

Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model

Financial

Companion to Operating Guide Overview: Standard DCE

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Reference Documents

Title
Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model: Financial Operating Guide: Overview
Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model: Financial Companion to Operating Guide Overview: New Entrant DCE
Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model: Financial Companion to Operating Guide Overview: High Needs Population DCE
Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model: Financial Operating Policies: Capitation and Advanced Payment Mechanisms
Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model: Financial Companion to Capitation and Advanced Payment Mechanisms
Global and Professional Direct Contracting and Kidney Care Choices Models: DC/KCC Rate Book Development
Global and Professional Direct Contracting and Kidney Care Choices Models: Risk Adjustment
Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model: Financial Reconciliation Overview

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1.0 Introduction

This document is a companion to the [Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model Financial Operating Guide: Overview](#) paper. It describes the full calculation of the financial benchmark for a Standard Direct Contracting Entity (DCE). There are separate companion documents that illustrate the financial benchmark calculations for High Needs DCEs and New Entrant DCEs.

2.0 Financial Benchmark Calculation

The calculation of the DCE Performance Year Benchmark is summarized in Section 4 of the [Global and Professional Direct Contracting Model Financial Operating Guide: Overview](#) document. As explained there, benchmarks are developed separately for both the Aged & Disabled (A&D) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) beneficiary categories, then combined for the final Performance Year Benchmark.

2.1 A&D Benchmark Calculation

This section describes the step-by-step calculations of the A&D Benchmark through a series of figures.

Claims-aligned beneficiaries. The benchmark for claims-aligned beneficiaries is a combination of both a benchmark based upon historically-aligned beneficiary experience and a DC/KCC Ratebook derived benchmark. These two components are blended together to determine the benchmark for claims-aligned beneficiaries aligned during the performance year. Lines 1 through 4 (**Figure 2.1**) tabulate the number of beneficiaries and beneficiary-months that accrue to the A&D Benchmark.

Figure 2.1: Claims-Aligned Beneficiaries

	Baseline Experience		
	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019
DCE Aligned Beneficiary Experience			
1 Aligned Beneficiaries			
2 ... Claims Aligned	6,277	6,307	6,414
3 Eligible Months			
4 ... Claims Aligned	69,042	69,378	70,551

Historical Baseline Expenditure. In lines 6 through 8 (**Figure 2.2**) all fee-for-service (FFS) claims experience of aligned beneficiaries that occurred in each of the 3 base years (BYs) are summed. All FFS claims, including the value of any associated claims reductions that occurred from all providers, including non-DCE provider claims, are summed in line 9 to generate the total FFS claims experience.

Figure 2.2: Historical Baseline Expenditure

	Baseline Experience		
	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019
5 DCE Beneficiary Claims & Claims Reductions			
6 Non-DCE Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$32,034,345.07	\$33,036,067.79	\$34,467,102.52
7 PLUS: Participant Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$11,722,245.23	\$11,924,634.11	\$12,612,741.12
8 PLUS: Preferred Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$17,944,490.46	\$18,349,268.21	\$18,725,482.24
9 EQUALS: Total DCE Aligned Beneficiary Expenditure	\$61,701,080.76	\$63,309,970.11	\$65,805,325.89

Figure 2.10: Combined Benchmark for a Standard DCE (Aggregate)

	Benchmark to which Experience Accrues		TOTAL
	AD	ESRD	
DCE Benchmark Expenditure			
1. Historical Blended Benchmark			
2.	DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$858.29	\$6,868.03
3.	TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	0.979	1.074
4.	TIMES: PY Risk Score	1.194	1.063
5.	TIMES: PY Eligible Months	69,657	4,709
6.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$69,875,061.57	\$36,919,741.13
7. Rate Book Driven Benchmark			
8.	DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$858.29	\$6,868.03
9.	TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	1.000	1.000
10.	TIMES: PY Risk Score	1.194	1.063
11.	TIMES: PY Eligible Months	31,208	501
12.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$31,970,342.51	\$3,656,796.62
13.	Benchmark Expenditure for All Aligned Beneficiaries	\$101,845,404.08	\$40,576,537.75
			\$142,421,941.83

Figure 2.11: Combined Benchmark for a Standard DCE (PBPM)

	Benchmark to which Experience Accrues		TOTAL (PBPM)
	AD (PBPM)	ESRD (PBPM)	
DCE Benchmark Expenditure			
1. Historical Blended Benchmark			
2.	DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$858.29	\$6,868.03
3.	TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	0.979	1.074
4.	TIMES: PY Risk Score	1.194	1.063
5.	TIMES: PY Eligible Months	69,657	4,709
6.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$69,875,061.57	\$36,919,741.13
7.	DIVIDED BY: PY Eligible Months	69,657	4,709
8.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold (PBPM)	\$1,003.13	\$7,840.25
9. Rate Book Driven Benchmark			
10.	DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$858.29	\$6,868.03
11.	TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	1.000	1.000
12.	TIMES: PY Risk Score	1.194	1.063
13.	TIMES: PY Eligible Months	31,208	501
14.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$31,970,342.51	\$3,656,796.62
15.	DIVIDED BY: PY Eligible Months	31,208	501
16.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold (PBPM)	\$1,024.43	\$7,299.00
17.	Benchmark Expenditure for All Aligned Beneficiaries		\$1,342.65

2.4 Discount & Quality Withhold

The discount applied to the total benchmark expenditure is determined by the risk arrangement selected by the DCE. For DCEs participating in the Global risk track there is a 2% discount applied to the trended, regionally blended, risk-adjusted benchmark in PY2021 (2%–5% in PY2022–PY2026). For Professional DCEs, the Performance Year Benchmark does not include this discount. For both Global and Professional DCEs a 5% quality withhold is also applied to the total benchmark expenditure for all aligned beneficiaries.

As illustrated in **Figure 2.12**, the percentage for both the discount (line 14) and quality withhold (line 16) are both calculated with the benchmark expenditure for all aligned beneficiaries (line 13) and are independent of each other.

Figure 2.12: Discount and Quality Withhold for a Global Risk DCE, in PY2021

13.	Benchmark Expenditure for All Aligned Beneficiaries	\$142,421,941.83
14.	LESS: Discount	(\$2,848,438.84)
15.	EQUALS: Benchmark Expenditure after Discount	\$139,573,502.99
16.	LESS: Quality Withhold	(\$7,121,097.09)
17.	PLUS: Earned Quality Withhold	\$7,121,097.09
18.	EQUALS: Benchmark Expenditure after Earned Quality	\$139,573,502.99

3.0 Financial Benchmark Calculation: Changes in PY2025 and PY2026

Beginning in PY2025, the benchmark for voluntarily aligned beneficiaries will be calculated similarly to claims-aligned beneficiaries, as a blend between an historical baseline and a regional rate. However, the approach for voluntarily aligned beneficiaries will still differ slightly from the approach previously described for claims-aligned beneficiaries, because there is a different baseline period for the voluntarily aligned beneficiaries. For the claims-aligned beneficiaries, the baseline period for the historical expenditure component of the benchmark will continue to be 2017–2019. For voluntarily aligned beneficiaries, however, the baseline period for the historical expenditure component of the benchmark will come from the claims for all beneficiaries voluntarily aligned to the DCE during those earlier performance years (2021–2023 for PY2025 and 2022–2024 for PY2026).

Figure 3.1 illustrates an abbreviated version of this different process, using PY2025 and the Aged & Disabled Benchmark as an example.

Figure 3.1a: Financial Benchmark Calculation, Claims-Aligned Beneficiaries, PY2025

Direct Contracting Model Standard DCE Example				
Aged & Disabled Experience and Benchmark for Beneficiaries Aligned Based on Claims				
	Baseline Experience			
	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019	Three Year-Benchmark
DCE Aligned Beneficiary Experience				
1 Aligned Beneficiaries				
2 ... Claims Aligned	5,926	5,996	5,715	
3 Eligible Months				
4 ... Claims Aligned	65,189	65,955	62,865	
DCE Claims Aligned Beneficiary Claims & Claims Reductions				
6 Non-DCE Provider Claims & Reductions	\$15,226,710.84	\$15,615,297.48	\$15,976,462.95	
7 PLUS: Participant Provider Claim Payments & Reductions	\$30,752,971.27	\$31,714,625.08	\$33,088,418.42	
8 PLUS: Preferred Provider Claim Payments & Reductions	\$11,253,355.42	\$11,447,648.74	\$12,108,231.48	
9 EQUALS: Total DCE Claims Aligned Beneficiary Expenditure	\$57,233,037.53	\$58,777,571.31	\$61,173,112.85	
10 DIVIDED BY: Eligible Months	65,189	65,955	62,865	
11 EQUALS: Claim-based Expenditure PBPM	\$877.96	\$891.18	\$973.09	
12 DIVIDED BY: DCE Risk Score	1.098	1.096	1.100	
13 EQUALS: DCE Risk-Standardized Baseline Expenditure	\$799.45	\$813.12	\$884.62	
14 TIMES: GAF-Adjusted Prospective Trend	1.107	1.085	1.102	
15 EQUALS: PBPM Historical Rate	\$885.18	\$882.03	\$975.24	\$938.27
16 DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$904.24	\$903.64	\$904.01	\$903.92
17 Blend Percentage (% historical)				55%
18 Blended Benchmark (before applying ceiling/floor)				\$922.81
19 Difference between Blended Benchmark and DCE Baseline				(\$15.46)
20 Ceiling on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				\$42.11
21 Floor on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				(\$16.85)
22 Blended Benchmark				\$922.81
23 DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment				1.021

Figure 3.1b: Financial Benchmark Calculation, Voluntarily Aligned Beneficiaries, PY2025

Direct Contracting Model Standard DCE Example				
Aged & Disabled Experience and Benchmark for Voluntarily Aligned Beneficiaries				
	Baseline Experience			
	CY2021	CY2022	CY2023	Three Year-Benchmark
1 Aged & Disabled Experience and Benchmark				
2 DCE Aligned Beneficiary Experience				
3 Aligned Beneficiaries				
4 ... Voluntarily Aligned	3,591	3,619	3,632	
5 Eligible Months				
6 ... Voluntarily Aligned	39,501	39,809	39,952	
7 DCE Claims Aligned Beneficiary Claims & Claims Reductions				
8 Non-DCE Provider Claims & Reductions	\$6,766,307.48	\$6,218,936.55	\$6,160,795.12	
9 PLUS: Participant Provider Claim Payments & Reductions	\$29,910,263.75	\$29,917,754.79	\$30,257,029.82	
10 PLUS: Preferred Provider Claim Payments & Reductions	\$4,172,067.22	\$4,104,099.50	\$4,089,003.84	
11 EQUALS: Total DCE Aligned Beneficiary Expenditure	\$40,848,638.46	\$40,240,790.83	\$40,506,828.78	
12 DIVIDED BY: Eligible Months	39,501	39,809	39,952	
13 EQUALS: Claim-based Expenditure PBPM	\$1,034.12	\$1,010.85	\$1,013.89	
14 DIVIDED BY: DCE Risk Score	1.020	1.013	0.998	
15 EQUALS: DCE Risk-Standardized Baseline Expenditure	\$1,013.84	\$997.87	\$1,015.92	
16 TIMES: GAF-Adjusted Prospective Trend	1.013	0.962	0.929	
17 EQUALS: PBPM Historical Rate	\$1,026.58	\$959.62	\$943.77	\$956.81
18 DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$911.48	\$910.87	\$911.24	\$911.15
19 Blend Percentage (% historical)				55%
20 Blended Benchmark (before applying ceiling/floor)				\$936.26
21 Difference between Blended Benchmark and DCE Baseline				(\$20.54)
22 Ceiling on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				\$42.11
23 Floor on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				(\$16.85)
24 Blended Benchmark				\$939.96
25 DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment				1.032

Figure 3.1c: Final Performance Year Benchmark Calculation, PY2025

	Benchmark to which Experience Accrues		TOTAL
	AD	ESRD	
1 Historical Blended Benchmark			
2 DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$912.62	\$6,376.43	
3 TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	1.021	0.997	
4 TIMES: PY Risk Score	1.091	1.162	
5 TIMES: PY Eligible Months	64,626	4,333	
6 EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$65,691,175.41	\$32,014,220.55	\$97,705,395.96
7 Rate Book Driven Benchmark			
8 DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$915.66	\$6,198.03	
9 TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	1.032	1.031	
10 TIMES: Risk Score	1.194	1.928	
11 TIMES: Eligible Months	31,208	501	
12 EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$35,185,635.69	\$6,171,190.97	\$41,356,826.66
13 Benchmark Expenditure for All Aligned Beneficiaries			\$139,062,222.62

Appendix

Figure A.1: Calculation of the A&D Prospective Adjusted FFS USPCC Trend

		Baseline Experience			
		CY2017	CY2018	CY2019	PY Benchmark
28	Prospective Trend				
29	USPCC	\$738.80	\$769.91	\$781.02	\$818.53
30	LESS: UCC Component	(\$18.08)	(\$15.19)	(\$12.83)	(\$14.60)
31	PLUS: Hospice Component	\$36.16	\$30.38	\$25.66	\$29.20
32	Times: Adjusted FFS USPCC	\$756.88	\$785.10	\$793.85	\$833.13
33	Prospective Adjusted FFS USPCC Trend	1.101	1.061	1.049	
34	TIMES: GAF Trend Adjustment	0.997	1.011	1.039	
35	EQUALS: GAF-Adjusted Prospective Trend	1.097	1.073	1.090	

Figure A.2: Calculation of a DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book

DC/KCC Rate Book Amounts for Two DCE's Across Three Counties							
PY	BY	DCE	County	Eligible Beneficiary Months	Adjusted County Rate	Adjusted County Payment	
2021	2017	1	48201	12,093	\$1,001.50	\$12,111,139.50	
2021	2017	1	48339	1,573	\$986.86	\$1,552,330.78	
2021	2017	1	48157	1,032	\$914.47	\$943,733.04	
2021	2017	2	48201	786	\$1,001.50	\$787,179.00	
2021	2017	2	48339	712	\$986.86	\$702,644.32	
2021	2017	2	48157	319	\$914.47	\$291,715.93	
2021	2018	1	48201	11,655	\$1,001.50	\$11,672,482.50	
2021	2018	1	48339	1,320	\$986.86	\$1,302,655.20	
2021	2018	1	48157	1,019	\$914.47	\$931,844.93	
2021	2018	2	48201	735	\$1,001.50	\$736,102.50	
2021	2018	2	48339	719	\$986.86	\$709,552.34	
2021	2018	2	48157	375	\$914.47	\$342,926.25	
2021	2019	1	48201	132,201	\$1,001.50	\$132,399,301.50	
2021	2019	1	48339	18,724	\$986.86	\$18,477,966.64	
2021	2019	1	48157	11,427	\$914.47	\$10,449,648.69	
2021	2019	2	48201	10,650	\$1,001.50	\$10,665,975.00	
2021	2019	2	48339	7,146	\$986.86	\$7,052,101.56	
2021	2019	2	48157	3,050	\$914.47	\$2,789,133.50	
DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book					Baseline Experience		
					CY2017	CY2018	CY2019
DCE1		SUM: Adjusted County Payments			\$14,607,203.32	\$13,906,982.63	\$161,326,916.83
		DIVIED BY: Sum Eligible Beneficiary Months			14,698	13,994	162,352
		EQUALS: DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book			\$993.82	\$993.78	\$993.69
DCE2		SUM: Adjusted County Payments			\$1,781,539.25	\$1,788,581.09	\$20,507,210.06
		DIVIED BY: Sum Eligible Beneficiary Months			1,817	1,829	20,846
		EQUALS: DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book			\$980.48	\$977.90	\$983.75

Figure A.3: Calculation of A&D Historical Blended Benchmark

Direct Contracting Model Standard DCE Example				
Aged & Disabled Experience for the Historical Blended Benchmark				
	Baseline Experience			
	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019	Three Year-Benchmark
DCE Aligned Beneficiary Experience				
1 Aligned Beneficiaries				
2 ... Claims Aligned	6,277	6,307	6,414	
3 Eligible Months				
4 ... Claims Aligned	69,042	69,378	70,551	
5 DCE Beneficiary Claims & Claims Reductions				
6 Non-DCE Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$32,034,345.07	\$33,036,067.79	\$34,467,102.52	
7 PLUS: Participant Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$11,722,245.23	\$11,924,634.11	\$12,612,741.12	
8 PLUS: Preferred Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$17,944,490.46	\$18,349,268.21	\$18,725,482.24	
9 EQUALS: Total DCE Aligned Beneficiary Expenditure	\$61,701,080.76	\$63,309,970.11	\$65,805,325.89	
10 DIVIDED BY: Eligible Months	69,042	69,378	70,551	
11 EQUALS: Claim-based Expenditure PBPM	\$893.68	\$912.54	\$932.73	
12 DIVIDED BY: DCE Risk Score	1.232	1.208	1.201	
13 EQUALS: DCE Risk-Standardized Baseline Expenditure	\$725.36	\$755.62	\$776.83	
14 TIMES: GAF-Adjusted Prospective Trend	1.097	1.073	1.090	
15 EQUALS: PBPM Historical Rate	\$796.04	\$810.78	\$847.13	\$831.12
16 DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$858.88	\$858.31	\$858.66	\$858.58
17 Blend Percentage (% historical)				65%
18 Blended Benchmark (before applying ceiling/floor)				\$840.73
19 Difference between Blended Benchmark and DCE Baseline				\$9.61
20 Ceiling on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				\$41.66
21 Floor on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				(\$16.66)
22 Blended Benchmark				\$840.73
23 DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment				0.979

Figure A.4: Calculation of ESRD Historical Blended Benchmark

Direct Contracting Model Standard DCE Example					
ESRD Experience for the Historical Blended Benchmark					
	Baseline Experience			Three Year-Benchmark	
	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019		
DCE Aligned Beneficiary Experience					
1	Aligned Beneficiaries				
2	... Claims Aligned	507	475	563	
3	Eligible Months				
4	... Claims Aligned	5,581	5,223	6,188	
5 DCE Aligned Beneficiary Claims & Claims Reductions					
6	Non-DCE Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$12,935,650.05	\$12,190,490.01	\$14,065,208.88	
7	PLUS: Participant Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$23,715,358.42	\$22,349,231.68	\$25,786,216.29	
8	PLUS: Preferred Provider Claim Payments & Claims Reductions	\$4,311,883.35	\$4,063,496.67	\$4,688,402.96	
9	EQUALS: Total DCE Aligned Beneficiary Expenditure	\$40,962,891.82	\$38,603,218.36	\$44,539,828.14	
10	DIVIDED BY: Eligible Months	5,581	5,223	6,188	
11	EQUALS: Claim-based Expenditure PBPM	\$7,339.76	\$7,390.67	\$7,197.59	
12	DIVIDED BY: DCE Risk Score	0.986	1.020	1.014	
13	EQUALS: DCE Risk-Standardized Baseline Expenditure	\$7,444.85	\$7,247.60	\$7,101.44	
14	TIMES: GAF-Adjusted Prospective Trend	1.075	1.054	1.038	
15	EQUALS: PBPM Historical Rate	\$8,003.12	\$7,641.46	\$7,372.92	\$7,516.50
16	DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$6,865.11	\$6,866.15	\$6,867.34	\$6,866.76
17	Blend Percentage (% historical)				65%
18	Blended Benchmark (before applying ceiling/floor)				\$7,289.09
19	Difference between Blended Benchmark and DCE Baseline				(\$227.41)
20	Ceiling on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				\$351.34
21	Floor on Blended Benchmark Adjustment				(\$140.53)
22	Blended Benchmark				\$7,375.96
23	DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment				1.074

Figure A.5: Benchmark Expenditure for ESRD Voluntarily Aligned Beneficiaries

		ESRD
DCE Benchmark Expenditure		
9.	Rate Book Driven Benchmark	
10.	DCE Regional Rate based on DC/KCC Rate Book	\$6,868.03
11.	TIMES: DCE Regional Rate Baseline Adjustment	1.000
12.	TIMES: PY Risk Score	1.063
13.	TIMES: PY Eligible Months	501
14.	EQUALS: Benchmark before Discount or Quality Withhold	\$3,656,796.62