



## Weekly Bulletin – June 9, 2023



### EMPLOYER MEMBER ACTION REQUESTED

#### IMPORTANT: Employers Needed to Participate in RAND 5.0 Hospital Price Transparency Study!

It is not too late to participate in the RAND 5.0 Hospital Price Transparency Study! **The Florida Alliance**



**cannot understate the importance of including as much hospital pricing data from our employer members as possible in this study. The resultant analysis will help us better understand the economic impact the American healthcare industry has on public and private sector employers, particularly here in Florida.**

The table below provides a snapshot of Florida’s participation in RAND 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0.

RAND Table

RAND Version	# of states participating	Total Commercial/Private Allowed Amount for Florida	Total Commercial/Private Allowed Amount for participating states	Percentage of Total Commercial/Private Amount for Florida relative to participating states	Florida’s relative price to Medicare, outpatient	Florida’s outpatient relative price rank as percentage to Medicare for outpatient services	Florida’s relative price to Medicare, inpatient	Florida’s inpatient relative price rank as percentage to Medicare for inpatient services
2.0	25	\$53,000,000	\$3,619,000,000	1.5%	302%	10 <sup>th</sup> highest	193%	13 <sup>th</sup> highest
3.0	47	\$61,610,000	\$9,348,920,000	0.7%	337.7%	6 <sup>th</sup> highest	299.3%	5 <sup>th</sup> highest
4.0	50	\$492,040,000	\$18,996,840,000	2.6%	362.86%	4 <sup>th</sup> highest	281.79%	3 <sup>rd</sup> highest

There are three aspects to highlight from the table, the first being the percentage of the total commercial/private pay allowed amount for Florida as it relates to the other participating states. Despite the increasing number of participants from Florida, the overall percentage is low given how many people live in Florida and the vast network of healthcare providers. It is imperative to get a more accurate understanding of Florida’s expenditures, and that can only happen with higher rates of participation in the RAND 5.0 study.

The second and third aspects to pay attention to in the table are Florida's ranking with respect to Outpatient and Inpatient relative prices to Medicare. Florida continues to see hospital pricing eating more and more into employers' operating budgets despite being told how "business-friendly" the state is. The data indicates that hospitals are incurring what amounts to a hidden tax that prohibits the thriving of both covered members and their employers, not only having an economic impact but also on obtaining quality care in a timely manner. The best way to hold health plans and hospitals accountable is for employers to have information on hand when engaging them. Your participation is critical to making this happen.

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) to learn more about participating in this important work.

Several health plans have standardized participation as outlined below. If you are unfamiliar with this study, please read the FAQ document here: [Enroll in RAND 5.0 Study \(employerptp.org\)](#). Please **do not** utilize the enrollment form found in the link. If you have participated in the past and would like to participate again, **you must sign up again**.

Here are the steps to follow if you utilize **Cigna**:

1. Complete the CIGNA- Certification of Compliance Release to Vendor/Consultant from Health Plan or Plan Sponsor that is attached to the bulletin.
2. E-mail Brian Briscoe, at [bbriscoe@rand.org](mailto:bbriscoe@rand.org), Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) and your CIGNA representative. Include the following in the email:
  - a. The file completed from step one.
  - b. State that you wish to contribute your 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2022 claims data to the Hospital Price Transparency Study.

Here is the step to follow if you utilize **UMR, Anthem, or Aetna**:

1. Email Brian Briscoe, the RAND Hospital Price Transparency Study Project Manager, at [bbriscoe@rand.org](mailto:bbriscoe@rand.org) and cc: Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) stating that you wish to contribute your 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2022 claims data to the Hospital Price Transparency Study.

Here is the step to follow if you utilize **UnitedHealthcareGroup**:

1. Email Brian Briscoe at [bbriscoe@rand.org](mailto:bbriscoe@rand.org), Katherine F. Bisek at [katherine.bisek@uhc.com](mailto:katherine.bisek@uhc.com), and Jamie Aitken at [jamieaitken@uhc.com](mailto:jamieaitken@uhc.com) as well as cc: Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) stating that you wish to contribute your 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2022 claims data to the Hospital Price Transparency Study.

**Remember, the deadline to have the claims data securely transferred to RAND is August 31, 2023**, in order to be part of the Round 5 Study report slated for publication in May 2024. This means that all potential data contributors should move as quickly as possible to opt-in or finalize requisite DUAs. If you are uncertain about how to enroll, please email Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org).

**Many thanks to THE MOSAIC COMPANY for participating in RAND 5.0!!!**



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

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### Florida Alliance All Employer Member Meeting - WEBINAR on *Fiduciary Duty* – Follow-up



*Christin Deacon*

On Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> we held our All Employer Member Meeting. Thank you to our speaker, Christin Deacon, for providing her expertise and guidance on the important topic of fiduciary duty. If you were unable to attend the meeting, or would like to review any of the materials, please click [HERE](#) to access the slides, recording, and additional resources.

### Employer Member Benefit: Webinar – *Creating a Diabetes Prevention Benefit that Works for your Employees* – Thursday, June 22, 11AM – 12:30PM ET

During this webinar, participants will learn about Type 2 diabetes prevention efforts in the workforce and hear from national public health leaders and benefits professionals. Representatives from MetroHealth (Cleveland, OH) will share:

- How Type 2 diabetes prevention has become a priority within their organization;
- Why they chose to cover the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) lifestyle change program; and
- How they have structured their benefit to best reach their workforce, and their program reach to date.



Participants will be introduced to Healm, a free, online decision-support platform, and how to apply steps necessary to prevent Type 2 diabetes for employees in their organization.

Register [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to visit our **Diabetes – Obesity ELC webpage** to access the latest resources provided by Florida Alliance Affiliate Member Novo Nordisk about recognizing the impact of obesity, and other important information on this topic.



## In Case You Missed It

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### **Ford Motor Company Sues Blue Cross Blue Shield in Antitrust Case Over “Astronomical” Profit**

As reported by Reuters, the Ford Motor Company is suing Blue Cross Blue Shield accusing the association of a price-fixing conspiracy that caused the automaker to pay inflated costs for health insurance products for its employees.

Ford said the alleged scheme to curb competition among Blue Cross Blue Shield organizations deprived the auto company of

“the opportunity to purchase health insurance products and services from a lower cost competitor and/or at a price set by the free market.”



Read the full article [HERE](#).

### **Appeals Court to Weigh Fate of ACA Preventative Care Requirement**

On June 6 the New Orleans-based U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals will begin hearing arguments regarding the recent ruling on zero cost-sharing preventive services. There currently exists a freeze on the ruling. Should the appeals court rule in favor of lifting the freeze, it could create financial and service barriers for people seeking preventive care. Read more about this case via Axios [HERE](#).

