



Weekly Bulletin – June 2, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Leapfrog's Maternity Care Report Uncovers an Increase in C-Sections Nationally – Where Does Florida Stand?

The Leapfrog Group recently released its 2023 report focusing on the state of maternity care in the US. Several items were highlighted in the report, notably the improvement nationally in two procedures and



the worsening of another. In positive news, the percentage of early elective deliveries dropped to less than 2%, well below Leapfrog's guidelines for this procedure. Another positive highlight is the decrease of episiotomies, dropping from 12.6% in 2012 to 4.6% in 2022, below Leapfrog's standard.

However, **the percentage of C-section births in low-risk, first-time mothers continues to remain higher than Leapfrog's standard.** The established standard for these procedures is

23.6% of low risk, first time mothers, and in 2022 that percentage was 25.2%.

The report provides additional context regarding these findings and how employers can use this information. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

Florida's C-section rate is headed in the right direction, having been at 29.4% of births in 2019 down to 27.1% in 2022 but still above the national average stated above of 25.2% and Leapfrog's standard of 23.6%. Karen van Caulil is a member of the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) Advisory Council. Their director has recently reached out to seek the Florida Alliance's guidance and support on what our employer members can do to reduce unnecessary C-sections, especially in South Florida, but also to address the high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality, which remain high in the state.

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at Ashley@FLHealthValue.org if you have any questions or would like more information about the Leapfrog report and Karen van Caulil at Karen@FLHealthValue.org if you are interested in working on maternal and infant health issues and/or want to learn more about our work with the FPQC.



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

Have you noticed the **recent ads and commercials by prominent plaintiff attorneys seeking employees to add to class action suits against their employers?** The lawsuits are focused on “health plan mismanagement.” Below is an example targeting Target employees:

Schlichter Bogard
1,036 followers
Promoted

If you currently participate in Target's Healthcare Plan, you may have a legal claim.
...see more

**Are you a current
Target employee
who has
participated in the
company's
healthcare plan?**

**You may have a legal
claim—and we'd like to
speak with you.**

**Contact our office today
for a no-obligation,
confidential consultation.**

Schlichter
Bogard & Denton
investigations@uselaws.com
800-873-5297 | uselaws.com

As follow up to the important discussions held at our Annual Conference in April, Christin Deacon from VerSan Consulting and former benefits



Christin Deacon

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.**

To prepare for this webinar, please click [HERE](#) to take a look at this Department of Labor document, “Understanding Your Fiduciary Responsibilities Under a Group Health Plan.”

If you did not receive a calendar invitation, or need the invitation re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org.

Please contact Karen van Caulil at 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.

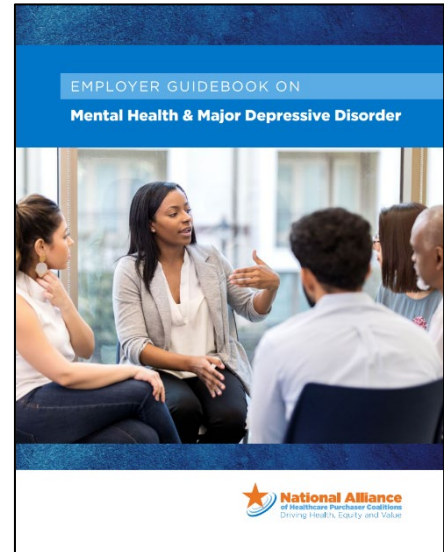
New Guidebook from the National Alliance on Mental Health and Major Depressive Disorder

The National Alliance recently published an employer guidebook on Mental Health and Major Depressive Disorder which provides an overview of major depressive disorder as well as some of the different types of depression. **The guidebook discusses the impact depression has on the American economy and considerations for encouraging covered members to seek care.**

Diagnostic and treatment considerations are also offered in addition to theories on the physiological components of depression. **The guidebook covers how a whole person approach can best serve a person struggling with major depression, touching on health equity, adolescents, caregivers, and comorbidities.**

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

If you have any questions about this guidebook or our Mental Health/Substance Use ELC, please contact David Cavalleri at David@FLHealthValue.org



WEBINAR: Alternative Funding Programs and Copay Cards: Litigation & Compliance Risks for Employers, Tuesday, June 15, 1:00PM ET

What is an Alternative Funding Program? It is a recent concept in pharmacy benefits pitched as a way for self-funded employers to make their employees and dependents eligible for “free” medications from charitable organizations and foundations, saving the plan money. These programs are accomplished by excluding some or all specialty drugs from the formulary. Once the drugs are excluded from the plan, the member appears to be uninsured or underinsured. The program then helps the “uninsured” individual apply for needs-based programs to cover the cost of the prescription that was intentionally removed from the plan’s coverage. When approved, the prescription is dispensed from a patient assistance program pharmacy at no cost to the plan sponsor or patient.

Recently, pharmaceutical manufacturers have begun denying these vendors access to patient assistance program funds, and lawsuits have been filed because the vendors are diverting charitable funds intended for people with little or no insurance coverage to those who are covered.

Does this litigation against the vendors put employers at risk for lawsuits? Join the specialty drugs experts from VIVIO and the ERISA law experts from Frier Levitt to learn more.

To view the agenda and to register, click [HERE](#).

Please reach out to Ashley Tait-Dinger at Ashley@FLHealthValue.org if you have any questions.





In Case You Missed It

Partnering for High-Quality Care

On May 14, Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) hosted a webinar reviewing a study conducted from Blue Shield of California, San Francisco Health Service System (SFHSS), and University of California at Berkeley. It focused on an accountable care organization (ACO) partnership between Blue Shield and SFHSS and the results from the UC- Berkeley study that examined that partnership. The study examined whether people who switched from a broad-network ACO HMO to a high-performance ACO HMO with a selective narrow network had better experiences regarding patient access, expenditures, utilization, and patient experience.

Results from the study found improved access to care, an increased likelihood to access specialty care, and the ability to get into care quickly with higher rates of satisfaction for the high-performance plan.

In addition, one of the highlights was having navigators help the patients find appropriate care. Collaboration between the health plan and the payer as well as lower costs were also cited as positive outcomes.



To watch the webinar, please click [HERE](#) and fill out the information at the bottom of the page to register.

House Panel Advances Transparency and PBM Bills



Last week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced several bills to increase PBM regulation as well as price transparency. Three of the measures passed unanimously, including making hospital and insurance pricing to be more easily available, and transparency requirements for PBMs.

Two other bills, that were advanced mostly along party lines, focus on 340B hospital reporting requirements.

The Florida Alliance will continue to track this federal activity and study how the recently passed Florida PBM transparency law and any new federal laws will impact our employer members. Please contact Karen van Caulil at Karen@FLHealthValue.org if you have any questions.

To read an article on this topic from Axios, please click [HERE](#).