



Weekly Bulletin – March 22, 2024



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

ACTION ITEM - Response Needed by Friday, April 5 – CAA Attestation Survey

The National Alliance is conducting a survey to gather insights from employers about their perspectives and experiences with CAA (Consolidated Appropriations Act) attestation. **This survey follows up on their recent [fiduciary webinar](#) during which panelists, including Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil, discussed how employers can mitigate the chance of litigation by appropriately exercising their fiduciary responsibilities.**



Your input will help the National Alliance better understand current practices and concerns related to compliance. This survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete. Your responses are confidential, and you will have the opportunity to review and revise them before submission. To

receive the overall results, please provide your email at the end of the survey. The deadline for responding is Friday, April 5. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

Linked [here](#) is a PDF containing the full question set for your reference.

Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions, please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org

Summary of Changes to the Leapfrog Hospital Survey

Leapfrog received nearly 200 public comments in response to its proposed changes for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Those comments, as well as the feedback collected during the pilot test, were incorporated into the final content and scoring algorithms for the 2024 Survey.

A summary of the changes can be found [HERE](#).



We would like to bring your attention to the following finalized changes for the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey:

- Removal of the Elective Deliveries measure (PC-01) due to the decision by CMS to retire the measure
- Updated Nursing Workforce questions and scoring algorithm which had several changes since the publishing of the Proposed Changes

The Florida Alliance was the only Leapfrog Regional Leader to respond to the proposed changes. We did not support the proposed change to a composite measure.

*While some commenters supported Leapfrog’s proposal to create a composite score of four of the five nursing workforce measures (total nursing hours per patient day, RN hours per patient day, nursing skill mix and Safe Practice #9), several other commenters expressed concerns with the proposal, noting there is not a clear case for combining the four measures and that it could disadvantage hospitals that are performing well on one, but not all four measures. **Additionally, employers and purchasing groups opposed the composite as it would obscure important data for the individual measures.***

*After reviewing the comments collected during the public comment period, through the pilot, and after additional discussions with Leapfrog’s national expert panel, **Leapfrog has decided against creating a composite score.** For the 2024 survey, Leapfrog will continue to score and publicly report out each nursing staffing and skill mix measure individually.*

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



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

Employer Member Benefit: Webinar - Learn How to Use Florida’s Free Quality and Cost Transparency Tools – Thursday, March 28, 2:00PM-3:00PM



We hope you will join us for this important webinar to learn about Florida’s three healthcare cost and quality transparency websites. There are resources and tools that will be useful to you as a benefits administrator but also important resources to share with your

employees/plan members.

Please take a look at the Florida Health Finder website prior to the meeting if you have a few minutes. The link is: <https://healthfinder.fl.gov/> On this landing page, you will find information to help you compare the quality and cost performance of hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, health plans, nursing homes, and prescription drugs.

During this webinar, led by the Agency for Health Care Administration team, we will review topic areas including:

Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers: View performance and outcome data on selected medical conditions and procedures.

Emergency Room Care: Read educational information about when and how to use an emergency room, what to do in a medical crisis, alternatives to emergency room care, and other helpful information.

Prescription Drugs: View comparative prices at Florida pharmacies for the top 100 most prescribed drugs in Florida. You choose the county you are looking for and the drug you want to price. The website displays the current price for most pharmacies in the area you are interested in.

For more information, contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org. If you need the calendar invitation re-sent, please contact lisa@flhealthvalue.org

ACTION ITEM - Reminder: Employer Meeting with Orlando Health to Discuss Cost and Quality Challenges – April 9, 8:30AM – 11:00AM

On Tuesday, April 9 from 8:30AM-11:00AM, Healthcare Advisory Council Member Orlando Health will host an in-person meeting at their Orlando Health – Jewett Orthopedic Institute downtown location to discuss cost and quality challenges.



A light breakfast will be served prior to the meeting with their new CFO, Leslie Flake. Mike Stubee, Vice President of Payer Strategy, will facilitate the meeting and discussions with Karen van Caulil, Florida Alliance President and CEO. Also attending will be Dr. Lori Boardman, Assistant Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, to discuss their quality initiatives. An optional tour of the facility will follow the meeting.

An Outlook calendar invitation was sent earlier this week. **Please respond ASAP** to the calendar invitation so that we can provide a headcount to Orlando Health.

The invitation will be updated with information including a map and parking information as it becomes available.

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org with any specific issues you would like to discuss.

Employer Member Benefit: Webinar – *ERISA Preemption: Navigating the Federal-State Legal Maze* – April 18, 1:00PM – 2:00PM ET

Beginning with a unanimous Supreme Court decision in *Rutledge v. PCMA* (2020), which allowed the State of Arkansas to regulate pharmacy benefit managers' payments to pharmacies for self-insured (ERISA) plans, state legislatures have become more active in seeking to regulate aspects of self-insured plans.

For employee and employer representatives, an understanding of the ERISA federal preemption law is crucial for navigating the current tangle of state and federal regulations. This National Alliance webinar will demystify how to effectively navigate the federal-state legal maze for ERISA health plans.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Meet the Panelists

		
<small>Shawn Gremminger President & CEO National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions</small>	<small>Katy Johnson, JD Senior Counsel, Health Policy American Benefits Council</small>	<small>Ilyse Schuman, JD Senior Vice President, Health & Paid Leave Policy American Benefits Council</small>

HOTEL DEADLINE JUST 2 WEEKS AWAY!



Annual Conference – *40 Years of Impact: Pioneering Progress in Health Care – Addressing Challenges, Shaping the Future* – Monday, May 6, 8:00AM – 5:00PM

The Florida Alliance has secured a hotel block at the Rosen Shingle Creek for the May 6th Annual Conference. Rooms can be reserved at a discounted rate of \$169/night plus tax. Guestroom rates are good three (3) days pre and post the conference date.

Reservations can be made directly with the Rosen Shingle Creek by calling their toll-free number 1-866-996-6338. Please request the GROUP rate for FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHCARE VALUE. You may also book online by clicking [HERE](#).

Room availability is on a first-come, first-served basis through Friday, April 5th!

If you need more information, or help with registration, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org



HEALTH POLICY ACTIVITY

National Alliance Health Policy Summit and Visit to Capitol Hill

The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions continues to be a leader in advocating for affordable, accessible health care. **At the 2024 Health Policy Summit co-hosted with the Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH), policy experts and employers, including Florida Alliance Board Chair**



Rosa Novo, second from right

Rosa Novo, expressed the urgent need for Congress to address high and unsustainable healthcare costs through measures such as price transparency.

Following the Summit, National Alliance, PBGH, coalition leaders, and employers held nearly a dozen meetings with House and Senate staff to discuss important topics such as ERISA preemption and legislation to rein in PBMs. The Florida Alliance was well represented during the Hill visits by Rosa Novo, who along with the other participants, were encouraged to learn there is a fairly good chance of at least some important legislation addressing employer-sponsored insurance to be passed this spring or summer before the next election.

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



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Why Cigna is Capping Cost Increases for Pricey Obesity Drugs – *online article from BIOPHARMADIVE*

Cigna is moving to limit how much health insurance providers and employers have to pay for pricey and in-demand obesity medications. The carrier plans to cap annual price increases for the drugs at 15% for employers and plans participating in a weight loss management program offered by its pharmacy benefit manager. It is the first financial guarantee available in the market for the drugs.



Read the full article [HERE](#).

Steward Health Care System: A Hospital Chain in Crisis – article from the *Wall Street Journal*

From live bats in intensive care, to postponed surgeries and unpaid bills, Steward Health Care System, which operates eight hospitals in Florida, is a hospital operator in crisis. Steward, a for-profit company, is finding itself in a cash crunch leading suppliers that have not already cut them off, routinely demanding cash up front. “Every Tuesday, the heads of Steward’s eight Florida hospitals join a call with Daniel Knell, its top executive in the state, to request supplies needed to get through another week.” Overdue bills have also led to delays in repairs and medical staff shortages.



Steward’s financial problems have focused attention on the role played by Medical Properties Trust, the nation’s largest hospital landlord and in one state has led to a Senate committee’s bipartisan investigation into the impact of private-equity ownership on hospitals.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions. We will continue to follow this issue.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome to our New Affiliate Members!

Novavax - Founded in 1987, Novavax, Inc. is a biotechnology company that promotes improved health by discovering, developing, and commercializing innovative vaccines to help protect against serious infectious diseases. Novavax, a global company based in Gaithersburg, MD, offers a differentiated vaccine platform that combines a recombinant protein approach, innovative nanoparticle technology and Novavax's patented Matrix-M adjuvant to enhance the immune response. Vaccines developed from trusted technology that is both safe and efficacious.



Focused on the world's most urgent health challenges, the team at Novavax is composed of experts in drug development who understand science, technology, medicine and their global context. Their deeply experienced team is unified in the quest to help reduce the burden of infectious disease around the globe. Novavax is currently evaluating vaccines for COVID-19, influenza, and COVID-19 and influenza combined.

To get more information, contact Miranda Boys, *Director, National Accounts*, mboys@novavax.com

Willis Towers Watson (WTW) – Health and Benefits are crucial components of an organization's total rewards package. As employees increasingly recognize the significance of benefits, organizations must strategically design and manage their offerings. A well-designed benefits program not only attracts and retains talent but also contributes to overall employee well-being.

Willis Towers Watson approaches health and benefits:



- Employee Benefits Strategy: WTW partners with organizations to create effective employee benefits programs that promote a health and high-performing workforce. This involved aligning benefits with business goals, reflecting company culture, and addressing employee needs.
- Benefits Accounts: WTW's Benefits Accounts employer employees and retirees to manage their benefit dollars effectively. These flexible, tax-advantaged accounts include Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), and Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs).

Contact Eric Scott, CEBS, *Director*, at Eric.Scott@wtwco.com for more information.

Thank You to Our Renewing Employer Members!



VALENCIA COLLEGE

Thank You to Our Renewing Affiliate Members!

