

The Helen Darling Award - Excellence in Health Care Value and Innovation

The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding employers that encourage the implementation of innovations that promote the efficient and cost-effective use of health care resources while demonstrating a track record of enhancing the employee health care experience and creating sustainable and high value programs.

Recipients must have proven results in increasing value in purchasing by improving quality and health outcomes.



Walmart, Inc. employs 2.2 million associates around the world -- 1.5 million in the U.S. alone, 1.1 million people covered on their benefit plan across 11,348 stores. The company's business model is based on selling a wide variety of general merchandise at affordable prices.

Walmart's initiatives include:

- **Creating a custom Centers of Excellence network** to deliver the highest quality care to associates and their families. In 2012, building on its experience with a long-term relationship with the Mayo Clinic for organ transplants, Walmart developed similar arrangements with other providers for an expanded set of conditions. Walmart launched its heart and spine surgery programs in 2013, joint hip and knee replacement surgery in 2014, certain cancer evaluations in 2015, and bariatric, or weight loss, surgery in 2016.
- **Launched 8 direct contracting Accountable Care Organization relationships** with hospitals and health systems in select markets. Beginning in 2016 Walmart added accountable care plans, or ACPs, to the medical benefits from which associates can choose. ACPs cover many medical services. ACP members also have access to Walmart's Centers of Excellence program.
- **Managing ever-challenging prescription drug utilization** by leveraging plan design to optimize how high-cost specialty drugs are delivered and paid for, and developing programs that address co-pay assistance.

About the National Business Group on Health®

The National Business Group on Health is the nation's only non-profit organization devoted exclusively to representing large employers' perspective on national health policy issues and helping companies optimize business performance through health improvement, innovation and health care management. The Business Group's mission is to keep its membership on the leading edge of innovation, thought and action to address health care cost and the delivery, financing, affordability and consumer experience with the health care system. Business Group members, which include 75 Fortune 100 companies, provide health coverage for more than 55 million U.S. workers, retirees and their families. For more information, visit www.businessgrouphealth.org.