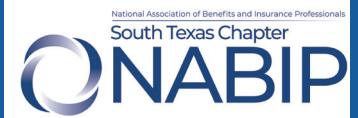


NABIP-SOTX

NEWS

National Association of Business and Insurance Professional - South Texas



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Walgreens To Pay \$360 Million To Humana In Drug Pricing Settlement

Walgreens (WBA.O) has agreed to pay \$360 million to healthcare insurer Humana to settle a lawsuit claiming that the retail pharmacy giant for years overcharged for prescription drug reimbursements.

U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes on Friday dismissed the Washington, D.C., federal court lawsuit after Walgreens disclosed the settlement in a court filing. The amount was shown in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Read More Here...

Claim Denied? Health Insurers Must Promptly Hand Over Records, But Most Don't

Federal regulations require health insurers to promptly hand over records to patients facing claim denials within 30 days, however, Anthem, Aetna and UnitedHealth blew past the 30-day deadline in a recent ProPublica investigation

Just outside public view, the American health insurance industry's algorithms, employees and executives process tens of millions of claims for people seeking medical care.

Sometimes, as ProPublica has reported, insurers base decisions on what's good for the company's bottom line rather than what's good for the patient's health. Sometimes, insurers make mistakes. In one case we learned about, a company denied a child's treatment because it based its judgment on adult guidelines instead of pediatric ones. In another, an internal reviewer misread what type of surgery the patient sought and denied coverage based on that error. Read More Here...



MEMBERSHIP - GUEST GOLF OUTING



MARCH 21, 2024
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

NABIP-SOTX MEMBER/GUEST MIXER

MEMBERS: \$20
GUEST: \$10

JOIN NABIP-SOTX AT TOP GOLF IN PHAR, TEXAS FOR OUR MEMBER/GUEST MIXER. GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER, INVITE NON-MEMBERS IN OUR INDUSTRY, AND LET'S PLAY SOME GOLF.

PRIZES, FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE

MEMBER NAME:
SPONSOR NAME:
SPONSOR PACKAGE CHOSEN
☐ BIRDIE ☐ PAR ☐ BOGEY

TEAM NAME:
OF PARTICIPANTS:
OF GUEST/IN MEMBER:
CONTACT EMAIL:
Attendance/Spencer will be invoiced upon NABIPSOTX receiving this form by email.

CARRIER SPONSORSHIPS

As the leading agencies in the RGV vie for prizes at Phar's Top Golf, this presents an excellent chance for Carriers to connect with some of the top producers in the Rio Grande Valley.

01 Birdie - \$1,500
Own Private Golf Bag
Hand out Materials
5 Minute Talk at the Start

02 Par - \$1,000
Own Private Golf Bag
Hand out Materials

03 Boge - \$750
Own Private Golf Bag

Register Here
Submit form here
to be invoiced

CONTENT

ACA Enrollment Surges	P2
Humana Leaked Information	P2
Healthcare Cost And Affordability	P3
NABIP-TX Announces Dates	P3

www.nabipsotx.org

Facebook - nabipsotx

@nabipsotx

#nabipsotxgivesback

Day of Education
5-Hours CE Credit

May 2, 2024 - McAllen

ACA Enrollment Surged In Red States This Year

A record 21.3 million people signed up for health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplaces this year, with the largest enrollment increases tallied in red states.

Why it matters: The 30.7% annual increase in ACA sign-ups comes as former President Trump's renewed calls for repeal have again raised doubts about the law's future.

Enrollment figures released by federal health officials on Wednesday indicate that Republican-leaning states would be heavily affected by the law's repeal.
[Read More Here...](#)



Humana Sent Protected Health Information To The Wrong Address, Texas Included

Humana documents containing protected health information meant for providers were sent to the incorrect address, affecting enrollees in eight states.

According to a statement shared with Becker's Jan. 23, on Dec. 8, Humana became aware that explanation of payment documents containing enrollees' names, Humana ID numbers, claim payment information and other information were sent to the wrong address. There is no indication the information was misused as a result of the error, the company said in its statement.

"Humana immediately identified the cause of the error and corrected it. Through testing we confirmed the system is now operating correctly," the company said. [Read More Here...](#)

***NABIP-SOTX
SPANISH CE CLASS -
ETHICS***

***MARCH 6, 2024
BROWNSVILLE, TX***

LOCATION: TBA

**MEMBERSHIP MIXER
MARCH 21, 2024**



**DAY OF EDUCATION 5HR CE
MAY 2, 2024 - MCALLEN TX**



NABIP-SOTX MEDICARE SUMMIT - SEPTEMBER 5 & 6, 2024



Health Cost And Affordability Policy Issues And Trends To Watch In 2024

While issues of health care costs and affordability may not be at the forefront of this year's election, they remain a major concern among the public. Health spending in the United States is projected to grow by 5% between 2023 and 2024, to a total of \$4.9 billion. Here are key health costs and affordability policy issues and trends to watch in 2024.

Will policymakers pass site-neutral payment reforms?

Payments for outpatient services frequently vary depending on the type of setting where they're provided. For example, reimbursement rates are often higher for a given service when provided in a hospital outpatient department versus a freestanding physician office, even though in many of these circumstances care may be safe and appropriate in either setting. Policymakers and payers have expressed interest in aligning payments across care settings through "site-neutral payment reforms."

Through legislation and rulemaking, Medicare has aligned payments for office visits across freestanding physician offices and off-campus hospital outpatient departments—which often resemble physician offices—as well as for other services for relatively new off-campus facilities. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill in December 2023 (HR 5378) that would align Medicare payments for drugs administered in off-campus hospital outpatient departments and freestanding physician offices, which the CBO estimates would save \$3.7 billion over 10 years.

Other proposals, such as aligning payments for both on- and off-campus hospital outpatient departments with payments for ambulatory surgical centers or physician offices for certain services, could lead to much larger savings. Policymakers have also explored reforms intended to address outpatient facility fees—which are on top of professional fees for a given service and can add substantially to the total bill—charged by hospitals and other institutional providers in commercial markets.

In addition to directly lowering costs for payers and individuals, site-neutral payment reform could reduce the incentive for hospitals to buy up physician practices, a practice which has been associated with higher commercial prices.

Nonetheless, hospitals and other opponents have argued that there are differences in the patients that hospitals care for, the services they provide, and their cost structure that justify higher payment rates.

[Read Full Article...](#)

www.nabip-tx.org

