



## Weekly Bulletin – September 20, 2024



### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

#### EMPLOYER MEMBER BENEFIT: Hospital Fair Price Resource Guide

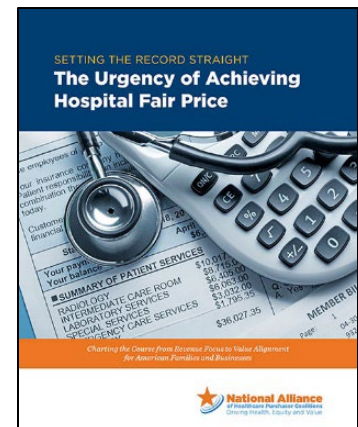
The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions has developed a new resource, based on input from the Florida Alliance and some of our sister coalitions, designed to be a one-stop site to support employers and coalitions with access to all National Alliance resources on hospital fair price.

The Hospital Fair Price Resource Guide includes:

- **Guidebooks:** Insights into hospital pricing myths and best practices
- **Playbooks:** Tools for achieving fair prices beyond transparency
- **Chart Packs:** Data visualization tools for coalition market analysis
- **Federal and State Policy Agendas:** Resources to advocate for pricing transparency and anti-competitive practices
- **Primers:** Overview of federal transparency requirements
- **Media Toolkits:** Public relations and social media support for coalitions

Click [HERE](#) to view this updated resource that helps ensure that employers and coalitions have comprehensive tools for tackling hospital pricing.

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



#### U.S. Hospitals are Making Dramatic Progress in Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is imperative in hospitals to ensure patient safety. Each year The Leapfrog Group conducts the Leapfrog Hospital Survey collecting responses from approximately 2,100 hospitals, representing 74% of U.S. hospital beds. They measure critical quality and safety practices, including hospitals' adherence to the highly rigorous Leapfrog Hand Hygiene Standard.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the hospital survey measures.

Leapfrog has developed a report that breaks down the importance of hand hygiene and hospitals' commitment into five categories: **Monitoring, Feedback, Training and Education, Infrastructure, and Culture.**

Key Highlights:

- Leapfrog's Hand Hygiene Standard adherence has dramatically increased from 11% in 2020 to 74% in 2023
- Use of electronic compliance monitoring has doubled in just 4 years
- Hospital leaders are more likely to be held accountable financially and otherwise for hand hygiene compliance within their organization



Click [HERE](#) to read the full report. If you would like to see how the hospitals in your area are performing on the Hand Hygiene measure, visit the [Leapfrog Ratings](#) website.

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



## Florida Alliance Team and Employer Member News

### CONGRATULATIONS to Rosen Hotels & Resorts for Winning the 2024 “Rosie” Award

RosettaFest 2024 was held last week in Washington, DC where **Florida Alliance Board Member and Director of Health Services at Rosen Hotels & Resorts Kenneth Aldridge** accepted the 2024 Rosie Award. Rosen Hotels & Resorts has won this award in 2023 and 2024! The Rosie Award winners meet two important criteria: a high Plan Grader™ score and excellent use of their Health Rosetta Dividend. To learn more about these criteria and the award, click [HERE](#)



*Pictured: Kenneth Aldridge, Carolyn Grant (RosenSure), Ashley Bacot (Former FL Alliance Board Member)*

While at RosettaFest, Kenneth spoke on a panel entitled “Why is Allergic Disease Valuable to Address for Employers and Employees?” He spoke about their success in incorporating immunotherapy into the services offered at the Rosen Medical Center.

Congratulations to Kenneth and Rosen Hotels & Resorts!

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

### 32BJ Labor Industry Cooperation Fund/32BJ Health Fund Conference



The Price of Power: Confronting the Hospital Affordability Crisis conference was held September 19 in New York City, where **Rosa Nova, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Administrative Benefits Director and Florida Alliance Board Chair**, spoke. The conference brought together employers, labor leaders, healthcare providers, policymakers, and patient advocates to explore the anticompetitive power dynamics that keep hospital prices unjustifiably high (and rising).

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



## HEALTH POLICY

### The Importance of Transparency in Health Care

Last week, **Florida Alliance Board Member and Director of Health Services at Rosen Hotels & Resorts Kenneth Aldridge** met with key Senate staff in Washington, DC to discuss the importance of transparency in health care. Kenneth met with the staff for Senators Rubio, Braun, and Young and his input was well-received. Kenneth discussed the Health Care Prices Revealed and Information to Consumers Explained (PRICE) Transparency Act 2.0. The Florida Alliance signed a letter of support for the PRICE Act that PatientRightsAdvocate.org developed earlier in the year. There is renewed interest in seeing the bills in the Senate (and the House) be voted on and passed in the upcoming lame duck session.

As a reminder, the PRICE Act will:

- Impose data sharing standards:
  - Require machine-readable files of all negotiated rates and cash prices between plans and providers, not estimates
  - Expand price transparency requirements to clinical diagnostic labs, imaging centers, and ambulatory surgical centers



- Require pricing data standards including all billing codes for services
- Require actual prices for 300 shoppable services with all services by 2025
- Require attestation by executives that all prices are accurate and complete
- Increase maximum annual penalties to \$10,000,000 (includes specific minimum and maximum penalties according to number of hospital beds in the facility)
- Prevent pre-emption of state price transparency laws, except for ERISA group health plans
- Codify the Transparency in Coverage (TIC) rule
- Provide group health plans the right to access, audit, and review claims encounter data

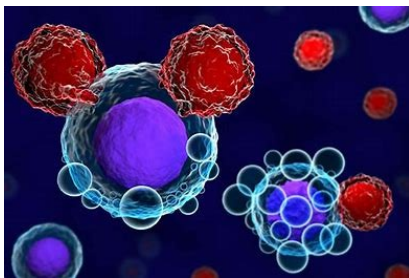
**Thank you to Kenneth for your advocacy!**

In November, Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil and Florida Alliance Board Chair and Administrative Benefits Director for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Rosa Novo will be participating in Hill visits with key Senate and House staff along with the National Alliance and several of our sister coalitions. Hospital Price Transparency is at the top of the list of issues to be discussed. If your company/organization would like to become more involved in advocating for price transparency or have any questions, please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org).



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

**ACTION ITEM: CAR-T Therapy Employer Advisory Board**



**Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil will be participating in a virtual advisory board on Monday afternoon, September 23.** She has just received the pre-work materials and needs your help to ensure she is able to represent our concerns and current situation. The topic is on CAR-T therapy – Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy - which is a form of immunotherapy used to primarily treat certain types of cancer, such as leukemia and lymphoma. It involves modifying a patient’s own T-cells (a type of immune cell) to help them better recognize and attack cancer cells.

- **Do you provide any coverage of CAR-T therapies in your health plan(s)? If so, when did you start covering them? If not, are you considering coverage? Are they included in your traditional plans or carved out with a third party or buy up options via your current carrier?**
- **There are over 300 CAR-T therapies in development globally. How concerned are you about the increasing number of cell therapies in the pipeline and their cost on a scale of 1-5? 1 – not concerned at all and 5 – extremely concerned?**

- Will the increasing number of cell and gene products impact your benefit design decisions?
- Do you need more information on CAR-T therapy?

Would you please take 5 minutes to email Karen at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) in response to these questions **before noon on Monday, September 23?** Thank you!

**EMPLOYER MEMBER BENEFIT: National Alliance Webinar: What Does Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Mean for Employers, September 24, 12:00PM-1:00PM ET**

Medicare drug price negotiation refers to the ability of the Medicare program to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies to lower the prices of prescription drugs. This policy, which has been introduced as part of broader healthcare reforms, can have several implications for employers who provide health benefits to employees. **Shawn Gremminger, President and CEO of National Alliance, and John O'Brien, PharmD, MPH, President and CEO of the National Pharmaceutical Council,** will be speaking at this event.



**Shawn Gremminger**  
President & CEO  
National Alliance



**John O'Brien PharmD, MPH**  
President & CEO  
National Pharmaceutical Council

To register for this webinar click [HERE](#). Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

**Employee Member Benefit: Prostate Cancer Awareness Month**

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

You can find this resource in our [Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management](#). Click [HERE](#) to go directly to this important resource to learn more about:

- Empowering employees in prostate cancer
- Considerations for beginning prostate cancer awareness initiatives
- Prostate cancer awareness resource
- Additional initiative options



Click [HERE](#) to find additional information in the Employer Guide and Insights for Prostate Cancer. Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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### **DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 27:**

#### **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 ten 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)

**Finding a Therapist Who Takes Your Insurance Can Be Nearly Impossible – *article from Shot – Health News from NPR***



This National Public Radio (NPR) article, which was published on August 25, discusses how **behavioral specialists are facing difficulties with carriers questioning the care provided and subsequently requesting repayment.**

Specifically, after months of treatment and insurance payments, carriers are reviewing whether the care met medical necessity and, if it did not, they are asking providers to return the paid claims. This is a process known as "clawback" which allows the carrier to use this provision in their contract indicating that money needs to be returned if they deemed that the claim was processed incorrectly, and penalties may apply.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

Thank you to Rosa Nova for sharing this article. We had not been aware of this practice!

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