



Weekly Bulletin – November 10, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Seventy Hospitals in Florida Earn “A” Grades in The Leapfrog Group’s Fall 2023 Hospital Safety Grades

On Monday, The Leapfrog Group announced the [Fall 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades](#). The grade reflects preventable medical errors, accidents, injuries, and infections that together kill more than 500 people a day in the United States. These latest grades are the first to reflect post-pandemic hospital performance. While Leapfrog found significant decreases in three dangerous healthcare-associated infections, patient experience reports continue in the wrong direction.

In Florida, 184 hospitals were graded, and 70 earned an “A,” 39 earned a “B,” 63 earned a “C,” and 12 earned a “D.” There were no Florida hospitals with a grade of “F.” **The high number of “A” grades**



received by Florida hospitals ranks the state #9 in the country for the highest percentage of hospitals receiving an “A” grade, an improvement over the Spring 2023 cycle.

To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

The Florida Alliance has been Florida’s Regional Leader for The Leapfrog Group since 2002 and is the force driving the need for change and improvement

as well as transparency throughout our state. Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org for more information.

After More Than a Decade of Participation, HCA Elects Not to Participate in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade Survey

HCA has been a supporter of The Leapfrog Hospital Survey in the past. The Leapfrog Group recently expanded the questions related to nurse staffing. HCA does not support this group of measures and has decided as a system they are not going to respond to the survey. They do have the option to respond to the survey but skip that section. They have nearly 50 hospitals



in Florida. That means we will not be able to see the answers to the Survey measures from any HCA facility.

The Board of Directors discussed this issue and decided to have a letter written from Karen van Caulil on behalf of the Board to HCA leadership to address the issue. Click [HERE](#) to view the letter. We encourage you to write your own letter and address it to all of those identified in the attached letter. If you have any questions about this letter or about drafting your own letter, please reach out to Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org

You might have noticed their facilities received Hospital Safety Grades this week. There is enough publicly reported data to calculate a grade. If a survey is submitted that data is used; otherwise, the publicly reported data is used in its place.

ACTION ITEM: National Alliance Pulse of the Purchaser Fall 2023 Survey – DEADLINE: Tuesday, November 28

The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions is conducting its Fall 2023 *Pulse of the Purchaser* Survey to learn employers' current and future directions in the areas listed below. Over the past several years, **this survey has highlighted employer key trends in healthcare delivery and payment reform**. The survey takes no more than 15 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain confidential.

Key areas of the survey:

- Workforce environment
- Health strategies (including women's health, obesity management, mental health, equity)
- Pharmaceutical drug strategies
- Hospital price strategies
- High-cost claim strategies
- Fiduciary strategies
- Potential health reforms



To complete the survey, click [HERE](#).

If you have any issues with accessing or responding to the survey, please contact Amanda Green at agreen@nationalalliancehealth.org



HEALTH POLICY ACTIVITY

PBMs Need to be Held Accountable to Fair Market Practices when Partnering with our Nation’s Employers



Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and their affiliate organizations are pushing hard to stop any regulation of PBMs. Contrary to what some have incorrectly suggested, employers are not satisfied with the current state of their relationship with PBMs. The three largest PBMs process more than 80% of prescription drug claims in the U.S. giving them immense market power and making it impossible for employers to negotiate contract terms on behalf of their employees. In addition, due to the opaqueness of the common practice of “spread pricing,” whereby PBMs pay lower prices to pharmacies than they charge to payors and patients for drugs and retain the entire difference, and other business practices, payors are completely unaware of the extent of the “spread.”

Together with our allies like The ERISA Industry Committee, American Benefits Council, HR Policy Association, Purchaser Business Group on Health, and sister coalitions that are part of the National Alliance, we have signed onto a strongly worded [letter](#) sent to U.S. Senate leadership requesting congressional action necessary to correct a dysfunctional marketplace and give employers the tools they need to advance their efforts to provide needed medications to their workers and families at reasonable costs.

For more information, please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org



NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT OF FL ALLIANCE TEAM

Congratulations Ashley Tait-Dinger on her appointment to a committee at Partnership for Quality Management!



Ashley Tait-Dinger

Congratulations to Florida Alliance Vice President Ashley Tait-Dinger who will be serving on the Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM)’s Management of Acute Events, Chronic Disease, Surgery, and Behavioral Health committee, supporting the endorsement and maintenance of quality performance measures. The committee considers measures that address the management of acute of chronic disease, management of behavioral health conditions, pre-operative care, post-operative care, complications, functional status and impairments, patient safety, “never events”, morbidity, and mortality.

PQM looks for diverse voices to drive their mission. They use a consensus-based process involving a variety of experts – clinicians, patients, measure experts, and health information technology experts – to ensure informed and thoughtful endorsement reviews of quality performance measures. **The committee appointment was rigorous with PQM receiving more than 500 committee nominations representing a broad range of individuals and organizations, so we are very proud of Ashley!**

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



EMPLOYER MEMBER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, REPORTS, RESOURCES, AND EMPLOYER LEARNING COLLABORATIVES (ELC)

Biomarker Testing Webinar – Follow Up

We hope you were able to attend last week’s Biomarker Testing webinar. We learned a lot of important information from our expert panelists, Dr. Federico Monzon, Executive Leader at the Association for Molecular Pathology, Susan Harbin, J.D., Senior Director, Government Relations at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and Dr. Marian Birkeland, Senior Director of Compendia Development at the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. The webinar was a timely addition to our Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative.



If you were unable to attend, please click [HERE](#) to visit our Oncology Learning Collaborative webpage to find the recording and slides.

On **Tuesday, November 21 at 11:00AM ET**, we are holding a complementary webinar, Cell and Gene Therapies. Topics to be covered during his webinar include:

- **What are Cell and Gene Therapies (CGTs)? What is their value?**
- **What are key needs for patient access to CGTs?**
- **What are key market factors driving the need for an affordable CGT solution?**
- **Why did the Jacksonville Police Officers and Firefighters Health Insurance Trust decide to provide coverage for CGTs?**

Additionally, the Trust will share a patient success story.

If you did not receive a calendar invitation or need one to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org

Thank you to Affiliate Member Johnson & Johnson for sponsoring both webinars.



Don't Forget! Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative – Session #3

The third webinar in the series is scheduled for **Friday, November 17 at 2:00PM – 3:30PM ET** where you will hear insights and approaches to:

- **Understand long-standing diagnosis and treatment strategies for cancer and learn about today's newer strategies**
- **Identify ways to update benefits and plan designs through suggested actions steps**
- **Determine the role of biomarker testing and what coverage considerations can ensure a patient gets the right drug, at the right time, at the right price and right place**
- **Hear employer success stories and case studies focused on ways to assist employees in obtaining the best possible diagnosis and treatment**

November's session will be hosted by the Midwest Business Group on Health (MBGH). You should have received an updated calendar invite with login details for Zoom. If you did not receive the calendar invite or need it to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org.

Mark your calendars! The final session in this series is scheduled for Friday, December 8th at 3:30PM – 5:00PM (ET). Look for a calendar invitation with more information coming soon!

Thank you to our Affiliate Members Genentech, Pfizer, and Merck for supporting this initiative!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

REGISTER TODAY! LIMITED SEATING! DO NOT DELAY!

Florida Alliance 28th Annual "Best of the Best" – Thursday, January 11, 2024



"Best of the Best" will be held at the GuideWell Innovation Center in Lake Nona, Florida with registration and breakfast starting at 7:45 am and the program being held from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Lunch will also be served.

Thank you to Healthcare Advisory Council member Florida Blue for hosting and to Affiliate Member Pfizer for being our lead sponsor!

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER. MAKE SURE TO USE THE PROMO CODE **EMPLOYER2024** AND CLICK "APPLY" TO HAVE THE REGISTRATION FEE WAIVED.

We have no limit on the number of individuals who may attend from each employer member organization, but seating at the venue is limited so be sure to register right away! If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to our Renewing Employer and Healthcare Advisory Council Members!



Thank You to our Renewing Affiliate Members!



PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF
Johnson & Johnson



Welcome to our new Affiliate Member

Abbott - For more than 135 years Abbott has adapted to an increasingly complex healthcare environment by keeping their focus on helping people achieve their best possible health. They are a global healthcare leader that helps people live more fully at all stages of life. Abbott's portfolio of life-changing technologies spans the spectrum of healthcare, with leading businesses and products in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritional, and branded generic medicines. Abbott's 115,000 colleagues serve people in more than 160 countries.

