

E-NEWSLETTER

December 2017 • Volume 9 • Issue 10



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In the News is a National Business Group on Health eNewsletter highlighting the latest trends and best practices in employee benefits and innovative solutions to your most pressing health care issues. Some articles included in this e-newsletter may require a subscription.

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President's Corner



As we come to the end of 2017, I want to wish all of you and your families a very Happy Holiday season!

It is always our goal to keep our membership on the leading edge of innovation, thinking and action to address health care costs and the delivery, financing and the consumer experience with the health care system and we hope you were able to take advantage of our resources throughout the year.

We held over 50 webinars leveraging the experience and thought leadership of our members and staff to address health care policy and legislation, ACOs, value purchasing, well-being and business performance, biosimilars, leave programs, engagement and high cost claimants.

Numbers You Need had over 6,000 downloads of data and informatics on everything from health care cost to incentives and plan design. We conducted 19 Quick Surveys on behalf of our members on topics such as On-site Health Centers, Part-time Employee Benefits, Wellness Champions and a range of leave programs. Our Health Innovations Forum assessed 16 start-ups this year.

We launched a number of products including an ACO Toolkit and a Leave Toolkit. Our public policy team worked behind the scenes to address health policy issues important to employers such as the Excise Tax and ACA reporting requirements, prescription drugs and biosimilars. And, we brought members together in multiple venues to share, leverage and learn through our conferences, employer summits, institutes, committees and benchmarking calls.

Stay safe during this holiday season. We look forward to working with you to address the employer trends we are tracking for 2018.

Thanks for your membership.

Sincerely,

Brian Marcotte
President and CEO

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[Why So Many People Choose The Wrong Health Plans](#)

New York Times, Nov 4, 2017

Many people with employer-sponsored health plans are sticking with low deductible plans, year after year and paying way too much. The reasons include: inertia, too much math, deductible aversion and lack of understanding about complicated plan design. This article helps employers think about how to help employees save money through better decision making.

To read more about this topic, see the Business Group's: [Simplifying the CDHP to Improve User Experience](#), [Key Insights: Helping Employees Maximize HSA Savings](#)

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[Smart CEOs Aren't Waiting for Washington to Fix the Healthcare Crisis](#)

Chief Executive, Nov 27, 2017

With the escalating war for talent, health insurance is becoming a competitive requirement despite rising health care costs. High-deductible health plans, a shift from fee-for-service to bundled payments and contracting with Accountable Care Organizations, telemedicine and the continued use of workplace well-being initiatives are among the strategies being used in corporate America.

To read more about this topic, see the Business Group's: [Large Employers' 2018 Health Care Strategy and Plan Design Survey](#).

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[CVS Agrees To Buy Aetna In \\$69 Billion Deal That Could Shake Up Health-Care Industry](#)

The Washington Post, Dec 3, 2017

The novelty with this combination of pharmacy management and health plan services is CVS Health's extensive retail network of 9,700 stores nationwide and over 1,000 retail clinics. This mix could bring greater retail and customer service focus to health care, more integration of pharmacy and medical benefits, and increased emphasis on primary and preventive care at lower costs for plans and patients.

To read more about this topic, see the Business Group's: [What your CEO is Reading: CVS Health to Acquire Aetna](#), [Employer Plan Design and Network](#)



[Report: Here's What The Feds Can Do To Cut Drug Prices](#)

NPR, Nov 30, 2017

If there is one thing that we can agree on these days, it's that drug prices are too high. Results of a new report issued by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine are in agreement and offer a number of things that can be done about it.

To read more about this topic, see the Business Group's: [Rx Coupons — Consumer Saver or Cost Driver?](#), [Key Insights: Helping Employees Better Manage Prescription Drug Costs](#), [Employers' Forum on Pharmacy Management](#)

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