



## Weekly Bulletin – June 16, 2023



### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to our renewing Employer Members – Orange County Public Schools and the City of Miami!



Welcome to our new Affiliate Members – Jazz Pharmaceuticals, benefitSMART Cancer Solutions, and Virgin Pulse

[Jazz Pharmaceuticals](#) is focused on developing life-changing medicines for people with serious diseases — often with limited or no options — so they can live their lives more fully. By transforming biopharmaceutical discoveries into novel medicines, Jazz Pharmaceuticals is working to give people around the world the opportunity to redefine what’s possible – to make the “small wins” big again.

Jazz Pharmaceuticals is a fully integrated, global biopharmaceutical company with a diverse portfolio of marketed medicines and novel product candidates for adults and children, and expertise in two key therapeutic areas: neuroscience and oncology. They are an industry leader in treating sleep disorders and epilepsy, and in oncology they are investigating and delivering medicines for hard-to-treat hematologic malignancies and solid tumors. They use their deep knowledge of and commitment to these fields to innovate and identify new solutions where none previously existed.

For more information contact Lori Evans, Associate Director Channel & Trade Accounts:

[lori.evans@jazzpharma.com](mailto:lori.evans@jazzpharma.com)



[benefitSMART](#) has created a pathway to bring real and meaningful cost containment for medical care to self-funded businesses. benefitSMART is a proprietary process of Golsan Scruggs, a specialized risk management consultant and corporate insurance brokerage firm founded in 2001.

The benefitSMART process improves employer finances and employee health risk trajectories by leveraging data transparency, direct clinic contracting, and personalized guidance for plan participants. It is a direct contracting program developed with employers in the Oregon and southwest Washington

State markets that they are trying to bring to all 50 states and can lead to massive savings for employers, often 50% of the cost of treatment that had been \$100,000.

To get more information, contact Pete Scruggs, Founder: [pscruggs@benefit-smart.com](mailto:pscruggs@benefit-smart.com)



As the world's #1 health, wellbeing, and navigation platform, [Virgin Pulse](#) impacts over 100 million people across 190 countries by helping Fortune 500, national health plans, and many other organizations. Featuring the industry's only true Homebase for Health® that unifies and simplifies the health and wellbeing journey, Virgin Pulse fuses high-tech, high-touch, predictive analytics, AI, and data to support clients and members across the entire health, wellbeing, and benefits lifecycle— including screening and assessment, activation, behavior change, adoption of sustainable, healthy habits, benefits navigation, condition management, gaps in care closure and digital therapeutics.

With employee wellbeing experts located around the world, they help their clients build the ultimate employee experience.

For more information contact Alex Corvi, Regional Sales Director, [alex.corvi@virginpulse.com](mailto:alex.corvi@virginpulse.com), or Sam Smith, Enterprise Sales Director [sam.smith@virginpulse.com](mailto:sam.smith@virginpulse.com)



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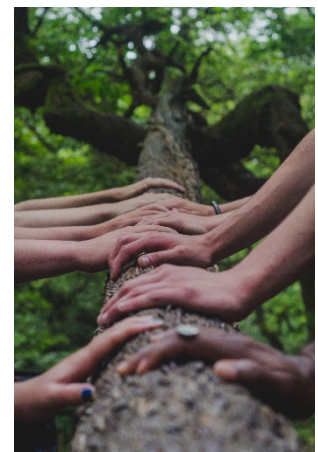
## Employer Member Educational Programs, Reports, Resources, and Employer Learning Collaboratives (ELC)

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### **Employer Member Benefit: Leapfrog Report – *Racial, Ethnic, and Payer Disparities in Adverse Safety Events: Are there Differences across Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades?***

Leapfrog [published a study](#) conducted in partnership with the Urban Institute, which found that while higher-graded hospitals were safer for all patients, **Black and Hispanic patients experience higher rates of many adverse surgery-related safety events relative to White patients across all Safety Grades** (“A” hospitals, “B” hospitals, and “C/D/F” hospitals). The study compared the rate of a defined set of dangerous, preventable patient safety problems among White, Black, and Hispanic patients at hospitals at different grade levels. The analysis included 2019 hospital discharge records from 15 states and over 10 million patients. The study was funded by AARP with support from the ABIM Foundation.

The report compares the rates of 11 dangerous, preventable patient safety problems, including blood clots or sepsis after surgery, among White, Black, and Hispanic patients. Across all graded hospitals, Black patients experience a



higher incidence of surgery-related complications than White patients, including sepsis, blood clots, and respiratory failure. Hispanic patients have a higher risk of experiencing sepsis and respiratory failure after surgery, and these differences remain significant at hospitals at all grade levels.

[Check out the press release](#) for more information and [read the full report](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org).



## National Involvement of FL Alliance Team & Employer Members

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Although last month was Mental Health Awareness Month, mental health needs to be considered all year long. We'd like to take this time to remind our employer members that Karen van Caulil, Florida Alliance President and CEO, is a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid and is available to educate your employees.

**“First aid for mental health is just as important as first aid for our bodies.”**

**– NYC First Lady, Chirlane McCray**

Mental Health First Aid is a course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Evidence behind the program demonstrates that it does build mental health literacy, helping the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness.

**“Mental Health First Aid takes the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and substance problems by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental health illness or substance use disorder.”** (MHFA website)



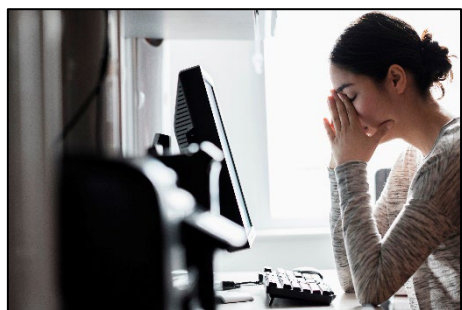
For more information, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org)



## In Case You Missed It

### Paying for Health Care Creates Mental and Financial Health Concerns

According to over 1,000 people who participated in a recent study conducted by Health Payment



Systems and PayMedix, **healthcare costs have caused physical and mental health issues.** The study was conducted with people who were currently enrolled in their employer's health insurance plan. Slightly more than half of the study's participants found that paying bills had become stressful. **Nearly 1 out of 3 respondents stated that their deductibles and out-of-pocket costs had become unaffordable, with that number increasing significantly for younger people, people of color, and those with a credit score lower than 669.**

Almost one out of five respondents stated they had received a collection notice from their provider. Medical debt, according to the study, has led to three out of ten individuals dipping into savings to cover their bills as well as nearly 20% delaying payments. **Due to these stressors, more than one-fifth of the respondents indicated they would prefer to never see a doctor again.**

The article, published by *Healthcare Finance News*, discusses the role employees believe employers should have as well as the larger impact of this trend. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

### Study Shows Rising Operating Profits at Nonprofit Hospitals Did Not Result in Greater Charity Care

*Health Affairs* recently reported on the results of a study conducted by Rice University pertaining to charity care for over 2,700 non-profit and for-profit short-term acute care and critical access hospitals. **In their analysis of financial data between 2012 and 2019, the researchers found that while non-profit hospitals saw their cash reserves double, their average amount spent on charity care decreased. For-profit hospitals saw similar increases in their cash reserves, although charity care nearly tripled.**



The data, obtained through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, shows that while hospitals continued to make sizeable gains cash-wise, it did not necessarily translate into delivering more charity care. Read more about the study's findings [HERE](#).