



Weekly Bulletin – September 29, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?



How to Access Free COVID-19 Tests

COVID-19 rapid tests that check for the current variant are available at no cost for individuals to order through the United States Postal Service. **Each U.S. household can now place an order for four tests to be delivered to their home for free.**

Click [HERE](#) to order the at-home tests.

You can also check to see if any at-home rapid tests you currently have in your possession had their expiration dates extended. Visit [HERE](#) to find out.

Please consider sharing this information with your employees. Not many people know about this yet!

Please contact David Cavalleri at david@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



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

CPR Health Plan User Group Meeting Date Changed for UHC

Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) has updated the date for one of the upcoming the 3rd quarter Health Plan User Group Meetings. Last week's bulletin listed the meeting with UnitedHealthcare as taking place on October 4 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM EST. However, **CPR has changed the date for that meeting to October 26 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM EST.** An updated meeting link and passcode document is attached to the bulletin.



If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org

Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative (ELC) Session 2 – Tuesday, October 17, 2:00PM – 3:30PM EST

The Florida Alliance, in partnership with the Midwest Business Group on Health, is holding the second in an important series of webinars, our 2023 Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative, on Tuesday, October 17 from 2:00PM to 3:30PM EST. **The second session will focus on navigation, psychosocial support, and survivorship/return to work.**

Thanks to Affiliate Members Genentech, Merck, and Pfizer for their support of this initiative!



ACTION ITEM - If you were able to participate in Session 1, please take this brief survey: [Oncology Learning Collaborative Survey](#). Thank you!

If you were unable to attend the first session 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.

If you did not receive a calendar invitation, please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org

Leapfrog Diagnostic Safety and Quality Webinar Summary



The Leapfrog Group held its first webinar regarding Diagnostic Safety and Quality on September 12 entitled “The Fundamentals of Diagnostic Errors in Hospitals.” Mark Graber, MD, Founder and President Emeritus of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine, reviewed the current research describing the frequency of misdiagnoses and their health and

economic impact. **Misdiagnosis presents a significant obstacle to achieving excellence in medical care in U.S. hospitals.**

More than 12 million diagnostic errors take place every year, with an estimated cost of \$100 billion per year, with emergency departments serving as a starting point for many when it comes to error reduction, healthcare delivery, and cost. The annual cost due to errors alone is reason enough for employers to want to better understand how and where they can occur, as well as take steps to ensure they leverage quality data when contracting with high quality hospitals and facilities.

Employers should continue to pay close attention to how diagnostic excellence and error reduction impacts the cost and quality of care for their covered members. **This is a topic of particular interest to our President and CEO, Karen van Caulil, Ph.D., who serves as an employer representative on a Technical Expert Panel for the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine.**

The second and third webinars will be held on October 18 and November 28 -- both at 3:00PM-4:00PM EST. A brief synopsis of the second and third webinar as well as registration information for each in addition to the recording and slides from the first webinar can be found here: [Diagnostic Safety and Quality Webinar Series](#).

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



In Case You Missed It

Employers Play a Major Role in Lifestyle Change for Their Employees



Employers can play a key role in facilitating lifestyle change for their employees, according to a recent research article entitled “A Rationale and Framework for Activating Employers as Agents of Change in the Implementation of Lifestyle as Medicine” in the August 18, 2023, issue of *Journal of Health Promotion*.

Dr. Jerome Adams, the former U.S. Surgeon General, was cited in the article as saying that employers are the most important partner in advancing this practice. **Employers have long been recognized as having a significant influence on the health and well-being of their employees and were identified as a primary potential influence on the health of their communities.**

The article provides a well-defined framework and guiding principles for Lifestyle as Medicine as well as ideas and strategies for employers to consider implementing.

To access this article, please click [HERE](#).

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

Why Do Women Pay More Than Men Do in Out-of-Pocket Costs in Health Care?

An analysis recently conducted by Deloitte revealed that employed women face as much as \$15.4 billion more in out-of-pocket costs each year compared to men. Fierce Healthcare reported that women between the ages of 19 and 64 incurred higher out-of-pocket expenses. While women seek health care more regularly than men, that factor alone did not reveal that to be the primary driving force for the gap in costs. **Women are more likely to need services that surpass the deductible, leading to higher spending out-of-pocket, compared to men.**



Employers can engage in several activities to better understand and address this issue. Among those activities is examining highest-cost services women utilize and identify cost-savings strategies. Another strategy is for plan sponsors to conduct a comprehensive review of their benefits focusing on the effects based on gender.

Those interested in learning more can access the Fierce Healthcare article by clicking [HERE](#).

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



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members!

Employer Member – **The School District – Palm Beach County**



Affiliate Members



Welcome to our new Affiliate Members – **AbbVie** and **VillageMD**

AbbVie was founded in 2013 when it became a separate company from Abbott. AbbVie formed a new kind of enterprise, a biopharmaceutical company, with the stability, global scale, resources, and commercial capabilities of a pharmaceutical company and the focus and culture of a biotech.



Since the beginning, AbbVie's mission has been to discover and deliver innovative medicines that solve serious health issues today and address the medical challenges of tomorrow. Today, their 50,000+ employees around the world focus on discovering and delivering transformational medicines and products in several key therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, neuroscience, eye care, virology, women's health, in addition to products and services across its Allergan Aesthetics portfolio.

AbbVie's commitment to health does not stop with medicines. They work to deliver sustainable solutions that improve the health of their business and the health of humankind.

For more information, contact Robert Grundman, National Account Executive, US Market Access at robert.grundman@abbvie.com



VillageMD is a leading provider of health care for organizations moving toward a primary care-led, high-value clinical model. The VillageMD solution provides the tools, technology, operations, and staffing support needed for physicians to drive the highest quality clinical results across a population. VillageMD works with physician groups, independent practice associations, and health systems to improve quality, deliver a first-rate patient experience, and lower costs in the communities they serve.

VillageMD's solution to improving health outcomes is to dedicate resources where they have historically made the most difference. Instead of devoting 90% of resources to mitigating the effects of chronic conditions, they are investing in primary care to prevent those conditions from occurring, and to lower costs across the board.

Their teams are currently serving millions of patients and they are growing their footprint across the country to meet the demand for health care that builds trust as part of its model.

Announced on July 3 was a deal merging VillageMD with Summit Health-CityMD. The deal, valued at \$8.9 billion, includes investments from Walgreens Boots Alliance and Cigna Corp's healthcare unit Evernorth, which will also become a minority owner in VillageMD.

For more information, contact Dave Ruscitti, Director Business Development at Druscitti@villagemd.com