



## Weekly Bulletin – March 29, 2024



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### **Ozempic Maker Novo Nordisk Facing Pressure as Study Finds \$1,000 Appetite Suppressant Can Be Made for Just \$5**

The high cost of weight loss drugs has been a top concern for our employer members. A *JAMA* article from researchers at Yale University, King's College Hospital in London, and Doctors Without Borders, indicated that Ozempic could be manufactured for 89 cents to \$4.73 for a month's supply. To read an article about the study findings released yesterday in *Fortune*, click [HERE](#).

This research will result in heightened discussions about what is a fair price to pay for drugs in the US, especially Ozempic. We know that the US pays a disproportionate share of the research and development costs for new drugs and that our supply chain hikes up prices far more than what is experienced in other countries, so we expect the manufacturer of Ozempic, Novo Nordisk, to push back on the study findings. President and CEO Karen van Caulil has reached out to Novo Nordisk, one of our Affiliate Members, to speak with them about the study findings. Also, the Florida Alliance team is integrally involved in policy and practice strategy at the National Alliance and will keep you posted on how we can collectively consider and address this new information.



We are re-sending you the National Alliance Obesity Report released last month. The Florida Alliance team was actively involved in the development of this report and has urged the National Alliance to dive deeper into the recommendations to make them more actionable. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

We will keep you posted on this critically important issue. Please reach out to Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) with any questions.

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 **ACTION ITEMS**

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**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 the CAA (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021) 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](mailto:karen@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 obstetrics initiatives. Dr. George Rawls who leads their Leapfrog work will also be in attendance. An optional tour of the facility will follow the meeting.

An Outlook calendar invitation was sent out. **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](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) with any specific issues you would like to discuss.



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

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### **2024 Florida State of Reform Health Policy Conference – Thursday, April 25**

The State of Reform conference is focused on bridging the gap between health policy and political reality. Too often, those with good ideas for reforming health care do not have a solid understanding of how the legislative process works. Those who understand politics do not always comprehend the intricacies of the healthcare system. If you are interested in understanding what occurs at the nexus of health care and politics, then this is the conference for you!



This year's speakers include **Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil**, along with Mary Mayhew, President and CEO, Florida Hospital Association, and State Senator Colleen Burton, Health Policy Committee Chair, Florida State Senate.

The 2024 Florida State of Reform Health Policy Conference is going to be taking place in person on April 25 at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street. To get more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Please reach out to Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) with any questions.

### **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 for Healthcare Value is looking forward to our upcoming Annual Conference celebrating 40 years of working to increase the quality and value of health care in Florida.

We have confirmed our final two speakers:

- Yvette M. Best, EdD, CCP, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Florida Alliance Board Treasurer/Secretary and Head of Human Resources at Orange County Government
- Lester Morales – Founder and CEO of Next Impact LLC



*Yvette M. Best*



*Lester Morales*

**REGISTER TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AND RECEIVE A COPY OF OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER'S BESTSELLING BOOK! THE FIRST 100 EMPLOYERS TO REGISTER RECEIVE DR. NASH'S BOOK!**

All Employer Members can attend the Annual Conference for FREE by using promo code **EMPLOYER40** when registering. **There is no limit on the number of people from your organization who can use this code.** To learn more about the Annual Conference including a link to 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.

Employers Members that wish to invite potential Employer or Affiliate Members, feel free to offer complimentary registration by sharing the code **EMPLOYERGUEST40**, ticket type: **Non-Member**, with your contacts.

If you need more information, or help with registration, please contact Lisa Hain at [lisa@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:lisa@flhealthvalue.org).



## HEALTH POLICY ACTIVITY

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### Coalition Sign-on to ERISA letter

The Florida Alliance, along with many sister coalitions, has signed onto a strongly worded letter drafted by the National Alliance and sent to US Senate leadership in response to a US House Committee RFI on the ERISA law. This letter seeks to address a few key points of interest for self-insured employers:

- The importance of maintaining ERISA preemption
- Issues around PBM regulation at the state level and the need for federal action
- Policy options at the federal level both within and outside the ERISA framework



To view final signed letter sent to the Education & Workforce Committee, click [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org)



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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### Follow-up – Webinar: Learn How to Use Florida’s Free Quality and Cost Transparency Tools

On Thursday, we hosted an important webinar led by a team from the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), about Florida’s three healthcare cost and quality transparency websites. The Florida Health Finder website, found [HERE](#), is the landing page where 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.



If you missed the webinar or want to view it again, you can view the slide deck [HERE](#). We hope to have the recording available soon.

If you need additional information, please contact Jaime Bustos, Bureau Chief, Florida Center for Health Information & Transparency, at [Jaime.Bustos@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:Jaime.Bustos@ahca.myflorida.com)



## **Recap: Webinar – Navigating the Financial Landscape: Fiduciary Perspectives and Cost Management**

Thank you to all who attended the last of the National Alliance’s 3-part webinar series, *Navigating the Financial Landscape: Fiduciary Perspectives and Cost Management* webinar on March 19<sup>th</sup> which included speakers **Karen van Caulil, Florida Alliance President and CEO, Stephanie Koch, Florida Alliance Board Vice Chair and Director of Human Resources at Hendry Marine/Gulf Marine Repair/Anchor Sandblasting and Coatings**. The webinar centered around crucial topics extracted from the “Pulse of the Purchaser” survey, including fiduciary perspectives, hospital price, pharmaceutical drugs, and high-cost claims.

For those who were unable to attend, the National Alliance has provided the [recording](#) of the webinar and the [slide deck](#) for your convenience. Also linked here are the full findings for the [Pulse of the Purchaser survey](#) for your information.



If you would like to access the slides or recordings from any of the 3-part “Pulse of the Purchaser” series of webinars, they are all linked [here](#).

For more information, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org)

## **As Humira Biosimilars Take Over the Market, CVS has Created a New Ploy: the Drug “Rebate Credit” – article from STATNews**

Florida Alliance Vice President, Ashley Tait-Dinger, recently provided background for an article for STATNews on the practice of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) providing drug rebates to employers that hire them, a tangible symbol of the discounts that PBMs can wrangle out of pharmaceutical companies.

PBMs, the middlemen of drug pricing negotiations, also claim portions of those lucrative rebates for themselves. When new market developments threaten to diminish or wipe away that revenue stream, PBMs find crafty ways to keep as much of those dollars as possible – often at the expense of employers.



This article details a case showing how PBMs often favor higher-priced drugs because of the large rebates attached to them, instead of generics and biosimilar drugs. It illustrates how PBMs hold considerable power to change contract terms if their own bottom line suddenly is at risk.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org)

**A Quick Test Could Protect Against Fatal Chemo Overdose, Yet Few Doctors Use it – *online article from NBC News***

More than 275,000 cancer patients in the United States are infused each year with fluorouracil, known as 5-FU, or take a nearly identical drug in pill form called capecitabine. These common types of chemotherapy are challenging for anyone, but for patients who are deficient in an enzyme that metabolizes the drugs, they can be torturous or deadly.

Those patients essentially overdose because the drugs stay in the body for hours rather than being quickly metabolized and excreted. The drugs kill an estimated 1 in 1,000 patients who take them – hundreds each year – and severely sicken or hospitalized 1 in 50. Doctors can test for the deficiency and get results within a week – and then either switch drugs or lower the dosage if patients have a genetic variant that carries risk.



Yet a recent survey found that only 3% of U.S. oncologists routinely order the tests before dosing patients with 5-FU or capecitabine because the most widely followed U.S. cancer treatment guidelines – issued by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) – do not recommend preemptive testing.

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

To view our oncology webpage, including information from our Biomarker Testing webinar, please click [HERE](#).

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

**There will be no Weekly Bulletin next Friday, April 5, because of scheduled staff vacations.**

**We will return to your Inbox again on Friday, April 12. Have a good week!**