

Bi-monthly Publication



## US Government Sets Rule Meant To Speed Up Insurance Approvals

U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration on January 17, 2024 finalized a rule requiring health insurers to set time targets for the prior authorization process for patients seeking approval for medical services under government-backed insurance plans.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a division of the Department Of Health And Human Services, said the rule will begin primarily in 2026.

The rule applies to health insurance companies providing government backed-insurance plans such as Medicare for those aged 65 and above, and the Medicaid plan for low-income individuals.

[Read More Here...](#)

## Driving Down Health Cost Spend In 2024 (Without Diminishing Quality Of Care)

With benefits slated as the second largest people expense for businesses, next to payroll, and health care costs across the nation estimated to escalate as much as 7%, here are 3 cost-saving solutions for the new year.

As business leaders begin budgeting and strategizing for 2024, many are faced with balancing two items when it comes to benefits: ensuring low costs and prioritizing employees’ requests to offer better health benefits. With benefits slated as the second largest people expense for businesses, next to payroll, and health care costs across the nation estimated to escalate as much as 7%, it is crucial to find cost-saving solutions as we enter the new year. [Read More Here...](#)

## ‘Shell Game’: When Private Equity Comes To Town, Hospitals Can See Cutbacks, Closures



Peggy Malone walks the quiet halls of Crozer-Chester Medical Center, the Pennsylvania hospital where she’s worked as a registered nurse for the past 35 years, with the feeling she’s drifting through a ghost town.

The sprawling hospital serves the diverse and densely packed Philadelphia suburb of Upland, and a large proportion of its patients earn low incomes. Malone remembers a time when the hospital, once the largest in the county with nearly 500 licensed beds, was such a hub that neighbors would come to the cafeteria just to have dinner. [Read More Here...](#)



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## **CMS Finalizes Prior Authorization Rule With Added Payer Requirements**

January 17, 2024, CMS finalized the Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule, continuing its efforts to improve prior authorization processes.

The rule sets requirements to streamline prior authorization for Medicare Advantage, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicaid managed care plans, among others, as part of the MA and Part D final rule.

Issues with prior authorization have been a significant pain point for organizations and health systems, with many investing in different rev tech solutions to solve those problems.

[Read More Here...](#)

## **What To Know About January's Annual Drug Price Hikes**

Drug companies often increase prices at the start of the new year, and 2024 seems to be no exception. There have been about 600 price hikes so far in January, according to the drug price nonprofit 46Brooklyn Research.

But the increases haven't been as steep as they were in some previous years. In the 2010s, drug price hikes were typically much bigger — up to 10% on average

“Since 2016, the pedal to the metal has been kind of pulled back a little bit, where we typically see the weighted average impact of a price increase and the median price increase hovering at around 5%,” says 46Brooklyn's CEO, Anthony Ciaccia. [Read More Here...](#)



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**Say HELLO to a Better Choice in Health Coverage**



## Seniors Stuck In Medicare Advantage Nightmare: 'Designed To Confuse' Us

A growing number of Americans are finding insufficient coverage options or jaw-dropping medical bills after unknowingly signing up for Medicare Advantage.

Today, more than half of seniors are enrolled in these privatized plans. The appeal is easy to understand when looking at the minimal or zero premiums and perks like dental care and gym memberships.

[Read More Here...](#)

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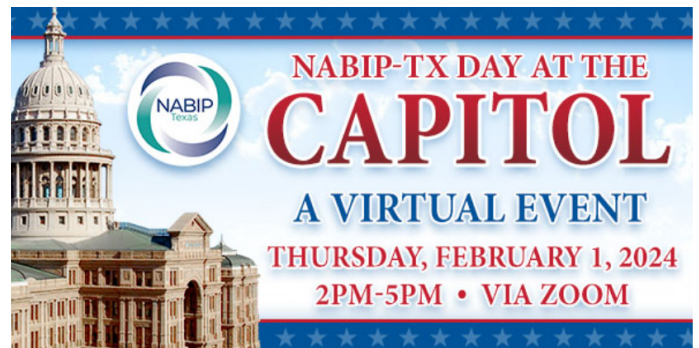
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HEALTH

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[Register Here](#)

NABIP-TX Conference 2024

**LAUGH, LEARN  
LEAD**

**PROSPECTUS**

Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, Irving, TX

**April 15-16, 2024**

[Register Here](#)

## Telehealth More Likely To Have Follow-ups Compared With Office Visits, Study Finds

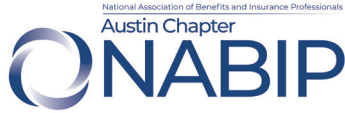
Virtual care visits in most specialties were more likely to have a follow-up within seven days, but the gap between telehealth and office appointments narrowed after 30- or 90-day intervals.

[Read More Here...](#)



# January Chapter Agendas

## AUSTIN



### Professional Development Day

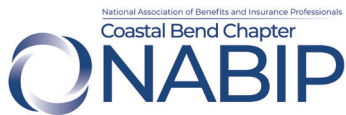
**Eclipse Your Expectations  
Invest In Yourself**  
April 4, 2024  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Marriott South Austin  
4415 S. I-35 Frontage Road  
Austin, TX 78744

\$75/\$85 Registration - Member/Guest  
Starting 2/1/24 - \$85/\$100 Member/Guest

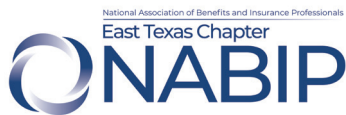
[www.austinhahu.org](http://www.austinhahu.org)

## COASTAL BEND



[www.nabipcoastalbendtx.org](http://www.nabipcoastalbendtx.org)

## EAST TEXAS



[www.etahu.org](http://www.etahu.org)

## LONESTAR



[www.lonestarahu.org](http://www.lonestarahu.org)

## DALLAS



**Education Revolution**  
February 21, 2024 - Rescheduled from January 17th.  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Vouv Event Center  
4445 Sigma Rd, Dallas TX

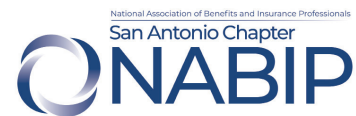
Don't Miss This NABIP-Dallas Mega Event

Education Revolution isn't just another conference - it's a revolution in education and networking. Dive into a world of cutting-edge trends, legal insights, and trailblazing strategies. Earn CE credits while engaging with the who's who of the insurance and benefits industry.

It's more than an event; it's a career revolution!

[www.dahu.org](http://www.dahu.org)

## SAN ANTONIO



**Education Workshop**  
May 15, 2024

Norris Conference Center  
618 NW Loop 410  
Park North Shopping Center  
San Antonio, TX 78216

[www.sanantonioahu.org](http://www.sanantonioahu.org)

# January Chapter Agendas

## FORT WORTH



**Legislation -  
What's Giving You Heatburn  
February 8, 2024**

**Education / Symposium  
Come Get a Piece of the Pie  
March 14, 2024**

**Derby Down  
AI and HIPAA - What's the Affect?  
May 9, 2024**

[www.nabip-fw.org](http://www.nabip-fw.org)

## HOUSTON



**Membership Luncheon  
January 16, 2024**

**Membership Luncheon  
February 20, 2024**

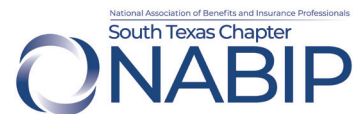
[www.nabip-htx.org](http://www.nabip-htx.org)



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## SOUTH TEXAS



**Spanish CE Class - Ethics  
Ethics vs Morals, You Decide  
March 6, 2024 - Brownville, TX**

**Membership Mix - Top Golf  
Phar, TX - March 21, 2024**

**Day of Education - 5HR CE  
MAY 2, 2014  
TOPICS: GROUP & ETHICS**

[www.nabipsotx.org](http://www.nabipsotx.org)

# Hollis Roberson Award

## *Nomination Form*

### 2023 Texas Outstanding Health Insurance Industry Award



HOLLIS ROBERSON

1922 - 1989

The Texas Association of Health Underwriters' Hollis Roberson Award is presented each year to the person from Texas who meets the criteria of professionalism set forth by Hollis Roberson.

The recipient of the award is selected by the Hollis Roberson Award Committee which carefully reviews all persons nominated. In making its selection, the committee looks for contributions above and beyond the call of duty, without personal gain. Your recommendations must be supported by an accompanying statement that details the accomplishments of your candidate to include present and former positions, connections with health insurance, biographical information and, of utmost importance, the specific accomplishments that entitle your candidate to this prestigious award. ***Please note: only state board members (which includes local chapter presidents) and Hollis Roberson Committee members can submit nominations.***

**Please complete this form and return to HRC by 3/01/2024.**

### 2023 Hollis Roberson Award

#### *Nomination Form*

*(Must be postmarked or received by fax/email on or before 3/01/2024)*

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_

Local Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important:**

*Nominees will not be considered unless support materials are included.*

*If you re-submit the same person you nominated last year, you only need to submit this Nomination Form. You may update it if you choose, but the Committee will carry forward the documentation you submitted one year prior.*

Send completed form with accompanying documentation to: Lisa Strug, NABIP-TX Executive Director, 312 North Avenue East, Suite 5, Cranford, NJ 07016. Voice 713/645-1490; Fax 908-967-5044; [admin@nabip-tx.org](mailto:admin@nabip-tx.org)

# Hollis Roberson Award

## Nomination Criteria

1. Significant contribution of time and talent to further the health insurance industry.
2. Currently be, or have been, an active and contributing Member of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals – Texas Chapter.
3. Display the character traits and skills of leadership.
4. Promote the principles of professionalism and idealism
5. Show significant community support to all aspects of both personal and professional achievement.
6. Nominee must not have served as a NABIP-TX Officer on the NABIP-TX Board for at least two board years prior to the current board year.
7. A previous HRA Recipient may be nominated if at least seven (7) years have passed since receipt.

## Previous Recipients

1990	Hollis Roberson, CLU, FLMI, RHU	2006	Stan Foster, RH
1990	Edna Kern, CLU, ChFC, RHU, LUTCF	<b>2007</b>	<b>Dave Prewitt, RHU, LUTCF, REBC, CSA</b>
1991	Donna Carnall, RHU	<b>2008</b>	<b>Janet Trautwein</b>
1992	Robert G. Campbell, Jr.	<b>2009</b>	<b>Linda New, LUTCF</b>
1993	Shirley H. Hutzler	<b>2010</b>	<b>D. Mike McLaughlin, RHU, CLU, CIC, ChFC</b>
1994	Thomas M. Schilling, RHU	2011	C. Briscoe Dunn
<b>1995</b>	<b>Henry Dawson, CLU, RHU</b>	2012	Carolyn Goodwin, CBC, SGS
1996	Phillip Von Stephens, RHU	<b>2013</b>	<b>Ron Buffum, SGS</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>Andrew M. Wolfson</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Mike Rivera, RHU, REBC, CLU, ChFC</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>Elizabeth Ashmore</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Michael D. Smith, SGS, LTCP</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>W. D. (Bill) Mann, Sr., LUTCF, RHU</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Russell Lee Rice, SGS</b>
2000	Ouida Peterson	<b>2017</b>	<b>C. Louanne Trebing, RHU, CLTC, SGS</b>
2001	Ken Martin	<b>2018</b>	<b>Laura Firestone, CPA</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>Trei Wild</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Reid Rasmussen</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>Caroline Hesseltine</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Ed Oleksiak</b>
2004	Jim Smith	<b>2022</b>	<b>*Rick Ott</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>Trei Wild</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Jessica Watts</b>

**Bolded names are the 2023-24 Hollis Roberson Committee.**

**A member of the Hollis Roberson family (currently Trei Wild) and the NABIP-TX President-Elect (currently Stacy Cochran) are also on the Hollis Roberson Committee.**

**\* Denotes 2023-24 Hollis Roberson Committee Chair**

## Award History

Hollis Roberson, CLU, FLMI, RHU, held a BS from the University of North Alabama, an MBA from Auburn University and an MS from Southern Methodist University. Mr. Roberson served the insurance industry in the capacity of life insurance company president, chief actuary and owner of his own agency. He served NAHU (now NABIP-TX) tirelessly first as Membership Chairman in 1986-87 and Region IV Vice President in 1986-87. He was elected First Vice President in 1988. Hollis directed the strategic planning committees for NAHU, Texas AHU, Fort Worth AHU and Dallas AHU. He published many articles and spoke to numerous health and life underwriter organizations. Hollis Roberson was the 1989 recipient of the Norman Medill Award for editorial contribution from NAHU. He was listed in Who's Who in Insurance in the South- Southwest. Hollis was the first recipient of the Hollis Roberson Award in 1989, which was established in his honor. Hollis died of cancer at the age of 67 on December 16, 1989, at his home in Rowlett, Texas. He was president-elect of NAHU at the time of his death.

## Award Contributions

The Hollis Roberson Award is open for contributions. Contributors will be acknowledged each year at the annual NABIP-TX symposium during the Hollis Roberson Award ceremonies and acknowledged in the awards program.

- Individual membership contributions: \$100.00
- Corporate membership contributions: \$250.00

Contributions should be made to "Hollis Roberson Award Fund" and mailed to:

The Hollis Roberson Award Fund  
Lisa Strug, NABIP-TX Executive Director  
312 North Avenue East, Suite 5, Cranford, NJ 07016  
Phone 713-645-1490  
Fax 908-967-5044  
admin@nabip-tx.org