



Weekly Bulletin – August 19, 2022



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Hospital Price Transparency – Getting to a Fair Price

This Tuesday, August 16th, was a busy day! We had a Board of Directors meeting and held an Employer Roundtable on Hospital Price Transparency. Thank you to Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association (ICUBA) for hosting and for handling all the technical aspects of the two meetings.

At the Board meeting, several decisions were made including a decision to enhance our capabilities in health policy. We will be engaging with a consultant to help us expand our state health policy activity, increase awareness of the Florida Alliance with elected officials and other key stakeholders, and educate about the extreme burden Florida's employers are shouldering with high hospital pricing, being mindful of the important relationships we all have with the hospitals in Florida. That being said, **Florida is the third highest price state in the US for how much self-funded employers pay hospitals** for services as per the recent [RAND Hospital Price Transparency Study](#) at 345% of Medicare pricing.



We have no plans to put any policies or proposed legislation forward at this time – education and awareness are our focus. This is new territory for us, so we will proceed thoughtfully and carefully.

After the Board meeting, representatives from Brevard County Government, the City of Miami, ICUBA, Miami-Dade Public Schools, Orange County Public Schools, Orange County Government, The Mosaic Company, and Comcast NBCUniversal participated in an employer roundtable to learn how to use the [Hospital Value Dashboard \(Sage Transparency\)](#) and to discuss market and policy-based strategies that the Florida Alliance and the employer members can work on together. Key takeaways include:

- Create succinct messaging on this complex issue
- Educate the C-Suite of our employer members as soon as possible
- Work with the media to tell the employer side of the story
- Research what other states have done to curb hospital pricing
- Educate elected officials
- Increase the number of employers in the Florida Alliance membership because we need to have a critical mass of lives and dollars spent in order to influence change in each market

- Take charge of the hospital meetings and go into them with a fair price in mind, possibly using the methodology that was shared at the roundtable

Florida Alliance staff have been working with the Delivery and Payment Reform Strategy Group of the National Alliance to develop a playbook for all employers that lays out all the information shared in Tuesday's roundtable. We will share that playbook as soon as it is finalized and released.

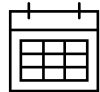
A topic that came up on Tuesday was how few hospitals in Florida are complying with federal transparency laws. A very timely article came out the next day:

80% of Florida hospitals not complying with the federal price transparency law

A [new report](#) published by [PatientRightsAdvocate.org](#) found that **most hospitals are withholding crucial information from patients and consumers, including employers**, by not releasing their actual, complete pricing data or by making the data difficult to access. Nearly 20 months since the hospital price transparency rule took effect, the analysis for the report suggests that the vast majority of hospitals remain noncompliant with the rule, and **some previously compliant removed pricing data from their files**. In addition, the data implies that lack of enforcement by the Department of Health and Human Services has led hospitals to continue to disregard the rule.



To read the full report, including data on Florida hospitals, click [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENT

**SECURE YOUR SEAT NOW AND REGISTER for our 27th Annual "Best of the Best!" –
Wednesday, September 14th,
9:00AM – 3:15PM at the Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando**

"Best of the Best" is always a favorite event for employers. This year's event is being held as part of the Validation Institute's Health Benefits Nation 3-day conference which runs from September 14-16.



All Florida Alliance members are entitled to a greatly reduced registration rate of \$99 for access to the full 3-day event, including "Best of the Best."*

"Best of the Best" Agenda Spotlight



"Advanced Primary Care and Direct Contracting...A School's Success Story"

Charles Prijatelj, EdD
Superintendent of Schools
Altoona Area School District

"How Healthcare Navigation Can Be Used to Close Care Gaps and Support Employee Wellbeing"

Doug Peddie, MBA
Benefits Manager/
US Benefits Transition Lead
Seimens Energy



"Best of the Best in Pharmacy Benefit Management"

Shannon Early, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Vice President of Human Resources
Waste Pro USA

"The Hendry Marine Story: Our Journey to Self-Funding and Innovation"

Stephanie Koch, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Director of Human Resources
Hendry Marine Industries, Inc.



To register for the 27th Annual "Best of the Best" as part of the Validation Institute's Health Benefits Nation 3-day conference, please follow these directions:

1. Go to the Validation Institute's Health Benefit Nation conference registration page by clicking [here](#).
2. Choose the Conference Rate: HR & Benefits Professional, Government, Non-Profit (\$295)
3. Scroll down and enter **FLAlliance** as your promotional code and **CLICK APPLY**.
4. Clicking APPLY allows your promotional code to be validated and you will see your total due change to \$99.
 - a. For an additional charge of \$79, all Florida Alliance members may choose to add on the Capstone Project to earn their Certified Health Value Professional (CHVP) certification. The total cost for the conference with this OPTIONAL add-on is \$178.
5. Enter the Attendee Information as requested and continue through the rest of the registration form through to payment.

6. Payments made are non-refundable.

***Please note that the Validation Institute has indicated that our Board members may attend at no charge. Board members, if you cannot attend, you may give your comp to one of your team members.** Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org to register. **Do not use the registration page if you are a Board member or are using the Board member comp.**

Health Benefits Nation 3-Day Event Features Karen van Caulil, Florida Alliance President & CEO – Thursday, September 15 – 2:30PM – 3:20PM



Karen van Caulil will feature prominently throughout the Health Benefits Nation 3-day conference as the event chairperson. In addition to presenting Florida Alliance’s “Most Engaged Employer” Award and moderating the **Best of the Best in Pharmacy Benefit Management** session during the “Best of the Best,” Karen will serve as a panelist during one of the breakout sessions on September 15th, **Strategies to Adopt a Whole-Person Care Approach to Sustain Healthy Behaviors and Lower Costs.**

During this session panelists will:

- Discuss strategies to personalize health and benefits programs to meet specific employee needs
- Show how treating the whole-person for specific conditions including musculoskeletal, diabetes, and obesity improves outcomes and overall well-being
- Present approaches to effectively offer timely support and help individuals manage and meet their health goals

To view the full Health Benefits Nation agenda, click [here](#).



PROJECTS/EMPLOYER LEARNING COLLABORATIVES (ELCs)

ATLAS Training and Launch Event – September 1, 2022 – 10:00AM – 11:15AM

ATLAS ADDICTION TREATMENT LOCATOR, ASSESSMENT, AND STANDARDS PLATFORM
CREATED BY SHATTERPROOF

As mentioned in last week’s bulletin, a new resource has recently launched to help people find high-quality addiction treatment in Florida. You are invited to a live training session and launch event for [ATLAS](#), an easy-to-use solution that highlights high-quality addiction treatment options available in Florida. ATLAS evaluates addiction treatment providers’ use of evidence-based best practices and publicly displays this information to support those in need and their loved ones in navigating to appropriate, quality care.

Individuals can search for and compare treatment options using criteria such as location, particular services offered, and insurance accepted.

The launch event is taking place in Tampa on Thursday, September 1st at FIVE Labs Tampa, 4115 West Spruce Street. People can attend in-person or virtually. On-site registration and networking begin at 9:30 am EST, and the launch event and ATLAS training will take place between 10-11:15 am EST. The registration links are:

In-person: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E358212&id=26>

Virtual (this option will only be for the ATLAS

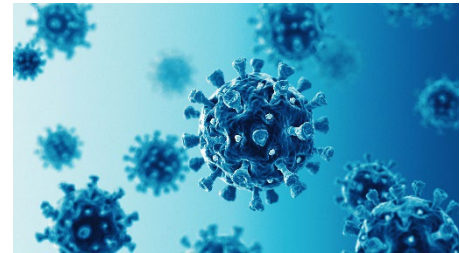
Training): https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JTtMkK3nSuy7Kc_QebYIzA



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

CDC's Updated COVID-19 Guidance: Next Steps for Business

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its COVID-19 guidance to align with high levels of immunity and the availability of treatment and prevention tools that have made serious illness, hospitalization, and death less likely.



Updated recommendations include:

- **People exposed to the virus no longer need to quarantine for 5-days but rather, they should wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.**
- **In most circumstances, companies are no longer recommended to test employees in order to screen for the virus.**
- **Social distancing is not universally required.**

Click [here](#) to see additional tips for employers.

For additional resources, visit our COVID-19 Resources webpage by clicking [here](#).