



Weekly Bulletin – March 8, 2024



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

ACTION ITEM Mental Health Initiative - Opportunity for Employer Member Participation

The Florida Alliance would like to apply to be a part of a Mental Health Initiative “**2024 Workshops: Enhancing Employer Mental Health Approaches**” aimed at addressing and mitigating challenges related to mental health within the employer community. This opportunity is being provided by the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. The goal is to have employers develop key activities that can impact their company’s mental health strategy in 2024 and 2025. In order to apply, we need the commitment of at least 7 of our employer members to cite in our application.



Each of the eight coalitions selected will be able to have 7-12 employers participate as part of this initiative. There is an informational call about the opportunity on March 12, so we will have more details to share in next week’s Bulletin. However, the Florida Alliance application is due March 20 so if you already know you want to participate, please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org.



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

Don’t forget! Florida Alliance Annual Meeting - *a Virtual Event* for all members is on Tuesday, March 12, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET

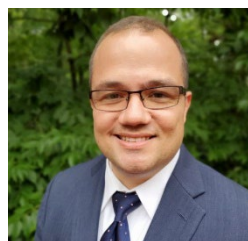
Please invite your colleagues from other companies you feel may benefit from hearing about the work we are doing.

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value is a free event open to all our members and offers the opportunity to learn about the important work the Florida Alliance is undertaking to improve the quality and value of health care in Florida including new opportunities to engage in our research and educational activities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Confirmed speakers for this virtual event include:



Leah Binder, MA, MGA
President and CEO
The Leapfrog Group



Shawn Gremminger, MPP
President and CEO
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

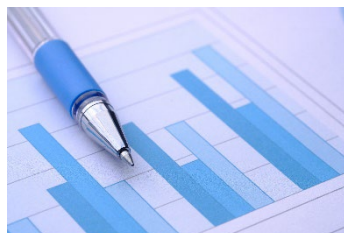
Leah (who has once again made Modern Healthcare's list of 100 Most Influential People in Health Care) and Shawn will speak about the important work the Florida Alliance undertakes with their organizations.

Employer Member Benefit: Webinar – *Navigating the Financial Landscape: Fiduciary Perspectives and Cost Management* – Tuesday, March 19, 12:15PM – 1:00PM ET

The three-part National Alliance webinar series focused on delving deeper into findings and topics brought on by results from the “Pulse of the Purchaser” series wraps up on March 19. The panel session, moderated by Shawn Gremminger, President and CEO of the National Alliance, features panelists **Karen van Caulil, Florida Alliance President and CEO, and Stephanie Koch, Florida Alliance Board Vice Chair and Director of Human Resources at Hendry Marine/Gulf Marine Repair.**

The webinar will center around crucial topics extracted from the survey, including:

- Fiduciary perspectives
- Hospital price
- Pharmaceutical drugs
- High-cost claims



To register, please click [HERE](#).

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

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



Raegen Garber Le Douaron

We are excited to announce an additional confirmed speaker, **Raegen Garber Le Douaron, President and CEO at WeCare tlc, a Florida Alliance Affiliate Member**. Raegen will be joining the panel session *Advanced Primary Care is Everything*.

All Employer Members can attend the Annual Conference for **FREE** by using promo code **EMPLOYER40** when registering. To learn more about the Annual Conference, including hotel information and registration, please visit our website by clicking [HERE](#).

To use the promo code:

1. Click on ADD PROMO CODE to open the promo code window.
2. After entering the promo code EMPLOYER40, click APPLY.
3. When your code has successfully been applied, ADD 1 EMPLOYER TICKET.
4. Click CONTINUE to open the page to fill in your Contact Information.

40 Years of Impact: Pioneering Progress in Health Care - Addressing Challenges, Shaping the Future

Join us in celebrating the Florida Alliance's 40th Anniversary at this year's Annual Conference.

Location: Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819
Date and time: Mon, May 6, 2024 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET
Organizer: Lisa Hain, (407) 425-9500, info@flhealthvalue.org

FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHCARE VALUE

1 EMPLOYER40 Applied Remove

✔ Your promo code has been successfully applied!

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TICKETS

Florida Alliance Employer Member (free with code) Price: \$249.00	- 1 +
Florida Alliance Healthcare Advisory Council (free with code) Price: \$249.00	- 0 +
Florida Alliance Affiliate Member Price: \$249.00	- 0 +

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Order summary

Florida Alliance Employer Member (free with code) (1)	\$249.00
Subtotal	\$249.00
Promo code	-\$249.00
EMPLOYER40	
Total	\$0.00

4 Continue

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



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

HCA North Florida Hospital Extends Surgery Shutdown Due to Instrument Sterilization – *online article from Health News Florida*

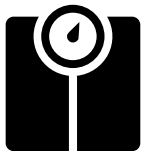
Surgical schedules at HCA Florida North Florida Hospital in Gainesville fell into chaos after its announcement to suspend elective procedures on January 17. The hospital shut down surgeries abruptly over the activities of the Sterile Processing Department, the unit in charge of cleaning and sanitizing instruments used for medical procedures. The hospital said the move was proactive and described it as an “operational matter” and an “equipment-related issue that impacted presurgical processes.” According to the article, it is unclear whether or how many patients might have been infected by improper sterilization procedures.



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

Patients Lose Access to Weight-Loss Drugs as Employers Stop Coverage – *article from the Wall Street Journal*

Weight-loss drugs are among the hottest prescriptions in the US, so popular that makers Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly cannot meet demand. The popularity – and effectiveness – of the medicines has put employers in a bind. They want to add medicines that improve employees’ health – which could reduce long-term spending – and could help recruitment and retention.



However, employers that embraced paying for weight-loss drugs are reckoning with the high costs, forcing growing numbers to dial back or cut off their reimbursement because they can no longer afford it. The high prices, seemingly indefinite use, and appropriateness for some patients who may just want to shed a few pounds has given employers pause.



Rosa Novo

Rosa Novo, Florida Alliance Board Chair and Administrative Employee Benefits Director for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, was interviewed for this article.

See the full article [HERE](#).

Lawsuit Exposes Hidden Factors Driving Up Prescription Drug Costs – *article from Association of Healthcare Journalists*

If you have not been following the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) lawsuit that was recently filed by an employee related to their drug costs or are not sure why it should matter, please read this article. The lawsuit shows how J&J may be liable for violating the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974. Under ERISA, employers have a fiduciary responsibility to manage benefit plans solely in the interest of workers and family members. The lawsuit against J&J and its benefits committee is the first to involve plan members suing their employer for breach of fiduciary duty.



The article references other resources about the role of PBM's and consultants and questions the employers' liability. Some of the articles were referenced in the J&J lawsuit.

Read the article [HERE](#).

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