

SHERLOCK BENCHMARKS

Independent / Provider-Sponsored Plans Edition



Volume II

Operational Metrics

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SHERLOCK BENCHMARKS

Independent / Provider-Sponsored Edition - 2023

Volume II: Operational Metrics



SHERLOCK COMPANY

September 2023

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This section analyzes Enrollment / Membership / Billing. Enrollment is the processing of installation, recording and maintenance of the relationship between the plan and its members. Membership is the recording of and changes in demographic information. Billing is the process and the execution of the submission of invoices.

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Background

This is the “Operational Metrics” book of Volume II of the 2023 *Sherlock Benchmarks* for Independent / Provider-Sponsored Plans (*Sherlock Expense Evaluation Report* or *SEER*). The *Sherlock Benchmarks* provide statistics and analysis summarizing the administrative expenses and operational metrics of 11 Independent / Provider-Sponsored plans. They are intended to facilitate comparisons for users and to assist in the management of health plan administrative expenses.

The premises of the *Sherlock Benchmarks* and a general description of the Independent / Provider-Sponsored universe is found in Volume I, Financial Metrics. That volume also contains an extensive description of the participating plans.

Organization of the Sherlock Benchmarks

The 2023 *Sherlock Benchmarks* for Independent / Provider-Sponsored Plans is a carefully compiled and validated summary of the surveyed operational characteristics of leading health plans. 11 Independent/Provider- Sponsored plans participated this year. Collectively, these plans serve 10.5 million people with comprehensive products.

Sherlock Benchmarks assist in performance improvements for health plans by facilitating comparisons between plans and their universe as a whole. It quantifies health plans’ relative performance and identifies sources of variance at a highly

granular level. *Sherlock Benchmarks* are unusually comprehensive and validated analytical tool.

The *Sherlock Benchmarks* are produced in two volumes:

Volume I: Financial Metrics includes analyses of administrative expenses through financial ratios such as percent of revenues and per member per month. Data is divided into ten product lines and approximately 70 functions.

Volume II: Operational Metrics complements Volume I by facilitating in-depth analyses of the financial metrics. It is subdivided into four documents.

Staffing and Compensation focuses on the staffing components of operational metrics and includes average compensation, staffing ratios and outsourcing information.

Operational Metrics translates between operational performance and expense performance. Expenses are often analyzed into factors of user demand, employee productivity, unit cost, staffing ratios and cost per employee. For instance, Claim and Encounter Capture and Adjudication is analyzed into claims per member, productivity of claims processors, cost per claim and costs of claims per-employee. All functions are analyzed by factors of staffing ratios, staffing costs per FTE and non-labor costs. Numerous drivers of costs and quality are also provided. In the claims area, for example, these



include metrics of electronic submission, auto-adjudication and factors requiring manual intervention.

Medical Management Metrics reports the costs and volumes of key medical management activities.

Health Care Utilization Metrics contains health care utilization and cost metrics for forty health services, segmented by product.

In addition to these documents, a comprehensive set of data definitions and calculation notes, called *Common Guidelines*, is provided normally in PDF form for ease of reference.

This document, Volume II – Operational Metrics, is divided into ten sections:

TAB 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This section describes the organization and conventions of the *Sherlock Benchmarks*.

TAB 2. OPERATIONAL METRICS OVERVIEW

This section presents summary analyses of factors of costs in each functional area. These factors are, broadly, demand, unit cost, productivity, and staffing ratios. Costs are also analyzed in terms of labor and non-labor costs per FTE.

TAB 3. SALES AND MARKETING

This section includes analyses related to the entire spectrum of sales and marketing activities including functions of Rating and Underwriting, Marketing, Sales, Commissions (external) and Advertising and Promotion.

TAB 4. PROVIDER NETWORK MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES

Metrics of services provided by this function are found here. Provider Network Management and Services includes activities such as Provider Relations Services (the initial point of contact (telephonic and written) for provider inquiries), Provider Contracting, Provider Audit / Billing Validation and Other Provider Network Management and Services (including the maintenance of the provider network, orientation, ongoing education, and in-services with new and existing providers).

TAB 5. ENROLLMENT / MEMBERSHIP / BILLING

Analyses related to these activities are found here. Enrollment is the processing of installation, recording and maintenance of the relationship between the plan and its members. Membership is the recording of and changes in demographic information. Billing is the process and the execution of the submission of invoices.



TAB 6. CUSTOMER SERVICES

Detailed metrics relating to customer services are included in this section. Customer Services responds to, processes, resolves or provides information for transactions or inquiries of customers based on eligibility, contract language, benefit interpretation, medical management activities, regulatory interpretation, claims process accuracy and historical member communications used to provide and authorize service or payment.

TAB 7. CLAIM AND ENCOUNTER CAPTURE AND ADJUDICATION

Performance metrics of the claims area are found in this section. This function compares claim application and/or provider statement with policy file and other records to evaluate completeness and validity of claims and settles claims with claimants in accordance with policy provisions. It also performs COB functions.

TAB 8. INFORMATION SYSTEMS

This section contains operational metrics of information systems. Information Systems extends and supports the activities of other functional areas. Its own activities are divided into costs to keep it running, costs of software and support, costs to grow the business and the costs to maintain Information Systems security.

TAB 9. CORPORATE SERVICES CLUSTER

Metrics relating to Finance and Accounting and the Corporate Services functions. Corporate Services sub-functions include Human Resources, Legal and Facilities.

TAB 10. RISK ADJUSTMENT

Risk Adjustment is the analysis of clinical data to match government compensation with the risk factors of members. This includes adjustment for the “three Rs”: permanent risk adjustment, transitional reinsurance and transitional risk corridors.

Conventions Used in this Report

In the *Sherlock Benchmarks*, we analyzed costs for the health plans as a whole, by functional area and also by product. We have employed a number of reporting conventions, which we discuss below.

1. The terms “high” and “low” mean the average of the *two* highest and *two* lowest values, respectively. The standard deviation is the measure of dispersion. To facilitate comparability of standard deviations, we have expressed standard deviation as a percent of the mean, commonly termed the coefficient of variation.
2. Statistical results are un-weighted. That is, each metric reflects equally the experience of each health plan that reports a functional area for a product, without regard to the plan’s size.



3. Statistical measures for each functional area are calculated independently. Accordingly, the statistical analysis of total expenses is not the sum of the statistical analysis of each component cost.
4. Results were carefully validated to identify, and correct if possible, reporting errors.
5. Within each firm, ratios based on the total scope of products (for instance in the Total and Comprehensive values) are intrinsically weighted by the relative importance of each product to that firm. For instance, a firm with a heavy commitment to Indemnity & PPO ASO will reflect that product's weighting and its company-wide costs will be lower as a result.

We offer a few additional comments regarding Volume II – Operational Metrics.

1. The information is received through our contact, typically someone in the finance area, rather than directly from the operational department themselves.
2. The response rate was considerably lower in operational metrics as compared with financial metrics. Operational metrics are largely voluntary to help assure quality of responses.
3. The components may not sum to totals, for example in the case of product line breakouts. That is because response rates varied in each of the component parts and in totals.

4. Turnover metrics supplied by the respondents, as opposed to those calculated by us, are normally calculated as average for the year, as opposed to being based on year-end and total year ratios.
5. Additional discussion about *Sherlock Benchmarks* survey procedures, data analysis and presentation is found under Tab 1 of Volume I – Financial Metrics.
6. A complete description of the characteristics of the participating plans is found in Tab 10 of Volume I – Financial Metrics.

Questions and Comments

We invite questions and comments on the *Sherlock Benchmarks*.

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In addition, please know that we support your use of the *Sherlock Benchmarks*. We hope that you will not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning classifications, calculation methodologies and the application of the *Sherlock Benchmarks* to improve the performance of your health plan.



Tab 2

Summary of Operational Metrics

This section summarizes analyses of key functional areas. If a quantifiable output is identifiable, per member per month (PMPM) costs are segmented into factors of primary demand, productivity, unit cost, cost per FTE and staffing ratios. In all cases of these functional areas, PMPM costs are segmented into staffing ratios and costs per FTE, which are divided into labor and non-labor components.

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Provider Network Management & Services responds to inquiries from providers, contracts with providers for care delivered to members, is the liaison for provider appeals (whose coordinating responsibility resets with customer services), credentials providers for eligibility for contracts, issues report cards to provider and audits and validates provider activity.

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Provider Network Management and Services

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Provider Contracting Metrics (continued):

This sub-function recruits and credentials providers such as physicians and hospitals.

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Enrollment / Membership / Billing

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
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Manual			
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All Other Manual.....	139		
Total Manual Transactions.....	140		
Automated			
Direct to System.....	140		
Received on a File.....	141		
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Enrollment / Membership / Billing

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Enrollment / Membership / Billing

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Tab 6

Customer Services

The Customer Services function responds to customer inquiries and coordinates appeals.

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x Customer Service Cost per Manual Inquiry.....	165		
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= Costs per Member per Month.....	165		
Staffing vs. Non-Labor			
Customer Services Total Non-Labor Cost per Total FTE.....	165		
+ Customer Services Total Staffing Costs per Total FTE.....	165		
= Customer Services Total Costs per Total FTE.....	165		
x Customer Services Total FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	165		
= Customer Services Cost per Member per Month.....	165		
Percent of Customer Services Costs that are Staffing.....	165		
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Customer Services

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
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Customer Services

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Tab 7

Claim and Encounter Capture and Adjudication

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= Costs per FTE.....	199		
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= Costs per Member Per Month.....	199		
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Claims Processed Per Member.....	199		
= Members Per FTE.....	199		
x Claims Processed Per FTE Per Year.....	199		
= Cost per Claims Processed.....	199		
x Costs Per FTE.....	199		
= FTEs Per 10,000 Members.....	199		
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<u>Staffing vs. Non-Labor</u>			
Claims Processing Total Non-Labor Cost per Total FTE.....	199		
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= Claims Processing Total Costs per Total FTE.....	199		
x Claims Processing Total FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	199		
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Claim and Encounter Capture and Adjudication

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
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Claim and Encounter Capture and Adjudication

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Claim and Encounter Capture and Adjudication

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Tab 8

Information Systems

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Staffing vs. Non-Labor			
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+ Information Systems Total Staffing Costs per Total FTE.....	244		
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Percent of Information Systems Costs that are Non-Labor.....	244		
Percent of Information Systems Costs that are Staffing.....	244		
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Total Information Systems Costs, Natural Accounting Categories			
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(c) Consultants.....	245		
(d) Hardware Depreciation and Maintenance.....	245		
(e) Software Amortization and Maintenance.....	245		
(f) All Other, Including Office Supplies.....	245		
Total Information Systems Expenses.....	245		

Information Systems

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
Total Information Systems Costs, Natural Accounting Categories (continued)			
<u>Percent of Total Information Systems Costs</u>			
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(c) Consultants.....	245		
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Phone.....	247		
Online	247		
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Information Systems

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
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Yearly Member and Provider Inquiries Processed per Daily Production Job.....	255		
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Tab 9

Corporate Services Cluster

The Corporate Services Cluster is comprised of the functions of Finance and Accounting, Actuarial, Corporate Executive and Governance and the Corporate Services function. The Corporate Services function includes subfunctions like Facilities, Legal and Human Resources. This tab includes metrics of those subfunctions.

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
Corporate Services Function			
<u>Corporate Services Function Cost Summary</u>			
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x Corporate Services Costs per Total FTE.....	266		
= Cost of Corporate Services per FTE.....	266		
x FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	266		
= Cost per Member per Month.....	266		
<u>Staffing vs. Non-Labor</u>			
Corporate Services Function Total Non-Labor Cost per Total FTE.....	266		
+ Corporate Services Function Total Staffing Costs per Total FTE.....	266		
= Corporate Services Function Total Costs per Total FTE.....	266		
x Corporate Services Function Total FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	266		
= Corporate Services Function Cost per Member per Month.....	266		
Percent of Corporate Services Function Costs that are Staffing.....	266		
Percent of Corporate Services Function Costs that are Non-Labor.....	266		
Percent of Corporate Services Function Costs that are Outsourced.....	266		
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Corporate Services Cluster

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
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<u>EEO-1 Job Categories as a Percent of Total Employees</u>			
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Sales Worker.....	267		
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Laborer.....	267		
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<u>Span of Control- Call Centers</u>			
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Line Staff to Support Employees.....	268		
Support Employees to All Other (Supervisors and Managers).....	268		
Total Call Center Employees to All Other (Supervisors and Managers).....	268		
Line Staff and Support Employees to All Other (Supervisors and Managers).....	268		
Provider Services			
Line Staff to Support Employees.....	268		
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Total Call Center Employees to All Other (Supervisors and Managers).....	268		
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<u>Call Centers Job Categories as a Percent of Total Call Center Employees</u>			
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Support Employees	268		
All Other (Supervisors and Managers).....	268		
Total Call Center Employees.....	268		
Provider Services			
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Support Employees	268		
All Other (Supervisors and Managers).....	268		
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Corporate Services Cluster

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
Human Resources (Continued)			
Average Training Hours per Employee			
Member Services.....	268		
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Human Resources Activities			
Total Turnover.....	269		
Retention.....	269		
Human Resources Cost Summary			
HR Costs per Total FTE.....	269		
x Total FTEs per HR FTE.....	269		
= HR Costs per HR FTE.....	269		
x HR FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	269		
= HR Cost per Member per Month.....	269		
Staffing vs. Non-Labor			
Human Resources Non-Labor Costs per Human Resources FTE.....	269		
+ Human Resources Staffing Costs per Human Resources FTE.....	269		
= Human Resources Costs per Human Resources FTE.....	269		
x Human Resources FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	269		
= Cost per Member per Month.....	269		
Percent of Human Resources Costs that are Non-Labor.....	269		
Percent of Human Resources Costs that are Staffing.....	269		
Percent of Human Resources Costs that are Outsourced.....	269		
Percent of Staff that is Outsourced.....	269		
Legal			
Normal Business Legal Costs vs. Litigation Legal Costs			
PPMP			
Normal Business Legal Costs.....	270		
Litigation Legal Costs.....	270		
Total Legal Costs.....	270		
Percent of Premiums and Fees			
Normal Business Legal Costs.....	270		
Litigation Legal Costs.....	270		
Total Legal Costs.....	270		
Percent of Total Legal Costs			
Normal Business Legal Costs.....	270		
Litigation Legal Costs.....	270		
Total Legal Costs.....	270		

Corporate Services Cluster

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
Legal (Continued)			
Staffing vs. Non-Labor			
Legal Non-Labor Cost per Legal FTE.....	270		
+ Legal Staffing Costs per Legal FTE.....	270		
= Legal Costs per Legal FTE.....	270		
x Legal FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	270		
= Cost per Member per Month.....	270		
Percent of Legal Costs that are Non-Labor.....	270		
Percent of Legal Costs that are Staffing.....	270		
Percent of Legal Costs that are Outsourced.....	270		
Percent of Staff that is Outsourced.....	270		
Facilities			
Facilities Cost Summary			
Facilities Costs per Total FTE.....	271		
x Total FTEs per Facilities FTE.....	271		
= Facilities Cost per Facilities FTE.....	271		
x Facilities FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	271		
= Facilities Cost per Member per Month.....	271		
Facilities FTEs per Total FTE.....	271		
x Total Usable Square Feet per Facilities FTE.....	271		
= Total Usable Square Feet per Total FTE.....	271		
x Facilities Cost per Total Usable Square Foot.....	271		
= Facilities Costs per Total FTE.....	271		
x Total FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	271		
= Facilities cost per Member per Month.....	271		
Facilities Cost Summary - On-Site or Internal FTEs Only			
Facilities Costs per Total FTE.....	271		
x Total FTEs per Facilities FTE.....	271		
= Facilities Cost per Facilities FTE.....	271		
x Facilities FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	271		
= Facilities Cost per Member per Month.....	271		
Facilities FTEs per Total FTE.....	271		
x Total Usable Square Feet per Facilities FTE.....	271		
= Total Usable Square Feet per Total FTE.....	271		
x Facilities Cost per Total Usable Square Foot.....	271		
= Facilities Costs per Total FTE.....	271		
x Total FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	271		
= Facilities cost per Member per Month.....	271		

Corporate Services Cluster

Metric		Page	Definition	Calculation
Facilities (Continued)				
<u>Staffing vs. Non-Labor</u>				
Total Staffing Cost per Total FTE.....		272		
+ Total Non-Staffing Costs per Total FTE.....		272		
= Total Costs per Total FTE.....		272		
x Total FTEs per 10,000 Members.....		272		
= Cost per Member per Month.....		272		
Percent of Facilities Costs that are Staffing.....		272		
Percent of Facilities Costs that are Non-Labor.....		272		
Percent of Facilities Costs that are Outsourced.....		272		
Percent of Facilities Staff that is Outsourced.....		272		
<u>Size of Facilities</u>				
Square Feet per Total FTE				
Gross.....		272		
Usable.....		272		
Square Feet per On-Site FTE				
Gross.....		272		
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Usable Square Footage by Type				
Percent Owned.....		272		
Percent Leased.....		272		
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Gross Square Footage by Type				
Percent Owned.....		272		
Percent Leased.....		272		
Total Facilities Costs per Square Foot				
Gross.....		272		
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Corporate Services Cluster

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
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<i>Facilities Costs by Type Per Member Per Month</i>			
(a) Rent.....			
(b) Depreciation.....	273		
(c) Heat, Light and Taxes.....	273		
(d) Security.....	273		
(e) Maintenance.....	273		
(f) Leasehold Improvements.....	273		
(g) All Other.....	273		
Total.....	273		
<i>Percent of Total</i>			
(a) Rent.....			
(b) Depreciation.....	273		
(c) Heat, Light and Taxes.....	273		
(d) Security.....	273		
(e) Maintenance.....	273		
(f) Leasehold Improvements.....	273		
(g) All Other.....	273		
Total.....	273		

Tab 10

Risk Adjustment

Risk Adjustment is the analysis of clinical data in order to match government compensation with the risk factors of members. This includes adjustment for the “three Rs”: permanent risk adjustment, transitional reinsurance and transitional risk corridors.

Metric	Page	Definition	Calculation
Risk Adjustment Cost Summary			
Chart Reviews per 1,000 Members.....	276		
x Members per FTE.....	276		
= Chart Reviews per FTE per Year.....	276		
x Cost per Chart Review.....	276		
= Costs per FTE.....	276		
FTEs per 10,000 Members.....	276		
Costs per Member per Month.....	276		
Staffing vs. Non-Labor - Risk Adjustment			
Risk Adjustment Non-Labor Cost per Total FTE.....	276		
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