iFHP Cost Containment Benchmarking Project

A Global, Member-Driven Programme to Turn Cost Containment Strategy into Practical Action

Why This Matters Now

Healthcare affordability is becoming one of the defining strategic challenges facing health insurers worldwide. Rising costs, increasing demand and growing expectations around access and quality are placing unprecedented pressure on payer organisations.

Yet many organisations continue to tackle cost containment in isolation, often without access to comparative evidence, practical implementation experience or opportunities to learn from peers facing similar challenges. The iFHP Cost Containment Benchmarking Project offers a different approach.

Delivered in partnership with BUNDLE, one of Europe's leading centres of expertise in cost containment strategies, this programme enables participating organisations to learn from international peers, access specialist expertise and build the internal capability needed to deliver sustainable cost containment strategies.

Rather than focusing solely on benchmarking, the programme is designed to help participating organisations strengthen their long-term capability to manage healthcare affordability while maintaining quality and access. Cost containment refers to the strategies, policy levers and operational approaches health insurers use to manage the total cost of patient care and, in turn, control healthcare expenditure growth while maintaining quality and access. These strategies can address all determinants of health and sickness, including social structures, lifestyle, living and working conditions. This varies between members based on local circumstances, regulation and market characteristics.

These strategies can influence:

- The price of healthcare services
- The volume and utilisation of care
- Provider incentives and reimbursement arrangements
- Patient behaviour and engagement
- Care delivery models and outcomes

Effective cost containment typically requires a coordinated combination of approaches, including contracting innovation, payment reform, utilisation management, value-based care and performance management.

The Opportunity

The iFHP Cost Containment Benchmarking Project offers participating members a unique opportunity to:

- Learn from leading international peers
- Access specialist expertise in cost containment strategy and implementation
- Understand what works, where, and why
- Build organisational capability through structured learning and collaboration
- Develop a practical roadmap tailored to their own organisational context
- The programme combines international benchmarking, peer learning, applied analysis and implementation planning to support meaningful organisational change.

What Success Looks Like for Participating Members

By the conclusion of the programme, participating organisations will have:

- A clearer understanding of how their current cost containment approach compares with international peers
- Access to evidence on successful cost containment strategies and implementation A prioritised portfolio of opportunities suited to their own market context
- Trained, internal cost containment experts capable of leading future initiatives A practical implementation roadmap tailored to their organisation

- Stronger internal capability to evaluate, prioritise and implement cost containment interventions
- Access to an international network of organisations committed to addressing healthcare affordability challenges together

A Value-Led Approach for Participating Members

1. Strategic Insight

Access structured and emerging international cost containment strategies and understand how they are designed, implemented, measured and evaluated across different healthcare systems.

2. Shared Learning

Participate in expert-led workshops, peer-learning activities and a dedicated micro-course that builds a shared understanding of cost containment approaches, regulatory environments and implementation challenges.

3. Context-Driven Benchmarking

Take part in a comparative benchmarking exercise designed to identify not only what organisations are doing, but why particular approaches succeed in specific healthcare environments.

Benchmarking will examine:

- Cost containment strategies currently in use
- Contracting and reimbursement approaches
- Provider incentive structures
- Utilisation management practices
- Governance and implementation models
- Performance measurement and outcomes
- Findings will be interpreted within the context of participating health systems to maximise practical relevance and transferability.

4. Organisation-Specific Cost Containment Roadmap

Each participating organisation will receive structured support to test and refine their existing cost containment strategy and develop an implementation-focused roadmap informed by the programme's learning and benchmarking findings.

This roadmap will include:

- Current-state assessment
- Benchmark comparison against peer organisations
- Identification of high-potential opportunities
- Prioritisation based on impact and feasibility
- Contracting and incentive considerations
- Implementation recommendations
- Suggested performance measures and evaluation approaches

5. Capability Building

Participating organisations will nominate one or two delegates who will receive focused support throughout the programme and:

- Develop expertise in cost containment strategy and implementation
- Gain exposure to international leading practice
- Build practical skills in evaluating and prioritising interventions
- Become internal advisers and change leaders within their organisations

Why Working Together Makes Sense

Participating members will gain greater value through collective learning by:

- Developing a common language and shared understanding of cost containment
- Benchmarking strategies within different health system contexts
- Accelerating learning through peer collaboration
- Accessing practical implementation experience from multiple markets
- Building relationships with organisations facing similar affordability challenges

Collaboration between iFHP and BUNDLE

The programme was conceived by iFHP to support its world leading network of health insurers. iFHP has decades of experience connecting members, facilitating peer learning and delivering international benchmarking initiatives.

The programme is supported by BUNDLE, a centre of expertise in cost containment models in healthcare, established through a collaboration between Health Campus, the Hague and the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM) in the Netherlands. BUNDLE focuses on the full lifecycle of healthcare innovation, from design and implementation through to evaluation and impact assessment.

Together we will ensure that benchmarking extends beyond high-level strategy by examining how cost containment initiatives are operationalised in practice, including contracting mechanisms, incentives, implementation approaches and real-world applicability across different healthcare markets.

Programme Timeline

June 2026
Programme Launch
- Launch at the iFHP London Congress
- Introduction to programme objectives and expected outcomes

Phase 1
Training & Set Up

September 2026
Micro-Course
- Interactive online learning sessions delivered by BUNDLE
- Development of a shared understanding of cost containment approaches
- Foundational training for Cost Containment Champions

September – November 2026
Member Survey and Strategy Inventory
- Member recruitment and onboarding
- Member survey distribution
- Identification of strategic priorities
- Mapping of current cost containment approaches
- Selection of deep-dive themes and peer groups

November – December 2026
Benchmark Dataset Development and Data Collection
- Benchmark framework design
- Testing and refinement
- Data collection and validation
- Member case study submissions

Phase 2
Benchmarking, Shared Learning & Reporting

January – March 2027
Analysis Sprint and Peer Learning
- Comparative analysis
- Peer-learning workshops
- Strategy review sessions
- Development of preliminary organisational roadmaps

May – June 2027
Draft Reporting
- Preparation of global benchmarking report
- Draft findings and comparative insights
- Development of organisation-specific recommendations

June – July 2027
Member Review and Finalisation
- Feedback sessions with participating members
- Validation of findings
- Refinement of recommendations and outputs

August 2027
Final Outputs and Dissemination
- Publication of benchmarking findings
- Delivery of organisation-specific roadmaps
- Final presentation and dissemination event
- Programme evaluation and future collaboration planning

The Legacy

Stronger Internal Capability
Through trained, internal cost containment experts and enhanced organisational knowledge.

Clearer Strategic Direction
Through structured support to review, test and refine your existing cost containment strategy, informed by months of learning, benchmarking and collaboration with international peers.

Practical Implementation Guidance
Through structured support to test, refine and operationalise cost containment priorities.

Enduring International Collaboration
Through membership of a trusted network of organisations committed to improving healthcare affordability and sustainability together.

Reduced Claims Costs
Through more effective management of healthcare expenditure.

Cost

£5,000 per organisation for Phase 1.

£5,000 per organisation for Phase 2.

Maximum of 2 two nominated Cost Containment Champions per organisation.

Limited Spaces Available – Register Your Interest Now

For any enquiries, please contact **Will@ifhp.com**

Register here

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