



## Weekly Bulletin – May 26, 2023



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### New Project - Florida State Policy Assessment Project



The Florida Alliance has been selected by Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) and Arnold Ventures to work together to develop policy interventions to address ongoing challenges with the high cost of health care in Florida. The focus of this work will be to craft a comprehensive picture of the state of the commercial healthcare market in Florida and work towards policy solutions to rein in healthcare costs and produce more favorable outcomes for employers and employees alike.

In June, the Florida Alliance and CPR will start the research analysis, examining market data and an intensive review of the current legislative and regulatory environment. During the second phase of the project, CPR -- with the Florida Alliance's support and expertise -- will identify key stakeholders to conduct in-depth interviews to identify possible solutions for the commercial health market. CPR and the Florida Alliance will work together to review the research and key stakeholder interview findings, with an actionable report to be disseminated in April 2024.

We will share more information as the project moves forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org).



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

#### Florida Alliance All Employer Member Meeting Webinar on *Fiduciary Duty* Monday, June 5, 2023, 11:00AM – 12:00PM ET

As follow up to the important discussions held at our Annual Conference in April, Christin Deacon from VerSan Consulting and former benefits executive for the State of New Jersey's employee health plan will discuss with us **what it means to be a fiduciary and how to execute those duties**. Christin will also provide legal and statutory updates on the transparency laws, the CAA laws, and ERISA Fiduciary updates. She will also share how to **turn these legal obligations into opportunities and the risks into rewards**.



Christin Deacon

A calendar invitation for this webinar was sent out on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please feel free to share it with whoever in your organization you feel should hear this important information. If you did not receive a calendar invitation, or need the invitation re-sent, please contact [lisa@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:lisa@flhealthvalue.org).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions about the meeting or have a particular question or concern that you would like Christin to address.

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## \$ HOSPITAL PRICING

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### Only 34% of FL Hospitals are Compliant with the Federal Hospital Price Transparency Law

Florida Alliance Affiliate Member [PatientRightsAdvocate.org](http://PatientRightsAdvocate.org) (PRA) has released a report focusing on hospital price transparency compliance. Since the federal Hospital Price Transparency Rule was enacted on January 1, 2021, PRA has been tracking these metrics to educate policymakers and vested stakeholders about hospitals that are and are not meeting this rule.



As of February 2023, only 489 out of the 2,000 US hospitals (out of a total possible 6,000 licensed hospitals) reviewed were meeting the rule's requirements. **In Florida, only 34% of 162 hospitals that were reviewed were compliant.** Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

Also, please take a look at this excellent video of a conversation between a CNN anchor and rapper Fat Joe. Fat Joe is an unlikely but passionate advocate for hospital transparency who learned about the lack of compliance and its subsequent impact on patients from Cynthia

Fisher, the founder and chair of PRA. Click [HERE](#) to view the CNN video which references the lack of enforcement by the federal government of this law. Please see below for more information on that exact point.

### CMS Fines 2 Hospitals for Price Transparency Violations

*MedCity News* reported that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently fined two hospitals for violating its price transparency rule, one located in New Hampshire and another in Texas. That brings **a total of four hospitals that have been cited since the price transparency rule went into effect in January 2021.** Despite the rule being in place for over two years, the number of hospitals that have been deemed as compliant is low. CMS also announced that hospitals will be automatically fined if they do not submit corrective action plans within 45 days of receiving notices regarding price transparency.



Read more here: [In Rare Move, CMS Fines 2 Hospitals for Price Transparency](#)

[Violations - MedCity News](#)



## HEALTH OBSERVANCES

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### June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

The LGBTQ+ community continues to face many challenges, particularly mental health challenges due to stigma, family and community rejection, discrimination, and bias. In the past year anti-LGBTQ+ legislation has been passed specifically targeting them, calling to mind the need to continue to offer support for LGBTQ+ covered members.



Mental Health America offers several resources, including images, messaging, webinars, and articles to support LGBTQ+. Check out their offerings here: [Pride and Mental Health | Mental Health America \(mhanational.org\)](#)

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### In Case You Missed It

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#### Most Employers Intend to Keep Preventive Services Even after Texas ACA Ruling



The recent *Braidwood vs. Becerra* Supreme Court ruling invalidated the cost-sharing component of preventive care for dozens of preventive screenings, such as a variety of counseling services, immunizations, and screenings for cancer and treatable chronic diseases. The ruling would impact 152 million Americans who have access to additional preventive care with zero cost-sharing. **A recent survey conducted by the National Alliance revealed that a majority of self-funded employers intends to continue offering these important screenings at no charge to covered**

**members.** Over 70% of those employers surveyed stated they would continue to cover 100% of preventive screenings at no cost, while 22% indicated they were unsure how they would approach coverage for preventive screenings, and 6% of respondents indicated they would become more selective in their offerings.

*Healthcare Finance* provides a brief summary here: [Most employers intend to keep preventive services even after Texas ACA ruling | Healthcare Finance News](#)

## National Alliance Employer Town Hall: Accelerating Health Equity Using Workplace Policies and Benefits

On Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the National Alliance held an Employer Town Hall with a focus on health equity in the workplace. **Among the expert panelists was Rosa Novo, Florida Alliance Board Chair, who presented some of the ways Miami-Dade County Public County Schools** has successfully integrated health equity into their benefits strategy. Thank you, Rosa, for continuing to represent Florida so well on the national stage!



If you missed the discussion earlier this week, we urge you to

listen to the recording: [Accelerating Health Equity Using Workplace Policies and Benefits.](#)

### Dr. Zeke Emanuel's Healthcare Megatrends



*Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel*

*Health Affairs* recently published the first in a series focusing on nine healthcare megatrends. Authored by Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, the first part of the series addresses two recent developments: 1) **the Merging of Payers and Providers - Amplifying Value-Based Payments** and 2) Reducing Upcoding And Other Gaming Of Medicare Advantage.

Regarding the first topic, Dr. Emanuel recaps the continued rising costs of health care and the impact those costs have on families and employers. He goes on further to discuss how insurers, not hospitals, have led the way in disrupting payment and delivery of care. Several recent mergers are evidence of this trend, including United-Optum, Walgreens-Village MD, CVS-Aetna-Oak Street Health, and Humana buying various primary care groups and recently entering into a risk agreement with Aledade. Dr. Emanuel termed this the "Kaiserification" of US health care, which places value-based primary care at the center of health care. He asserts that the success of these mergers will further accelerate the replacement of fee-for-service by alternative payment models that put risk on providers.

To read the entire article described above, please see below, as well as the other megatrends that Dr. Emanuel writes about. Interesting reading!

**Nine Health Megatrends Part 1: System and Payment Reform:** [Nine Health Care Megatrends, Part 1: System And Payment Reform | Health Affairs](#)

**Nine Health Megatrends, Part 2: System Reconfiguration:** [Nine Health Care Megatrends, Part 2: System Reconfiguration | Health Affairs](#)

**Nine Health Megatrends, Part 3: Patient Care:** [Nine Health Care Megatrends, Part 3: Patient Care | Health Affairs](#)