



Weekly Bulletin – February 24, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Welcome to our Newest Affiliate Members – EmsanaRx and Vida Health

EmsanaRx, the only pharmacy benefit manager created by employers, for employers, they are committed to making pharmacy benefits easy to understand, straightforward to access and always in the best interest of employers and the employee lives they impact. They accomplish this by bringing total clarity to business practices, leading with clinical approaches, and utilizing state-of-the-art technology.



Contact Ashley Vander Linde, National Head of Sales, to learn more: ashley@emsanaRx.com

vida **Vida Health** is a virtual care company intentionally designed to treat physical and mental conditions together — like diabetes, hypertension, stress, depression, and anxiety. Vida's clinically validated approach combines an AI-powered, personalized mobile app experience with a national network of high-quality providers who work in a high-touch, care team model that maximizes engagement, outcomes, and savings. Vida is the only virtual care company to put 100% of fees at risk.

For more information contact Jordan Taggart, SVP, Market Access: Jordan.taggart@vida.com

Thank you to our renewing Affiliate Members this month!



PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF
Johnson & Johnson





UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't Forget to Register for the Florida Alliance 39th Annual Meeting! Open, Virtual Meeting for All Members and the Public on Wednesday, March 29 • 1:00PM - 3:00PM ET

You don't want to miss our **keynote speaker, Dr. Marty Makary**, Johns Hopkins Surgeon, Professor of Public Health Policy at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and New York Times best-selling author of "Unaccountable" and "The Price We Pay: What Broke American Health Care – and How to Fix it," and principal investigator of [Improving Wisely](#), an initiative that advances high value care at a lower cost.



Dr. Marty Makary

In addition to hearing from Dr. Makary, this event offers the opportunity to learn about the important work the Florida Alliance is undertaking to improve the quality and value of health care in Florida. Join us on March 29 to:

- "Meet" our 2023-2024 Board of Directors and Executive Committee
- Review our 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Plan of Work

This is a **FREE** virtual event. To register, click [HERE](#).

Florida Alliance's 30th Annual Conference – Rosen Centre Hotel • April 19, 2023, 7:30AM – 5:00PM

Blueprint for Change – Best Care at a Transparent and Fair Price



Christine Hale, MD, MBA

We are excited to announce another confirmed speaker, **Christine Hale, MD, MBA, Vice President of Clinical Consulting at Lockton Dunning Benefits Associates**. Dr. Hale is known as an innovator, collaborator, and change agent, and is particularly passionate about utilizing data and creative solutions to reduce waste and improve cost effectiveness in health care.

Registration for this event will open next week but in the meantime, take advantage of our hotel block now before it expires on March 20 at 5PM. Click [here](#) to visit our Annual Conference webpage for more information about the event and a link to hotel reservations.

Emails will be sent to our main contact for each employer member with codes for three complimentary registrations per organization.



POLICY ACTIVITY

Employer Benefit - Health Policy in Transit Brief – Proposed PBM Reform Legislation Falls Short



The Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act ([S. 127](#)) was introduced in the Senate on January 26, 2023. While the National Alliance and its member coalitions have long supported PBM reform, we have significant concerns with this particular bill. Employer experience demonstrates that PBMs too often engage in opaque and anti-competitive business practices that are geared to improve their own bottom line at the expense of plan sponsors and employees and their families. This bill does not offer any solutions for the root causes of these issues.

The National Alliance and the broad employer community remains committed to working with policymakers to enact legislation that would address the problems employers face when working with PBMs. To read this brief and other **Health Policy in Transit** Briefs from the National Alliance, click [HERE](#).



Employer Educational Programs and Employer Learning Collaboratives (ELC)

Follow-up: Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative (ELC) – Session 6

On Monday, February 20, we held the 6th session in the Mental Health/ Substance Use ELC series. Monday's session included a discussion about the "Voice of the Purchaser" Survey, which we strongly encourage all employer members to complete (please visit "In Case You Missed It" at the end of the newsletter for detailed information). **We only have 6 responses to date and hope to have a more representative sample of responses so that we can use the information to address key issues in this ELC.**

The ELC also included a follow up on the EAP presentation from January, a discussion about prescription digital therapeutics coverage and how



Florida Medicaid has added this benefit to their plans, and an update on the federal Mental Health Parity laws.

If you were unable to attend this or any of the past sessions, you can find the recordings and accompanying resources on our Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative webpage: <https://flhealthvalue.org/our-work/mental-health-substance-use-elc/>.

We encourage you to access this page to view a draft letter you can use to ask your health plans to cover PDTs (following Medicaid covering it on their preferred drug list). If you would like a Word version of this letter, please contact David Cavalleri, david@flhealthvalue.org.

Our next session is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 10AM – 11:30AM ET. If you did not receive a calendar invitation for session 7 or need the invitation re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain, lisa@flhealthvalue.org.

Employer Member Benefit: *Resource* – The Working Well Toolkit



CENTER FOR
**WORKPLACE
MENTAL HEALTH**

The Center for Workplace Mental Health, in collaboration with expertise from leading employers, has developed The Working Well Toolkit. It offers a variety of tools to educate employers about several best practices to further develop healthy workplace environments.

A link to the Toolkit can be found here: [Workplace Mental Health - The Working Well Toolkit](#)

Employer Member Benefit – *Webinar* – Improve your Patient’s Recovery Outcomes with Prescription Digital Therapeutics – March 2, 12:30PM ET

Pear Therapeutics, the developer of reSET and reSET-O, two prescription digital therapies designed to assist people diagnosed with substance use disorder and opioid use disorder, will be holding an educational webinar on March 3 to educate individuals about its clinical outcome benefits. Both reSET and reSET-O were recently added by Florida Medicaid to its Preferred Drug List.



A link to the webinar’s registration can be found here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



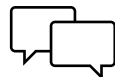
Health Observances

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month - Get the Word out About New Screening Guidelines



45 is the new 50! As of 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that screening start at age 45. CDC's Screen for Life campaign offers many resources to help spread the word about the importance of men and women 45 years old or older getting screened for CRC regularly.

Visit [Colorectal \(Colon\) Cancer | CDC](#) for resources including a very funny and short [video](#) you should definitely watch and consider sharing called, "The Bums and the Bees."



Employer Member Corner

Jessica Mason, Assistant Director of Human Resources for the City of Orlando and Florida Alliance Board Treasurer and Secretary, is looking for feedback from employer members to the question: **What is your new hire waiting period to join the health plan?** As the labor market has tightened, Jessica and her team have heard that shortening the waiting period may be more common and wanted to see if employers have experienced this issue in Florida.



Any feedback is appreciated and Jessica will share the results of her inquiry. Please email Jessica directly at jessica.mason@cityoforlando.net.



In Case You Missed It

PLEASE RESPOND: 2023 Voice of the Purchaser Survey on Mental/Behavioral Health - Survey Deadline March 15 (extended by a week)



As we shared last week and during this week's ELC session, the Path Forward is conducting an important national survey of employers/healthcare purchasers to understand the perceived performance of services received from mental health service providers, including health plans and point solution providers. **For those of you who have already completed the survey, thank you!**

Key Areas of the Survey:

- Equitable Access
- Quality of Care
- Integration of Mental/Behavioral Health into Primary Care
- Workplace Mental Health Support

If you have not yet completed the survey, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. You can find a PDF of the full question set [HERE](#) and we suggest reviewing it prior to completing the survey. Please know that all responses will remain confidential.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey. FYI - they use the term behavioral health to cover all mental health and substance use conditions and treatments.

As a respondent, at the end of the survey you will have the ability to indicate that you want to receive the overall results. Please know that we will receive the Florida specific results and the national results and will share the findings at an upcoming ELC session.

Your response by Wednesday, March 15 is appreciated. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Karen van Caulil, karen@flhealthvalue.org or David Cavalleri, david@flhealthvalue.org

Affiliate Member Pfizer Introduces New COVID-19 Awareness and Preparedness Initiative



There are many factors that can put you at high risk for severe COVID-19 and some may surprise you.

Know Plan Go is a COVID-19 awareness and preparedness initiative from Florida Alliance Affiliate Member, Pfizer.

Even celebrities can be at high risk. Michael Phelps, Jean Smart, Questlove, and Pink share their stories to encourage finding out if you have a high-risk factor, making a plan now, and acting fast in case of a positive test.

Know

Almost 3 in 5 adult Americans are at high risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19.

Are you one of them?

Plan

Mapping out a plan with your healthcare provider before COVID-19 strikes is one of the most important steps you can take to help prevent serious illness.

Go

Tested positive? It's time for action! Speak with your healthcare provider about whether a prescription for an authorized oral treatment is right for you.

Visit [Know Plan Go | COVID-19 Informational Website](#) to learn more.

Workplace Plans Paid more than Medicare for Physician-Administered Drugs, Study Finds, *Axios*, 2/13/23

Employer-sponsored health plans pay significantly more than Medicare for costly physician-administered drugs, threatening access to lifesaving treatments, according to the newly published analysis of claims data and Medicare files.

While high-volume drugs had relatively low unit prices, employer-sponsored health plan markups over Medicare prices were especially high for these drugs the Health Care Cost Institute analysis published in [JAMA Health Forum](#) found.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

