

# San Francisco Health Service System Health Service Board

#### **Board Education**

Healthcare Cost Trend Influencers

Delivered by Iftikhar Hussain, CFO — SFHSS and Mike Clarke, Lead Actuary — Aon

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#### **Healthcare Cost Trend Influencers — Agenda**

- Historical healthcare cost trend view SFHSS and key comparators
- Drivers of near-term cost trend expectations
- Broad forces influencing medical trends and resulting mitigation strategies
- Importance of well-being, primary prevention, early intervention, and advanced primary care initiatives on reducing cost trends
- Trend mitigation potential strategies for SFHSS
- Appendix Pandemic Influencers on Trend

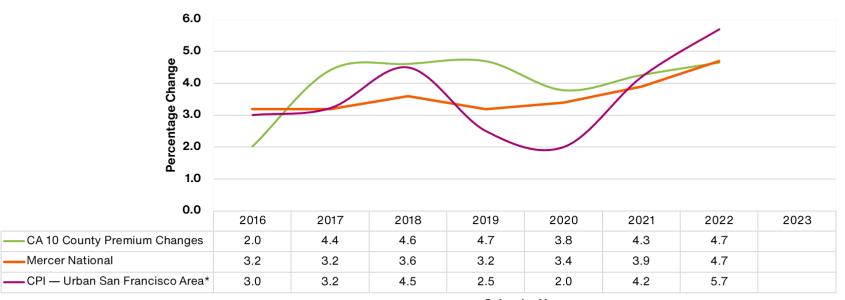


#### Historical Healthcare Trends: Medical/Rx Premiums

#### Marketplace View

 After periods of moderate trend through 2020, national and local benchmark data suggests an increase in annual healthcare cost trends through 2021 and into 2022

#### BENCHMARKS BY PLAN (CALENDAR) YEAR



Calendar Year

——CA 10 County Premium Changes ——Mercer National ——CPI — Urban San Francisco Area\*

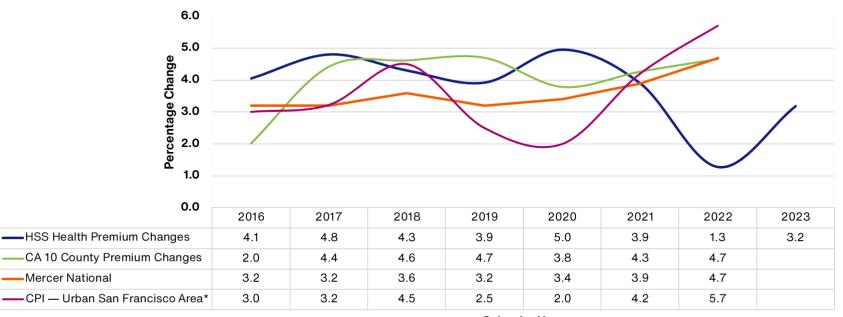


#### Historical Healthcare Trends: Medical/Rx Premiums

Marketplace View — Compared to SFHSS Experience (Blue Line)

 SFHSS cost trends (blue line) have been demonstrably lower in 2021 – 2023 than national benchmark cost trends

CHANGE IN SFHSS MEDICAL RATES
vs BENCHMARKS BY PLAN (CALENDAR) YEAR



Calendar Year

—HSS Health Premium Changes —CA 10 County Premium Changes —Mercer National —CPI — Urban San Francisco Area\*

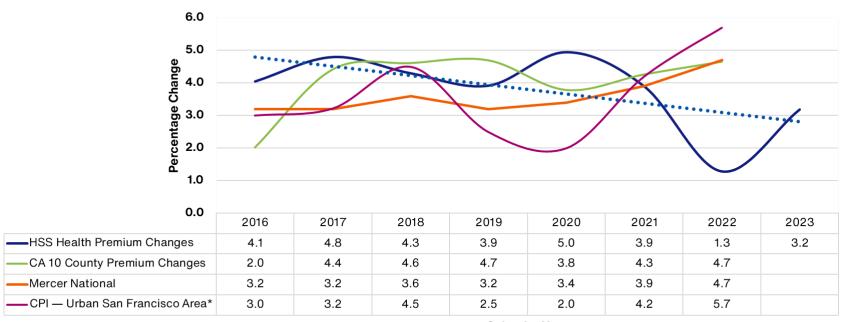


#### Historical Healthcare Trends: Medical/Rx Premiums

Marketplace View — Compared to SFHSS Experience (Blue Lines)

 SFHSS experienced declining rates of increase from 2016 to current (dotted blue line) recognizing overall trend is increasing presently

# CHANGE IN SFHSS MEDICAL RATES vs BENCHMARKS BY PLAN (CALENDAR) YEAR



#### **Calendar Year**

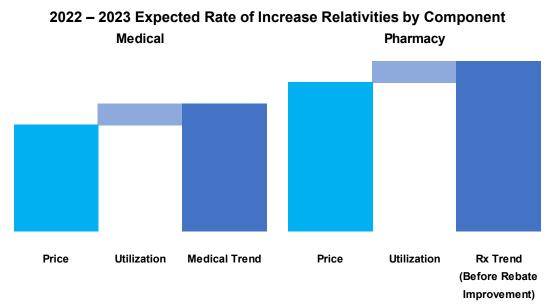
—— HSS Health Premium Changes —— CA 10 County Premium Changes —— CPI — Urban San Francisco Area\* —— Linear (HSS Health Premium Changes)



Mercer National

#### Projected Healthcare Trends: Medical/Rx (Aon Forecast)

- Price increases continues to drive trend, with smaller contribution from utilization change.
- Provider price increases are driven in part by market consolidation as large health systems continue growth by acquisition.



#### **Key Trend Themes in Pharmacy:**

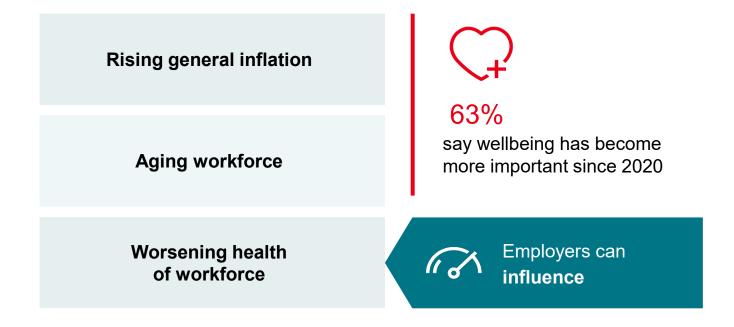
- Rising costs
- Expensive cell/gene therapies
- Management of patients on high-cost therapies
- Integration of specialty pharmacies into healthcare organizations

# Prescription Drug Costs are Influenced by:

- Member drug utilization mix
- Drug rebates
- Contractual pricing provisions
- Formulary management
- Utilization programs



#### **Healthcare Cost Trend Influencers** — Broad Factors



Leading employers are **tackling the underlying risk factors** that are making employees ill — and therefore driving higher medical premiums.

Improved member wellbeing and integrated primary care focuses have significant potential to mitigate the influence of increasing health risk.



## **Healthcare Cost Trend Influencers and Mitigation Strategies**

#### Component



Price



Service Mix



Utilization



Plan Design

#### Driven by...



Lifestyle Risks



Economy



Regulation



Technology



System Consolidation and Labor Shortages



COVID

#### Mitigated by...



Advanced Primary
Care Initiatives



Member Wellbeing



Health Risk Improvement



Navigation to Efficient Care Settings/Optimal Quality



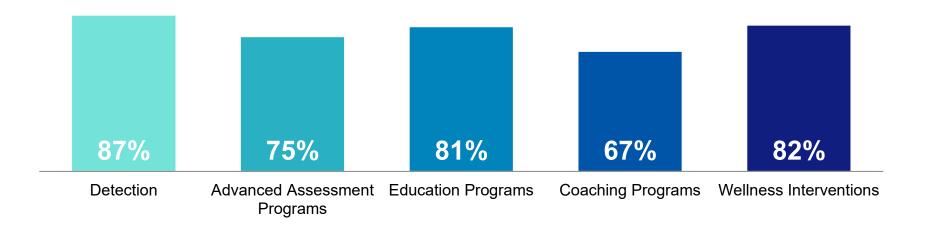


Virtual Services



#### 2023 Global Medical Trend — Wellbeing & Health Promotion

Aon Global Survey — Percentage of Employers Stating Strategic Focus





**Detection:** Primary Care Well Visits, Vision Screening, Hearing Screening, Mammograms, Colonoscopies



**Advanced Assessment Programs:** Advanced Check-ups, Heart Health, Nutrition Substance Use, Level of Fitness



**Education Programs**: Communication Materials on Wellness, Wellness Kits, Informational Web Service, Fitness Education



**Coaching Programs**: Health Specialists, Health Coaching, Wellbeing Apps, Incentive Programs



**Wellness Interventions:** Employee Assistance Program, Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Eating, Quitting Smoking/Tobacco Use, Physical Activity, Healthy Weight, Back Care, Reducing Risk for Heart Disease



# Primary Care Case Study by California Health Care Foundation (CHCF)—Stressing Importance of Primary Care

#### **High Use of Primary Care Services Improves Quality and Lowers Cost**

#### STUDY FINDINGS

Performance of Provider Organizations, by Quartile of Primary Care Spending Percentage

	PRIMARY CARE SPENDING PERCENTAGE (average adjusted)	CLINICAL QUALITY COMPOSITE SCORE (average)	RATING OF DOCTOR AND ALL CARE* (average)	ACUTE HOSPITAL UTILIZATION (discharges/1,000 member-years, average adjusted)	ED UTILIZATION (visits/1,000 member-years, average adjusted)	TOTAL COST OF CARE (PMPM, average adjusted)
1st Quartile (lowest)	6.0%	72.2%	68.0%	31	139	\$436
2nd and 3rd Quartiles	8.6%	73.9%	70.1%	29	130	\$440
4th Quartile (highest)	12.5%	77.9%	72.8%	24	113	\$400

<sup>\*</sup> Percentage of patients who rated their doctor and all care ≥9 out of 10.

Notes: ED is emergency department. PMPM is per-member per-month.

Source: Authors' analysis of IHA primary care data set, 2021

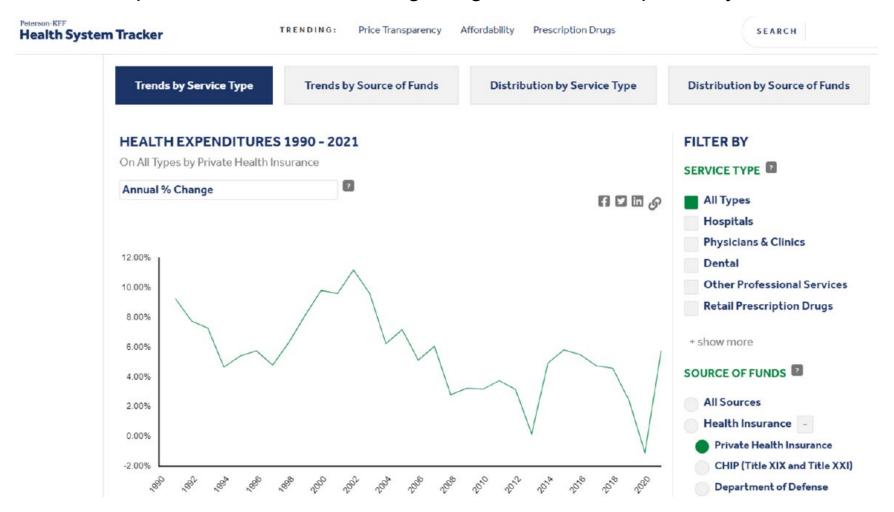
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## Rising Healthcare Trends: Back to the Future?

Trend spikes are not new — recognizing we are in an upward cycle





# **Future Trends: Impact of Inflation**

Economy-wide inflation will likely drive wages up in the healthcare sector, which may in turn drive negotiated prices up with health plans.

Price increases will exhibit some delay in appearing in medical claims because provider contracts are renegotiated every two to four years.

- Historically, healthcare prices have trended higher than underlying broad inflation measures — will providers be able to maintain that spread in upcoming negotiations?
- Aon is monitoring healthcare claim trend patterns and provider/carrier negotiation results frequently in order to provide early warning on emerging negotiation trends.



## **Trend Mitigation Potential Strategies for SFHSS**

The majority of SFHSS healthcare spend is on fully-insured health plans (primarily Kaiser HMOs and UnitedHealthcare MAPD plan) based on enrollment distribution — continued partnership among the plans and SFHSS to support member wellbeing is more important than ever to maintain reasonable renewal positions.

Forecast aggregate SFHSS cost distribution by plan for 2023 plan year:

Kaiser HMOs	UHC MAPD	BSC/HN/UHC HMOs	BSC/UHC PPO	Active	Active	
Med/Rx/Vis	Med/Rx/Vis	Med/Rx/Vis	Med/Rx/Vis	Dental	Life/LTD	Total
48.2%	8.6%	33.1%	5.5%	3.9%	0.7%	100.0%

#### Trend mitigation strategies for SFHSS are multi-faceted and may include:

Plan Rate Negotiations and Periodic RFPs

Lower Member Demand for Healthcare Services through Health Risk Improvement Initiatives

Increased Use of Alternative Care Settings (e.g., virtual care, urgent care instead of emergency department)

Advanced Primary Care Initiatives that Better Engage Patients in Health Risk Management and Healthcare Decisions

Optional Plan Design Feature Review (e.g., deductibles, copayments, Rx formularies, etc.)



# **Appendix**

**Pandemic Influencers on Trend** 



#### Pandemic Influencers Then and Now

What Will Change Going Forward?









# Previous COVID Waves

The medical claims experience in the last 2.5 years contains the impacts of multiple separate periods of COVID lulls and outbreaks.

Recent years claim experience includes these COVID-related elements:

- COVID Testing Costs
- Vaccine Costs
- COVID Treatment Costs
- Suppression of other claims to make room for COVID patients (mostly in 2020 and early 2021)

# Future COVID Waves

The expectation is for continuing seasonal COVID waves, with testing/vaccine/ treatment costs included in each wave.

How much will each element influence claim experience in subsequent waves?

Direct COVID costs expected to be less than previous COVID waves as a higher percent of population is vaccinated.

#### **Deferred Care**

Initial expectations assumed there would be a rebound of deferred care—but it occurred slower than expected and, in some cases, did not reach prepandemic levels.

We will monitor potential impacts of "Long COVID" — as of now, it is too early to evaluate.

Little to no expected net cost impact.

#### **Inflation Impacts**

U.S. inflation rates are at the highest levels since the 1980s. Inflation is linked to healthcare spending through healthcare wages.

Monitoring specialty drug costs, cancer costs and catastrophic claim activity, carrier and market updates are crucial for timely trend expectation updates.

Near-term frend guidance is slightly higher for each upcoming year than each prior year.

