



Weekly Bulletin – June 30, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

2023 Scorecard on State Health System Performance

Every year, the Commonwealth Fund's *Scorecard on State Health System Performance* uses the most recent data to assess how well the healthcare system is working in every state. This year, Massachusetts topped the State Scorecard rankings for health system performance based on 58 measures of healthcare access, quality, use of services costs, health disparities, reproductive care and women's health, and health outcomes. **Florida's results were below average based on these overall performance measures ranking 36 out of 51** (rankings include all 50 US states and the District of Columbia).

This year's *Scorecard* featured a new metric of health system performance, Reproductive Care and Women's Health, to rank states on health outcomes for women, mothers, and infants and access to important healthcare services. Florida ranked 35 on this key aspect of health system performance. **In Florida, 29 percent of pregnant women did not receive early prenatal care during the first trimester, ranking at the bottom of all states in the country on this indicator.**



The Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative at the University of South Florida has reached out to the Florida Alliance team to work together on a maternal and child health initiative. We will keep you posted.

Read The Commonwealth Fund's **full article** on their *2023 Scorecard* [HERE](#).

Florida Alliance Data and Research Committee is Reconvening

Thank you to Mark Weinstein, President and CEO of Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association, who has agreed to chair (once again) the reconvened Florida Alliance Data and Research Committee. The first focus area of this group will be to update the **Employer Action Reports**. These reports have been based on The Leapfrog Group's hospital initiatives and will continue to include this data, but additional data sources such as Quantros, the RAND Hospital Transparency Study, and NASHP Hospital Costs sources could also be included.



Please reach out to Ashley Tait Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org if you are interested in joining the committee to think through the data needed in these reports or if you have any questions.



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

EMPLOYER MEMBER COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR: *Raising the Bar for High-Quality Mental Health*, Thursday, July 13, 12:00PM – 1:00PM ET

The need for more personalized and higher-quality, accessible mental health solutions is greater than ever. This webinar will highlight this new thinking. Register [HERE](#).

Speakers and Moderator



Michael Thompson
(Moderator)
National Alliance of
Healthcare Purchaser
Coalitions



Janaera Gaston
Northeast Business Group
on Health



David Kraus, PhD
Outcome Referrals



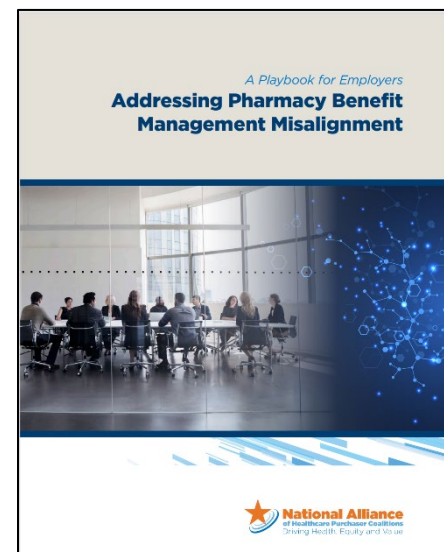
Bruce Sherman, MD
Sherman Consulting

EMPLOYER MEMBER RESOURCE: *Addressing Pharmacy Benefit Management Misalignment Playbook*

The high cost of prescription medications continues to weigh down families and employers alike. To help combat this, the National Alliance has just released a **Playbook addressing Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM)** to help employers and plan sponsors better approach and negotiate better terms for their covered members.

To read the playbook, click [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org

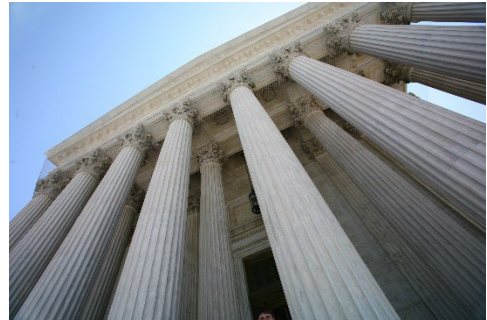




HEALTH POLICY ACTIVITY

ACTION ITEM – Supporting The PATIENT Act

Patient Rights Advocate has asked us to share with our employer members the opportunity to sign onto a letter of support for The PATIENT (Promoting Access to Treatments and Increasing Extremely Needed Transparency) Act of 2023 (HR 3561), bipartisan legislation introduced by Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Frank Pallone, to protect healthcare consumers from overcharging and to reduce the cost of care and coverage. This important legislation will accelerate the work we are doing to achieve substantial savings on healthcare costs.



The PATIENT Act:

- Ensures that patients and employers can access real price information, the true cost of care, and shop for care accordingly, by codifying and improving upon the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) price transparency rules supported by both the Trump and Biden administrations
- Improves regulatory oversight and increases transparency of PBM business and operating practices, thus lowering costs by helping employers better understand drug price information
- Takes important steps to improve transparency into ownership structures of healthcare providers, insurance companies, and PBMs to better understand the state of consolidation in the healthcare industry and the effects of such consolidation on prices and patient care.

To sign on to a letter of support for HR 3561 to protect patients and lower costs, click [HERE](#).

Please reach out to Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions and **please let her know if you will be signing onto the letter of support.**

Competition and Transparency: The Pathway Forward for a Stronger Healthcare Market

The Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee [hearing](#) on June 21, 2023 addressed issues of healthcare competition and transparency, key areas in which legislation can bring costs down for American working families and small businesses.



Professor Christine Monahan, Assistant Research Professor at Georgetown University, was one of the witnesses testifying and in her remarks, she spoke to the multiple harms that consolidation in the healthcare market is having on employers and consumers. Karen van Caulil was one of the individuals Professor Monahan interviewed for her research.

Professor Monahan proposed two areas of action that Congress could address to help improve the US healthcare market:

- **Shed more light on and rationalizing commercial payment practices**
- **Expose and eliminate wasteful spending and inappropriate spending in employer-sponsored coverage.**

She spoke specifically to outpatient facility fees and replace those with site neutral payments for care to help address wasteful and inappropriate spending. She also brought up enforcement for noncompliance to systems that fail to make available their costs in addition to random auditing of data disclosures. In addition, she pointed to insurers making their data available in smaller files in order to better facilitate analysis and reporting.

To read her full statement along with references to the studies mentioned in her statement, click [HERE](#). The testimony can be found [HERE](#), at the 30-minute mark.



HEALTH OBSERVANCES

July and August Health and Cultural Observances

The National Alliance's Coalition Health Advisory Council has developed Health Observance newsletters and information that our members can use in wellness communications with their employees.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to shine a light on the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness.

Those in racial/ethnic, gender, and sexual minority groups often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors including inaccessibility of high-quality healthcare services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health, according to the American Psychiatric Association.



[The National Alliance July health and cultural observances newsletter](#) includes articles and campaign ideas to supplement employee communications.

GET THE JULY NEWSLETTER

August Features an Array of Health and Cultural Observances

Take time in August to:

- Promote the importance of childhood and adult immunizations
- Heighten awareness about staying safe in the sun
- Celebrate women – and Women’s Equality Day
- Shine a light on overdose as the silent killer it is

[The National Alliance August health and cultural observances newsletter](#) includes articles and campaign ideas to supplement employee communications. Click on the images below to learn more.



GET THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Mark Cuban's Online Pharmacy Adds a Biosimilar to its List of Low-Cost Drugs



Mark Cuban

Mark Cuban, best known as an investor on Shark Tank and as the owner of the Dallas Mavericks, announced the launch of his online pharmacy, Cost Plus Drug Company, in January 2022. Since its inception, Cost Plus Drugs has saved patients hundreds and thousands of dollars a month by pricing their medications at their cost plus 15%. **Now Cuban's company is partnering with Coherus Biosciences to make a biosimilar referencing Humira available to patients at an affordable price.** This is the first time the pharmacy has added a biosimilar to its list of drugs. According to Mark Cuban, "this is just our first step in making biologics affordable for patients."

Read the full article from the *AJMC*, the center for Biosimilars, [HERE](#).

Enjoy a fun and safe 4th of July!

