



## Weekly Bulletin – May 5, 2023



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades Released

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades were released earlier this week. Hospitals earn an “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, or “F” Hospital Safety Grade reflecting how well they protect patients from medical errors, accidents, injuries, and infections. These preventable errors kill an estimated 250,000 Americans every year and harm millions more.

For the first time, data in the Hospital Safety Grades incorporate hospital performance during the height of the pandemic, 2020-2022, and it suggests the average risk of three of the most harmful healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)—including **Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)**, **central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI)** and **catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)**—spiked to a 5-year high in hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.



A total of 181 hospitals were graded in Florida, and 64 earned an “A,” 42 earned a “B,” 65 earned a “C,” 10 earned a “D,” and 0 earned an “F.”

For more information about the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, as well as individual hospital grades and state rankings, please visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](https://HospitalSafetyGrade.org).

The Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value is the Regional Leader for The Leapfrog Group. Regional Leaders collaborate with employers, hospitals, health plans, physicians, labor unions, consumer groups, and others to advance Leapfrog’s mission of increasing healthcare transparency and develop community-focused goals that align with Leapfrog’s goals of improving the safety and quality of health care. Regional Leaders strive to achieve 100% hospital participation in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Survey and encourage consumers and employers to use that data to make informed decisions about where to seek care.

Stay tuned for more on the spring scores in future Bulletins. Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [Ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:Ashley@flhealthvalue.org) with any questions.



## Employer Member Educational Programs And Employer Learning Collaboratives (ELC)

### **Employer Member Benefit – Complimentary Webinar: *Accelerating Health Equity Using Workplace Policies & Benefits*, Tuesday, May 23, 12PM – 1:30PM (ET)**

Join in this National Alliance Townhall discussion on workplace benefits and wellbeing policies and practices that impact health equity.

#### Speakers



**Tammy Fennessy**  
American Eagle



**Cristie Travis**  
HealthcareTN



**Wayne Rawlins**  
Wellspark



**Dexter Shurney**  
Blue Zones Well-Being  
Institute

To register, click [HERE](#).



### May Is Mental Health Awareness Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. There are a multitude of ways employers can continue to create a supportive workplace. Mental Health America, in partnership with Walgreens, recently published a toolkit employers can use year-round. The toolkit includes do's and don'ts, ideas to create an employee-driven mental health strategy, and policy ideas, among other items.

Click [HERE](#) to access the toolkit.



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to our renewing Employer Members – ICUBA and Siemens Energy!



A thank you to Cleveland Clinic, Healthcare Advisory Council, and Affiliate Members, Acorda, Centivo, and Gallagher, for their membership renewals.



Welcome to our new Affiliate Members – *finHealth*, [PatientRightsAdvocate.org](#), and [MedWatch, LLC](#)



Knowledge is power when it comes to safeguarding your healthcare dollars. The *finHealth* app educates the user on critical (and often non-intuitive) healthcare costing practices, fosters benchmarking versus critical targets, delivers fingertip access and transparency to your organization's costs across several dimensions and isolates common healthcare billing errors through its proprietary risk-scoring algorithms. *finHealth* delivers powerful data analytics to simplify and control healthcare costs, delivering results to clients BEFORE they get paid.

For more information contact Lea Spagarino, Vice President Business Development:

[Lspagarino@finhealth.com](mailto:Lspagarino@finhealth.com)



[PatientRightsAdvocate.org](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization focused on ushering in systemwide healthcare price transparency. Through advocacy, testimony, legal research, and grassroots campaigns, their organization seeks actual, upfront healthcare prices that will greatly lower costs through a functional competitive healthcare marketplace.

By fighting for systemwide price transparency, [PatientRightsAdvocate.org](#) also seeks to improve healthcare quality. Price-empowered consumers will cause providers and insurers to compete by lowering prices and improving quality, revolutionizing the broken American healthcare system.

To learn more contact Cynthia Fisher, Founder and Chairman: [cfisher@PatientRightsAdvocate.org](mailto:cfisher@PatientRightsAdvocate.org)



Empowering People. Improving Lives.

Established in 1988, [MedWatch](#) is a proven industry leader providing population health management and cost containment services nationwide to a wide variety of clients including TPAs, managing general underwriters, stop loss carriers, employers, schools, hospital systems, Taft Hartley plans, and fully insured payers.

MedWatch's core services include Utilization, Case, and Disease Management which provide early identification management and mitigation of the health and financial risks of their clients and plan members.

Contact Tim Guzinski, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Business Development to learn more:  
[Tim.Guzinski@urmedwatch.com](mailto:Tim.Guzinski@urmedwatch.com)

**Thank you to all 3 new Affiliate Members for sponsoring our conference last month!**

Please reach out to Karen van Caulil at [Karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:Karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you are willing to make an introduction to an employer who is not yet a member of the Florida Alliance or to your solution providers who may be interested in affiliate membership. Thank you!



### In Case You Missed It

#### Fiduciary Check in: Operationalizing Fiduciary Oversight

Since the passage of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, fiduciaries are still figuring out how to best fulfill their roles and responsibilities. The National Alliance recently hosted a webinar discussing fiduciary oversight on April 20 with the following individuals:



**Jim Arnold**  
finHealth



**Laura Conte, Esq.**  
Advanced Medical Pricing  
Solutions



**Tony Sorrentino, JD,  
CPA**  
Health Plan Fiduciary  
Consultants (HPfid)



**Mike Thompson**  
National Alliance of  
Healthcare Purchaser  
Coalitions

The webinar specifically covers the concept of “prudence” for fiduciaries, examples of several problematic claims, and ways to better streamline the claims process. The recording and accompanying slide deck can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

## **What the Recent Failures of Mindstrong and Pear Therapeutics tell us about the Future of Digital Mental Health**



STAT recently discussed the troubles some digital mental health apps have recently faced. Companies cited in the article were Mindstrong, which announced plans to cease operations, and Pear Digital Therapeutics, which is filing for bankruptcy.

The article and analysis discuss some of the issues facing digital mental health companies. **Despite the need for novel technologies to adequately address behavioral health-related issues, science must be there to support these new approaches.**

Click [HERE](#) to read the article.

## **“White Bagging,” “Brown Bagging,” and Site of Service Policies: Best Practices in Addressing Provider Markup in the Commercial Insurance Market**

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) published a white paper covering several innovative strategies to mitigate drug and provider markup in the marketplace. White bagging, brown bagging, and site of service policies, in particular, are approaches used by payers to alleviate the continued rising costs of health care.

The paper discusses the existing evidence as well as identifying several conflicts both payers and provider groups face in delivering care that is equitable efficient, safe, and produces favorable health outcomes. **It details both the pros and cons for employers to weigh for each approach in addition to recent legislative efforts and policy reform.**



To view the white paper, click [HERE](#).