

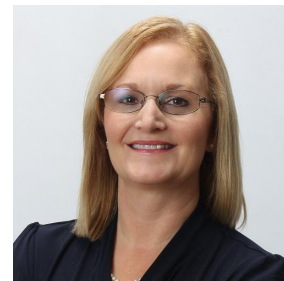


SPRING 2021 UPDATE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Welcome to our Spring 2021 Newsletter!

We are now over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and while it is encouraging that nearly half of the U.S. population has received at least one vaccination dose, we still have work to do to achieve herd immunity. Vaccine hesitancy is real, and the emergence of new variants of the virus adds urgency to the need to increase vaccination rates. At the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, we continue to **encourage all of our members to serve as vaccine champions in their workplaces, educating employees about the safety, effectiveness, and benefits of COVID-19 vaccines.**

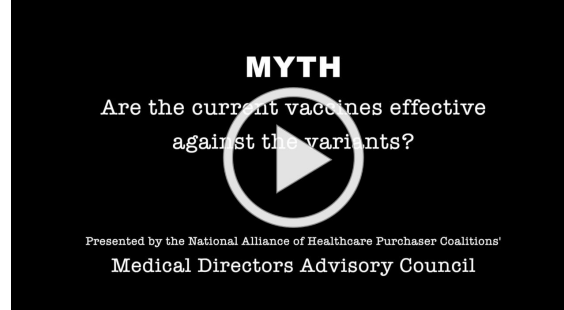
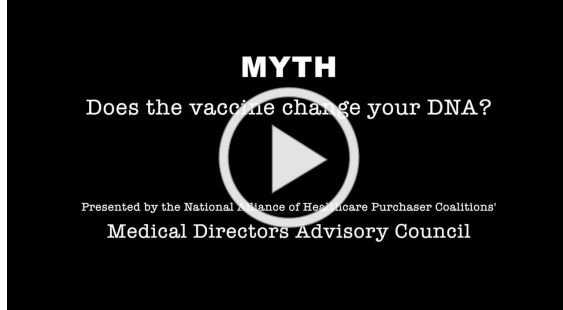


Florida Alliance Board of Directors member Rosa Novo (Miami-Dade County Public Schools) and I serve on the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions' COVID-19 Advisory Council. This group advised the National Alliance in the development of several communication pieces including the **updated "COVID-19 Vaccines: Get the Facts" educational video and several social media video clips that directly address the most common misconceptions about COVID-19 vaccinations.** These videos were produced in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control.

We encourage you to **watch and share these videos with your companies, organizations and even your personal contacts:**

- COVID-19 Vaccines: Get the Facts - No Translation: <https://vimeo.com/506939449>
- COVID-19 Vaccines: Get the Facts - With Spanish Translation: <https://vimeo.com/510020483>
- Social media clips: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8296087>

Here are just a couple of examples of the short clips debunking the myths surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine.



Some of the key points addressed in the videos include the following:

- COVID-19 vaccines **protect recipients from developing severe COVID-19 illness which could lead to hospitalization and possibly death.**
- The COVID-19 vaccines available today are **effective against the current variants.**
- As the virus continues to spread, it is more likely to mutate. **Increasing vaccination rates is critical** to not only keep people from getting sick, but also **to slow transmission and prevent new and potentially more dangerous variants from emerging.**
- The mRNA technology in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines was in development for over 10 years before the pandemic. While prompting the body to defend itself against COVID-19, **these vaccines do not affect or change the body's DNA in any way.**
- While some people experience mild to moderate side effects after their vaccine, these **symptoms typically resolve within 48 hours.**



The bottom line is that we need to follow the science and data which tell us **the risks of contracting COVID-19 are significantly higher than the extremely minor risk of having a complication after getting a COVID-19 vaccination.** These vaccines are our best hope for ending this pandemic, and as advocates for healthcare value,

we must all do our part to address vaccine hesitancy and protect our communities.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time at karen@flhealthvalue.org or 407-425-9500 with questions or needs.

Karen

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28th Annual Conference



Our **28th Annual Conference** was a huge success! The two-day event was held virtually on April 13 and April 20, 2021.

Thank you to our generous sponsors including AdventHealth/Cedar Gate Technologies, Amgen, Imagine Health, Merck, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, and Signify Health.

Marty Makary, MD, Johns Hopkins surgeon and best-selling author, kicked off day one with his keynote address,

Transparency in Healthcare - What the Doctor Ordered, which was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Florida Alliance President & CEO, **Karen van Caulil, PhD**. Panel participants delved deeper into the issues presented by Dr. Makary and the impact on Florida employers.

Day two featured speakers from Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR). Executive Director **Suzanne Delbanco, PhD** and Program Director **Andréa Caballero, MPA**, shared results of a year-long study during their presentation *Advancing Payment Reform in Florida: Recommendations from the Tampa-Orlando Market Assessment*. An expert panel, moderated by Dr. van Caulil, responded to the study results. **Click [here](#) to access the CPR report**

For a **detailed summary of the Annual Conference**, click [here](#).

Thank you to all the wonderful speakers who made the event such a success!

- **Marty Makary, MD**, *Professor*, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- **Niall Brennan, MPP**, *President & CEO*, Health Care Cost Institute
- **Mary C. Mayhew**, *President & CEO*, Florida Hospital Association
- **Chris Whaley, PhD**, *Policy Researcher*, RAND Corporation
- **Suzanne Delbanco, PhD**, *Executive Director*, Catalyst for Payment Reform
- **Andréa Caballero, MPA**, *Program Director*, Catalyst for Payment Reform
- **Francois de Brantes, MBA**, *SVP*, Episodes of Care, Signify Health
- **David Snow, Jr, MHA**, *Chairman & CEO*, Cedar Gate Technologies
- **Daniel Stein, MD, MBA**, *CEO & Founder*, Embold Health

Thank you to our Annual Conference sponsors!



Sponsoring partners



37th Meeting of the Board of Directors

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on April 20, 2021 following day two of the Annual Conference. Dr. van Caulil reviewed the organization's 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Plan of Work which includes continued involvement with The Leapfrog Group patient safety initiatives, The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use initiative, Smart Care Florida, and increasing employer participation in the RAND Hospital Price Transparency Study. The Florida Alliance will also expand our Cancer Navigation Program to include patients with complex chronic conditions and rare diseases.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the **Florida Alliance 2020 Annual Report**

Leapfrog's Spring 2021 Hospital Safety Grades Released

On April 29, 2021, The Leapfrog Group released the latest Hospital Safety Grades. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 27 national performance measures to grade hospitals using a methodology developed with guidance from the foremost experts in patient safety. This most recent data was collected immediately prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This independent grading system assigns "A," "B," "C," "D" and "F" letter grades to general acute care hospitals in the U.S. based on their ability to protect patients from avoidable errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. In Florida, 179 hospitals were graded, and 76 earned an "A," 48 earned a "B," 53 earned a "C," 2 earned a "D," and 0 earned an "F."

Twenty-seven hospitals across the U.S. have achieved 19 consecutive "A" grades, which represents an "A" in every biannual grading cycle since the launch of the Safety Grade in spring 2012. Congratulations to the two Florida hospitals that have received this straight "A" Safety Grade:

- AdventHealth Daytona Beach
- Memorial Hospital Miramar

According to Leah Binder, President & CEO of The Leapfrog Group, "this pandemic emphasized how much we rely on America's healthcare workforce" and added that performance measures used in this spring's Grade served as a proxy for the safety of care provided to COVID patients in many ways. For more information about the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade as well as individual grades and state rankings, please visit hospitalsafetygrade.org.



Mental Health Awareness Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma so many people experience. This year, with the ongoing effects of the pandemic and a shift in "returning to normal," it should be at the top of everyone's priority list.

The Center for Workplace Mental Health has developed a toolkit that offers tips and resources for supporting mental health and well-being at work for the month of May and beyond. Topics include, resiliency, self-care, isolation and loneliness, real strategies to show your support, and more.

Download the toolkit [here](#).

Stroke Awareness Month



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May is also Stroke Awareness Month. Recognizing the signs of stroke and seeking care urgently are two critical factors that can play a large role in reducing disability associated with stroke. *Stroke awareness has become even more important during the pandemic as many regions have reported a decline in the number of patients that seek healthcare- even those potentially experiencing stroke symptoms.* Several resources are offered by Florida Alliance Affiliate Member Genentech to support employers and other stakeholders to educate members about stroke.

- The [Stroke Awareness website](#) provides educational information for patients and caregivers, highlighting the signs & symptoms of stroke so members can recognize when they or a loved one may be having a stroke.
- A [Stroke Urgency Toolkit](#) provides a portal for employers to order or download free resources that may be used to support an educational stroke awareness campaign.
- An Employer Action Brief entitled "[Stroke Awareness: Urging Employees to get Emergency Care During the Pandemic](#)" was created and distributed by the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions.

Member Resources

Here are some of the latest resources from the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value and the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions.

[Department of Labor issues additional guidance on parity compliance](#)

The new statutory language and regulatory guidance make it clear that, as of February 2021, group health plans and insurance issuers must perform and document the comparative analyses of the design and application of nonquantitative treatment limitations (NQTs) on benefits and make these analyses available to state or federal authorities upon request.

[Health Care Provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)

On March 11, 2021 President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. While healthcare was not a major focus of the bill, there are several healthcare-related provisions included in the legislation.

- COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines
- Expansion of COBRA subsidies
- Temporary expansion of health insurance marketplace financial assistance

Oncology Educational Learning Module series

This Action Brief Series highlights key areas employers should focus on in the Patient Journey along with a number of employer strategies.

- [Achieving Value in Cancer Care](#)
- [Diagnosis, Treatment Planning and Care for Cancer Patients](#)
- [Survivorship, Surveillance & Back to Work](#)

For additional resources, educational information and other important briefs provided by the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions/Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, please visit our [website](#).

WELCOME To Our Newest Affiliate Members



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Are you interested in sponsoring our next newsletter, a webinar or a future event? Contact [Lisa Hain](#) for more information.