

Some Health Care Legislation Could Pass Congress Despite Leadership Turmoil

By Susan Rupe

The leadership turmoil in the U.S. House of Representatives has clouded the outlook for passing health care legislation this year.

However, there's also a lot of momentum in Congress behind the health policy work that already has been done, so some health care reforms "have a chance of hitching a ride on a big catch-all bill at the end of the year. And legislation that doesn't cross the finish line this year will carry over to next year."

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5 Benefit Challenges To Tackle This Open Enrollment

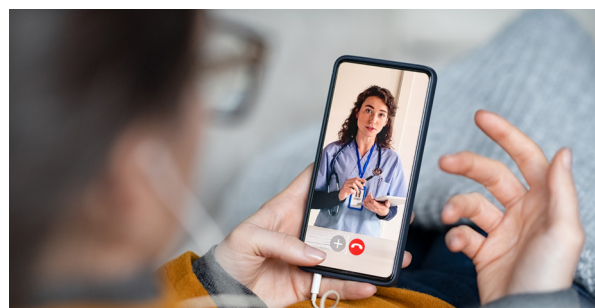
By Lee Hefner - Benefits leaders have their work cut out for them when it comes to putting together the most impactful offerings.

Only six in 10 employees are satisfied with their benefits — the lowest rate in a decade, according to MetLife. Seeking to examine things from an HR perspective, new and exclusive research from Arizent, EBN's parent company, found that a mere 30% of HR leaders believe their company does a good job of improving benefits utilization, and sheds light on what all survey respondents plan to do to improve the state of benefits within their organization.

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Telehealth Primary Care Visits Boost In-person Follow Up

By [John Commins](#) - In-person follow-up visits were a bit higher after telemedicine consultations when compared with in-person primary care visits, but that varied by specific clinical condition, according to a study published today in Annals of Internal Medicine. [Read Full Article...](#)



By Ron Byrd - Editor

I want to express my sincere apologies for the recent delays in our newsletter. Over the past month, unforeseen and life-changing events have kept me preoccupied, dealing with family matters that I could never have anticipated. During this period, I spent only four nights in my own bed, from September 15th to October 19th. The intensity of these events reminded me of the dramatic twists in the movie “Four Weddings and a Funeral.”

Our youngest son’s destination wedding in Oregon was marred by unexpected challenges when both the bride and groom contracted COVID a week before the ceremony. This unfortunate situation led to some family members having to skip the wedding or leave early due to health concerns.

Immediately after the wedding, I received news that my mother had been hospitalized, prompting me to fly to Iowa to be by her side. Although she was eventually released, she had to move in with my sister, requiring significant adjustments to accommodate her needs, which meant multiple trips to Home Depot for necessary supplies.

Upon my return from Iowa, I received heartbreaking news that our oldest son and his wife were in the hospital in Seattle, Washington. Tragically, they had lost their first child at six months into the pregnancy. My wife, Deena, and I rushed to be with them, providing comfort and stability during this devastating time. We were joined by other family members from both the United States and South Africa, coming together to support one another.

I am deeply grateful for the overwhelming support and prayers we received from the NABIP-TX board. Life often throws unexpected challenges our way, but having a supportive family, even one not bound by blood, makes navigating these difficult moments more bearable.

Thank you, NABIP-TX, for being the family we can rely on to see us through the darkest days. Your unwavering support has meant the world to us during this trying time.

Disruption Interruption: CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid Scale Back Primary Care Initiatives

By [John Commins](#) - The nation's three largest pharmacy chains have announced plans to close nearly 1,500 underperforming stores. It wasn't long ago that the expansion into primary care by the nation's leading retail pharmacy chains was seen as a threat to traditional providers.

However, a spate of financial woes, leadership shuffles, staff shortages and related store closings at CVS Health, Walgreens Boot Alliance, and the recent bankruptcy filing by Rite Aid have prompted the chains to pull back on their primary care initiatives. [Read Full Article...](#)



NCPA Launches Company To Assist Pharmacies With Litigation Against PBMs Over DIR fees

By [Paige Minemyer](#) - The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) has launched the latest salvo in its battle with pharmacy benefit managers over controversial fees.

The NCPA will establish Trust LLC, a limited liability company that will investigate the use of direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fees on behalf of community pharmacies. Should it be necessary, Trust will also litigate or arbitrate for the pharmacies, according to the [announcement](#).

NCPA has argued that these fees constitute an antitrust violation and have deprived pharmacies of large sums of money. In the release, the organization describes DIR fees as "the unconscionable behavior of the largest pharmacy benefit managers." [Read Full Article...](#)



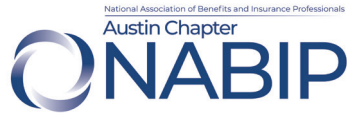
Surprise Billing Arbitration Is Still A Mess

By [Maya Goldman](#) - Nearly two years after a surprise medical bill ban took effect, the process for settling billing disputes between insurers and providers is still mired in litigation and many cases remain unresolved. [Read Full Article...](#)



August Chapter Agendas

AUSTIN



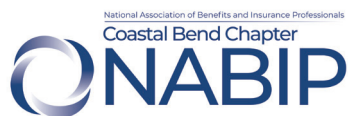
NOVEMBER 16 - 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

NABIP Austin-November 16 Virtual Meeting - Gap Insurance: Bridging the High Cost of Medical Claims
Course Presenter: Joe Brining

Summary: With the increasing cost of employer sponsored health insurance, gap plans can be a method to reduce premium prices as well as member out of pocket costs. This session will provide attendees with a basic knowledge of Gap plans, design, and claims processing.

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COASTAL BEND



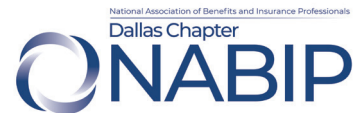
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EAST TEXAS



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DALLAS



Wed, Nov 15 | Vouv Event Center

Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance & Litigation Update

Provider: StanleyKup Data Services, d/b/a StanleyKup Consulting

Presenter: Jennifer Stanley

Provider No: 201108, Course ID: 136831, One Hour Continuing Education

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LONESTAR



www.lonestarahu.org

August Chapter Agendas

FORT WORTH



November 9 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
"Gripe & Give"

**Bar Louie 360 W Las Colinas Blvd, Irving,
TX, United States**

Join us at Bar Louie in Irving for our annual "Gripe and Give" Vanguard event. We are collecting coats, blankets, socks, etc. to give to those who would benefit greatly from our generosity. There's no cost to attend.

www.fwahu.org

HOUSTON



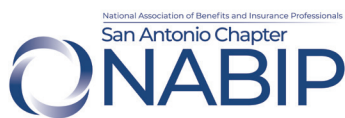
NABIP Houston November Happy Hour
November 07, 2023 - 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Kirby Ice House
1015 Gessner Road
Houston, TX 77055

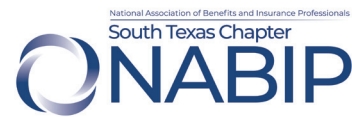
Come join NABIP Houston for a fun night at Kirby Ice House!
Your purchase gets you 2 drink tickets and some fun networking with other insurance professionals in Houston.
We look forward to seeing you there!

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SAN ANTONIO



SOUTH TEXAS



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