



## Weekly Bulletin – September 13, 2024



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### **Final Rule for Mental Health Parity Released and a Webinar to Explain What it Means**

After what has been a significant delay, the tri-agencies, the Department of the Treasury, Department of Labor, and Department of Health and Human Services issued the Final Rules for Mental Health Parity on Monday. The final rule, which includes some changes requested by employer advocates, will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, although some stakeholders have suggested they may take legal action to block implementation. To view the entire ruling you can click [HERE](#). It is 536 pages long, so rather than spend all that time reviewing the final rule, you may want to attend next week's webinar described below.

On **Wednesday, September 18, 10:00AM – 11:00AM ET**, the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions will host a webinar on this very important topic. Hear from mental health policy experts and allies about what is in the final rule, what its impact could be on employers and purchasers, and what employers should do now to prepare. Florida Alliance staff will use this information to determine the path forward with our Employer Members, but we do urge you to attend, as well.

#### Meet the Speakers



**Shawn Gremminger**  
*President & CEO  
National Alliance*



**Margaret Faso**  
*Sr. Director, Public Policy,  
Executive Director  
American Health Policy Institute*



**Henry Harbin, MD**  
*Advisor  
Bowman Family  
Foundation*

Registration for this FREE webinar is required. Please click [HERE](#) to register. You should also have received a calendar invitation that includes registration information.

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



## FL Alliance Team and Employer Member News

### Affiliate Member PeopleOne Health's New Health Center Location Opening

PeopleOne Health is preparing to open its first of four locations in Orlando with Employer Member



**Orange County Public Schools.** You are invited to join the leadership teams from PeopleOne, RosenCare, and Orange County Public Schools for the official opening on Tuesday, September 24, from 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET at 207 West Gore Street, Orlando.

Come out and tour the health center, meet the care team, and learn more about PeopleOne Health's Advanced Primary Care model.



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

### Community Oncology Alliance Payer Exchange Summit held September 9-10

**The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) held 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. **Florida Alliance Vice President Ashley Tait-Dinger attended the summit.**

One session entitled *The ERISA Conundrum: Impact of Federal Laws on Reform Efforts* featured Shawn Gremminger, President & CEO of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, as a panelist. They talked about the number of bills passed at the national level versus the state level. At this time, it seems more legislation is taking place at the state level.



*Pictured left to right: James Lee, Community Oncology Alliance; Jesse Dresser, Frier Levitt; Katy Johnson, American Benefits Council; Shawn Gremminger, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions; Jeff Mortier, Farragut Partners*

We had a number of our sister business coalitions attend, pictured below, to re-inforce the employer's voice.



*Pictured left to right: **Gloria Sachdev**, Employers' Forum of Indiana; **Denise Giambalvo**, Washington Health Alliance; **Ashley Tait-Dinger**, Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value; **Mike Stancil**, Pittsburgh Business Group on Health; **Chris Syverson**, Nevada Business Group on Health; **Laurel Pickering**, St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition*

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

### 2024 Annual PBMI Conference

Pharmacy Benefit Management Institute's (PBMI) Annual National Conference was held at the Caribe Royale Orlando on September 4-6. This event featured industry leaders and subject matter experts as they discussed timely topics in pharmacy benefit management. **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** spoke on a panel regarding strategies and challenges within pharmacy benefit management. The feedback on the panel discussion was great and we will make sure that the issues and solutions that were brought forward are incorporated into our work on fair price and high-cost claims.

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



*Rosa Novo, Kenneth Aldridge, Karen van Caulil*

### Health Benefits Nation Conference

Rosa Novo has been a busy lady! She left the PBMI conference in Orlando to fly to Nashville for the Health Benefits Nation Conference and spoke on the Mainstage Panel Discussion: *Equitable, Affordable Health Care for All – Revolutionizing Employer-Sponsored Health Care with Personalized Innovation*.



*Chinni Pulluru, MD, Jessica Brooks-Woods, Rosa Novo*

Joining her on the panel were Jessica Brooks-Woods, CEO of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals, and Chinni Pulluru, MD, an Executive Healthcare Leader, who moderated the panel. We received feedback from attendees that Rosa was the star of the show! Thank you, Rosa, for sharing the passion you have for improving health care!

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



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

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### Employer Case Studies: A Focus on Prevention, Vaccines, and Misinformation

Employers are taking action steps to help improve vaccination rates. On August 20, the National Alliance held a webinar which presented two employer case studies that highlighted measures proven to be successful in promoting prevention strategies, activating vaccination initiatives, and combating misinformation in the workplace.



For example, American Eagle Outfitters offers incentives, communications, and access, which is done by marketing the HPV vaccine as preventative health care and cancer prevention, disseminating a Benefits Newsletter, and providing a \$25 gift card incentive as some of their perks. There has already been a noticeable, favorable difference in the number of vaccine claims made by their employees thus far. It is important to promote the HPV vaccination as a measure to help prevent cancer. The most common type of cancer associated with HPV is head and neck cancer, which is most common in males, and cervical cancer. Other types of cancers include oropharyngeal cancer, penile cancer, vaginal cancer, and vulvar cancer.

Speakers at the webinar included Mark Cunningham-Hill, MD, *The Estee Lauder Companies*; Wayne Rawlins, MD, *WellSpark Health*; and Angel Sánchez, MSHRM, *American Eagle Outfitters*. **To view the webinar click [HERE](#).**

Please find below some of the resources that were provided during the webinar:

- [COVID-19: The Importance of Helping to Keep Employees Informed](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Flu](#)
- [RSV Vaccine](#)
- [HPV-Action-Brief-2024](#)
- [mRNA COVID 19 Vaccines and Your Immune System](#)

For information on key strategies that employers can adopt in partnership with their vendors to better manage oncology care and costs, please visit our Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management by clicking [HERE](#). We have additional information and resources in the Employer Guide on how a strategy for increasing uptake of the HPV vaccine is a cancer prevention strategy.

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

## Employer Member Benefit: Resource with Help for Cancer Caregivers

Employers are looking for resources to support their employees in many areas of their lives. One of those areas is regarding caregiving of patients with cancer. **Affiliate Member Genentech has developed an employer resource on this topic that can be shared with employees.**

This resource will be incorporated into our Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management. Visit [Make a Personal Caregiver Guide | Help for Cancer Caregivers](#) for:



- A personalized self-care guide
- Access to trusted resources on key topics
- Guidance on how to connect with social services to help support your physical and emotional health

Click [HERE](#) to find additional information in the Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management.

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



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### PODCAST: 340B Part 1: Where It Started, Where It Is Now, and Who Is Really Benefiting From This Massive Program

Relentless Health Value hosted a podcast on September 5 with Shawn Gremminger, President & CEO, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. Shawn explains the original intent of the 340B program and how it has evolved into a program that may not actually be meeting its intent to serve vulnerable populations despite its \$53B price tag.

This is a great “101” on the 340B program that leads into a second podcast on why employers should care about 340B.

To listen to the Part 1 podcast click [HERE](#).



### PODCAST: 340B Part 2: Why Employers Should Probably Care About What’s Happening Here, with Shawn Gremminger

Shawn continues his discussion on 340B by explaining how the program contributes an incentive for hospitals to consolidate. It is well established that consolidation drives up prices that employers pay for health care. He shares that 340B covered entities mark up drugs more than non-340B entities despite the fact that they are able to purchase the drugs at a much lower price. Another talking point in the

podcast is that when employees get their prescriptions at a 340B contract pharmacy, the employer does not get the rebate, the hospital does.

The Florida Alliance team is gearing up to educate Florida’s lawmakers on the impact of 340B on employers as they consider legislation to address 340B concerns, so please listen to the Part 2 podcast by clicking [HERE](#)

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

### **LAST OPPORTUNITY, DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 20: 2024 “Pulse of the Purchaser” Employer Survey**

The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions is conducting its 2024 “Pulse of the Purchaser” survey to learn employers’ current directions in the areas listed below. Over the past several years, this survey has highlighted employer key trends in healthcare delivery and payment reform and our Employer Members have gained considerable insight from the findings. The survey will take no more than 15 minutes to complete – all responses will remain confidential. We will share the results with you. **If we have several of our members respond to the survey, we will receive a Florida report.**



Key areas of the survey:

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

**The survey also includes questions about the resources developed by the National Alliance that we always share with our Employer Members through our Weekly Bulletin.**

To view the full question set, click [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to the survey!

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