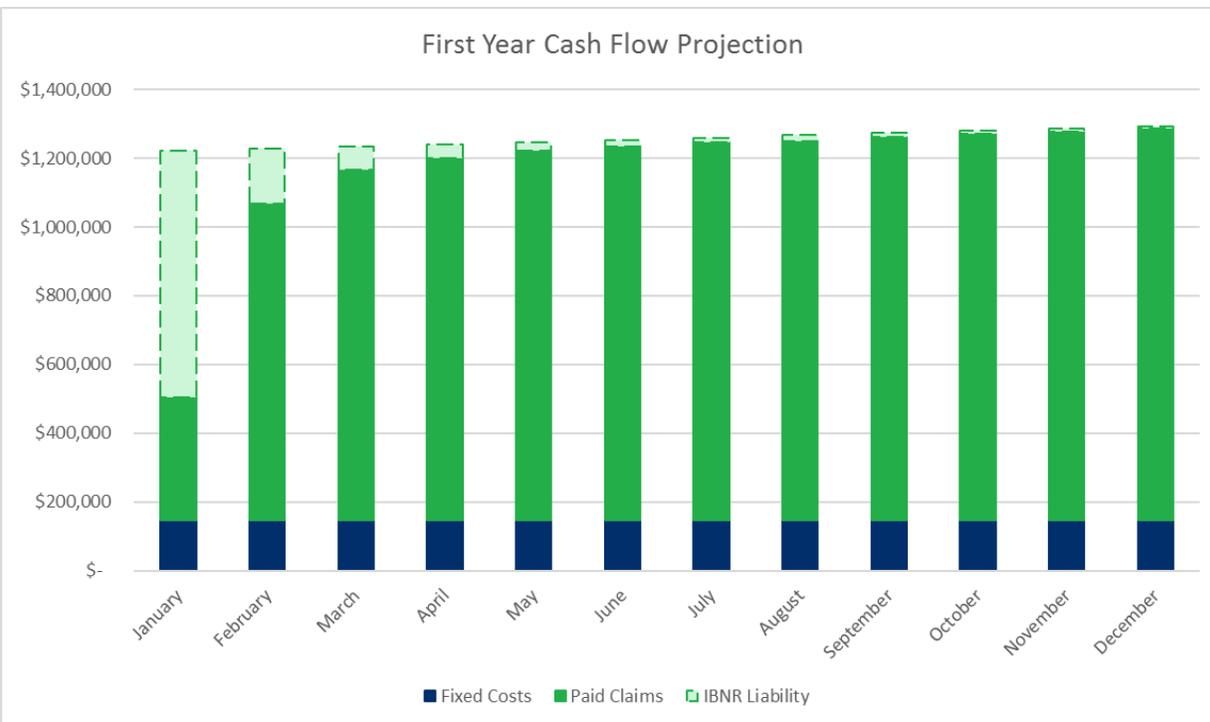
**Expected Annual Cost**  
1,762 Members and \$175,000 Spec Level



	<u>5th Percent</u>	<u>25th Percent</u>	<u>50th Percent</u>	<u>75th Percent</u>	<u>95th Percent</u>
Expected Annual Cost	\$13,472,000	\$14,380,000	\$15,011,000	\$15,642,000	\$16,550,000
Expected Loss Ratio	90%	96%	100%	104%	110%

## First Year Cash Flows

### Cash Flow Advantage but IBNR Liability Established



- ❖ Self-funded plan only responsible for claims “incurred” January 1<sup>st</sup> or later. Due to claim lag, the cash outlay through the self-funded plan is lower in the early months as the claims incurred in first year mature
- ❖ The first year cash flow advantage is projected to be \$1.1M
- ❖ There is a corresponding Incurred But Not Reported liability (IBNR) of approximately the same amount that is typically reflected on the Balance Sheet.
- ❖ Lockton Actuarial group will update the liability calculation on a regular basis.

# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOSITY

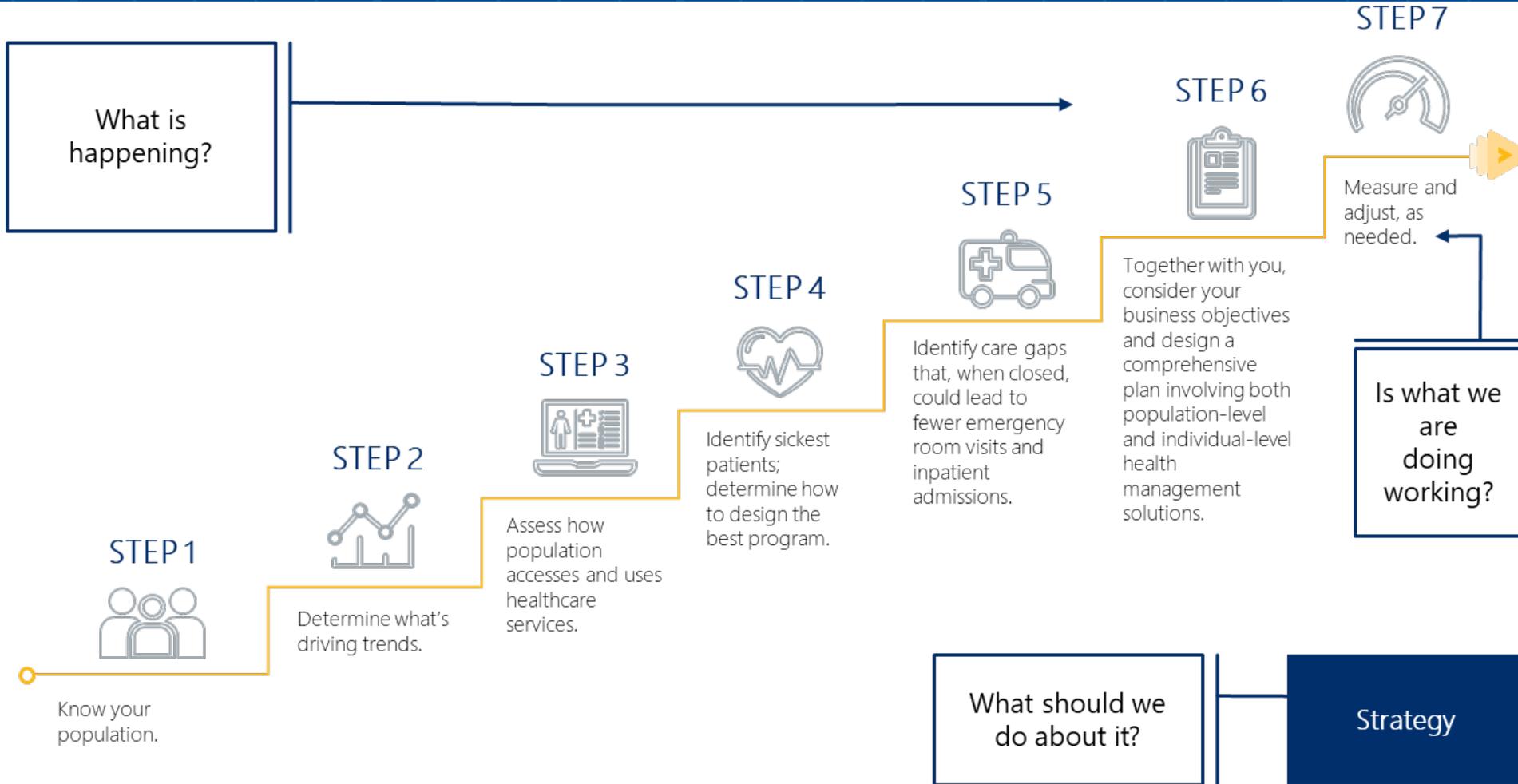
## Action through insight

### The big picture.

- Collect data from multiple, disparate sources.
- Transform and enrich data to make it meaningful.
- Skilled clinical experts to develop targeted solutions.
- Measure program performance on an ongoing basis.



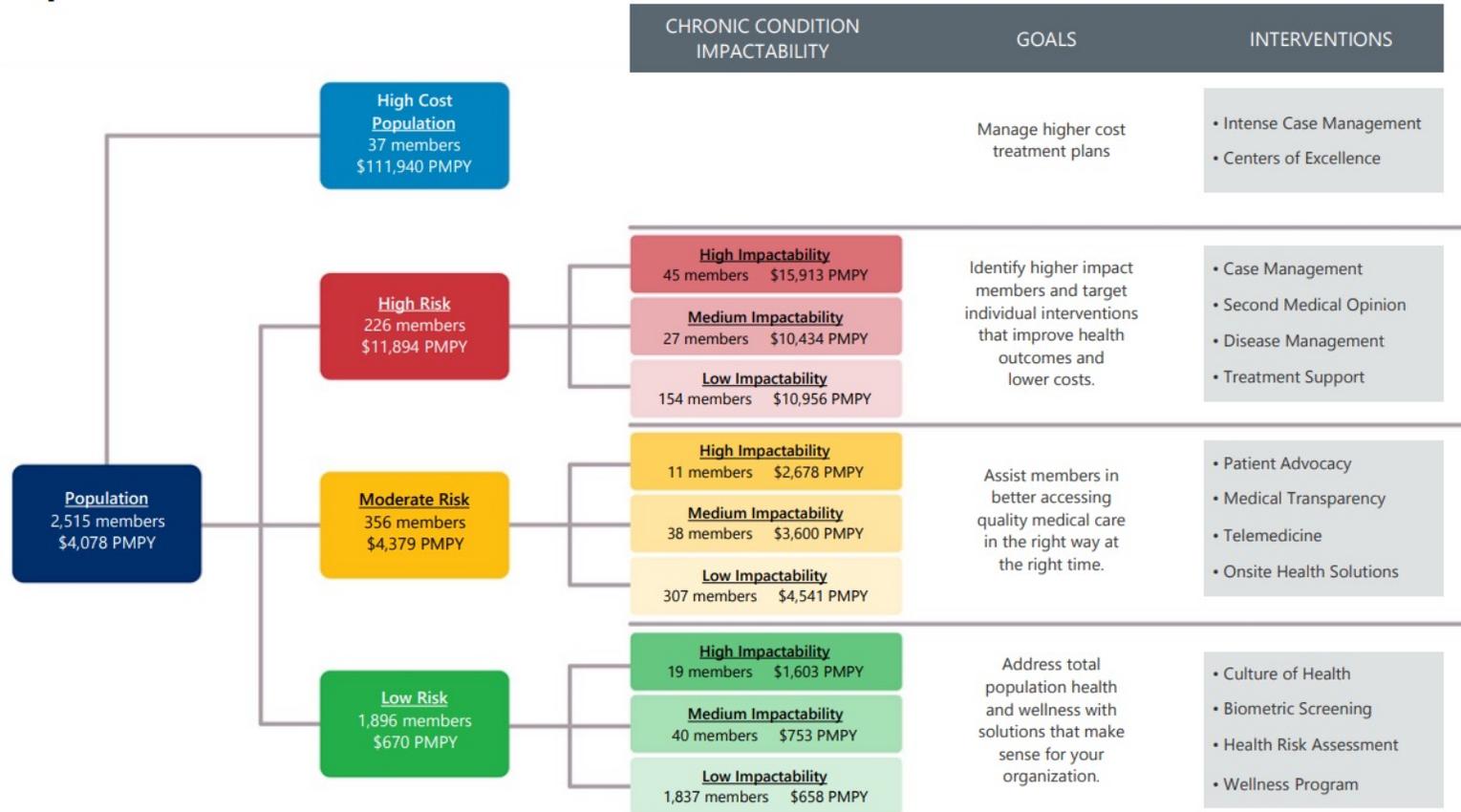
# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOUSITY



# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOUSITY

## Risk Stratification

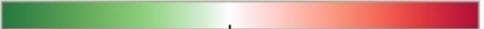
### Population Stratification



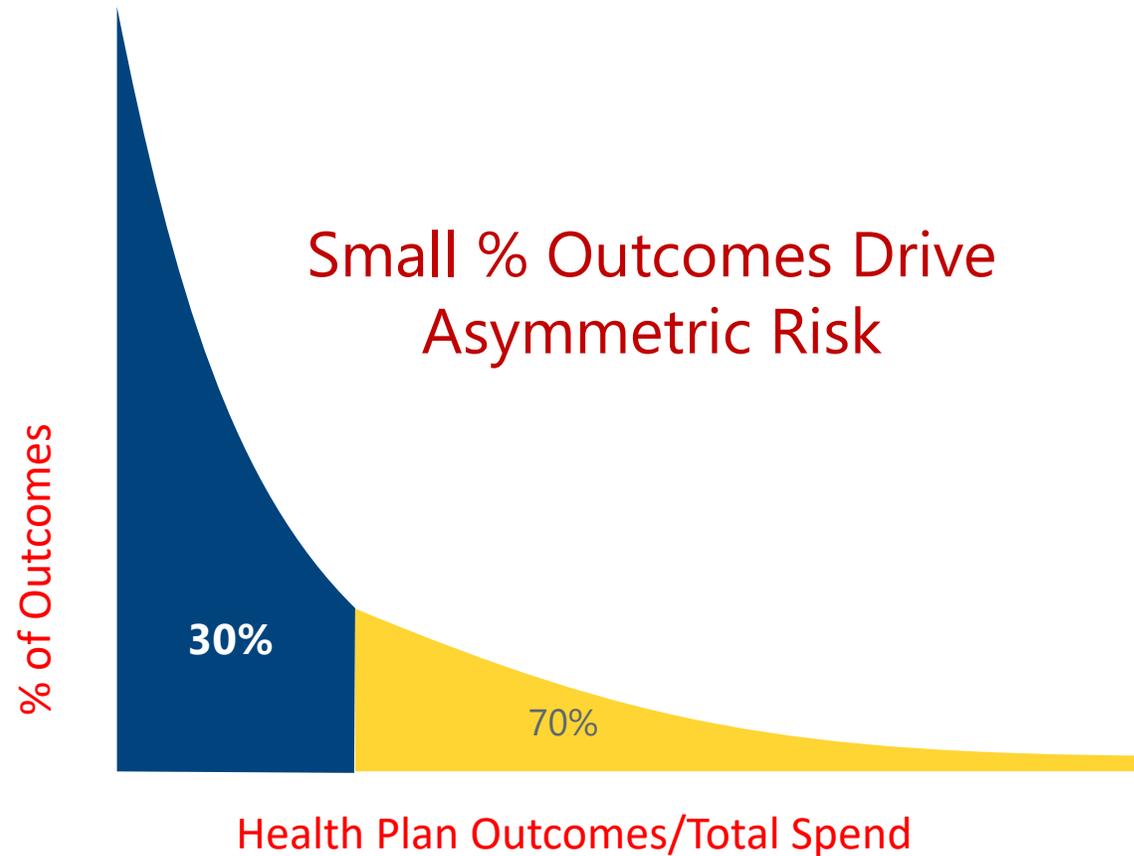
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	Location A	Location B	Location C	Location D	Location E	Location F	Location G	Client Total	Book of Business
Number of Employer Groups	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	591
Number of Current Members	1,650	788	577	494	478	293	264	4,541	2,078,239
Members with Claim Activity	82.8%	82.4%	79.0%	81.2%	84.3%	76.8%	92.0%	82.4%	81.9%
Group High Cost Claimant % of Total Paid	57.4%	42.3%	43.2%	36.7%	22.0%	19.2%	62.1%	49.9%	33.7%
Paid Total PMPM	\$645.61	\$413.34	\$310.85	\$274.82	\$381.12	\$367.77	\$555.54	\$470.25	\$406.27
Paid Medical PMPM	\$536.00	\$309.00	\$225.85	\$217.40	\$295.85	\$306.41	\$291.30	\$366.85	\$316.59
> Inpatient Medical PMPM	\$127.80	\$74.67	\$69.62	\$88.84	\$66.34	\$156.47	\$84.17	\$97.89	\$99.32
> Outpatient Medical PMPM	\$246.72	\$140.70	\$65.32	\$36.64	\$146.98	\$30.40	\$63.90	\$148.07	\$108.86
> Office Medical PMPM	\$125.47	\$66.30	\$50.74	\$73.28	\$59.39	\$68.85	\$74.03	\$85.55	\$63.75
> ER Medical PMPM	\$32.43	\$19.64	\$35.11	\$16.12	\$21.82	\$26.01	\$9.77	\$26.42	\$27.89
> Others Medical PMPM	\$3.58	\$7.68	\$5.07	\$2.52	\$1.32	\$24.69	\$59.43	\$8.91	\$16.76
Paid Rx PMPM	\$109.61	\$104.34	\$85.00	\$57.42	\$85.27	\$61.35	\$264.24	\$103.40	\$89.68
Allowed Total PMPM	\$722.09	\$487.71	\$369.04	\$336.48	\$452.76	\$428.54	\$650.79	\$542.09	\$483.56
Allowed Medical PMPM	\$603.01	\$369.92	\$275.17	\$268.96	\$355.05	\$358.07	\$364.27	\$427.47	\$379.65
Allowed Rx PMPM	\$119.08	\$117.80	\$93.88	\$67.52	\$97.71	\$70.47	\$286.52	\$114.62	\$103.90

Below BoB Norm Above BoB Norm



## Reality in the "Thin Tail" or Pareto World





## The Employer Sponsored Health Plan “Black Swan”?

What we thought we knew, we didn't. Worse, we now think we knew!

## Study Overview

### Study Abstract

- COVID-19 significantly impacted the financial performance of self-funded medical plans. This study reviews recent claims experience across a large group of employers in order to quantify and identify the drivers of the impact.

### Overall Plan Impact

- Each medical and prescription drug claims expense has deviated from actuarially established normative expectations:
- Med+Rx: **down 5.4%** = 4.4% of annual claims / Med Only: **down 8.4%** = 5.5% of annual claims / Rx Only: **up 6.0%** = 1.0% of annual claims

Figures are based on plan paid claims compared to Actuarial Normative Expectation. Rx figured do not include rebates.

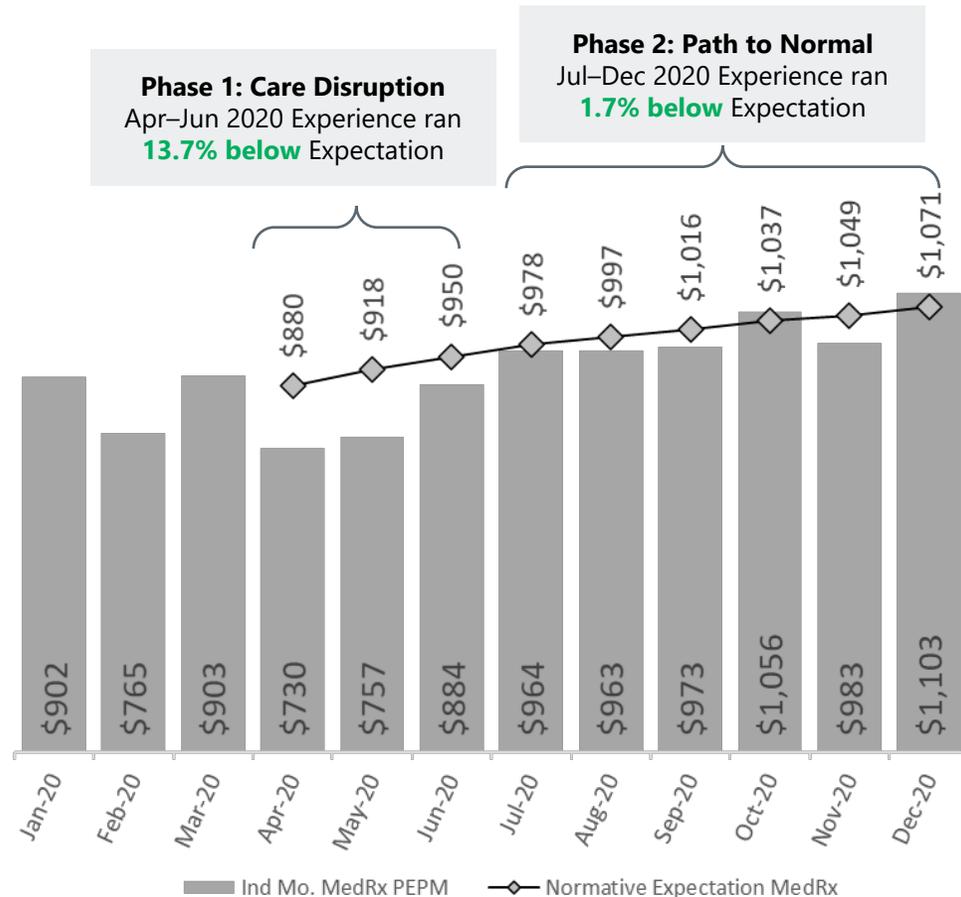
- Claims decreases significant between April and June, then reverted toward but did not exceed normative expectation between July and December
- Enrollment is **down 6.8%** from January to December 2020 but stabilized September through December

### Identified Trend Drivers

- Outpatient Surgeries explain most of the observed decrease and have not yet rebounded to or above expected
- Rebound in claims since June is attributed to office visits for COVID specific diagnoses
- High Rx trends are observed over longer-term-trends expected to be mitigated by growing rebates not captured in this study.

Study Group Profiles	Financial Reporting	Data Warehouse
Purpose	Overall Financial Performance	Trend Driver Exploration
Plans	100	39
2019 Avg. Enrollment	236k Employees	401k Members
2019 Med+Rx Claims Spend	\$2.6B Paid	\$2.1B Allowed
Data Period	Apr – Dec 2020 Paid Months	Apr – Nov 2020 Paid Months

## Lockton COVID-19 Study



### Group Profile

- **100 Employers**
  - Min: 604, Max: 15,000
- Total Enrolled EEs: 252,000
- Total Plan Med + Rx claims: \$2.7B

### Results

- Med & Rx: **Down 5.4%** (April to December)
- Med: **Down 8.4%**
- Rx: **Up 6.0%**
- Enrollment: Down 6.8% from January to December 2020
- Surgeries account for 54% of decreased med claims
- Lockton expects 50 – 60% of the decreased claims to return to the plan over the next 12 months

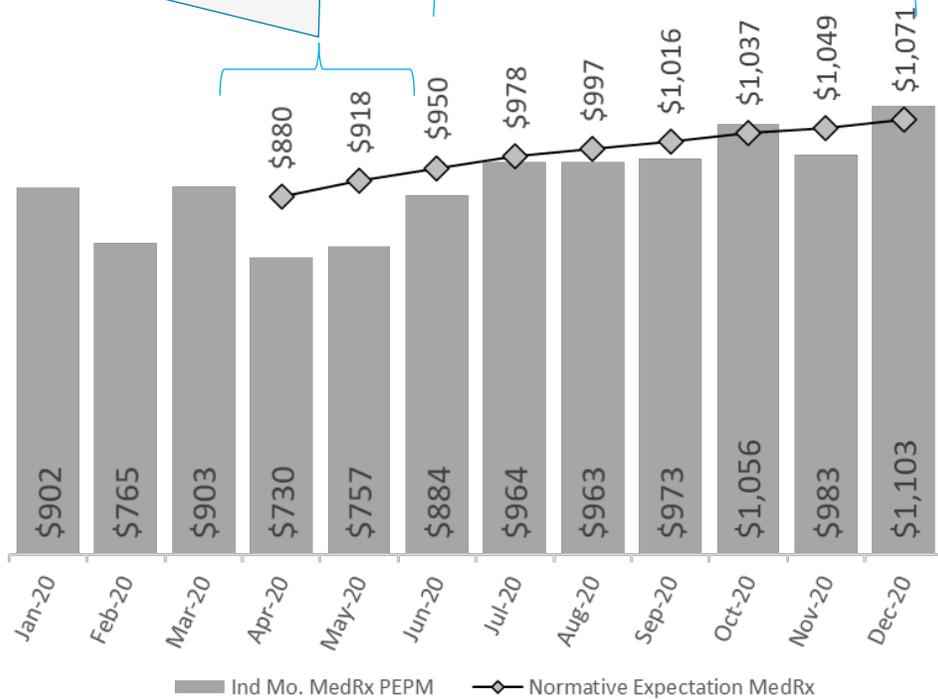
Note: Figures are compared to Actuarial Normative Expectation

## Experience Overview

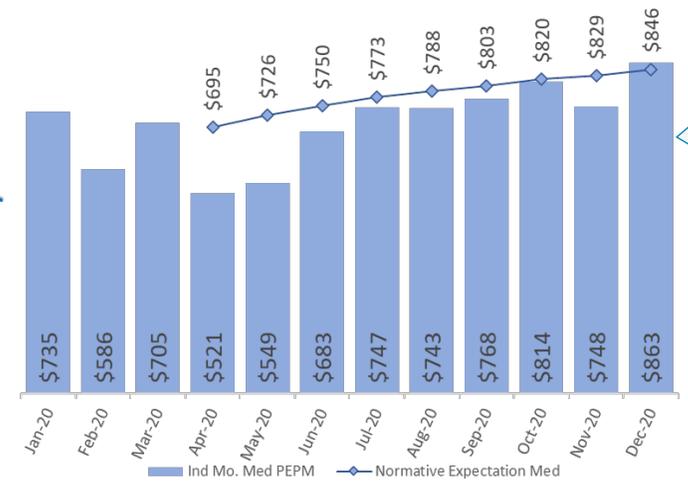
**Phase 1: Care Disruption**  
Apr-Jun 2020 Experience ran **13.7% below**  
Expectation = 3.5% of annual claims

**Phase 2: Path to Normal**  
Jul-Dec 2020 Experience ran **1.7% below** Expectation  
= 1.0% of annual claims

### Medical + Rx Claims



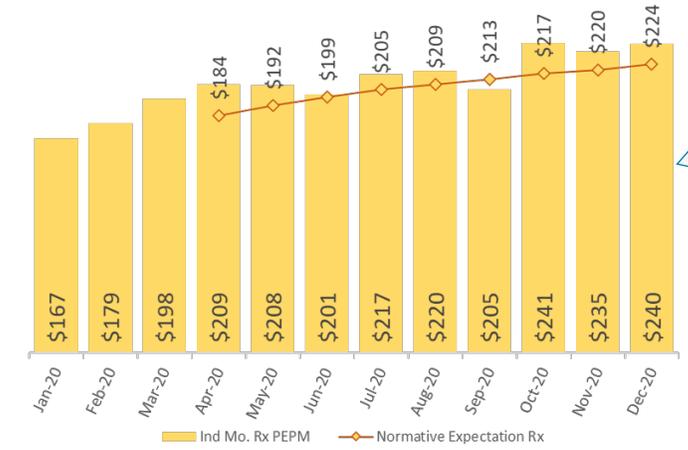
### Medical Only Claims



**Medical Only**

- Phase 1: 19.3% below
- Phase 2: 3.6% below

### Rx Only Claims



**Rx Only**

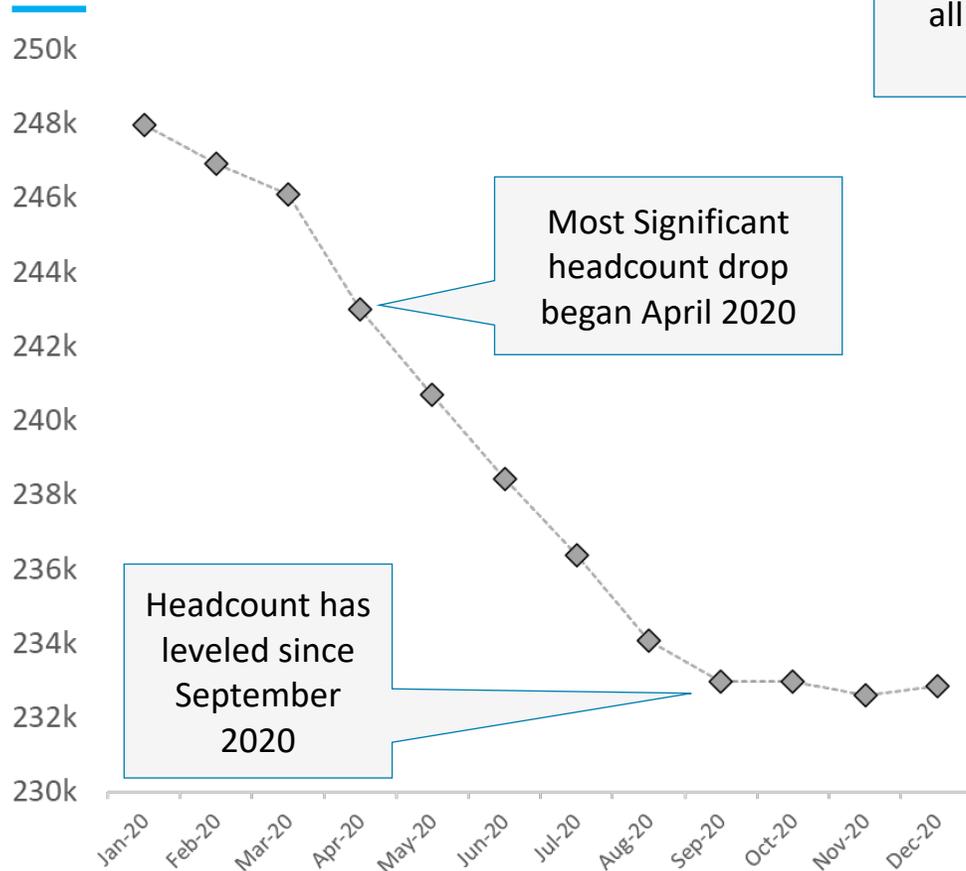
- Phase 1: 7.4% above
- Phase 2: 5.3% above

Note: Rx claims do not include Rebates

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## Plan Enrollment

Monthly Enrollment



Decreases are observed across all industries

Most Significant headcount drop began April 2020

Headcount has leveled since September 2020

Most Significant decreases are observed in Energy

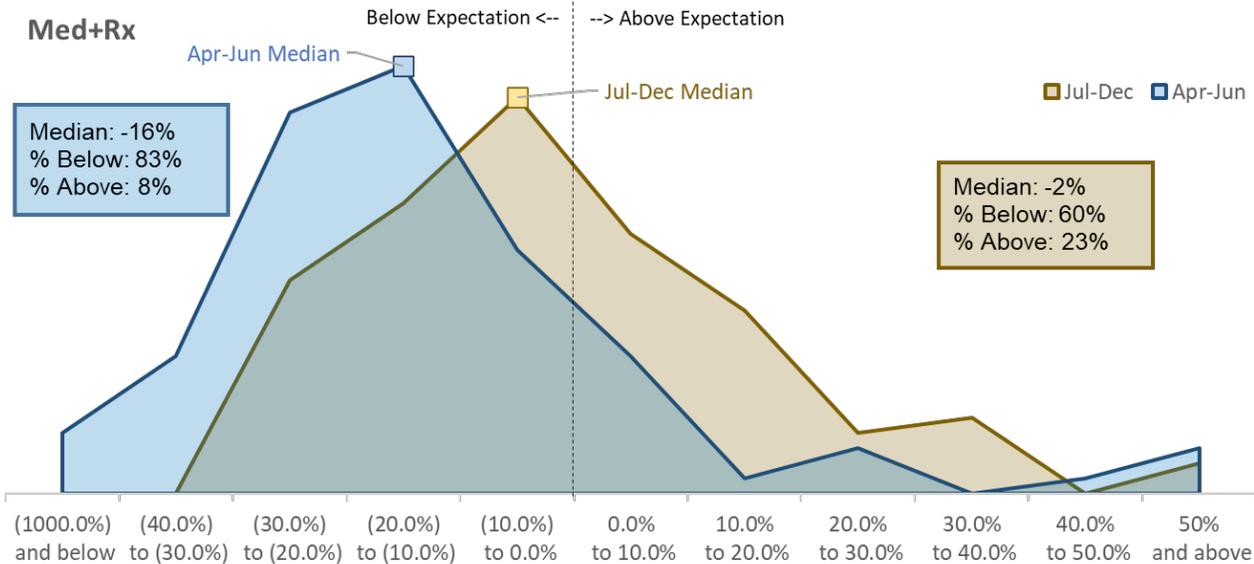
Industry	Employers	Jan 2020	Dec 2020	% Change
Other (Retail, Tech, etc.)	33	67,398	58,008	-13.9%
Professional Services	27	52,528	49,907	-5.0%
Construction / Manufacturing	22	49,067	46,627	-5.0%
Healthcare	17	75,097	73,064	-2.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>244,090</b>	<b>227,606</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>

Sub Industry	Employers	Jan 2020	Dec 2020	% Change
Energy	4	8,063	5,978	-25.9%
Other	19	32,618	27,135	-16.8%
Food/Beverage	5	4,720	4,052	-14.2%
Engineering	3	7,758	7,109	-8.4%
Retail	2	14,239	13,734	-3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>67,398</b>	<b>58,008</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>

## Distribution of Plan Experience

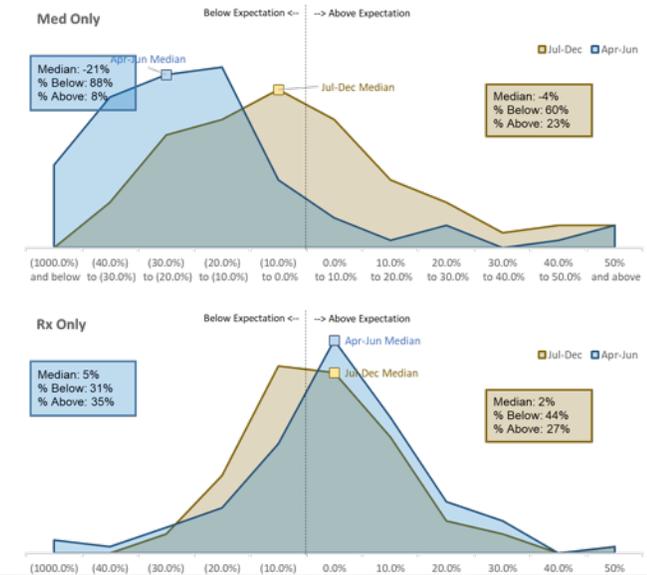
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Nov
% of Plans with Below Expectation	83%	60%
% of Plans Significantly* Below Expectation	67%	33%

Note: significance threshold 10% based on observed quarterly standard deviation

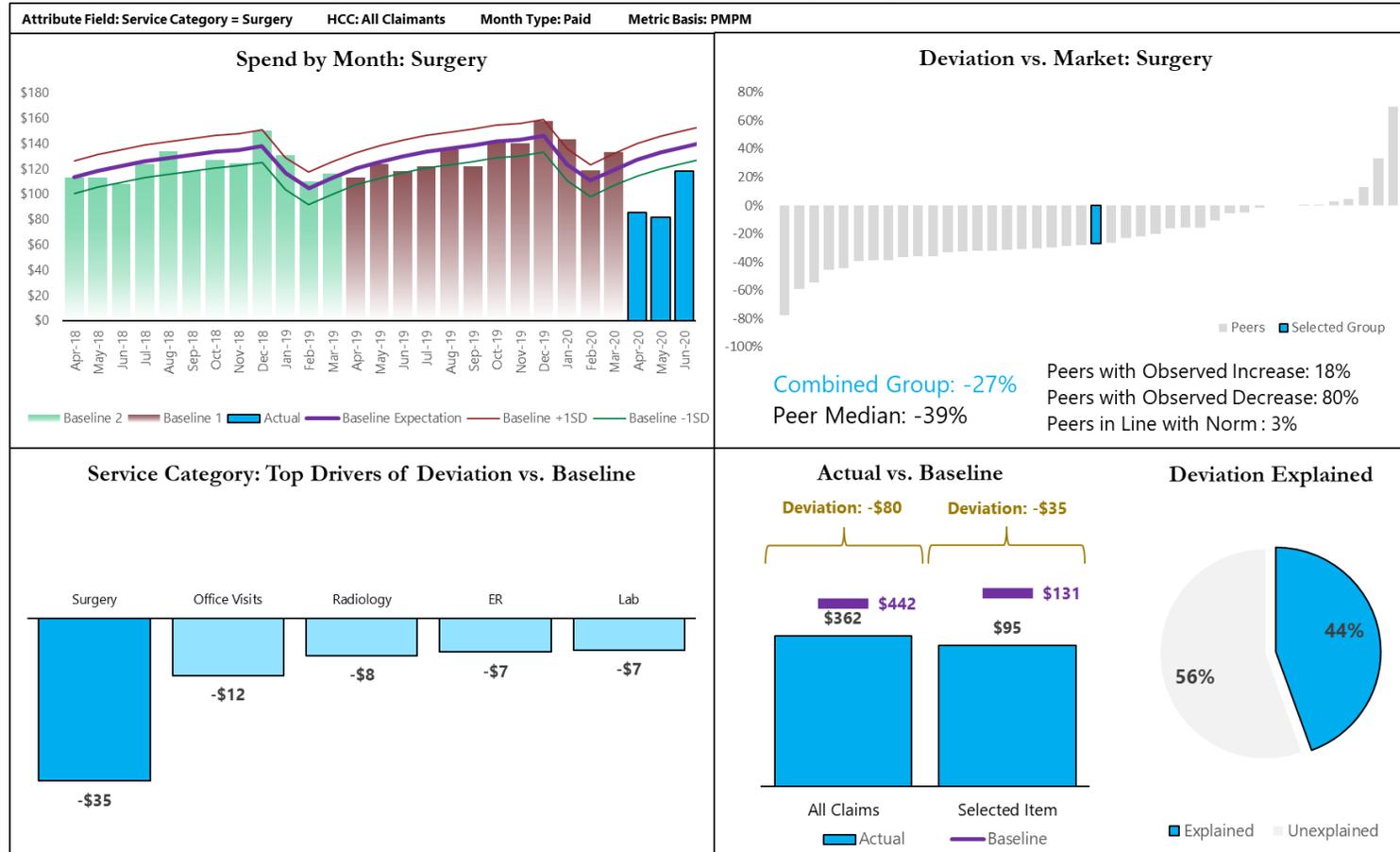


Rank	Industry	Count	Apr-Jun	Jul-Nov
1	Healthcare	17	-17.2%	-4.5%
2	Professional Services	27	-15.9%	-5.4%
3	Other (Retail, Tech, etc.)	33	-15.1%	0.1%
4	Construction/Manufacturing	22	-13.8%	1.0%

Note: Rank based on observed drop Apr-Jun 2020



## Statistical Screening – Phase 1 (April through June)



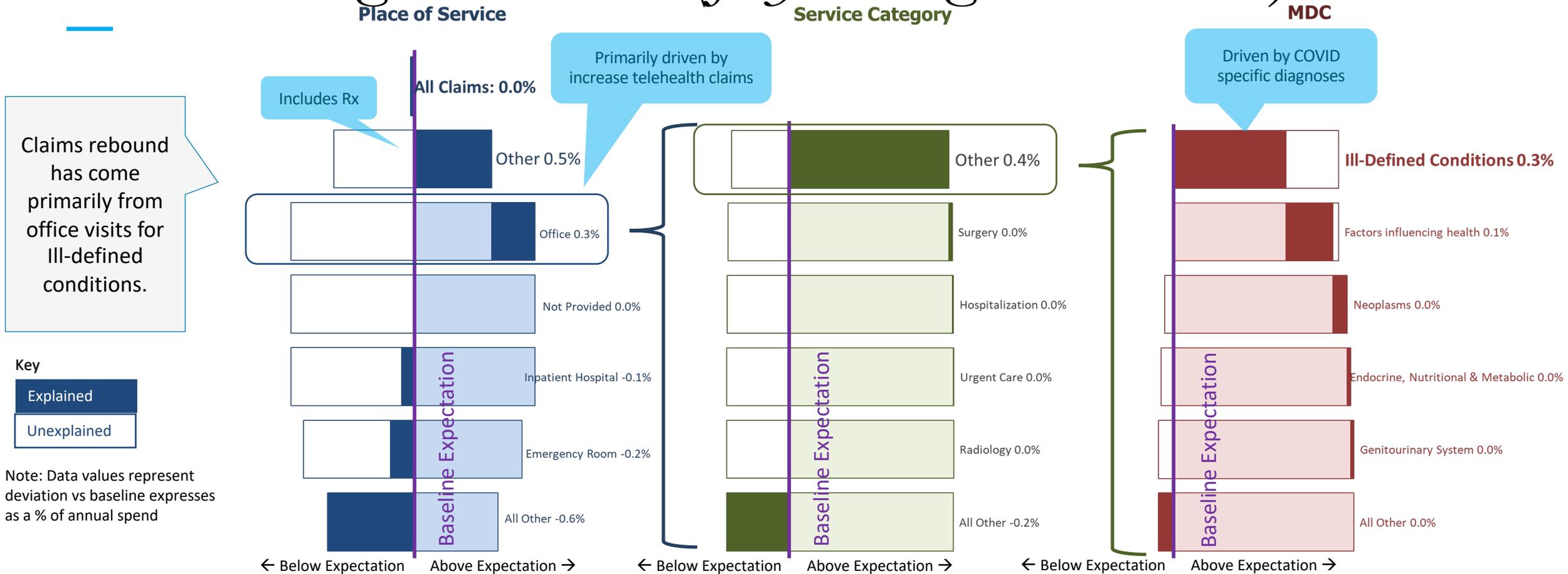
Surgical expenses ran within normal variance of baseline until April 2020 and returned within normal variance of baseline by July

Surgeries are the leading driver of deviation amongst service categories

80% of observed plans experienced decreases vs baseline-expectation

Drop-in surgeries explain 44% of overall observed deviation

## Data Mining – Phase 2 (July through November)

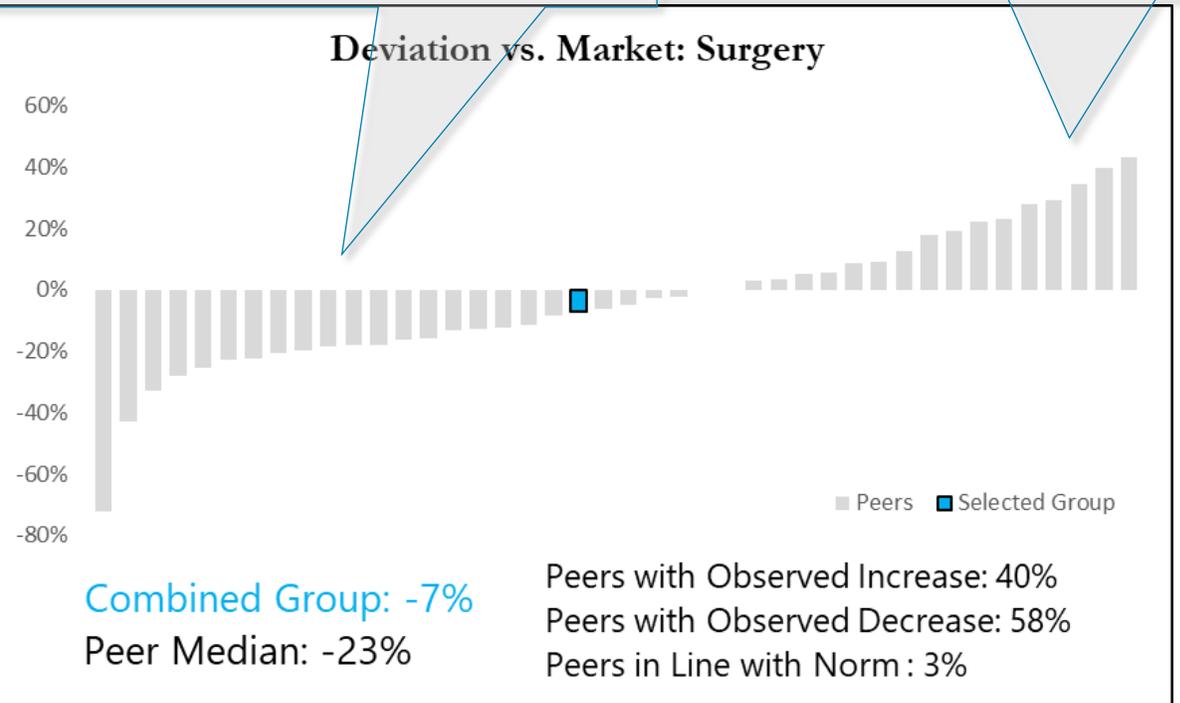
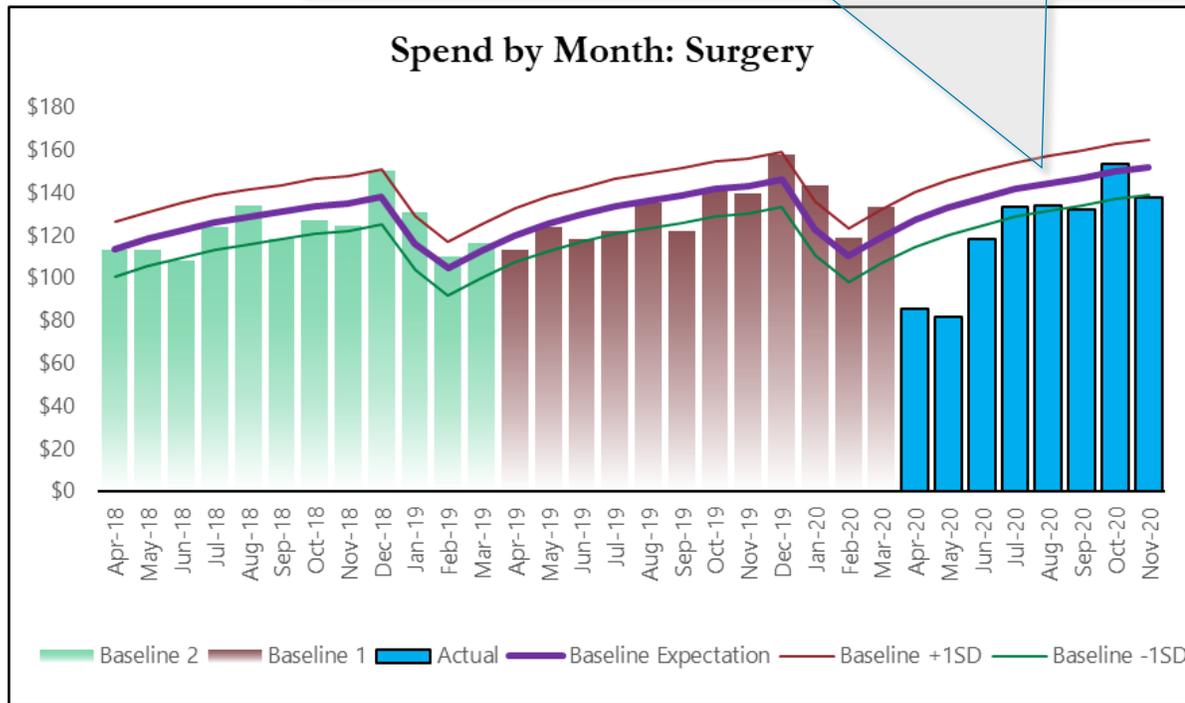


## Statistical Screening – Phase 2 (July through November): Surgeries

Surgeries have rebounded toward but have not exceeded expectation

Majority of employers have experienced lower-than-expected surgeries

Some employers have experienced higher-than-expected surgeries





## Post “Black Swan” World

Again, we thought we knew.....

## *Marketplace: Medical Trend Inflat*

In a healthcare world that has seen an annual trend of 3-5%<sup>1</sup>, it's difficult to know exactly how future trend will be impacted by COVID-19

### "Traditional" Inflat

- Aging population
- Rising labor costs
- Provider consolidation
- Specialty pharmacy
- Confusion/waste navigating the health system
- Clinical/technological advances
- Uncapped claims

### "COVID-19" Inflat

#### NEW

- Deferred care
- Mental health/substance abuse
- 100% covered testing, treatment and telehealth
- Vaccines

Unit cost increases are sparking the need for change in the system and COVID-19 has magnified some of the opportunities

<sup>1</sup>Lockton trend study, March 2020.

## *Future Rush Modeling*

- Apr – Oct experience deviation below norm equates to 2.8% of annual spend
- 66% of the drop in financial experience is expected to manifest into future claims expense

Service Category	Deviation % of Annual Spend	Expected Future Rush Likelihood	Future Rush % of Annual Spend
Surgery	-1.5%	High	1.1%
Office Visits	-0.6%	Moderate	0.3%
ER	-0.6%	Low	0.2%
Radiology	-0.4%	Low	0.1%
Lab	-0.4%	Moderate	0.2%
All Other	-0.7%	Low	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>		<b>1.9%</b>

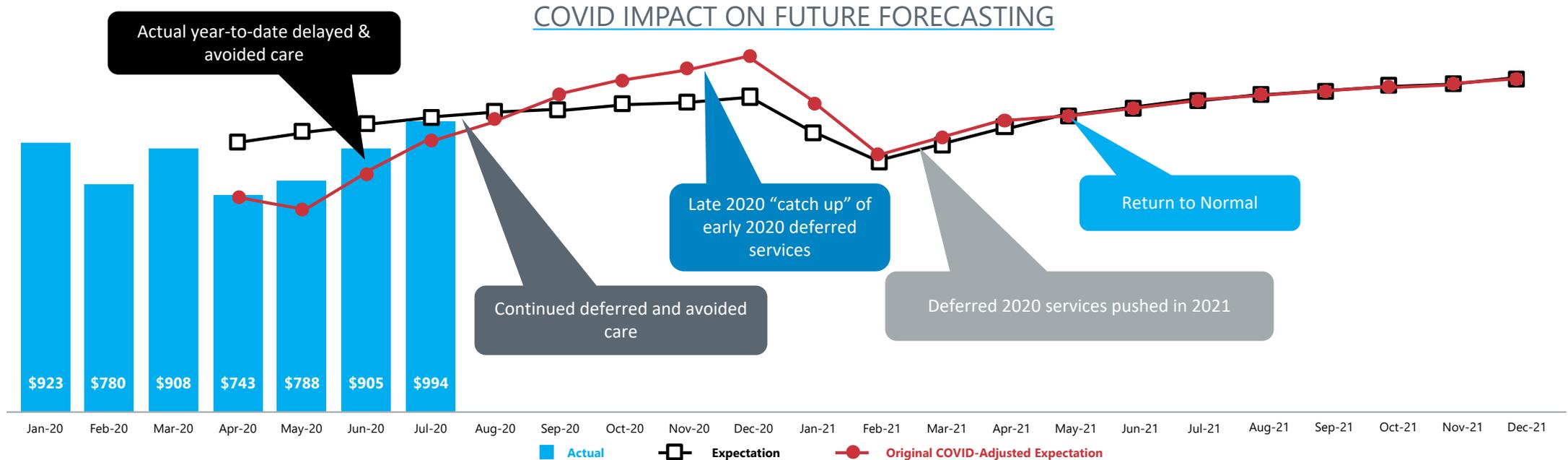
- Drop in surgical spend explains 52% of observed experience decrease. This category has the highest expected likelihood of future rush as delayed services are expected to continue to be need in the future
- The drop-in services like ER Visits are expected to have low likelihood of future claims rush (will largely be avoided care)

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20
	-0.6%	-0.7%	-0.3%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.1%
	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%
	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.0%
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	-1.2%	-1.4%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.2%

## Forecasting

- Emerging Experience has supported Lockton's initially established COVID-19 forecasting
- Revising original estimates for emerging data would remove 1.1% from 2021 forecasting

% of Annual Claims		
Year	Original	Revised
2020	-3.0%	-2.1%
2021	+1.5%	+0.4%



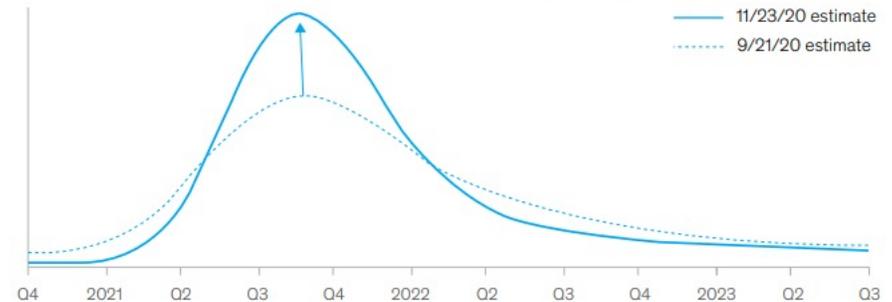
## *The End is Near(er)*

- Current estimate is that herd immunity will be achieved by Q3/Q4 2021
- Variables
  - No safety issues
  - No supply chain issues
  - Vaccine acceptance rate
  - Long immunity duration
  - Meaningful natural immunity
  - Transmission prevention

Exhibit 1

Main effect of recent news is to increase confidence in Q3–Q4 2021 as most likely timeline to achieve herd immunity.

Probability of functional end<sup>1</sup> to COVID-19 pandemic in US<sup>2</sup> by quarter (illustrative)



Early herd immunity if:

- Vaccine rollout and adoption is faster than expected
- Natural immunity is significantly higher than realized

Peak probability of herd immunity (Q3/Q4 2021) driven by:

- Emergency use authorization (EUA) of 1+ candidates in Dec 2020/Jan 2021
- Biologic license application (BLA) (with full approval by March/April 2021)
- Approximately 6 months for manufacturing, distribution and sufficient adoption to reach herd immunity

Later herd immunity if one or more of the following occur:

- Safety issues delay EUA and/or BLA
- Manufacturing/supply chain issues slow rollout
- Adoption is slower than anticipated
- Duration of immunity is short
- Vaccine prevents disease progression but does not meaningfully reduce transmission

<sup>1</sup>A functional end to the epidemic is defined as reaching a point where significant, ongoing public-health measures are not needed to prohibit future spikes in disease and mortality (this might be achieved while there are still a number of people in particular communities who still have the disease, as is the case with measles).

<sup>2</sup>Timeline to functional end is likely to vary somewhat based on geography.

Source: Information compiled from a variety of public statements and sources (ie, Atlantic; CDC; Cell [June 2020]; FDA; MedRxiv; Nature; Nature Reviews [August 2020, July 2020]; NY Magazine; Oxford Academic; PNAS; Science; Science Advances; Science Immunology [June 2020]; WHO); interviews with relevant experts; and surveys conducted by McKinsey and others

<sup>1</sup> "Pfizer and BioNTech conclude Phase 3 study of COVID-19 vaccine candidate, meeting all primary efficacy endpoints," Pfizer, November 18, 2020, pfizer.com.

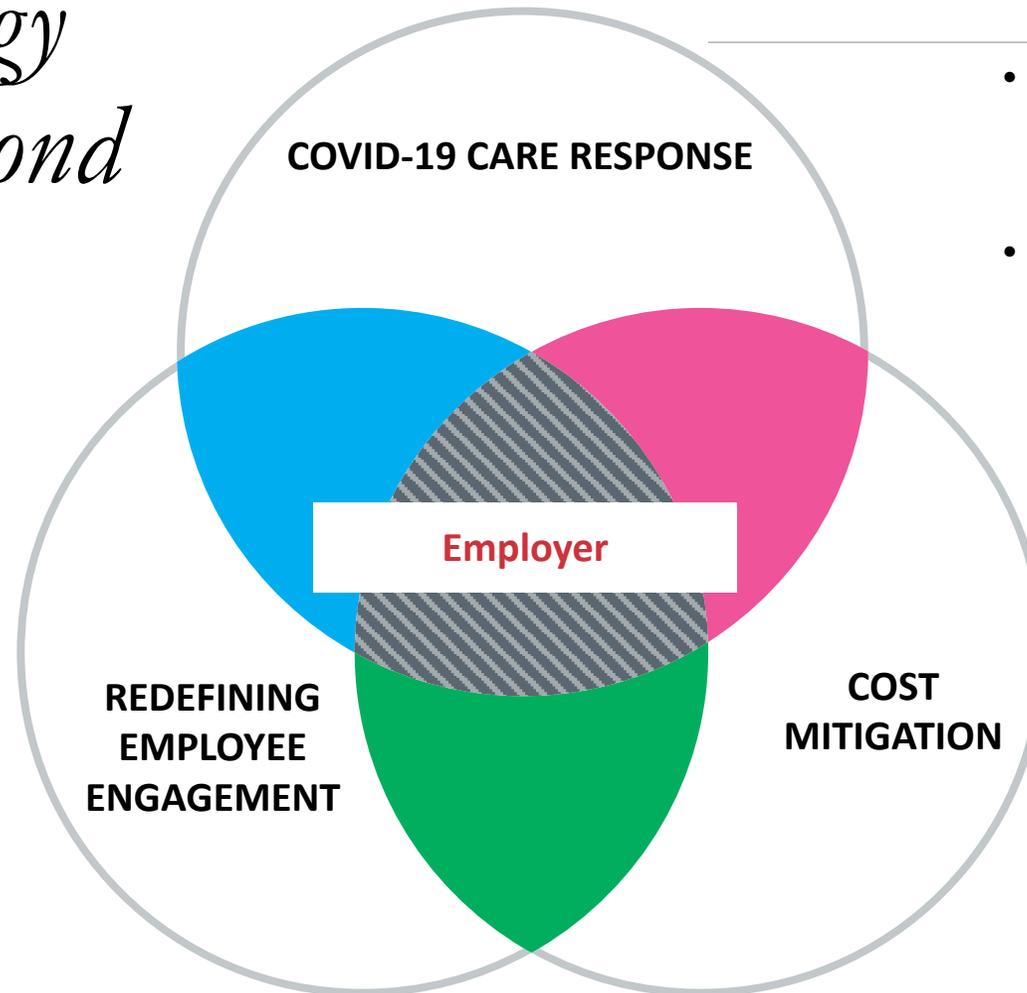
<sup>2</sup> "Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine candidate meets its primary efficacy endpoint in the first interim analysis of the Phase 3 COVE study," Moderna, November 16, 2020, modernatx.com.



## Post “Black Swan” World

What does it mean for the future state?

## *Re-Think Strategy for 2021 & Beyond*



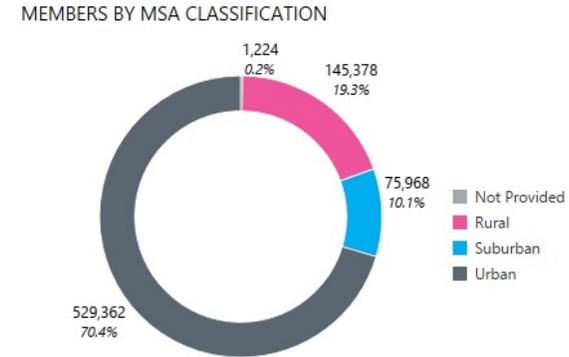
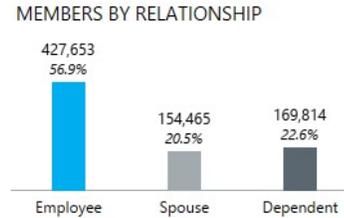
- Emotional well-being/mental health and financial well-being awareness
- Virtual care and telemedicine

- Navigation
- Personalized healthcare technology
- Work perks evolution

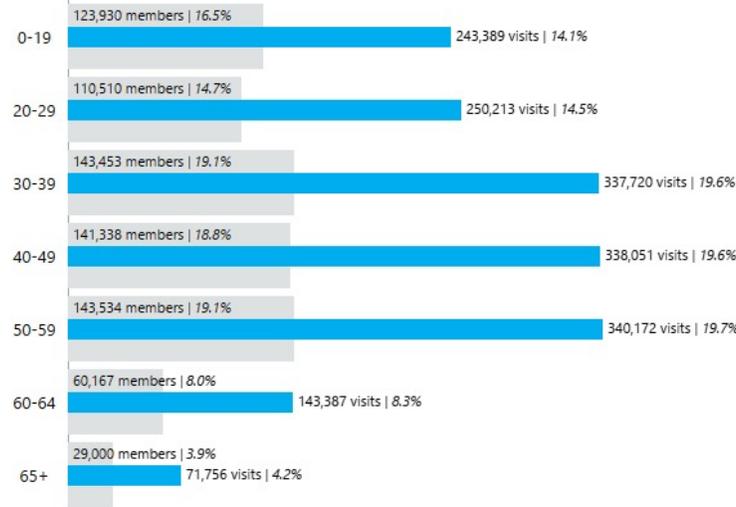
- Alternative network solutions
- High-cost claimants clinical expertise
- Expanded PBM pricing and clinical options

## COVID-19 Telemedicine

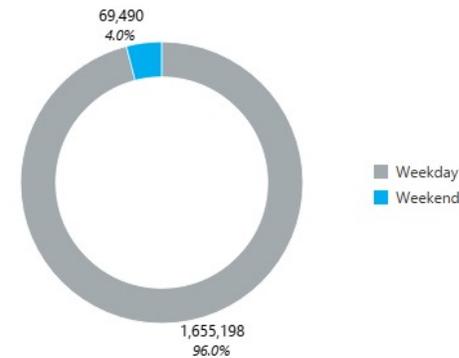
### Demographics



### MEMBERS AND VISITS BY AGE GROUP



### VISITS BY WEEKEND VS WEEKDAY

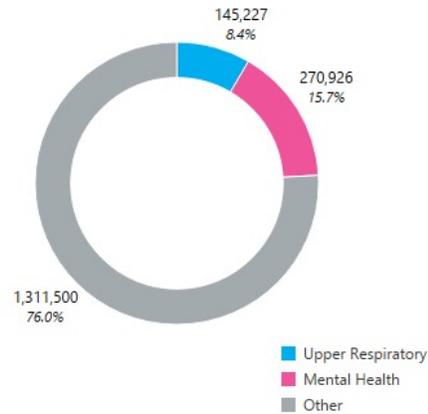


Time Period  
After 3/1/2020

## COVID-19 Telemedicine

### Dx Categories

VISITS BY DIAGNOSIS CATEGORY

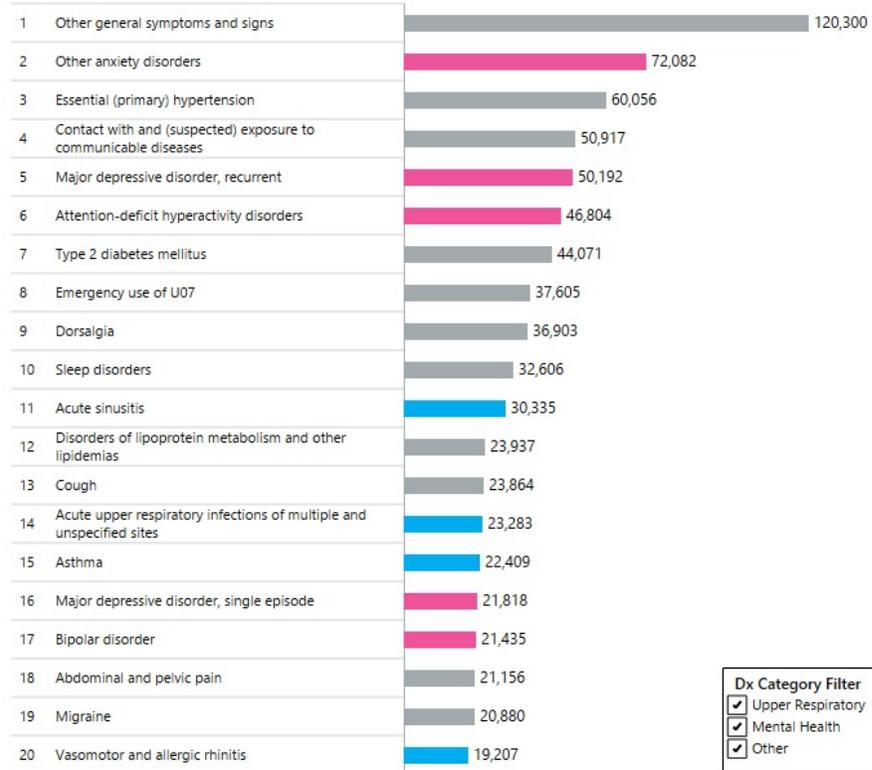


### TELEMEDICINE DIAGNOSES

Prior to COVID-19, upper respiratory symptoms such as asthma, allergies, sinusitis, etc. were some of the most frequent diagnoses for telemedicine visits. During COVID-19, visits for COVID like illnesses, chronic illness management, and mental health have increased.

Some of the most common diagnoses potentially related to COVID include cough, shortness of breath, fever, and suspected exposure to disease.

TOP 20 TELEMEDICINE DIAGNOSIS BY VISITS



**Dx Category Filter**

- Upper Respiratory
- Mental Health
- Other

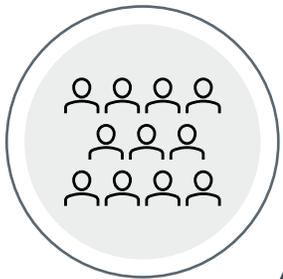
Time Period  
After 3/1/2020

# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOUSITY

## The Evolution of Wellbeing in the Workplace

### Comprehensive Wellbeing:

- Sam's Needs
- Joe's Needs
- Mary's Needs



Total Rewards

ABC Company



## GENERATIONAL NEEDS COMPARISON




**CAREER** **COMMUNITY** **FINANCIAL** **SELF**

**SAM**

- Age 25
- New to Workforce
- Married
- No Children
- Student Debt

**WHAT SAM WANTS:**

- Mentoring
- Gym Reimbursement
- Flexible Work Arrangements
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Financial Education
- Mental Health Support
- Frequent Feedback on Performance




**CAREER** **COMMUNITY** **FINANCIAL** **SELF**

**JOE**

- Age 45
- 20 Years in the Workforce
- Single
- Has Three Children
- Wants to Save for Retirement

**WHAT JOE WANTS:**

- Financial Security
- Desire to Mentor
- Community Board Involvement
- 529 College Savings Account
- Remote Work Arrangements
- Family Care Resources
- Virtual Healthcare Access




**CAREER** **COMMUNITY** **FINANCIAL** **SELF**

**MARY**

- Age 58
- 32 Years in the Workforce
- Has Two Grandchildren
- Looking Towards Retirement and Time with Grandchildren

**WHAT MARY WANTS:**

- Estate Planning
- Voluntary Benefits
- Pre-Retirement Counseling
- Wellness Screenings
- Modified Work Schedule
- Peer Support
- Personalized Healthcare Access

## *Ecosystem Approach*

### From Siloed Point Solutions to Synergistic Ecosystem Approach

- Use data to understand population health needs and determinants for the purpose of tailoring benefits strategy to population
- Take an inventory of all benefits, their purpose, population engagement, areas of program overlap and gaps
- Map employee and health plan member scenarios through the benefits, identify engagement barriers and disconnects, create an ecosystem strategy to simplify and improve the member experience
- Wrap with communication, engagement, incentive and pre-certification strategy
- Allows for valuable integration via referral and cross promotion of other benefits offered. Maximizes the value of the overall benefits strategy



## *High-cost Claimants*

### The impact of high-cost medical & Rx claims

The stop-loss industry is navigating the impact of COVID-19, specialty pharmacy and multi-million-dollar treatments like gene therapy:

#### Markets Continue to Harden

- Gene therapy treatments can cost between \$2-\$3M with a number of treatments in the pipeline seeking FDA approval
- COVID-19 claims have a wide range of cost and severity, with potential costly ICU stays and treatments.

#### Carrier Reactions

- Tightening up medical plan documents to address gene therapy coverage
- Documenting workforce changes (e.g., layoffs, furloughs) with their stop-loss carrier to ensure no claims reimbursement issues
- Evaluating their specific deductible threshold and aggregate stop-loss in light of changes to their headcount and appetite for risk

#### Employer Responses

- Programs are emerging to help mitigate the risk of costly gene therapy treatments
- 20% annual trend: Carriers are expecting to see higher catastrophic claim costs in 2021 partially due to COVID-19
- An increase in the number of inpatient admits due to COVID-19 is expected to drive aggregate stop-loss premium increases.



## What are Captives?

**Captives** are a member-based benefits solution that lets you experience the key advantages of a self-funded plan while sharing the risk with other members. This program will facilitate transparency of claims and impact long-term cost drivers by combining self-insurance and other key services and analytics.

### *Program Design Environment*

Member-owned with Centralized management.

Complete autonomy on plan design, including deductibles and co-pays.

Choice of third-party administrator (TPA) with select preferred rates.

Access to high-cost clinical claims consulting.

**Fully Insured**



Carrier-driven pricing with higher margins



Lack of claims transparency



Carrier-driven pooling levels and charges

**Captives**



Reduced margins and less volatility with group purchasing



Claims transparency



Ability to share in stop-loss profitability

**Self-Funded**



Reduced fixed costs and increased volatility year over year

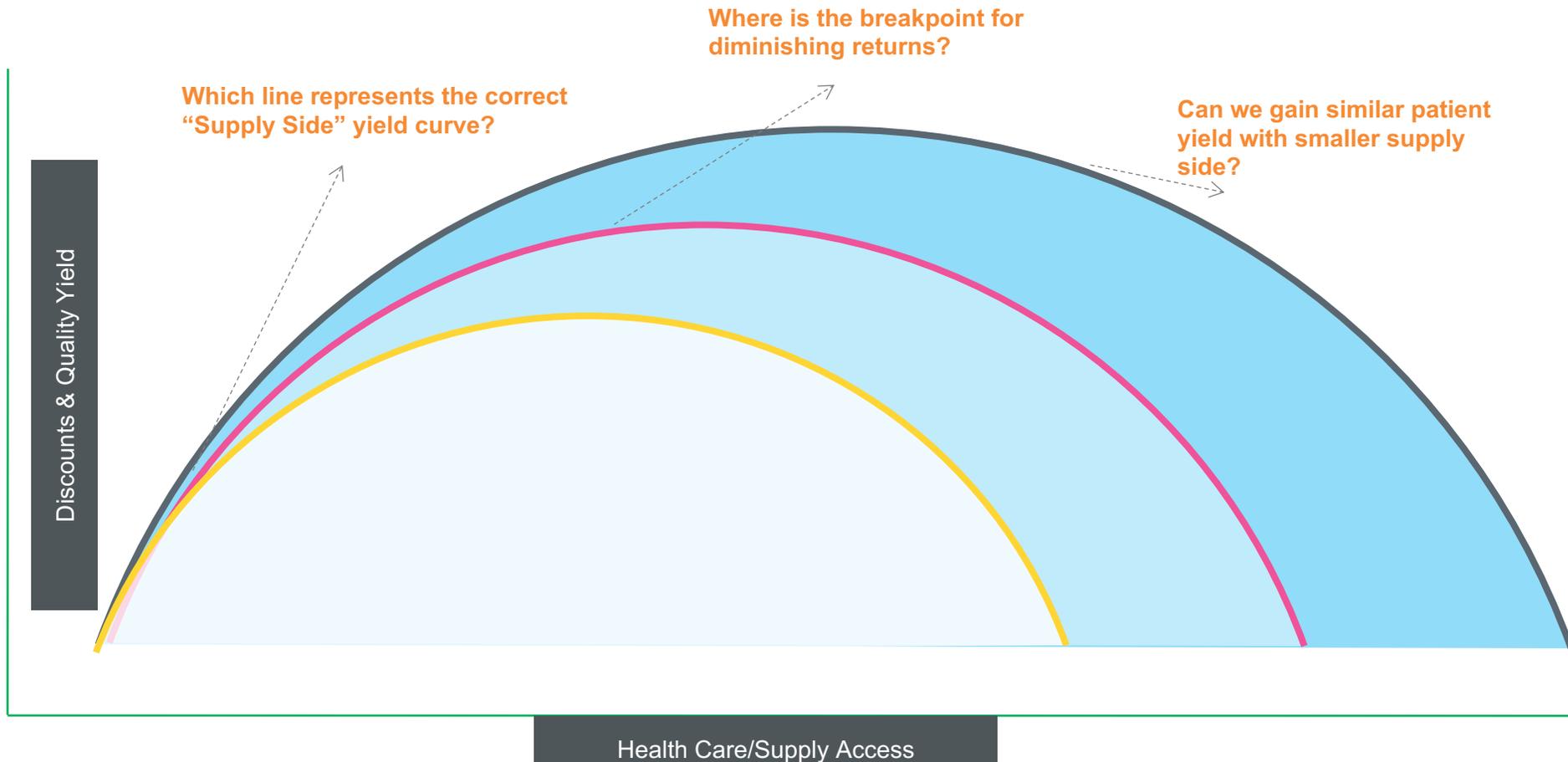


Claims transparency



Profits retained by stop-loss carrier

## What the Future May Hold: PPO Network





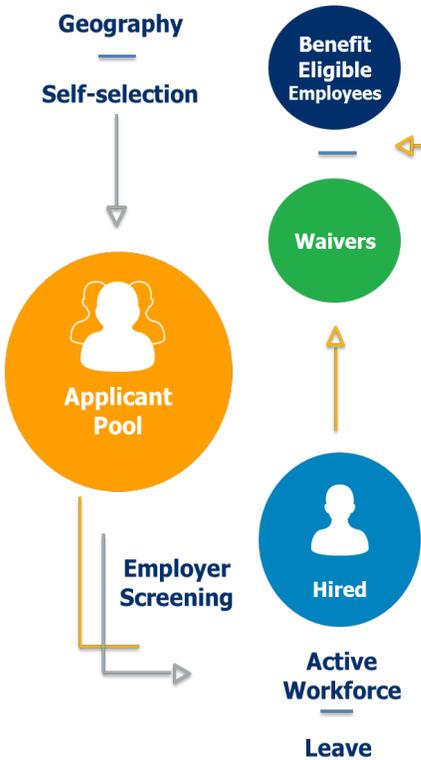
## Strategic Direction & Positioning

Designing Benefits & Budgets/Cost Centers to Recruit and Retain Labor

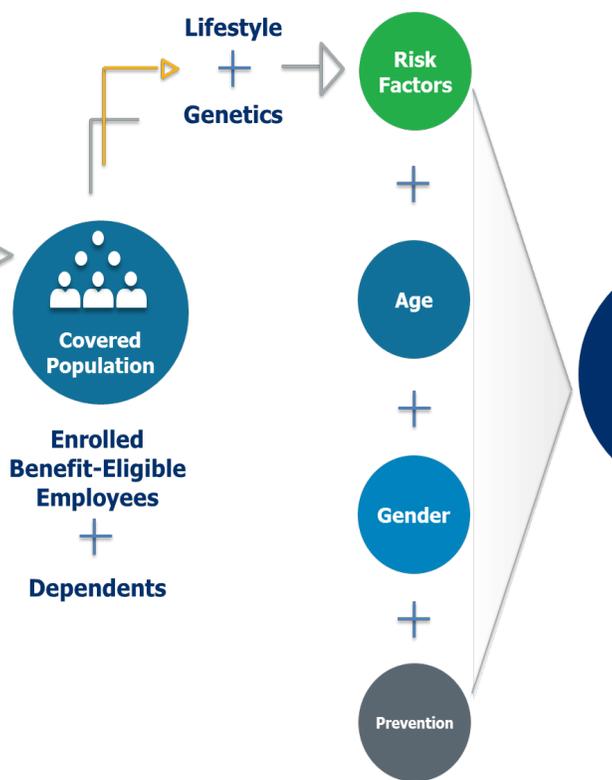
# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOUSITY

## Employer Healthcare Calculus & Cost Continuum

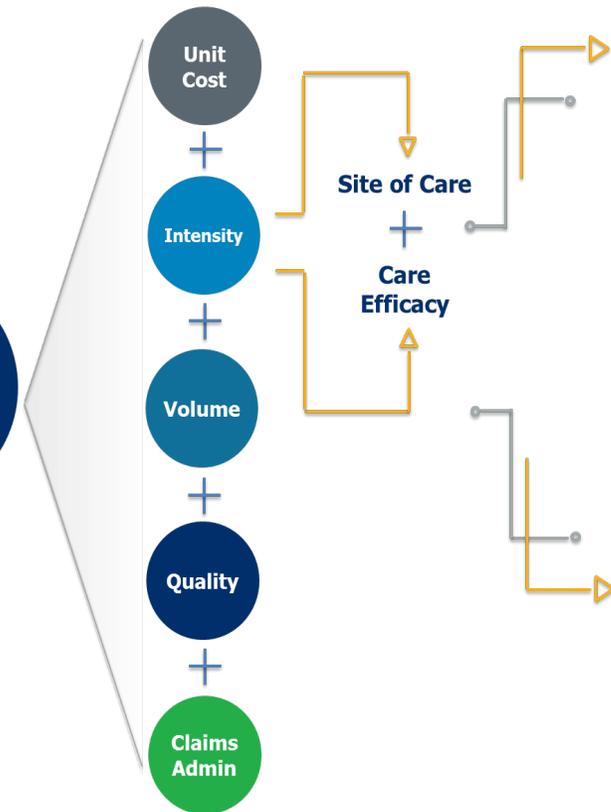
### 1 Who is Covered?



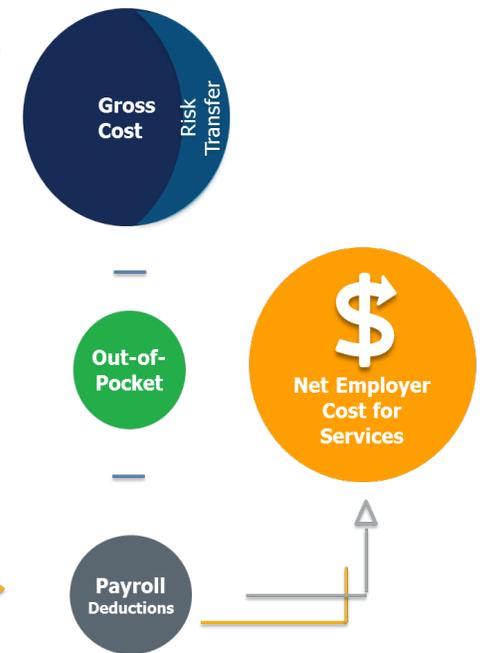
### 2 What Care do They Need?



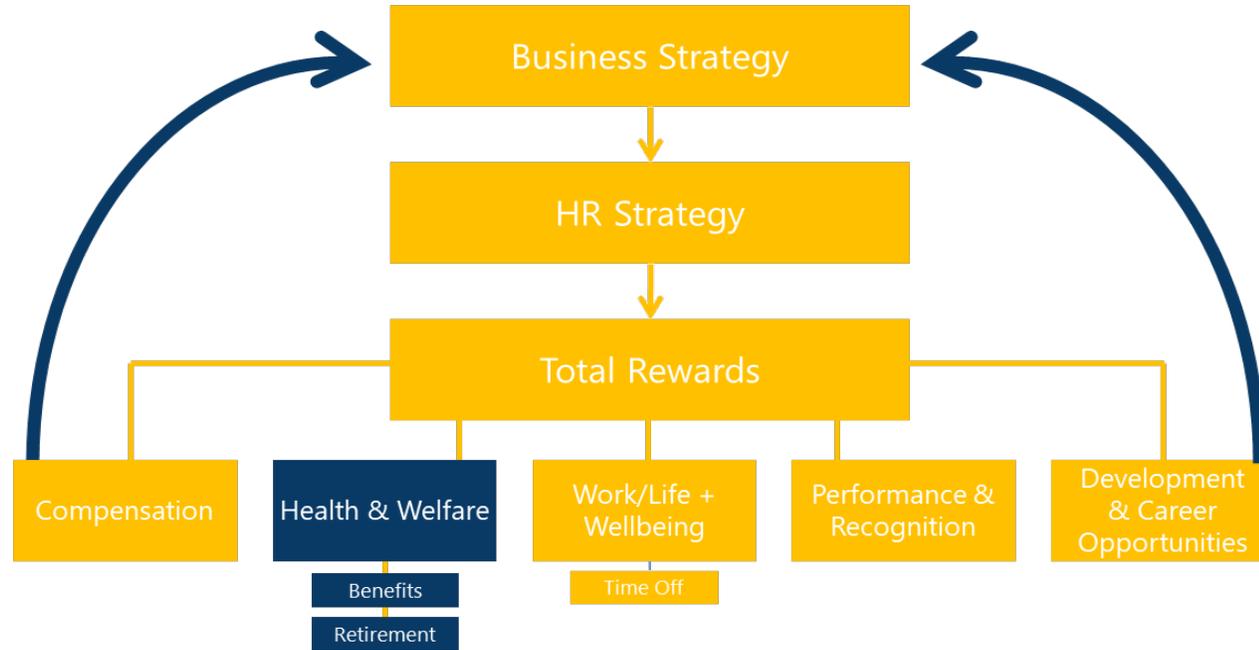
### 3 What Does it Cost?



### 4 How do you Share the Cost?



## Framing & Context for Decisions



### TOTAL REWARDS

Everything that employees receive that they perceive to be of value as a result of the employment relationship.



### EMPLOYEE VALUE PROPOSITION

The way that employees and candidates perceive a company's culture and total compensation package; a company's employment brand.

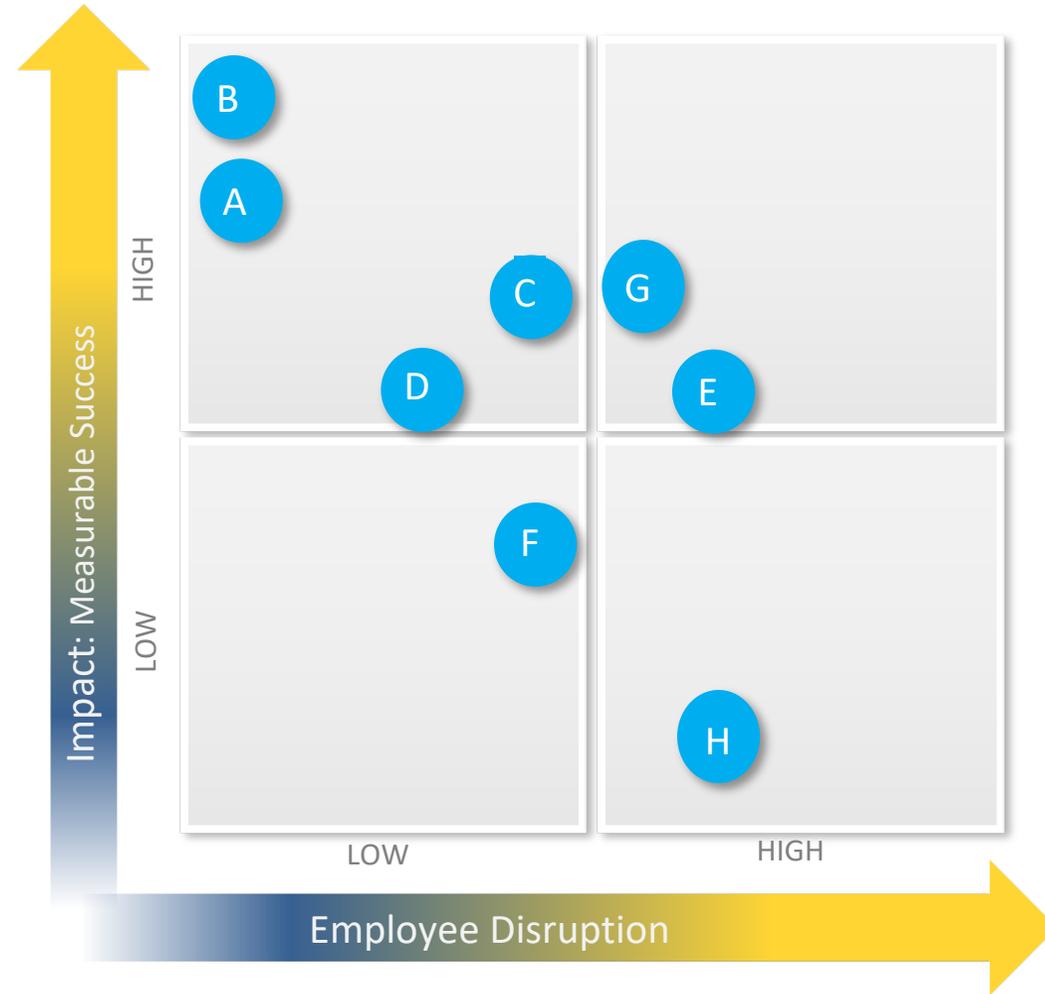
## Strategic Execution

### Benefit Plan Initiatives

#### Purchasing Efficiency

#### Tactical Initiatives

- A. Funding methodology
- B. Stop loss purchasing
- C. High-cost claimants/chronic disease states
- D. Outsourcing leave management
- E. Carve-outs
  - i. Pharmacy benefits managers
  - ii. Specialty hospitals
  - iii. Surgical management
  - iv. Subrogation
- F. Price transparency
- G. Out-of-network reimbursement Levels (percent of Medicare)
- H. Delivery Model: Cafeteria/Defined Contribution?

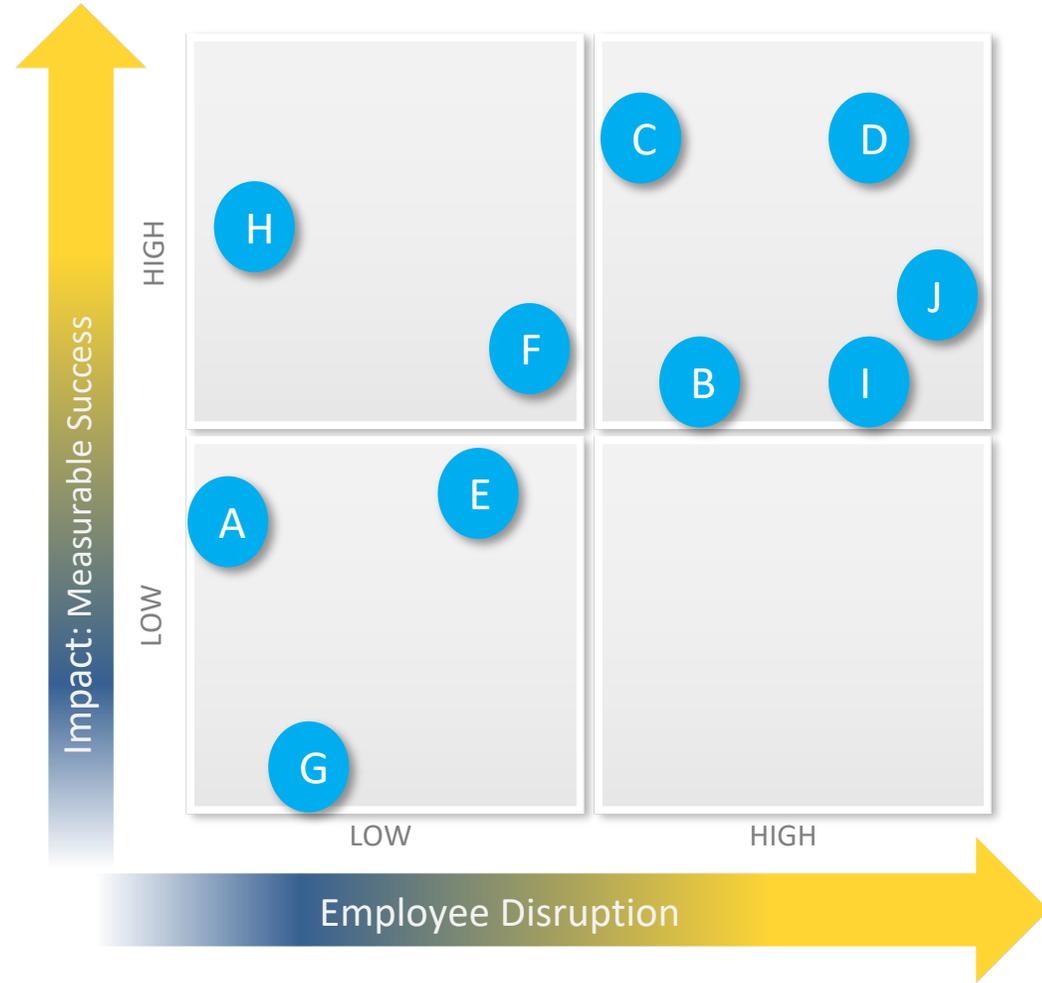


## Strategic Execution Benefit Plan Initiatives

### Healthcare Delivery

#### Tactical Initiatives

- A. National carrier-based provider networks
- B. Centers of excellence (knees, hips, spine, cardiac, transplant, and rare cancers)
- C. Specialty pharmacy management
- D. Narrow network strategy
  - i. Tiered network
  - ii. High-performance network
- E. Patient-centered medical home
- F. Accountable care organizations
- G. Telemedicine—virtual medicine
- H. Onsite or near-site clinics
- I. Medical tourism
- J. Direct contracting with providers



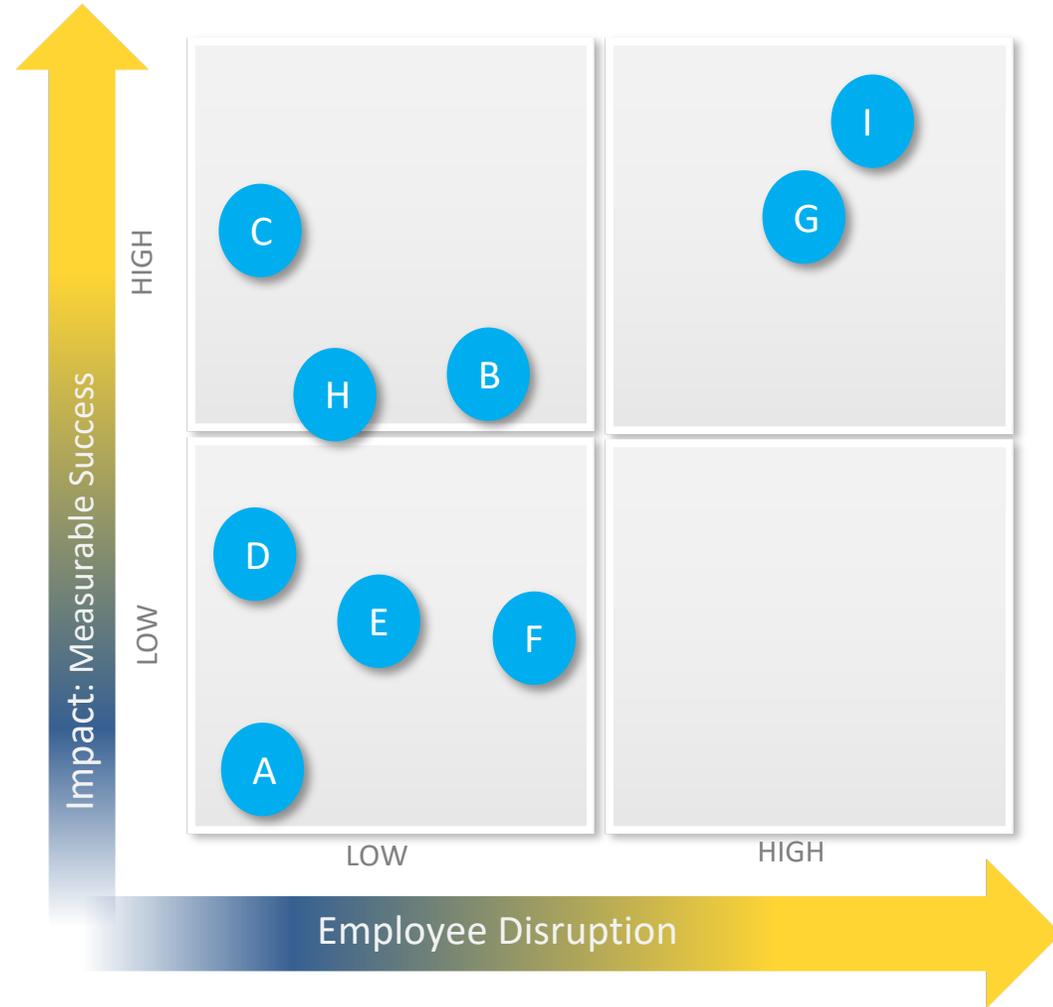
## Strategic Execution

### Benefit Plan Initiatives

#### Health and Risk Improvement

#### Tactical Initiatives

- A. Tobacco cessation
- B. Lifestyle coaching
- C. Chronic disease management
- D. Diabetes management
- E. Weight management
- F. Value-based designs
- G. Wellness and health promotion
  - i. Outcome-based strategies
- H. Bariatric surgery
- I. Integrated strategies around health and welfare, workers compensation and disability



## Strategic Execution

### Benefit Plan Initiatives

#### Eligibility Management

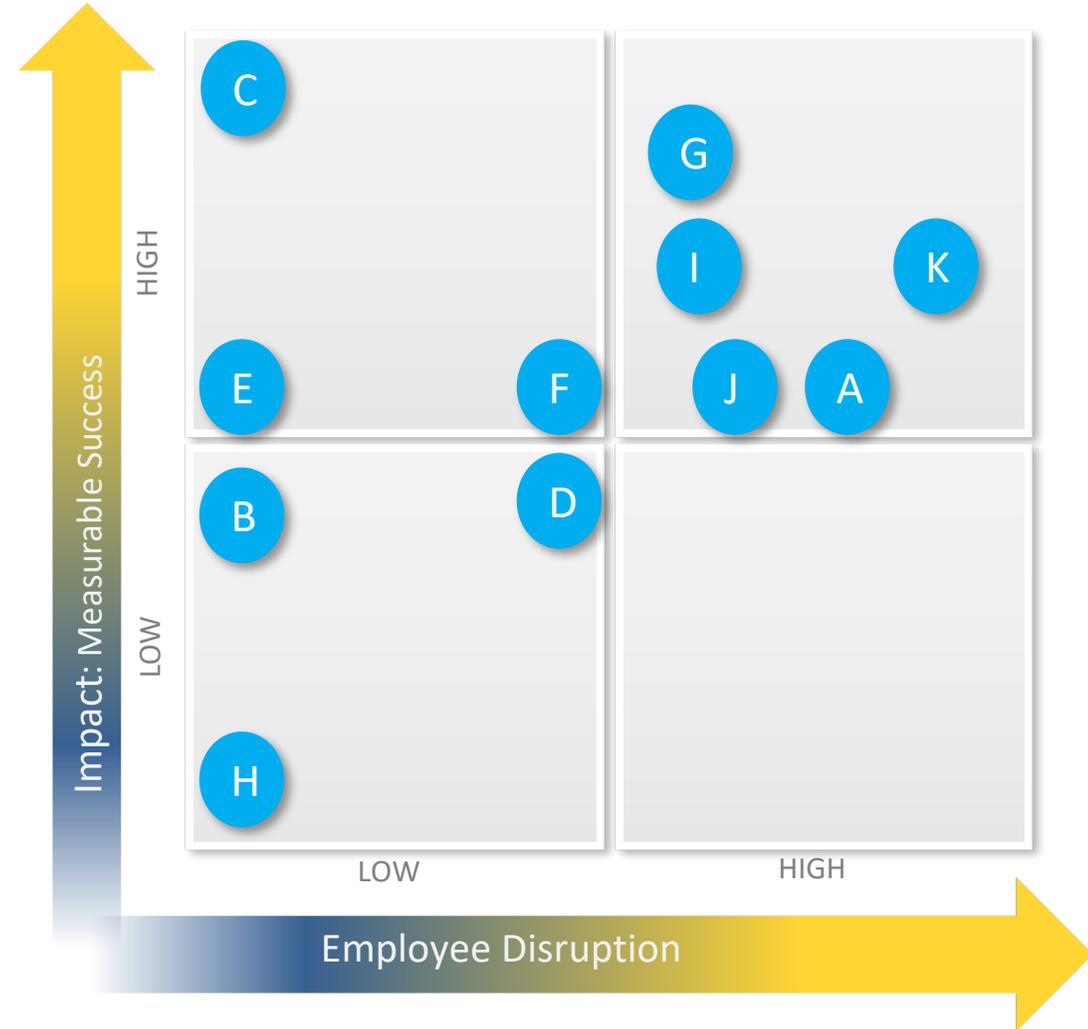
##### Tactical Initiatives

###### Employee Eligibility

- A. Part-time eligibility
- B. Waiver tracking and analysis—potential future enrollment
- C. Workforce management
  - i. Strict hours limitation
- D. Retiree exchange strategy
- E. Auto enrollment—for future compliance
- F. Public exchange strategy for COBRA participants and variable-hour workforce

###### Dependent Eligibility

- G. Contribution strategy
- H. Adding domestic partner/same-sex spouse coverage
- I. Working spouse surcharge
- J. Dependent audits
- K. Working spouse exclusion



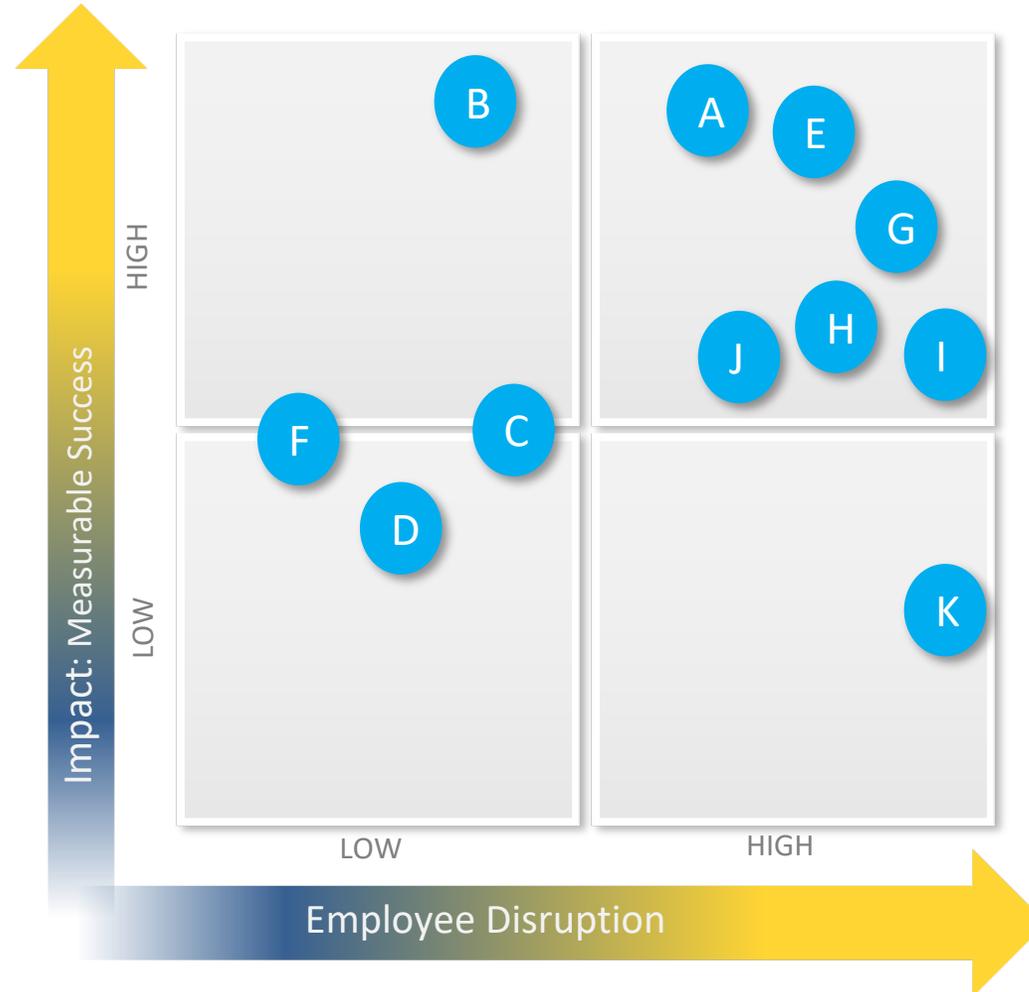
## Strategic Execution

### Benefit Plan Initiatives

#### Participant Experience

#### Tactical Initiatives

- A. Indexing of plan elements and contributions
- B. Medical and Rx clinical management
- C. Step therapy
- D. Prior authorization, etc.
- E. Consumerism
- F. Tobacco surcharge
- G. Wellness-based contributions
- H. Tiered networks
- I. Reference-based pricing
- J. Network-only plans
- K. Defined contribution (on or off-exchange)



## IDEAL Profile

Through a series of questions posed to leadership, the IDEAL Profile identifies your collective belief system around how benefits should be offered to employees. This belief system drives what benefits you offer but also the overall strategy you use to get the most value out of your investment. The questions are designed to identify the corporate philosophy on the following:



Should you as the employer try to influence your employee's wellbeing with benefit offerings?



How much employee disruption can you tolerate when making changes to benefits, and where does this fall in the list of priorities?



Understanding how to remain economical is important to all companies; how does keeping cost low align with the other priorities?



Should employees be accountable for selecting benefits that best fit their needs or guided by their employer?



Do you as the employer view benefits as one of the ways to create loyalty to your company?

A high score in one or more of these categories represents a belief determined from responses to the survey questions.

# THE PURSUIT OF CURIOSITY

## Determining Organizational IDEAL Profile

- What is your view on promoting a healthy employee population?
- In addition to traditional benefits packages, could employees be served by nontraditional benefits (i.e., voluntary benefits)?
- What is the primary purpose of offering health plans?

Employer should Influence employee's well-being

I

- What is your philosophy toward "benefits equity" across employees?
- When considering changes to your company's benefits, do you consider employee disruption?

Sensitive to Disrupting employees

D

- Is controlling costs the most important factor in delivering your benefits strategy?
- What is your responsibility to dependents?

Economical

E

- What is your role in your employee's financial security?
- What is your opinion on an employee's choice of benefits?
- Should you offer a plan that:
  - includes a broad range of providers?
  - has a small group of high-performing providers?
  - incents members to use high-performing providers (and limits costs)?

Employees should be Accountable for their decisions

A

- Are your benefits offerings a differentiator?
- Regarding the diverse needs of your workforce, should you offer an array of benefits plans that meet employee needs, pay for core benefits and provide options for other needs, or stick to simple offerings?

Benefits are a way to create Loyalty to company

L

## *Key Takeaways*

1

History is One Version of Events  
Inductive Reasoning/Learning Are Bad for Risk  
Management

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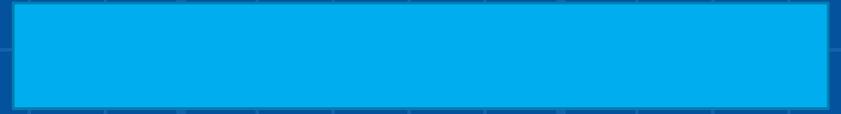
2

What Used to Be, What is, & What Will Be:  
Covid-19 Changed Health Care Delivery models and  
Workforce/Demographic Trends

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3

New Strategy – Total Rewards/Health and Welfare  
What Are the Goals: Retention, Recruit & Promote? What  
Benefit Plans Supports This?



## Update - Appendix

Vaccination Penalties etc.

## Incentivizing vaccinations

- *Outside* the health plan is an employment law issue; *inside* the health plan is an ERISA/HIPAA issue.
- By “inside the health plan” we mean the incentive is a plan-related incentive, such as a premium differential or adjustment to other cost sharing features, etc.
- **Advantage** of incentivizing inside the health plan: Likely ERISA preemption of state law-imposed restrictions on discriminating based on vaccination status.
- **Disadvantage** of incentivizing inside the health plan: Only so many levers you can pull, and limits on how far you can pull them.

*A vaccination incentives initiative under a wellness program umbrella has several advantages, including likely ERISA preemption of state-based limitations, and a fairly clear set of rules.*

## Incentivizing vaccinations: Do's

- Do treat the program as an *activities-based* wellness program.
  - Offer reasonable alternatives or waivers to those who can't or shouldn't be vaccinated due to health status or can't/shouldn't in the allotted time frame.
- Do offer a religious accommodation.
- Do limit the value of the incentive, *when aggregated with other activities- or outcomes-based wellness incentives*, to 30% of the baseline.
  - Baseline if only employees are incentivized: Total cost of self-only coverage for the coverage option in which the employee is enrolled.
  - Baseline if family members are incentivized: Total cost of the coverage tier that includes the family members.

## *How to treat employer HSA contributions as incentives*

If an employer's incentive in exchange for getting vaccinated is an HSA contribution, does that contribution count against the 30% limit?

There are arguments that the HSA contribution is not adequately medical plan related to count against the 30% (HSAs are not ERISA plans, for example), but we think the better view – and the likely view of federal regulators – is that the HSA contribution should count against the 30% limit.

## *Watch ACA issues:*

## Incentivizing vaccinations: Do's

- Do provide the incentive to those already vaccinated at the time the program is announced.
  - Don't penalize the "early adopters" for voluntarily doing what you now want the holdouts to do.
- Do maintain the confidentiality of vaccination status/records.

- ***Retroactive rewards:*** To avoid having to retroactively supply a reward or remove a surcharge, best practice is to:
  - Announce the program.
  - Give employees and, as applicable, dependents a reasonable time to comply.
  - Implement the incentive after the close of that reasonable time.

Do the same for new hires...give them a reasonable opportunity – 60 days? 90 days? – to achieve your goal before providing the incentive or imposing the surcharge.

## Watch ACA issues:

## Incentivizing vaccinations: Don't's

- Don't condition medical plan *eligibility* on vaccination status.
- Don't impose premium or cost-sharing differentials *outside of a wellness program structure*...HIPAA nondiscrimination rules will bar that.
- Don't *exclude or limit coverage of COVID-19 treatment* for unvaccinated individuals who contract the virus...even if you think not being vaccinated is a "dangerous activity."
  - ADA issues; "court of public opinion" issues?
- Don't run the vaccination program's pre-screening questionnaire process or ask a vendor for that information.

- **Affordability:** For ACA affordability purposes, everyone is deemed to be *unvaccinated* and thus the surcharge is added to the cost of coverage reported on line 15 of the Form 1095-C.

It's a moot point for individuals who enroll in the employer's plan anyway, are enrolled nowhere, or are enrolled in coverage elsewhere (other than an ACA marketplace), as they can't trigger an ACA penalty based on unaffordability of the employer's coverage offer...that penalty is triggered by ACA marketplace subsidies, and subsidies are not available to individuals enrolled elsewhere.



THANK YOU

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