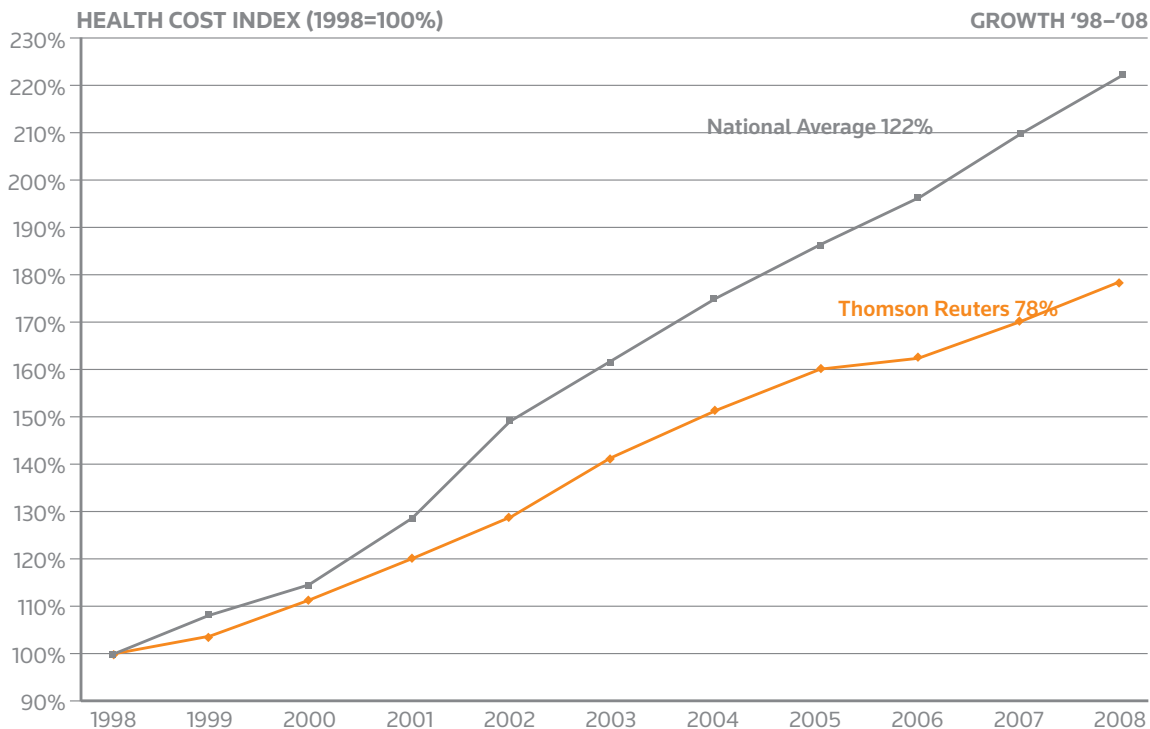


OUR CLIENTS' COST TRENDS AVERAGE OVER \$100 LESS PER EMPLOYEE PER YEAR



ABOUT THOMSON REUTERS

The Healthcare business of Thomson Reuters produces insights, information, benchmarks and analysis that enable organizations to manage costs, improve performance, and enhance the quality of healthcare. Thomson Reuters is the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. We combine industry expertise with innovative technology to deliver critical information to leading decision makers in the financial, legal, tax and accounting, scientific, healthcare and media markets, powered by the world's most trusted news organization.

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HOW DOES THOMSON REUTERS CONTRIBUTE TO LOWER TREND RATES?

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The MarketScan® database is our industry leading, independent source of medical, mental health, and pharmaceutical claims with over 14 million employees. It includes the experience of multiple health plans and their clients. Medstat Advantage Suite® leverages the power of MarketScan to provide appropriately adjusted benchmarks for the best actionable information.

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We are not affiliated with any insurance company or third-party administrator. We have received a SAS 70 Type II certification without exception from Ernst & Young for the past four years in a row and fully comply with HIPAA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Existing Medstat Advantage Suite

Customers: Please contact your Thomson Reuters client manager.

Source: Mercer National Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Plans 2008 and MarketScan

MarketScan: Includes all medical, mental health, and drug benefits for active employees and their covered dependents divided by the number of covered active employees. Fee for service only. No employee out-of-pocket expenses are included. MarketScan trend for 2008 is projected based on year-to-date 2008 experience.

National Average: From Mercer National Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Plans 2008. Includes all medical, prescription drug, mental health, vision, and hearing benefits for active employees and their covered dependents divided by the number of covered active employees. No employee out-of-pocket expenses are included.



Thomson Reuters helps manage health care costs, improve productivity during tough times

By Bruce Shutan

Despite the nation's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, employers that are genuinely concerned about having a sustainable impact on rising health care costs will need to invest in the health and well being of their human capital. But in order to achieve meaningful results, they must partner with key industry players whose deep knowledge of this increasingly complex area of benefits management will pay dividends.

One such organization is Thomson Reuters, a leader in sophisticated health care analytics and decision-support tools powered by the popular Medstat Advantage Suite product that historically has enabled its employer customers to beat market health cost trends by at least two percentage points each year over the past 10 years. The company made its mark integrating disparate sources of data from health-risk assessments, wellness and disease management programs, absenteeism surveys, and medical and prescription drug claims to maximize employee health and productivity, and amplify a competitive advantage.

Thomson Reuters and its clients use tools and resources that help identify cost drivers in conjunction with high-level financial analyses that gauge the impact of price, use, risk, demographics and high-cost claimants. As a result, Thomson Reuters clients save money and mitigate cost exposure and risk. Creation of a multi-layered tracking and analytic solution allows clients to understand how and why their annual health care costs are better or worse than projected.

"Typically, our clients need a very financially-focused tracking and projection dashboard that looks at budget variance at a business-unit level," explains Chris Justice, director, practice leadership for Thomson Reuters. Clients also turn to Thomson Reuters to provide other resources, such as ad hoc analyses or dashboards, that are more focused on qualitative aspects of health care performance.

Adds Emily Twanmo, vice president, client services for Thomson Reuters: "We partner with our clients to provide the information they need to make decisions about plan design, administration, budgets and program interventions that are appropriate to their company or corporate culture and really make a difference." These efforts ultimately result in a demonstrable return-on-investment tied to clients' business objectives.

As part of that service, employers are given the necessary decision-support tools and consulting resources to maximize employee productivity – a critical deliverable at a time when the nation's unemployment rate recorded its steepest increase in nearly 25 years.

Transparency and accountability

Thomson Reuters uses various tools to improve transparency and accountability from both an internal and external standpoint. For example, one client recently was able to use monthly decision-support data to determine how claims experience could be charged back to each of its business units to hold each business leader accountable to meeting corporate objectives.

Thomson Reuters' consumer tools help employees become better health care consumers. Employees learn to navigate their way through high-deductible benefit plans by leveraging health savings accounts, health reimbursement arrangements and flexible spending accounts to make appropriate spending and funding decisions.

Other applications include establishing and/or monitoring vendor performance guarantees and program evaluation on a quarterly or annual basis, as well as comparing provider cost-efficiency and effectiveness with evidence-based guidelines. As a corollary, data integrity can be improved when experts are able to suggest better questions that clients can ask their vendors and providers for more accurate reporting.

Modeling tools also can be used in labor negotiations for quickly determining appropriate plan design changes and validating those choices with consultants. Clients also use tools to ensure that administrators are only paying claims for eligible employees and dependents.

Accountability is the operative word across Thomson Reuters' book of business, according to Twanmo, who says clients increasingly face pressure to measure health claims data and hold multiple stakeholders more accountable for their respective roles.

Proactives analyses

When Thomson merged with Reuters last April, the newly created organization was able to leverage years of data-intensive solutions from both entities. Thomson Reuters now has access to health-related content from Reuters' news services that can be imbedded in employee portals for customers of Medstat Advantage Suite. A product enhancement is anticipated in early 2009.

Another valuable service includes proactive analyses that highlight a client's experiences relative to a timely issue or trend in the news and its expected

impact. Examples include how to reduce unnecessary or inappropriate care in light of the Mental Health Parity Act being extended or widespread use of the prescription drug Chantix, which can make heavy machinery operators drowsy – a boon to clients in the transportation and manufacturing sectors.

“These analyses help our clients work more effectively with their health plans, disease management programs, wellness programs or other areas to focus on their specific problem areas,” Twanmo says.

When having to account for health care costs, it's no secret that HR and benefit staffers must devote considerable time and resources to seeking, aggregating, scrubbing and reporting data from multiple vendors for the CFO and other financial professionals – labor-intensive tasks that are better left to experts who can free them up for a more strategic role within their firm. “We can save a lot of internal work and provide data in a real timely fashion,” Justice says.

Bruce Shutan, former managing editor of Employee Benefit News, is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles.

