

Employee Population Health Management: *a stepping stone for accountable care*



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Learning to Manage Populations

“Employee health management is an opportunity for hospitals to put their money where their mouths are. When a large employer or payer asks how a hospital plans to manage population health, a successful organization should be able to illustrate that answer by referring to its own workforce.”

Becker’s Hospital Review, 2012
The New Competitive Edge for Hospitals and ACOs:
Employee Health

About Covenant Health

- ▶ Covenant Health is a Catholic not-for-profit healthcare system based in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.
- ▶ 3 acute care hospitals in addition to nursing homes, assisted living residences and other health and elder services throughout New England
- ▶ Facilities in 3 different markets:
 - **St. Joseph Hospital (Nashua, NH)**
 - St. Joseph Healthcare (Bangor, ME)
 - St. Mary's Med. Center (Lewiston, ME)



St. Joseph Hospital, Nashua, NH

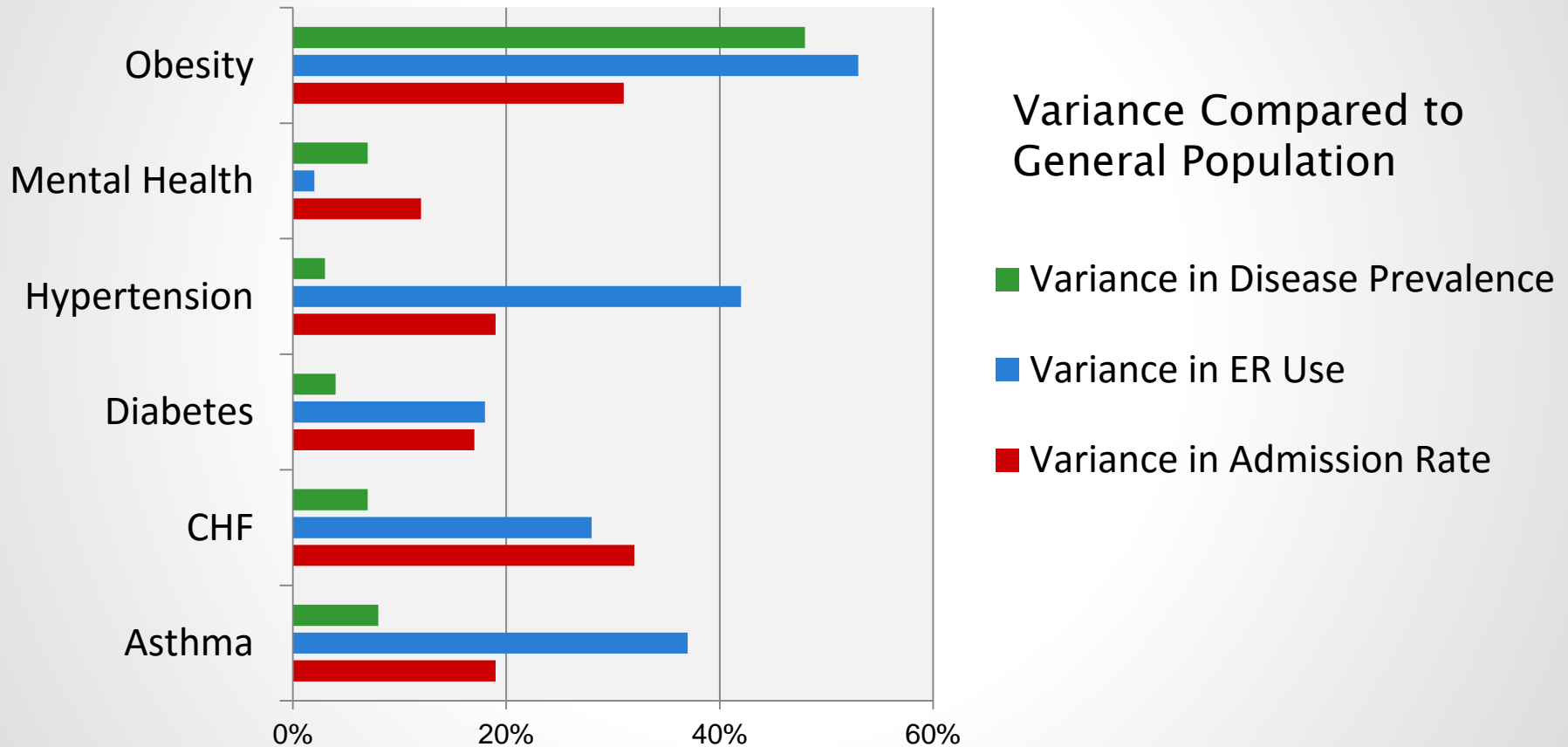
Self-Insured Employer

- ▶ Approximately 6,000 employees and 15,000 members (employees and dependents) of employee health plan
- ▶ 5 different TPAs managing the employee health plan in 3 regional markets:
 - Anthem BCBS NH
 - Anthem BCBS ME
 - Aetna
 - Health Plans, Inc.
 - AHC (pharmacy)
- ▶ Each TPA provides a basic level of cost/utilization reporting and medical management services



The Hospital Employee Population

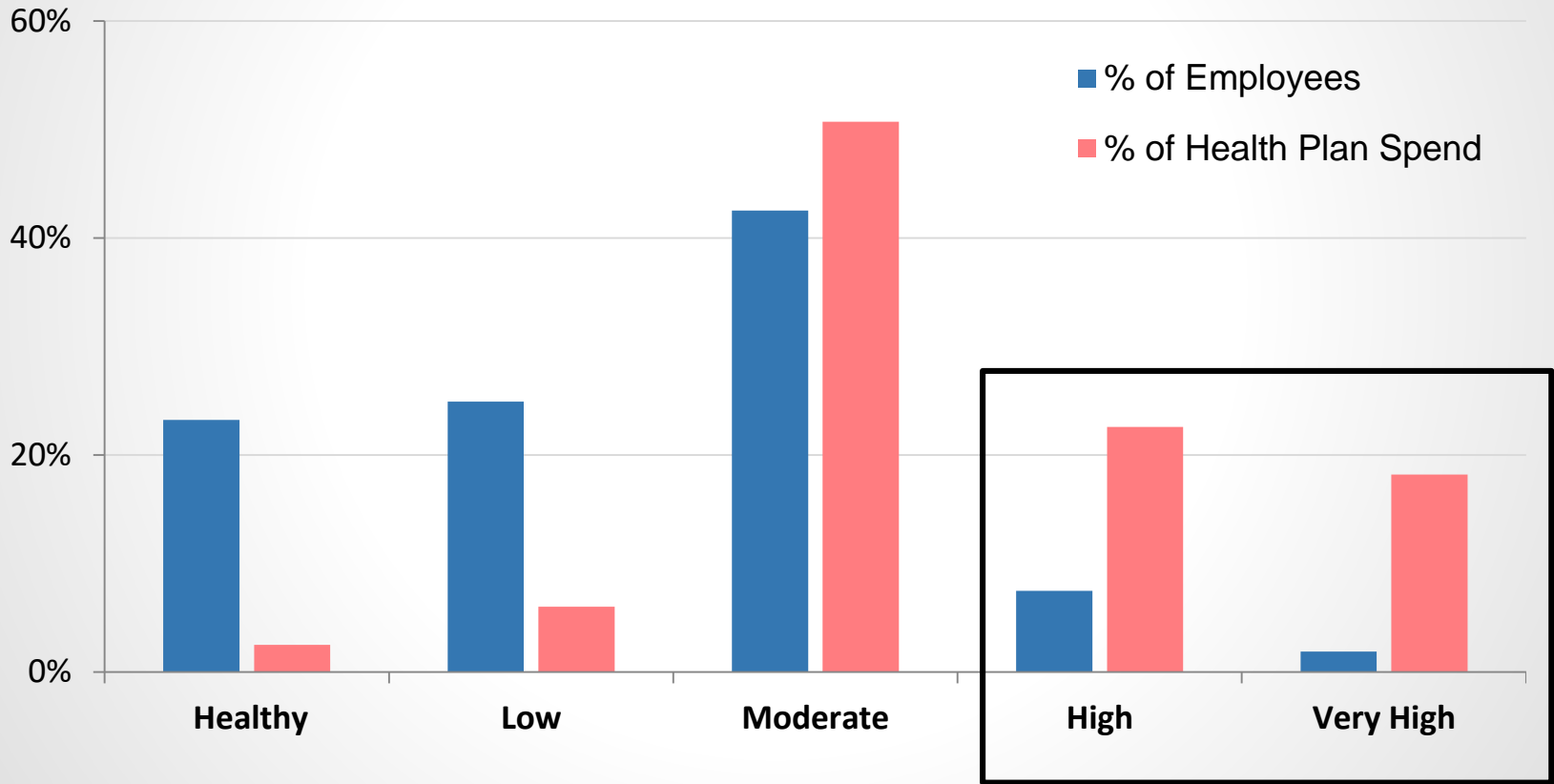
Hospital employee healthcare costs are more than 10% higher



Source: *Truven Health Market Scan*

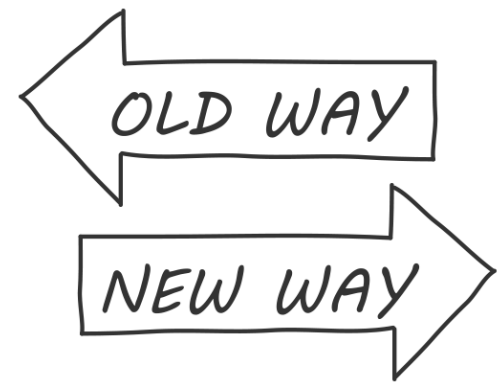
The Hospital Employee Population

9% of Highest Risk Employees at St. Joseph's Hospital Responsible for 40% of Employee Health Plan Costs



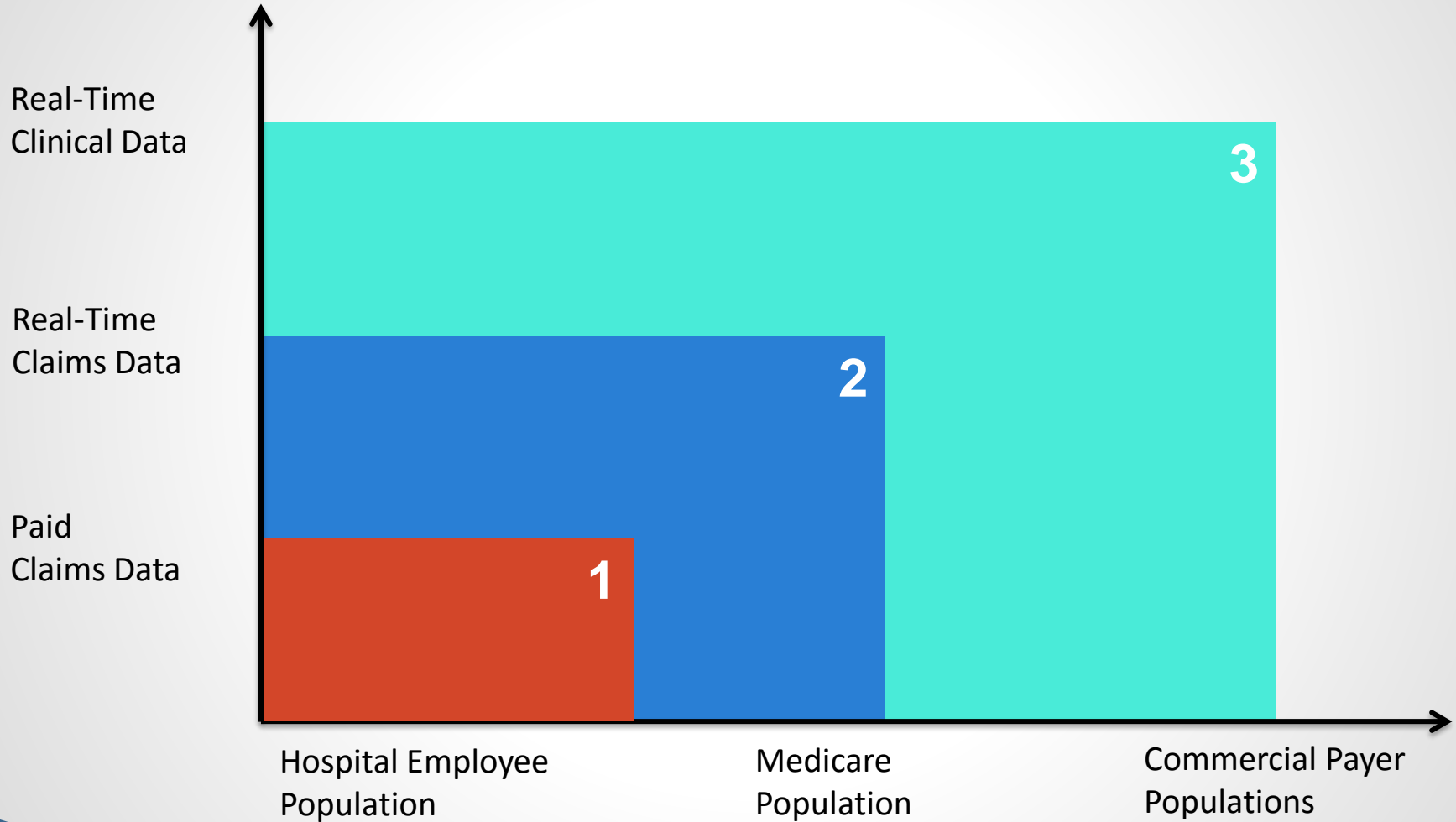
John's Hopkins ACG Risk Band

The Need for Change



- ▶ Rising costs of Covenant employee health plan
- ▶ Lacking timely, meaningful performance data from TPAs
 - Annual review of high-level financial metrics
- ▶ New risk-based contracts and ACO arrangements
 - Goal of 50% payments based on alternative models by 2018
- ▶ Lacking infrastructure and expertise for managing risk
 - Limited experience with actuarial sciences and care management
- ▶ Desire to go beyond traditional employee wellness programs

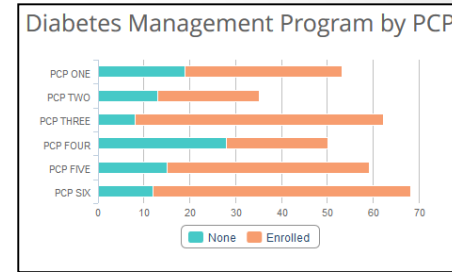
Start Small



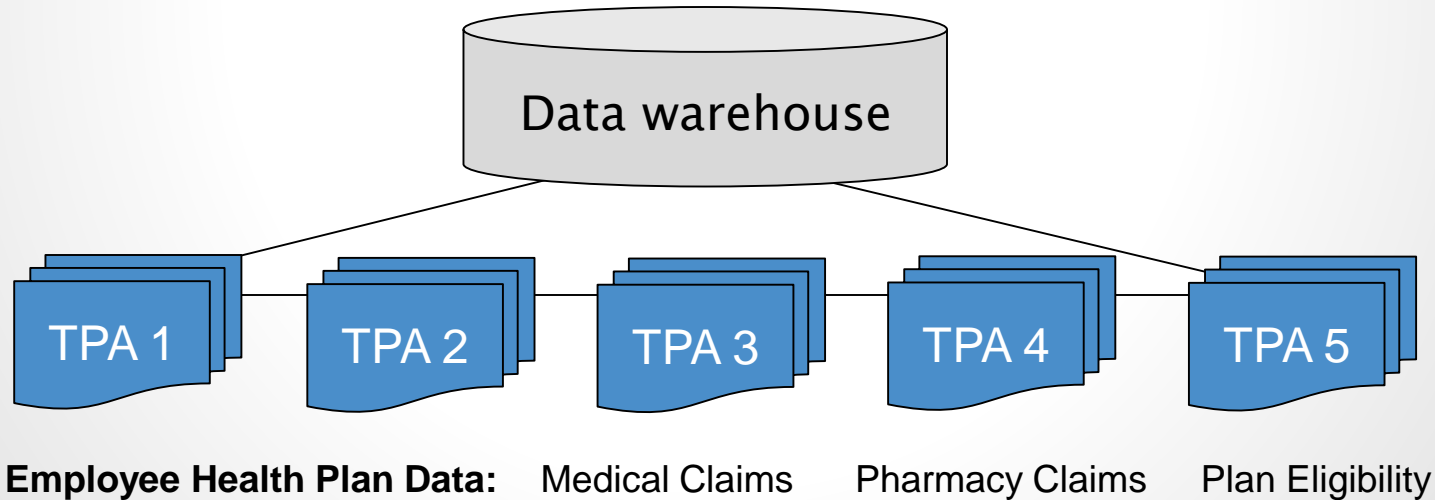
Employee Population Data Warehouse



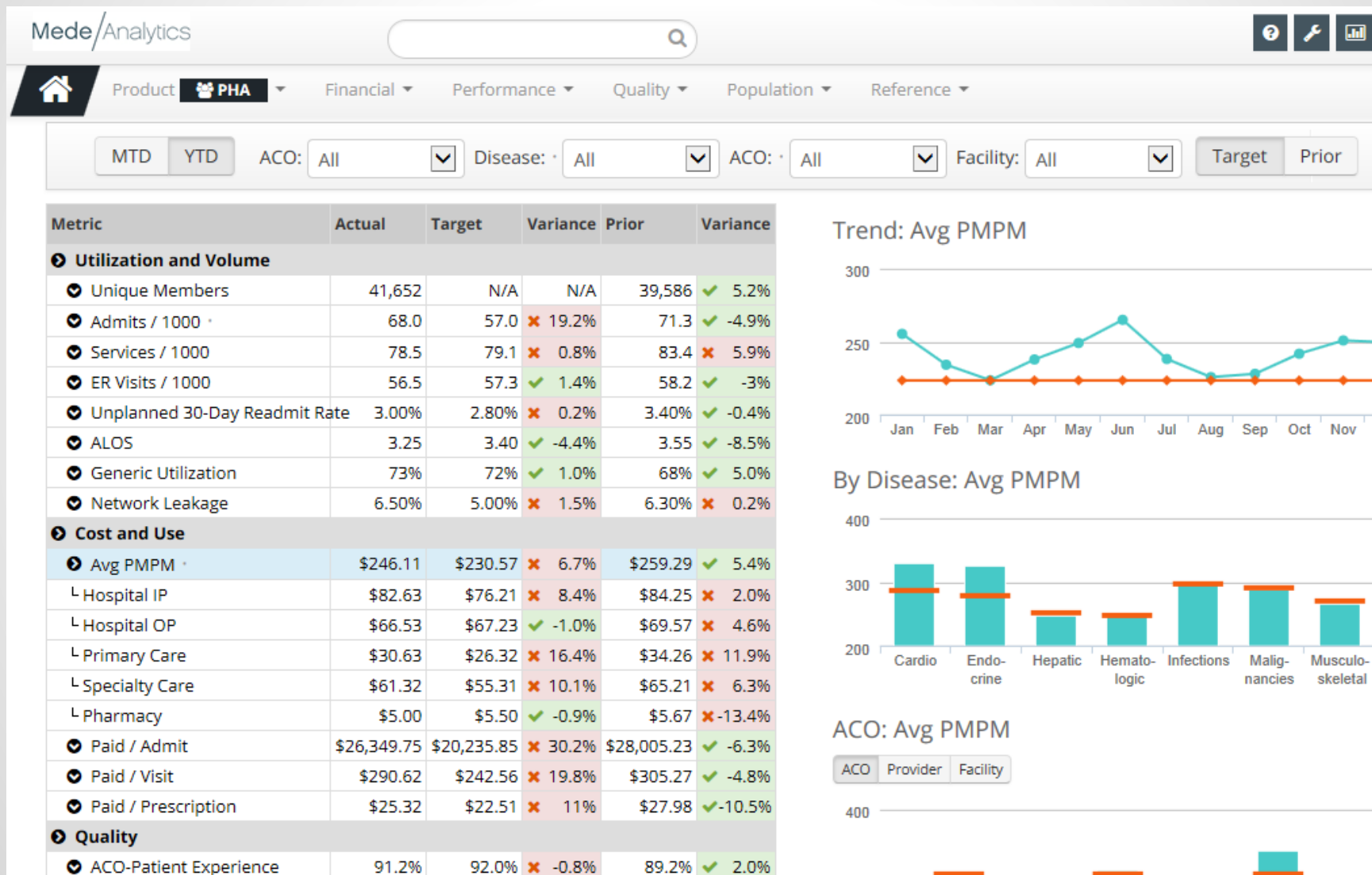
Metric	Actual	Target	Variance	Prior	Variance
Utilization and Volume					
• Unique Members	2,277	N/A	N/A	2,456	-7.3%
• Admits / 1000	72.3	62.8	15.1%	75.9	-5.0%
• Services / 1000	93.8	85.4	9.8%	95.4	-1.7%
• ER Visits / 1000	62.3	60.5	2.9%	64.1	-2.9%
• Unplanned 30-Day Readmit Rate	8.50%	5.75%	2.8%	8.80%	-0.3%
• ALOS	6.7	4.5	48.9%	6.9	-2.9%
• Generic Utilization	64%	72%	-8.0%	61%	3.0%
• Network Leakage	7.00%	5.00%	2.0%	6.80%	0.2%
Cost and Use					
• Avg PMPM	\$307.50	\$284.45	8.1%	\$320.70	-4.3%
• Paid / Admit	\$36,075	\$29,327	23.0%	\$37,926	-5.1%



- Risk Stratification
- Quality Measures
- Cost and Utilization
- Network
- Benefit Design



Employee Population Analytics



Employee Benefits Re-Design

- ▶ Data analysis showed a surprising number of employees utilizing out-of network providers and high-cost services
- ▶ 2015 Employee Benefits Plan Re-Design:
 - Created incentives to keep employees in Covenant narrow network
 - Identified preferred low cost provider network (Tier 1 vs. Tier 2)
 - Focus on brand name vs. generic drug utilization
 - Data analysis showed the changes that would have the largest impact



Chronic Conditions

- ▶ Expected that COPD and Chronic Back Pain would be high-impact areas
- ▶ Back Pain – analytics showed that these patients were primarily dependents (not employees)
- ▶ COPD – analytics showed that costs were associated with 7 patients (\$600K)
 - Turned out to be one patient with high utilization costing \$550K

Let the data do
the talking!



Risk Stratification

- ▶ Identify patients who are at highest risk:
 - Chronic Hemodialysis: 6 patients
- ▶ Several other patients have the potential to shift into the high risk category:
 - High blood pressure
 - Diabetes
 - Using diuretics (hydrochlorothiazide)
 - Using anti-inflammatory drugs (Motrin)
- ▶ Data analytics and risk stratification enable us be proactive with these early risk indicators

High risk for
chronic kidney
disease

High-Cost Drug Utilization

- ▶ Review medication profile reports for all patients coming in for physician visit in next month
- ▶ Identify high-cost drugs with generic alternatives (using pharmacy analytics)
- ▶ Care coordinator consults with PCP to discuss cost and quality implications of prescription.

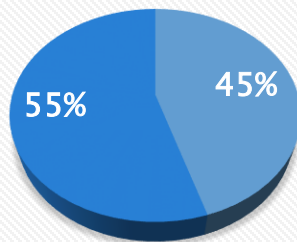
Example:

- Patient with \$700 cost for 30 day supply of a therapeutic drug
- Care coordinator shared data with PCP
- Potential alternative drug identified with significantly lower cost
- Communication of in-house pharmacy locations

Pharmacy Analysis

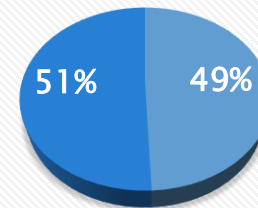
Specialty Drugs – An extremely high percentage of the pharmacy spend for both 2014 and 2015 came from Specialty Drugs.

Total Pharmacy Spending in 2014



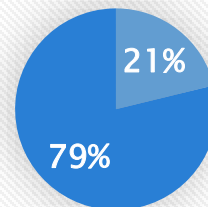
■ Specialty Drugs ■ Other

Total Pharmacy Spending in 2015



■ Specialty Drugs ■ Other

Total Pharmacy Costs in 2015



■ Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis and the anti-inflammatory drug Enbrel
■ Other

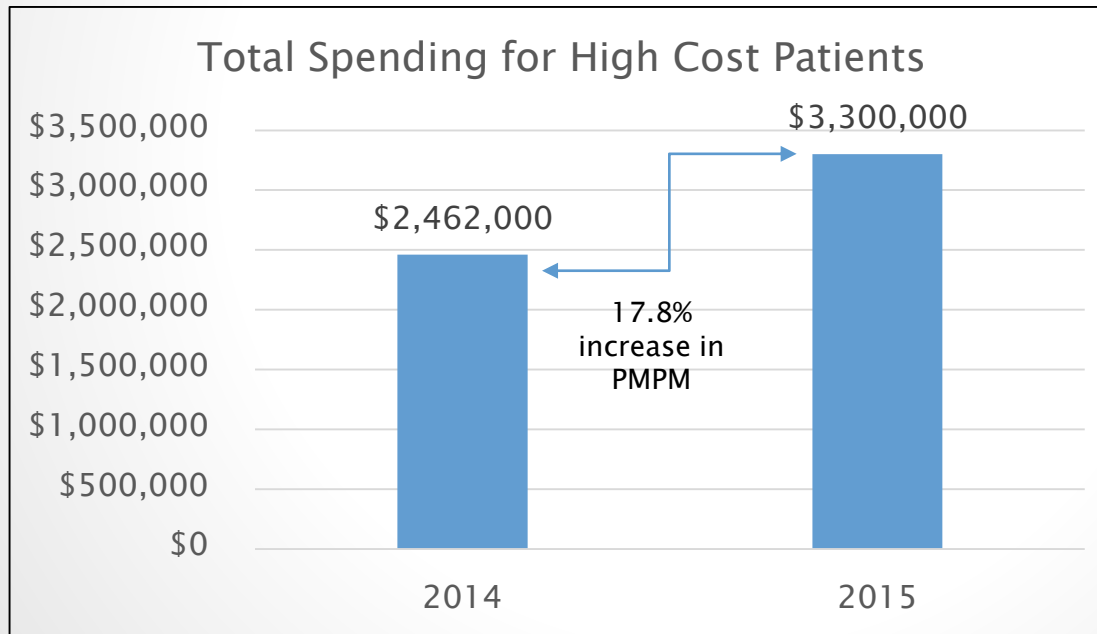
Pharmacy Analysis

Generic Utilization – Generic drug utilization has dropped substantially over the last two years

- Generic drug utilization dropped to under 72% in December 2015. For commercial group population benchmarks, generic drug utilization is well over 80%.
- At least \$100k in potential savings identified from generic substitution in three therapeutic classes where generic equivalents are available

High-Cost Member Impact

- ▶ 100 members were identified in the top 10% in 2015
- ▶ Eleven were classified as 'high cost', incurring \$100K or greater in 2015



High-Cost Member Impact

- ▶ The overall population saw a slight decrease in overall expenditure, with current 2015 spending 2% lower than 2014 totals. PMPM reductions were seen at 13.8%
- ▶ When the high cost group is excluded from analysis, overall spend decreased by nearly 11%, with a paid PMPM decrease of 21.4%
- ▶ While the overall population is seeing positive trends from 2014 to 2015, the appeared increase in services and cost can be isolated to a small subgroup of members

Cultural Shift

- ▶ Team at St. Joseph's is feeling empowered by data insights
- ▶ Learning how to do population health management
- ▶ Breeding responsible utilizers of healthcare
- ▶ Care coordinators have tools to be more proactive with employee population
- ▶ Built a strong foundation (technical and people) to manage new patient populations (Medicare, Commercial)



Lessons Learned

- ▶ **Employee health data is particularly sensitive**
 - Learn the HIPAA guidelines and your HR policies
 - Role-based security is essential for HR/Finance vs. Clinical staff

- ▶ **Analytics is more than a data warehouse**
 - Making sense of the claims data requires predictive models, gaps in care, quality measure calculations and payer expertise
 - A variety of best-practice models and rules are available to enhance the data (Hopkins, Milliman, Optum, NYU, 3M, etc.)

More Lessons Learned

- ▶ **Analytics technology is only part of the solution**
 - Physician engagement is still a cultural and process challenge
 - Building a care management staff/competency is essential
- ▶ **A surprising number of patients go out of network**
 - How do we keep our own employees in our hospital /physician network?
 - Payer claims (in/out of network) are needed to see the full picture
- ▶ **Start small and build a foundation for population health**
 - Hospital employees are a high-risk population with great opportunities for engagement and significant room for improvement
 - Claims data is available now and provides the core information for population health management