



Weekly Bulletin – June 19, 2025

This Weekly Bulletin is a benefit of your organization's Employer Membership in the Florida Alliance and is meant to **ONLY** be shared within Employer Member organizations unless approval has been given by the Florida Alliance CEO.



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

National Alliance Leadership Summit – Dallas, Texas – 4 Big Items to Share

Last week, Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil attended the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Strategic Leadership Summit in Dallas, Texas. **We extend our gratitude to Emily Stovall, Chief Financial and Operating Officer at Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association, Inc. (ICUBA), for attending the Leadership Summit with Karen and representing our Employer Members so well!**



Mark Cuban

Item #1: The Summit's keynote speaker was Mark Cuban, President of Cost-Plus Drugs. He delivered a presentation on "Disrupting the Drug Industry to End Ridiculous Prices." In 2025, Mark Cuban's Cost-Plus Drugs has made big moves, joining a White House initiative on drug manufacturing, expanding into biosimilars, and growing its pharmacy network. The company is also deepening partnerships with pass-through pharmacy benefits managers and publishing its contracts to promote transparency.

Click [HERE](#) to read an article from *Becker's Hospital Review* to see how these steps are reshaping the drug pricing landscape.

Item #2: Dave Chase, Co-Founder and CEO of Health Rosetta, addressed the significance of "*Nautilus Health*." In October 2024, we shared this free resource, [Nautilus Health](#), which provides model Requests for Proposal, contract, and data usage language that employers should consider using to enhance transparency and reduce costs associated with their medical and pharmacy contracts. Dave reported that the employers who have used their information and resources have found them to be very helpful.



Dave Chase

ACTION ITEM -- Item #3: **The Pulse of the Purchaser Research Institute, launched last week at the Summit, invites the Florida Alliance team members and all of our Employer Members to join a national expert panel focused on shaping the future of healthcare policy and practice.** Developed in partnership with the Health Analytics and Insights Group, this initiative offers our Employer Members the opportunity to contribute confidential insights through periodic research and advisory engagements such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups.



To read the *Pulse of the Purchaser Research Institute Overview*, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.

Item #4: Dr. Shawn Griffin, CEO of the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC), a leading independent nonprofit accreditation organization, shared with the Summit attendees that his organization has developed an accreditation for health plans that certifies that they are addressing mental health parity compliance appropriately for all the health plans they work with. He encouraged the coalitions to work with their employer members to urge the carriers to seek this accreditation. This request to seek accreditation does not negate the need for employers to have their own parity analysis completed annually.



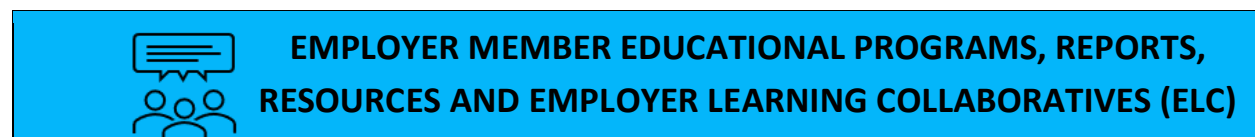
The URAC ParityManager™ compliance software, a detailed compliance guide and accreditation service, accredits health plans on their adherence to federal parity requirements. To date only two plans (BCBS of North Dakota and BCBS of Minnesota) have successfully achieved this accreditation.

At the Summit, Karen asked Dr. Griffin if he was familiar with the Employer Mental Health Parity Compliance Toolkit that the National Alliance and Florida Alliance had created. He said that he was very familiar with it and that the information provided is exactly what each employer needs to do and what analysis their carrier must conduct on their behalf to ensure parity.

Click [HERE](#) to access our Mental Health Parity Toolkit.

To view the article and program from URAC, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions about Mental Health Parity Compliance.



Registration is Now Open! 30th Annual “Best of the Best” Event – Thursday, December 11, 9:00AM – 1:30PM ET

Join us for the Florida Alliance’s 30th Annual “Best of the Best” event, taking place on Thursday, December 11, at the award-winning Center for Health and Wellbeing, generously hosted by Affiliate Member Winter Park Health Foundation.

This event will spotlight cutting-edge healthcare strategies from innovative employers across the country who are redefining benefit design and contracting. Discover practical, results-driven approaches that are improving health outcomes and driving cost efficiency.



Would you like to speak at “Best of the Best” about the great work you are doing? Please reach out to Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org as soon as possible.

Hotel Accommodations:

While the Winter Park Health Foundation does not have any official hotel partnerships or discounted room rates, we are happy to recommend a few nearby, drivable, hotels for your convenience. Please note that we do not offer special pricing at these locations:

- [The Alford Inn](#) – A boutique hotel located in the heart of Winter Park, just minutes from the event venue
- [Hilton Garden Inn Winter Park, Florida](#) – A comfortable and centrally located option with easy access to local dining and shops
- [SpringHill Suites by Marriott Winter Park, Florida](#) – An all-suite hotel offering modern accommodations and complimentary breakfast

Attendees may also find suitable accommodation near the Orlando International Airport or the University of Central Florida, both of which are within reasonable driving distance of the venue.

Details of the event:

- **Date:** Thursday, December 11, 2025
- **Registration:** 8:30AM – 9:00AM EDT
- **Program Time:** 9:00AM – 1:30PM EDT
- **Location:** Center for Health and Wellbeing, 2005 Mizell Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32792
- **Your Complimentary Member Promo code:** **EMPLOYERBOTB122025** (Please do not share this code outside your organization. If you have a colleague at an organization that is not a member of the Florida Alliance, please reach out to Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org for a guest code and flyer that you can share with them.)
- **Register** [HERE](#)

Thank You to Our Early Sponsors of “Best of the Best”!



Please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions or need help registering.

Employer Member Benefit: PSG Report: Employers Weigh “Unbundling” PBM Models, GLP-1 Coverage



The Pharmaceutical Strategies Group (PSG) report reveals a growing trend among employers to reevaluate and restructure their pharmacy benefit strategies. Many are considering “unbundling” traditional Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) services, separating components such as claims adjudication, rebate contracting, and specialty pharmacy to increase transparency, reduce costs, and improve accountability. This shift reflects employers’ desire for more insight into pricing mechanisms and flexibility in vendor selection.

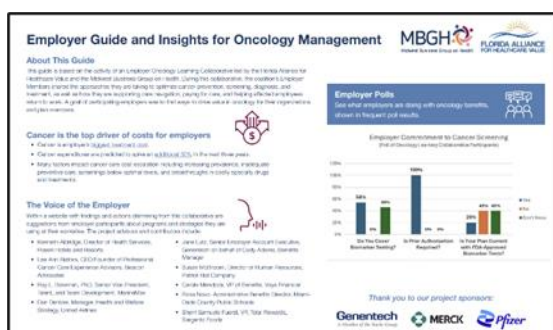
Additionally, the report highlights a heightened focus on GLP-1 medications, such as Ozempic and Wegovy, which are gaining popularity for both diabetes management and weight loss. Employers are carefully weighing the clinical benefits of these drugs against their significant costs and the potential for increased utilization. Some are implementing coverage restrictions, step therapies, or alternative weight management programs to manage spending while still supporting employee health.

Overall, the report underscores a broader movement toward value-driven, customizable pharmacy benefit solutions in response to rising drug costs and evolving employee needs.

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

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.

Employer Member Benefit: 2025 Spring NCCN Employer Forum Webinar Recording



On Wednesday, May 21, Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil, together with Cheryl Larson, President and CEO of the Midwest Business Group on Health, presented at the 2025 Spring National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Employer Forum Webinar. Their presentation focused on the recently updated [Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management](#), a resource developed by our two coalitions to help employers better understand and

manage the complexities of cancer care and benefits.

During the webinar, Karen and Cheryl showcased how the guide equips employers with practical strategies to support employees throughout their cancer journey, while effectively managing costs and driving improved health outcomes. Attendees walked away with actionable insights to strengthen their organization's role in delivering high-quality cancer care.

To listen to the recording, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Drug Importation in Florida: An Overview

The Partnership for Safe Medicines has written an article on Florida's Drug Importation Program which is a state-led initiative aimed at lowering prescription drug costs by importing medications from Canada. Launched in 2019, the program received a major boost when the FDA approved its proposal in January 2024, making Florida the first state granted permission to import drugs under federal Section 804 guidelines. The program's initial focus is on providing lower-cost



medications to high-need populations such as Medicaid recipients, individuals in foster care, inmates, and those served by county health departments.

The initiative targets chronic and high-cost conditions, including diabetes, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis C, though it excludes biologics and certain complex treatments like infused drugs. The State estimates projected first-year savings between \$150 million and \$183 million. However, full implementation is still pending, as Florida must meet additional FDA requirements such as drug-by-drug pre-approval, relabeling, and quarterly reporting on safety and savings.

To read the *Drug Importation in Florida* article, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Hannah McChesney at hannah@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.

Catalyst for Payment Reform: Understanding the Impact of Mental Health Disorders on the Workplace Webinar Recording



On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Kimberly Moore, PharmD, MS, Medical Outcomes Science Liaison at Affiliate Member AbbVie, joined Catalyst for Payment Reform to examine the growing mental health crisis in the American workforce. Focusing on Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and Bipolar I Disorder, Kimberly highlighted the massive economic toll, over \$300 billion annually, and the hidden struggles of nearly one in four employees coping with mental health conditions in silence.

The webinar emphasized how stigma, inadequate benefit design, and limited access to care prevent employees from seeking help, while employers often overlook the indirect costs of mental illness, such as reduced productivity, absenteeism, and rising disability claims. Kimberly also addressed the frequent misdiagnosis and under-treatment of MDD and Bipolar I Disorder, explaining how this leads to higher healthcare utilization and worsened employee outcomes. She concluded with actionable steps employers can take, including revising pharmacy benefits, enforcing mental health parity, and improving access to evidence-based treatments. **The webinar offered a clear call to action for employers to take a more proactive and compassionate approach to workforce mental health.**

Related to this topic, the Florida Alliance collaborated with its members through a Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder [Employer Learning Collaborative \(ELC\)](#) to enhance behavioral health benefit plans, policies, and networks. This initiative aimed to tackle ongoing challenges in mental health and substance use treatment, improving access to care and support. We are seeking funding to continue the ELC this year.

To listen to the recording, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Hannah McChesney at hannah@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.

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