

Minnesota Health Action Group

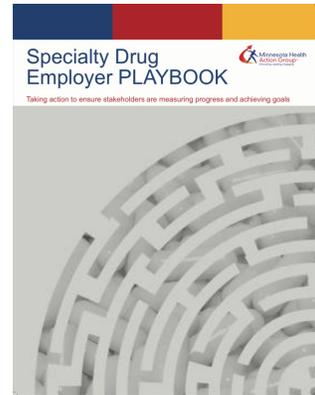


Schondelmeyer Says Prescription Drug Market has "Run Amok"

The millions of Minnesotans living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, depression, asthma, and high blood pressure are commonly forced to "pay the price of drug roulette," when the list of covered drugs changes without warning in response to rising prices, according to a new [Star Tribune article](#).

Dr. Stephen Schondelmeyer, renowned pharmacy economics expert from the University of Minnesota and long-time advisor to The Action Group's Specialty Drug Learning Network and Guiding Coalition says incomes and the cost of living have not kept pace with the cost of medications such as insulin. "It is a market run amok," he says.

The Action Group recently wrapped up over four years of study on the specialty drug marketplace, bringing together representatives from employers, health plans, PBMs, specialty pharmacies, provider organizations, and manufacturers, ultimately developing an Employer Playbook, which is now publicly available.



To view the Minnesota Health Action Group's Specialty Drug Employer Playbook, click the image above.

Read the recent *BenefitsPro* article about the Playbook [here](#).



- [Americans Ready to Crack Down on Drug Prices that Force Some to Skip Doses](#) (*Kaiser Health News*, March 1, 2019)
- [Anger Over High Drug Prices in U.S.](#) (*The New York Times*, March 1, 2019)
- [Big Pharma Grilled on the Hill: International Pricing, AbbVie CEO's Bonus, and Bye Bye Rebates](#) (*FiercePharma*, February 26, 2019)

Deadline Extended! Take the Annual Employer Benefits Survey Today!

What strategies are your peers using to combat the high cost of prescription drugs? How about specialty drugs? What are the top 2019 health care priorities for Minnesota employers?

Take The Action Group's **Annual Employer Survey** by **March 7, 2019**, and you'll discover the answers to these -- and so many more -- challenging health care and benefits questions.

The free and confidential Survey is open to **all** employers with employees in Minnesota. Those who complete it receive a benchmark report of employee trends and are invited to attend a thought-provoking **Results Meeting** on April 11, 2019.

Click [here](#) to take the Survey. If your organization participated in **2018**, you should have received a **2019** invitation with a custom link. This link takes you to a version pre-populated with prior responses, making completion **faster and easier**. If you did not receive the invitation, **please check your junk/spam folder**. If you do not locate it, contact [Deb Krause](mailto:Deb.Krause@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for assistance.



View the 2018 Survey Executive Summaries [here](#).

"I've completed the Survey, and I'm looking forward to collaborating with my peers," says Jon Schloemer, director of compensation and benefits for Fleet Farm. Read his [blog](#) highlighting the value of participating.

Summit Early Bird Registration Ends Soon! Register Today!

The shifting nature of employment, changing workplace cultures and conversations, today's hottest health care innovators, thought-provoking panel discussions, and an all-star group of sponsors add up to an Annual Employer Leadership Summit sure to captivate attendees. View the Summit preview [here!](#)

CHANGE @ THE SPEED OF LIFE: Investing in the Workforce of Tomorrow will be held May 2, 2019, at the Westin Edina Galleria. Join us as we imagine and plan for the future of the workplace and the benefit needs of employees and their families.

Early Bird Registration: Ends March 15, 2019

- Member rates: \$149 now; \$249 after March 15
- Non-member rates: \$299 now; \$399 after March 15

This event typically sells out. Register early to secure your spot -- and save \$100!



12th ANNUAL EMPLOYER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
 May 2, 2019, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Westin Edina Galleria

Concert with Coltranes • Registration, continental breakfast, exhibits and networking begins 7:30 a.m.
 • Networking luncheon begins 12:30 p.m. • 3:30 p.m. • Register at: www.summitregistration.com

The Shifting Nature of Employment
 Keynote Address: **Jon Peddie Senior, President, IT**
 Release a storm and inspire attendees to reimagine the existing paradigm that has allowed us to enjoy the shifting nature of employment with autonomy, speed and agility. With about 10% of the U.S. workforce here just in the interim, many generational contingencies, economic, societal and health concerns must be addressed through benefits and wellness, financial and operational. Specialty experience delivery is essential. Working with clients involves a changing of the guard of organizations that have been in operation, both with changing employees in roles and positions and programs that have been changing the nature of employment, which is creating a new organizational culture.

The Power and Science of Storytelling: Changing Workplace Cultures and Generations
 Keynote Address: **Debra W. Hines, CEO of iStockphoto**
 Debra W. Hines, CEO of iStockphoto, will share her insights on how to create a culture of innovation and how to use storytelling to change workplace cultures and generations. She will discuss how to use storytelling to create a culture of innovation and how to use storytelling to change workplace cultures and generations.

When Innovation is a Way of Life: Meet Today's Hottest Health Care Innovators
 Keynote Address: **Dr. John H. Garber, President, HCA Healthcare**
 Dr. John H. Garber, President of HCA Healthcare, will share his insights on how to create a culture of innovation and how to use storytelling to change workplace cultures and generations.

Thought-Provoking Panel Discussions
 Putting Experience to Work: Lessons From Real Life
 The panel of experts will discuss the practical aspects of how to put experience to work in the workplace. The panel will discuss the practical aspects of how to put experience to work in the workplace.

The Importance of the Employer Voice
 • Keynote: Importance of the Employer Voice
 • Panel: Importance of the Employer Voice
 • Roundtable: Importance of the Employer Voice

An All-Star Sponsor Lineup
 The panel and event will be possible without the support of our sponsors. Local business partners will be invited to share their insights on how to create a culture of innovation and how to use storytelling to change workplace cultures and generations.

Click on the image above for this year's Summit Preview--meet our keynote and see what to expect this year! Click [here](#) to view last year's photo gallery and presentations.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

MINNESOTA HEALTH ACTION GROUP 2019 ANNUAL EMPLOYER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



DIAMOND



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



February Member Meeting Reveals the Fascinating Side of Fraud

"Everybody does it." "I have to cheat to compete." Action Group members learned these are among the most common defenses when health care fraud perpetrators are confronted.

The reality is, these people steal billions of dollars each year from federal and state governments, private insurance companies, purchasers, providers, and taxpayers, making it an important topic for employers in terms of cost *and* fiduciary plan management.

Employers can take action by having regular conversations with claims adjudicators about what they are doing to detect and investigate fraud, waste and abuse (FWA); reviewing the SPD and carrier contract to ensure health plans have the ability to seek recourse if exposed to FWA; and educating employees about how to be on alert for FWA.



Members may view the member meeting presentation by logging into the Member Center from the [homepage](#).

New MN CM Report Highlights High-Performing Medical Groups; Room for Improvement

MN Community Measurement (MN CM) has released a report highlighting quality measures for health care provided by medical groups across Minnesota. The "[2018 Minnesota Health Care Quality Report](#)"

presents data collected by MNMCM, including an online appendix with comparisons by medical group and clinic. Several medical groups are recognized for achieving high performance on at least 50 percent of the measures for which they were eligible.

“The benchmark analysis illustrates the potential impact of raising statewide performance to the current level of groups with highest performance,” says MNMCM President Julie Sonier. “However, for some measures – such as the measures for depression care – the current benchmarks are low, which calls attention to the need for improvement across the board to get better health outcomes for Minnesotans.”

2018 MINNESOTA HEALTH CARE QUALITY REPORT

RELEASED FEBRUARY 2019



mncm.org mnhealthscores.org



Click the image above to view the 2018 Minnesota Health Care Quality Report. To learn more about The Action Group's efforts to improve depression care measures, click [here](#).



From the **CAPITOL**

Health Care Issues on the 2019 Legislative Agenda

The Legislature continues the race toward the first bill deadlines of the session while bill introductions are stacking up at a dizzying rate. In the House of Representatives alone, over 2,000 individual pieces of legislation have been proposed in less than two months.

Minnesota Management and Budget released its latest update on the state's financial health last week. The news was not encouraging: Since last November, nearly \$500 million has disappeared due to decelerating revenue collections. That leaves the state with a current budget surplus just over \$1 billion, but after inflation and other statutory adjustments, that number becomes significantly smaller. This news will tamp down any overly optimistic expectations from all corners about new spending initiatives. For more information on the budget forecast, click [here](#).

As for Legislative committee activity, last week saw a number of pharmacy related bills receive hearings in the House, including HF728 that creates licensure and new regulations for PBMs. There seems to be momentum around this proposal, although the fiduciary requirement included in the bill raises concerns with both the Minnesota Business Partnership and Chamber of Commerce. A summary can be found [here](#).

Another bill of note is HF1246/SF1098, which establishes a Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act. The bill was heard and passed out of House Commerce last week, and will likely be heard in the House Health and Human Services committee soon.



Click on the image to find additional information about the Minnesota State Legislature and current activities.

A bill summary can be found [here](#).

In addition to all this activity, this week will see a number of bills related to insulin price gouging be heard in the House Commerce committee on March 5. A full list of those bills can be found [here](#).

Clearly, there's a lot of activity and discussion around drug pricing at the Capitol this year. Watch this space for additional updates as the Legislative session continues.



Save the DATE

HR and benefits professionals are encouraged to participate in Action Group meetings and events. If you are not yet a member and would like to join us for member meeting, contact [Sue Jesseman](mailto:sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for a complimentary meeting pass.



Save the Date for 2019 Member Meetings:

- **June 27, August 9, September 5, December 6**

Each meeting begins with networking at 8 a.m. and concludes at 10 a.m. They are held at the Hilton Airport/MOA. Members who miss a meeting or are interested in viewing the presentations may log into the Member Center from the [homepage](#) and select Member Meeting Presentations.

Public Meetings and Events:

- **April 11, 2019:** Annual Employer Benefits Survey Results Meeting **(for Survey participants only)**
- **May 2, 2019:** Action Group Annual Employer Leadership Summit: [CHANGE @ THE SPEED OF LIFE: Investing in the Workforce of Tomorrow](#)



THOUGHT for the Week

“We can't just say the right thing on lowering the cost of prescription drugs; we have to do the right thing, too.”

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar



The Minnesota Health Action Group is a coalition of public and private purchasers whose sole purpose is to represent the collective voice of those who write the checks for health care in Minnesota. Action Group members collaborate with community stakeholders to drive innovations that support high quality health care, create engaged consumers, and ensure the economic vitality of all Minnesota communities. Based in Bloomington, MN, the Minnesota Health Action Group was formed in 1988 as the Buyers Health Care Action Group. To learn more, visit www.mnhealthactiongroup.org. Follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter: @actiongroupmn

