



Weekly Bulletin – September 22, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Setting the Record Straight: The Urgency of Achieving Hospital Fair Price

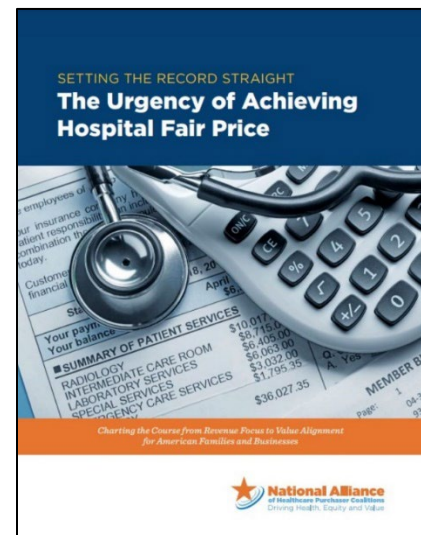
When we meet with hospitals to discuss “fair price,” we get a lot of pushback from them – e.g. “the data is wrong” and more. With input from the Florida Alliance team and employer members, earlier this week the National Alliance released ***Setting the Record Straight: The Urgency of Achieving Hospital Fair Price***, a new resource that identifies and dismantles 10 of the top hospital industry falsehoods surrounding rapidly increasing and indefensible pricing practices, including rising costs due to the staffing “crisis,” the widespread use of facility fees, the harmful consequences of industry consolidation, and the lack of competition throughout the healthcare marketplace.

As we have shared with our members for the past year and a half, according to a RAND study released in 2022, **Florida is the third highest price state on average for the price paid by employers for hospital services, averaging over 300% of Medicare.** A “fair price” has been established at 140-200% of Medicare.

Click [HERE](#) to visit our hospital transparency webpage which has more information on RAND and this new report from the National Alliance.

The Florida Alliance is working with our members and nationally on market-based solutions and policy-related changes at both the state and federal level that will lower prices while ensuring high quality care. This report is an important and timely resource to assist employers in understanding what the data represents and to counter arguments from organizations that say the data is wrong. We will be scheduling meetings with hospitals in your markets and using much of the information in this report to guide our discussions.

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions or need additional information.



ACTION ITEM: Seeking Your Input to Better Understand the Specialty Drug Landscape



Genentech, one of the Florida Alliance’s Affiliate Members, is seeking survey input from employers to better understand the specialty drug landscape and obtain employer perspectives to inform healthcare stakeholders regarding strategy development and implementation. These survey findings are incorporated into a report co-sponsored by Genentech, entitled “Specialty Benefit Design Report.” The results of the survey will be shared with us in the report.

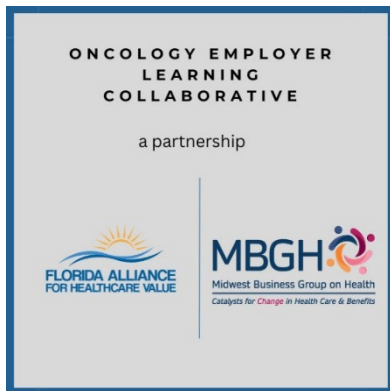
Please click [HERE](#) to complete the survey. Please note the survey closes Friday, October 13.

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions or need additional information.



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

Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative Kickoff – Follow Up



We had a great turnout on Tuesday for the first session of the 2023 Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative!

Thank you to our sponsors, Genentech, Pfizer, and Merck for supporting this initiative.

If you were unable to attend or are looking for the resources mentioned during the webinar, please visit our Oncology Learning Collaborative webpage by clicking [HERE](#). We will continue to add information to this webpage.

The second webinar in the series is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17 at 2:00PM – 3:30PM ET. This session will cover topics including navigation, psychosocial support, survivorship, and return to work.

You should have already received a calendar invitation for session #2. If you did not receive one or need it to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org.

CPR Releases Schedule for 3rd Quarter Health Plan User Group Meetings

Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) has released its schedule for their Q3 2023 Health Plan User Group (HPUG) meetings. The meetings will take place between October 4 and October 17 and will focus on health equity data and health plan data policies, with the following announced dates:

1. **Wednesday, 10/4, 1:00PM-2PM ET– United HealthCare**
2. **Tuesday, 10/10, 1:00PM-2:00PM ET– Blue Shield of California**
3. **Wednesday, 10/11, 2:00PM-3:00PM ET – Elevance Health**
4. **Tuesday 10/17, 1:00PM-2:00M ET – CVS/Aetna (still being confirmed)**



The information to join the calls can be found [HERE](#). Our employer members are free to attend any of the meetings. You may gain a new perspective when you see what other health plans are doing (or not doing)!

For more information, please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org

Two Board Members from the Florida Alliance Scheduled to Speak at Health Benefits Nation in Houston

The Validation Institute is hosting their Health Benefits Nation event September 26-28 in Houston. They are fortunate to have among their speakers and panelists our very own Rosa Novo, Florida Alliance Board Chair and Executive Benefits Director of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Stephanie Koch, a member of our Board of Directors and Director of Human Resources at Gulf Marine Repair!



Rosa Novo



Stephanie Koch

Rosa will be speaking at two sessions, the first entitled “New Pathways for Chronic Care: Improving Management of and Support for Chronic Health Conditions.” The second session will be co-led by Stephanie, entitled “Employers Speak Up: Demanding Transparency to Fix the Cost and Quality Problem.” Stephanie will be speaking at an additional session, entitled “Making the Impossible Possible: How HR Can Be Healthcare Changemakers.”

The Florida Alliance is grateful for their continued contributions, dedication, and leadership and for sharing their knowledge and expertise. We look forward to hearing about their experience and will share whatever information we can from their sessions. Information regarding the Health Benefits Nation event can be found [HERE](#). Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Study Reveals Most Americans Want Value-Based Care

Recent research conducted by the United States of Care shows the majority of Americans want value-based care. Findings from the study revealed that **people want to spend more time meeting with their care providers rather than waiting for them as well as wanting an experience that is better integrated across practitioners.**



In addition, Fierce Healthcare reported that the research respondents did not entirely resonate with the term “valued-based care,” identifying other terms that could better describe the kind of health care they preferred over the current system of care, such as **“quality-focused care” or “patient-focused care.”**

Please contact David Cavalleri at david@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.



Health Observances

October Observances

National Depression Education & Awareness Month



Major Depressive Disorder, or clinical depression, is a common, serious, and sometimes chronic mood disorder that can be difficult to diagnose and treat. It affects 8% of adults in the US – almost 60% of whom either do not seek, or significantly delay seeking professional support.

[National Depression Education & Awareness Month](#) calls attention to this under-diagnosed condition, offers important reminders about breaking the stigma, and opens doors to candid conversations.

[National Depression Screening Day](#) – October 5, 2023

[World Mental Health Day](#) – October 10, 2023

Health Literacy Month

During [Health Literacy Month](#), employers are urged to move health literacy *awareness* to health literacy *action*. It is through collective health literacy actions that we build bridges between organizations and people needing health care. These bridges provide safe passage over healthcare challenges and barriers that may result in harm.

Better health literacy leads to improvements in health equity enabling all people to access high quality care and attain positive health outcomes.



Disability Employment Awareness Month: Advancing Access and Equity



[National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions of America’s workers with disabilities and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy has chosen “Advancing Access and Equity” as its theme for NDEAM 2023.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Promotes Screening, Prevention, Research, and Understanding

Some wear pink to celebrate, some quietly observe the month, some grieve, and some feel unseen or misunderstood. [Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#) offers tools and resources to help normalize it all. Known best for its pink theme color, the month is aimed at:



- Supporting people diagnosed with breast cancer including metastatic breast cancer.
- Educating people about breast cancer risk factors stressing the importance of regular screening, starting at age 40 or an age that is appropriate for personal breast cancer risk.
- Fundraising for breast cancer research.

For more information, contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org



In Case You Missed It

Employers Point to Higher Costs After Medicare Drug Negotiations

The pending Medicare drug price negotiations could come with mixed results, according to a recently published article by Bloomberg Law. While the federal government begins to address the high cost of medications, the consequences of those negotiations are uncertain. **Self-insured employers and their covered member may see higher prices as a result, according to concerns expressed by Margaret Rehayem, Vice President of the National Alliance and Alex Jung, founder of Alex Jung Consulting LLC, two longstanding partners of the Florida Alliance.** Both argue that additional actions need to take place to truly transform the availability and pricing of medications, including price transparency and addressing the pharmacy benefit manager industry.



Margaret Rehayem



Alex Jung

There are additional concerns that these negotiations could result in fewer biosimilars from making their way to the marketplace. Biosimilar uptake could potentially save Americans billions of dollars. On the flip side, others argue that there may be a “spillover” effect where those negotiations may result in a decrease in medication prices for self-insured employers.

The Florida Alliance will continue to remain vigilant on this issue to ensure each of our employer members has the necessary tools to make the best decisions on behalf of their covered members. In addition, our many thanks to the continued partnerships with the National Alliance and Alex Jung. The Bloomberg Law article can be accessed [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org