



## Weekly Bulletin – October 6, 2023



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### Florida Type 2 Diabetes Report for 2023

The Florida Alliance is pleased to announce that the Florida [Type 2 Diabetes Report for 2023](#) is completed. Many thanks to the staff at Sanofi for their work in compiling this report for us. Stay tuned for an invitation in the near future for a webinar regarding the report's findings and its implications for employers. The report can be accessed through our [Diabetes/Obesity ELC webpage](#).



Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

#### FDA Authorizes Updated Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine for Use



This week the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the 2023-2023 formula of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine designed to better protect against the currently circulating variants. Individuals at least 12 years of age who have been previously vaccinated but have not been vaccinated with one of the recent mRNA COVID-19 2023-2024 formula vaccines are eligible to receive a single dose of the new vaccine. Unvaccinated

individuals would be eligible to receive two doses for this vaccine.

The updated vaccine protects against serious health consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death. This authorization comes on the heels of recent FDA approvals for the updated mRNA COVID-19 2023–2024 formula vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer.

The Novavax press release can be accessed [HERE](#). Individuals can register for their updated COVID-19 vaccine [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.



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

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### Employer Member Benefit: Leapfrog Unveils Update to Enhanced Lives and Dollars Lost Calculator – Webinar, November 7, 2:00PM – 3:00 PM

The Leapfrog Group recently updated their **Enhanced Lives and Dollars Lost Calculator** and will be hosting a panel discussion on November 7 between 2:00PM-3:00PM ET to discuss the changes.



The calculator provides estimates with the loss in lives and excess costs due to hospital errors, an ongoing concern for employers as you continue to face higher healthcare costs. Leapfrog CEO Leah Binder will be joined by several experts in patient safety measurement, including Dr. Matt Austin, Alex Campione, and Paramount VP Michelle Martin, who is also Leapfrog's Board Chair.

The panel discussion will be followed a short question and answer session. You can register for the session [HERE](#).

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

### Employer Member Benefit: Invitation to Attend the MBGH Obesity Management Webinar: October 12 from 1:00PM-2:00PM



At our Oncology ELC last month, we discussed that obesity is a risk factor for numerous cancers. Cheryl Larson from MBGH offered our employer members the opportunity to attend their upcoming obesity event. **Alex Jung, who most of you know, will be the main speaker at this event.**

The discount code for Florida Alliance Employer Members to attend is **FL-Obesity**. You can read a synopsis of the event and register for the webinar [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

## Mental Health/Substance Use ELC Update

Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, one of Florida Alliance's Affiliate Members, recently released an [infographic](#) emphasizing the **importance of mental health equity as it pertains to 988, the mental health crisis line.**



The infographic provides a general outline of the impact mental health equity can have at each step of seeking and obtaining care for individuals living with serious mental illness with a focus on under-represented populations.

**The infographic includes descriptions of mobile response units (a team of behavioral health experts who respond in-person to an individual experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis) and crisis stabilization facilities (short-term observation and stabilization facilities).**

The infographic concludes with an overview of what 988 is and the positive effects it can have in ensuring people obtain appropriate care. Visit our [Mental Health/Substance Use ELC webpage](#) additional information.

Please contact David Cavalleri at [david@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:david@flhealthvalue.org) you have any questions.

## The Positive Impacts of Investing in Workplace Mental Well-Being



Investing in the mental well-being of the workplace produces significant benefits, including elevated morale, productivity, and the bottom line. Employers continue to make great strides in creating a safe space for people to discuss mental health as well as offer more options for people to address any emerging or longstanding issues.

**To help advance this important work, the Health Action Alliance recently released the [Workplace Mental Health Playbook 2.0](#). The playbook reinforces the business case for workplace mental health and outlines a host of detailed action items for employers to implement, focusing on workplace culture, mental health equity, benefits, treatments, interventions, as well as climbing the workplace mental health maturity ladder.**

Please contact David Cavalleri at [david@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:david@flhealthvalue.org) you have any questions.

## World Mental Health Day Tools Available for Review and Use

With World Mental Health Day taking place on October 10, the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP) offers several resources to assist employers in maintaining awareness on this day and throughout the year.



Among those resources are their Mental Health Toolkit, which includes blogs, podcasts, articles, and videos. In addition, their [Mental Health in the Workplace virtual conference](#) is taking place between October 18 and 19. Finally, IFEBP members can access their [Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits Report](#), which offers a benchmarking tool to better understand how their behavioral health benefits compare to their peers. Please contact David Cavalleri at [david@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:david@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.



## In Case You Missed It

### Online and Cash Prices Vary Widely Across US Hospitals



Many of you know of Vivian Ho from Rice University for her work with Marilyn Bartlett of the National Academy of State Health Policy, and you most probably know of Mark Cuban! They are two of the authors from a research study published on September 18 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine* where secret shoppers found that hospital prices greatly varied when it came to births and brain scans.

The authors, Merina Thomas, James Flaherty, Jiefei Wang, Morgan Henderson, Vivian Ho, Mark Cuban, and Peter Cram, compared online and cash prices for these two procedures across 60 hospitals in the U.S. The researchers offered several explanations for the variation in pricing which for births, for example, ranged from \$0 to \$55,221 for online queries, whereas phone prices ranged from \$3,401 to \$100,000. *Medical Economics* published a summary of the research article, which can be read [HERE](#).

**FYI - after more than two years of required price transparency, only 56% of Florida's hospitals comply with federal regulations with respect to posting their prices as reported by [Patient Rights Advocate](#).**

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

## ICER Developing Report to Respond to Recent Medicare Price Negotiations

Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) stated it was developing a special report based on CMS's Medicare Drug Price Negotiations to submit during the public comment period. The report is tailored to reflect legislative specifications in the Inflation Reduction Act and subsequent CMS guidance regarding the information that CMS will use to determine initial offers and pursue price negotiation on selected drugs. The report that was issued on October 2 evaluates the evidence on apixaban (Eliquis®, Bristol-Myers Squibb) and rivaroxaban (Xarelto®, Bayer) for the treatment of nonvalvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF).



While Medicare is not a focus for us, the concept of price negotiation at this scale is intriguing. The information being developed for this process MIGHT be beneficial to self-funded plans as a “price check” on what they are paying. Please note the ICER report did not attempt to determine the current prices being paid by CMS; instead, it compares what the premium price above the comparator price should be.

**If you use ICER as a resource, please note this special report marks a shift in ICER evaluations. In keeping with CMS guidance, the modeling did not make any use of the quality-adjusted life year (QALY), and instead relied on the equal value life year (evLY), an alternative measure that values all life-extending treatment effects equally for all patients, regardless of pre-existing disability or age.**

The report can be accessed [HERE](#), and a link to the supplement can be accessed [HERE](#).

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