



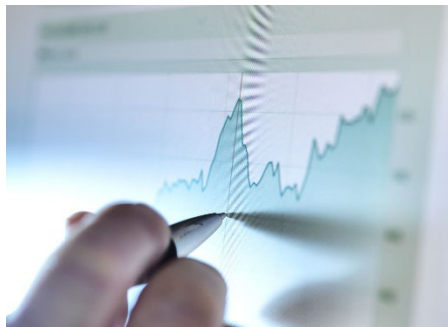
## Weekly Bulletin – August 4, 2023



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### **Employers Face “A Nightmare of Delays” Obtaining Their Claims Data (But We Are Finally Seeing Some Progress in Florida!)**

An online article published on August 2 in Bloomberg Business, *Health Insurers Don't Want You to Know Where Your Money is Going*, reasons that “employers are losing trust in the companies they hire to run their health plans.” While most employers have not publicly probed the insurance companies’ role in



rising healthcare costs, with new transparency rules requiring hospitals and health insurers to publicly disclose prices they have negotiated for many services, employers are starting to ask questions.

However, employers are finding that when asked, insurance companies are refusing to provide information about their medical claims leading to lawsuits.

**Karen van Caulil, President and CEO of the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, was interviewed for this article in April. She shared the difficulty Florida employers were having in getting timely access to their claims data. As quoted in the article, Karen indicated that employers “are handcuffed in being able to get that information.”**

Since the time of the interview, we have made significant progress in seeing our employer members be able to obtain their claims data for the cost savings analysis project we are working on with the help of experts like Alex Jung and Chris Deacon.

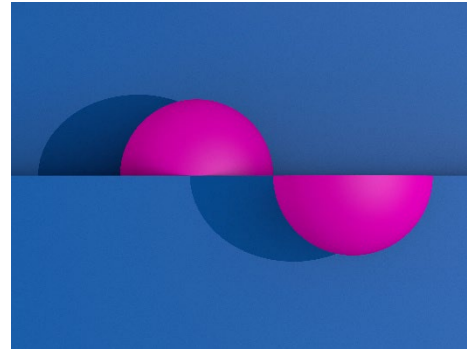
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) – also **it is not too late to participate in the cost savings analysis project**, but it is “last call”!

Read the full article [HERE](#).

## The Working with Cancer Pledge

One out of two people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. While 92% of patients agree that the support they receive has a positive impact on their health, for various reasons 50% of people diagnosed with cancer are afraid to tell their employers.

The Florida Alliance is urging employers to take the **#workingwithcancer** pledge to help abolish the stigma and insecurity at work for those with cancer.



To learn more about the #workingwithcancer campaign, click [HERE](#).

**We will be kicking off our Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative in September, so stay tuned!**

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) with any questions or concerns.



## HEALTH POLICY ACTIVITY

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### Florida Alliance Signs on to Letter to Congress in Support of ERISA

This week the Florida Alliance signed a letter to Congress supporting ERISA and asking them not to take action to erode it. The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions has been working with various other coalitions in Washington, DC on an effort to protect ERISA, mostly in the context of the PBM legislation that is currently being discussed. The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions signed on to this letter and asked for member coalitions to sign on as well. The Florida Alliance Board of Directors voted in favor of our participation in this letter of support.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org)

To view the letter, click [HERE](#).



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

### Follow-up: Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative (ELC) – Session 8

On Thursday, August 3, we held the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Mental Health/Substance Use ELC. Thank you to Jessica Mason, the Assistant Director of Human Resources at the City of Orlando, for her presentation of the Notice.Talk.Act. at Work program that she’s implemented at the City. If you have any questions about the program, there is a presentation on the program on our ELC webpage that was given by Emma Jellen, Interim Director of the Center for Workplace Mental Health. Also, Jessica has offered to answer any questions you may have. Please contact her at [jessica.mason@orlando.gov](mailto:jessica.mason@orlando.gov)

The session also included a presentation of the latest mental health Action Briefs which can be found in the resources section on our Mental Health/Substance Use ELC webpage.

### Employer Member Benefit: Action Brief – *New Approaches to Addressing Major Depressive Disorder in the Workplace*

Clinical depression has become one of America’s most costly illnesses, comparable to heart disease. The action steps found in this Action Brief include strategies employers can use to support the needs of people with major depressive disorder.

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

### Employer Member Benefit: Action Brief – *Raising the Bar for High-Quality Mental Health*



In a 2022 study by Gallup, nearly one-fifth of US workers (19%) rated their mental health as fair or poor; those workers reported about four times more unplanned absences due to poor mental health than their peers. Mental health issues in the US workforce cost the economy an estimated \$185 billion annually in lost productivity and presenteeism. This Action Brief offers specific steps employers and other plan sponsors can take to raise the bar for high-quality mental healthcare to ensure a more equitable and responsive behavioral health system.

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



Also discussed during the session was an update on mental health parity guidance, the Bowman Foundation Mental Health Access Survey Results and Recommendations, USF’s Mental Health and Wellness in the Workplace Course, and a Mental Health and Health Equity initiative by a select group of employers located within five RESET coalitions and the National Alliance.

For more information about the USF course, click [HERE](#).





If you were unable to attend this or any of the past sessions, you can find the recordings and accompanying resources on our Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative webpage: <https://flhealthvalue.org/our-work/mental-health-substance-use-elc/>.

**Employer Member Benefit: Complimentary Webinar – *Reaching Fiduciary and Employee Satisfaction Goals (A Fiduciary Check-in)* – Thursday, August 17, 12:00PM–12:30PM ET**

Over the last several years, Prudential has taken steps to transform its health and benefits strategy and take control over the misaligned incentives found in the traditional healthcare system.

One step in that journey was implementing a value-based centers of excellence solution that connected patients to the nation’s top providers for surgery and cancer treatment. Prudential has not only been able to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to ensure cost-effective, high-quality care but is also delivering dramatically superior experiences to its members in times of need.

Speakers

			
<b>Andrew Gregg</b> Prudential	<b>Brent Nicholson</b> Carrum Health	<b>Tony Sorrentino, JD</b> Health Plan Fiduciary Compliance	<b>Michael Thompson</b> National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

Register [HERE](#). To view previous fiduciary check-in webinars, click [HERE](#).

**Employer Member Benefit: Complimentary Webinar – *Rethinking Employer Prevention Strategies to Improve Quality, Safety, & Wellbeing* – Tuesday, August 22, 12:00PM–1:00PM ET**

This webinar includes a moderated discussion on the impact the pandemic has had on employer prevention strategies and highlights key results from the recent National Alliance employer [prevention survey](#).

Speakers

 <p><b>Neil Goldfarb</b> Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health</p>	 <p><b>Ginger Miller</b> Utz Quality Foods LLC</p>	 <p><b>Dr. Nicole Shaffer</b> Pfizer</p>	 <p><b>Cristie Travis</b> HealthCareTN</p>
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Register [HERE](#).

**Reminder: Save The Date! “Best of the Best” – January 11, 2024, 8:00AM – 1:30PM ET**

Our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual “Best of the Best” event will be held at the GuideWell Innovation Center in Lake Nona on January 11, 2024, from 8:00AM to 1:30PM. Registration information, the agenda, and other details to come.



**“Best of the Best” features innovative employers who have addressed challenging healthcare issues and implemented successful benefit design changes and/or health and wellbeing programs. The employers share their stories including lessons learned and outcomes.**

If you did not receive a “Save the Date” calendar invitation for this event or need the invitation to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain, [lisa@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:lisa@flhealthvalue.org)

Thank you to Florida Blue for hosting this event and our lead sponsor, Florida Alliance Affiliate Member, Pfizer!

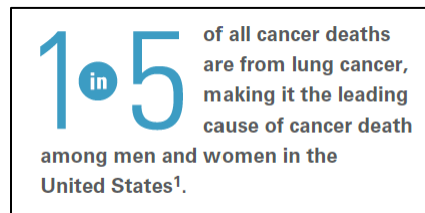




## Employer Member Benefit: Resource – *The Importance of Screening for Lung Cancer* Infographic

Lung cancer is the #1 cause of cancer deaths in the US. Symptoms of lung cancer usually do not appear until the disease is in an advanced stage, making screening a valuable tool in helping detect lung cancer earlier.

Thank you to Florida Alliance Affiliate Member [Merck](#) for providing this important resource. Click [HERE](#) to view.



### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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## Community Oncology Alliance Files Lawsuit Against the Department of Health and Human Services Over Policy Change Limiting Cancer Drug Delivery to Patients



The Community Oncology Alliance has filed a lawsuit on behalf of its members and the patients they serve against the US Department of Health and Human Services to overturn a recent change in federal health policy restricting cancer practices from delivering drugs to patients.

The suit calls the change in policy an unconstitutional and dangerous display of government overreach that presents real and irreparable injury to patients.

Read the full lawsuit filing [HERE](#).