



## Weekly Bulletin – August 29, 2024



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### New Speakers Announced for our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual “Best of the Best” – December 10

We are happy to announce we have confirmed an expert panel of benefits professionals who will speak at the “Best of the Best” about their innovative work in oncology during our “Employer Insights for Oncology Management” session. Panelists include:

- Rosa Novo, *Administrative Benefits Director*, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Florida Alliance Board Chair
- Brian Kehan, CEBS, *Director of Benefits and Wellbeing*, Merck
- Sherri Samuels-Fuerst, MILR, *Vice President – Total Rewards*, Sargento Foods



*Rosa Novo*



*Brian Kehan*



*Sherri Samuels-Fuerst*

The panel session is a perfect complement to our Oncology Learning Collaborative completed earlier this year in partnership with the Midwest Business Group on Health. The culmination of this collaborative is our [Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management](#) which offers a wealth of resources on the subject.

Event information: **Tuesday, December 10, 9:00AM – 4:00PM ET**

- **Location:** GuideWell Innovation Center, 6555 Sanger Road, Orlando, FL 32827
- **Employer Promo code (FREE TO ALL EMPLOYER MEMBERS):** EMPLOYER1224
- Register [HERE](#).

Thank you to **Healthcare Advisory Council member Florida Blue** for hosting this event again.



Please contact Lisa Hain at [lisa@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:lisa@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

## New COVID Tests, New COVID Vaccine

The federal government has approved yet another round of up to 4 additional free FDA-approved COVID-19 tests to be sent to your home upon request. This is in addition to the 4 free tests you may have already ordered in the past. This investment in free home testing kits is due to concerns about the potential rise in positive COVID-19, flu, and RSV positive results expected this year.

- The tests can be ordered at <https://www.covid.gov/tools-and-resources/resources/tests> in late September
- The FDA encourages anonymously and voluntarily reporting positive results to <http://www.makemytestcount.org/>, as health officials would like to keep track of the prevalence of COVID-19 infection in each community



**The FDA has approved an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine that will better protect against the most current variants.** Currently, the updated Comirnaty and Spikevax vaccine is available to people 12 years of age or older. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is available for emergency use for children aged 6 months to 11 years; unvaccinated children 6 months to 4 years of age can receive 3 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech or 2 doses of Moderna vaccine; previously vaccinated children aged 6 months to 4 years can receive one or two doses of the updated, authorized Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; children aged 5 years to 11 years can receive a single dose of the updated, authorized Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of previous COVID-19 vaccination; individuals who are 12 years of age or older may receive a single dose of the updated, approved Comirnaty or the updated, approved Spikevax, regardless of previous COVID-19 vaccination. However, those individuals who have been previously vaccinated must wait at least 2 months after their last COVID-19 vaccination.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Please make sure that if you do receive a COVID-19 vaccine in the near future, that you are receiving the new 2024-2025 formula.**

More information on the new COVID-19 vaccine can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-and-authorizes-updated-mrna-covid-19-vaccines-better-protect-against-currently>

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

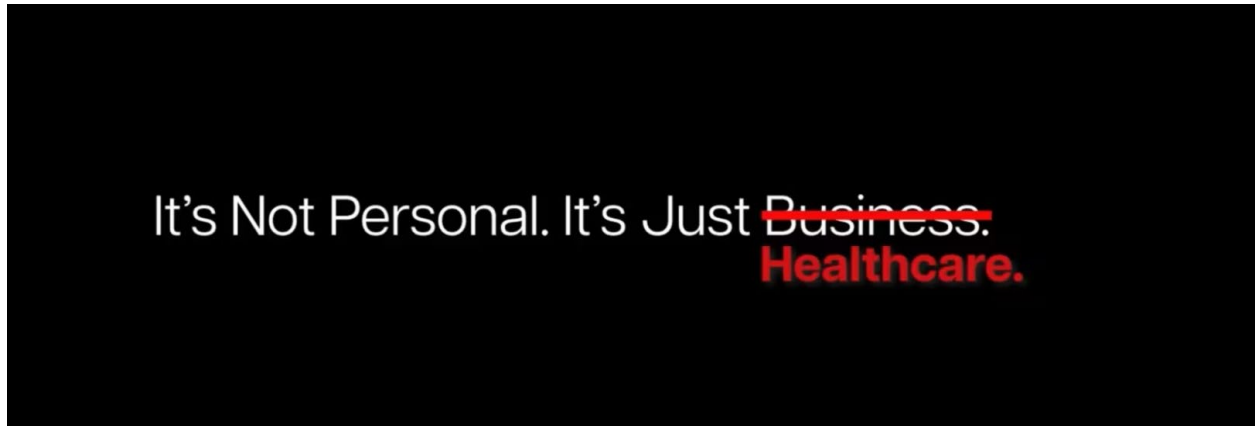
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## EMPLOYER MEMBER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, REPORTS, RESOURCES, AND EMPLOYER LEARNING COLLABORATIVES (ELC)

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### **Follow-up: FL Alliance Member Benefit - FREE - Viewing of New Documentary, followed by Discussion and Resources**

We hope you were able to join us for our All Employer Member Meeting on Thursday, August 22 to view the new documentary, *It's Not Personal. It's Just ~~Business~~ Healthcare*. The film was followed by an expert panel session including Chris Deacon and Renzo Luzzatti, who are both featured in the film and have spoken at our conferences, as well as our Board Chair Rosa Novo and Vice Chair Stephanie Koch. The reactor panel was available for a Q&A with attendees and a sharing of solutions.



We feel this is a MUST-SEE documentary. If you were unable to attend and would like to view the full-length film, please click [HERE](#). You can also find the recording of the reactor panel and accompanying materials provided by Chris Deacon and Renzo Luzzatti. We had several requests for a condensed version of the film and hope to have that posted soon on the link above.

For those Employer Members who had guests attend our August 22 viewing, we will follow up with you with appropriate materials that can be shared.

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

## Employer Member Benefit: Resource – High-Cost Claims Workshop Playbook

In response to the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalition “Pulse of the Purchaser” survey, the National Alliance launched the high-cost claims initiative in 2022 to develop a strategic approach to



employer education. Primary goals are to better understand employer perspectives, define best practice strategies, and determine effective benefit design decisions for addressing high-cost claims.

This year, the National Alliance hosted both in-person workshops with select regional coalitions and employers, including the Florida Alliance, as well as a webinar that was held on August 5, to focus on the key driver areas of cell and gene therapy, cancer, and specialty drugs.

The High-Cost Claims Workshop Playbook was developed as a culmination of this project. To view the Playbook, click [HERE](#).

**Thank you to the City of Miami, Hendry Marine Industries, ICUBA, MarineMax, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Orange County Government, Orange County Public Schools, Patriot Rail, and Rosen Hotels and Resorts for participating in this initiative.**

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

## National Alliance Annual Forum – Dr. Peter Pronovost Announced as Keynote Speaker

Peter Pronovost, MD, PhD, FCCM, a “once-in-a-generation guy” has been announced as this year’s keynote speaker at the National Alliance Annual Forum on November 18-20 in Washington, DC.

Among Dr. Pronovost’s many accomplishments are:

- Pioneering work to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections, which has saved thousands of lives
- Being named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People
- Receiving the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant



As members of the National Alliance, **we have received complimentary registrations for 10 of our employer members.** Please see instructions below on how you can register with your complimentary code. Please let Lisa Hain know at [lisa@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:lisa@flhealthvalue.org) if you are registering so that we can keep track of our allotment of free registrations. To learn more about the forum, click [HERE](#).

1. Click on the following registration link:  
<https://nationalalliancehealth.swoogo.com/2024annualforum/begin>
2. Under the discount code, enter: **PURCHASERPASS24** (click apply)
3. Under registration type, choose: **EMPLOYER MEMBER OF A COALITION**
4. Enter all personal information
5. Confirm registration

To take advantage of [hotel discounts](#) please register before October 18.

If there are any questions regarding the content of the event, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) and for questions about registration, please email Brielle Jackson at [brjackson@nationalalliancehealth.org](mailto:brjackson@nationalalliancehealth.org)



## FL Alliance Team and Employer Member News

### Pharmacy Benefit Management Institute Annual Conference – September 4-6

The Pharmacy Benefit Management Institute (PBMI) Annual National Conference is being held this year at the Caribe Royale Orlando on September 4-6. This event features industry leaders and subject matter experts as they discuss timely topics in pharmacy benefit management. The event provides attendees with the opportunity to learn, engage, and network with key stakeholders.

**2024 PBMI Annual National CONFERENCE**

**Session:**  
**Employer Strategies and Challenges in Pharmacy Benefit Management**

**Presenters:**

- Karen van Caulil, PhD**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value
- Kenneth Aldridge, Jr. RN-BSN, MS-H.S.A.**  
Director of Health Services  
Rosen Medical Center & RosenCare
- Rosa Novo**  
Administrative Benefits Director  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Presenters during the *Employer Strategies and Challenges in Pharmacy Benefit Management* session include **Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Administrative Benefits Director and Florida Alliance Board Chair Rosa Novo, and Kenneth Aldridge, Jr., Director of Health Services at Rosen Medical Center and RosenCare, and Florida Alliance Board Member.**

For more information about this event, click [HERE](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org)

## Florida Alliance Invited to Attend the 2024 Payer Exchange Summit on Oncology Payment Reform – September 9-10

The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) has invited the Florida Alliance to attend its annual invitation only *Payer Exchange Summit on Oncology Payment Reform* on September 9 and 10 in Reston, Virginia. It is the only gathering where all cancer care payment reform stakeholders (cancer care providers, payers, employers, employer health groups, and others) meet to explore the evolution of value-based cancer care delivery models.



## PAYER EXCHANGE SUMMIT ONCOLOGY PAYMENT REFORM

Cancer treatments have advanced rapidly over the past decade, and with that has come increased spending. In response, stakeholders have been exploring models to reduce the financial burden on patients, increase care coordination, and improve health outcomes. The COA Payer Exchange Summit is where everyone comes together to examine these ideas.

At the 2024 COA Payer Exchange Summit, stakeholders will discuss the wide variety of challenges and opportunities they see in achieving successful oncology payment reform. Topics include:

- Complexity and challenges of value-based contracts from a payer perspective
- The impact – and limitations – of ERISA laws on reform efforts
- The quest for disruption and transparency in pharmacy benefit managers
- The importance of Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID)

**Ashley Tait-Dinger, Vice President, will attend and make sure the employer voice is heard.**



*Ashley Tait-Dinger*

Here is a link to more information. <https://payerexchangesummit.com>

If you are also attending this event, please email Ashley at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org)



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## Leapfrog Sign-On Request: CMS CY25 OPPS Proposed Rule Letter

As you probably know, The Leapfrog Group reports on patient safety and quality measures from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. A few of the measures are collected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Leapfrog uses those measures in its own reporting.

Each year CMS issues [proposed changes](#) to the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) rule, where the measures are collected. They invite stakeholders, like Leapfrog, to submit comments. Click [HERE](#) to see the letter detailing Leapfrog's comments that they plan to submit on September 9.

The overall message to CMS is to continue prioritizing increased public reporting and development of patient safety measures so employers and patients have access to as much life-saving data as possible when choosing a facility for care.

As the regional leader for Florida, Leapfrog has asked the Florida Alliance to sign onto this letter, which we have done. We are asking two things of you, our Employer Members:

- 1) As an employer, we need to continue to expand measurement reporting, so the data is visible. As an employer organization, please consider signing on to this letter.
- 2) As patients, we also deserve this information to be visible. Consider signing on as an individual.

If you would like to support this effort as an organization and/or individual, please [fill out this webform](#) **by 5pm ET on Friday, September 6**. If you are signing as both, you will need to complete the form two times.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org)

**We will resume Friday distribution of the Weekly Bulletin starting next week.**

**Enjoy the Labor Day Weekend!**

