

Bi-monthly Publication



Nearly Half Of Every Dollar Spent By Medicare Drug Plans Goes To Private Health Insurers' Pharmacy Benefit Managers And Wholesalers

As members of Congress get back to business after the holidays, they seem to be poised to pass legislation that would address some of the abuses of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), the middlemen who extract so much money from the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Recent research adds more urgency to the need to rein those companies in. And it's important to point out that the three biggest PBMs, all of which are owned by big for-profit insurance companies, control 80% of the market. That's far more concentration than in the pharmaceutical industry, as you'll see below.
Read Full Article...



Mark Cuban: CEOs 'Waste A Sh-tload Of Money' On Healthcare

Billionaire entrepreneur Mark Cuban has made substantial progress in the healthcare and pharmacy space in nearly four years, and he's learned a lot about its costs for employers and workers in that time, too.

Mr. Cuban co-founded Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Co. in May 2020 with Alex Oshmyansky, MD, PhD. The online pharmacy launched eight months later and today offers more than 2,000 of the most highly utilized and/or high-cost generic medications. The drugs are sold with a 15% markup for price, a \$5 fee to pay the pharmacists it works with and a \$5 fee for shipping. The prices are significantly less than what Americans typically pay through insurance.
Read Full Article...

Eli Lilly's Direct Drug Sales Alone May Not Upend The Industry, But Others Could Follow Suit

Eli Lilly is shaking up the pharmaceutical industry with a new website offering telehealth prescriptions and direct home delivery of certain drugs, including its red-hot weight loss treatment Zepbound, to expand patient access.

The company's direct-to-consumer push announced Thursday, the first of its kind for a big drugmaker, won't necessarily upend the pharmaceutical industry and the prescription drug supply chain alone, according to some analysts.

Read Full Article...



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19 Senators Urge HHS to Drop Appeal That Would Jeopardize Americans' Access to Life-Saving Drugs

A bipartisan group of senators sent a letter to HHS asking it to rethink its appeal of a recent federal district court decision that limits the use of “copay accumulators” — which are programs insurers use to prevent medication copay assistance from counting toward patients’ deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums. [Read Full Article...](#)

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Fat Joe, Jelly Roll, Wyclef Team Up for Affordable Healthcare

Fat Joe, Jelly Roll and Wyclef Jean will team up with Power to the Patients for an event in Washington, D.C. on January 10 at Hamilton Live to advocate for a more affordable and equitable healthcare system through price transparency. [Read Full Article...](#)



HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Insulin \$35 Cap Price Now In Effect, Lowering Costs For Many Americans With Diabetes

A price cap on insulin from one of the three major manufacturers took effect on New Year's Day, giving more Americans with diabetes more affordable treatments.

In March, Sanofi became the last of three companies that make up 90% of the world's insulin market by value to announce price cuts. Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly Co.'s plans had slashed U.S. prices by up to 75% and 70%, respectively.

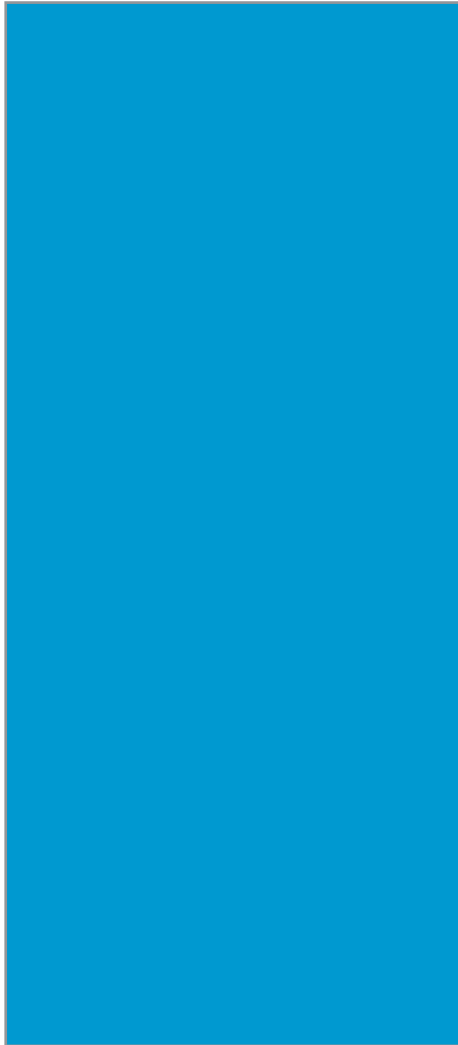
As of Jan. 1, 2024, Sanofi cut the price of Lantus by 78% and short-acting Apidra by 70%.

The price cuts will reduce the cost of the drug for most patients at \$35 through either price caps or savings programs. [Read Full Article...](#)



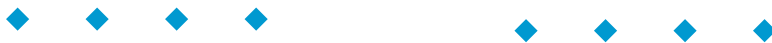
Hospitals Finally Reached Widespread Price Transparency Compliance in 2023

Hospitals markedly improved their compliance with price transparency regulations in 2023, according to a new report. It found that more than 90% of hospitals have posted a machine-readable file containing gross charges, negotiated charges and cash prices for the services and items they provide. [Read Full Article...](#)



FDA Probing Possible Weight-loss Drug Side Effects, Including Suicidal Thoughts

The Food and Drug Administration is examining reports of suicidal thoughts and other possible side effects linked to a class of blockbuster obesity drugs and whether it needs to take regulatory action. [Read Full Article...](#)



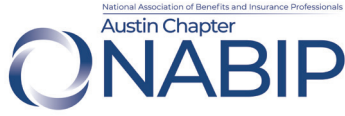
Employer Health Plans Fear State PBM Crackdown Preemption Threat

Employers looking ahead to a continued push by state and local governments to more closely regulate pharmacy benefit managers in 2024 are set to back stricter federal law preemption of these measures.

PBMs, which manage prescription drug plans of behalf of health insurers, have been criticized over lack of transparency and inflated costs to health plans, but the federal government has not yet enacted legislation to rein in these middlemen. [Read Full Article...](#)

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

DALLAS



Education Revolution

January 17, 2024
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Vouv Event Center
4445 Sigma Rd, Dallas TX

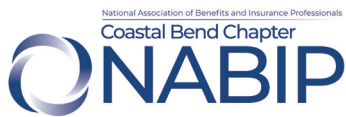
Don't Miss This NABIP-Dallas Mega Event

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.dahuhu.org

COASTAL BEND



www.nabipcoastalbendtx.org

EAST TEXAS



www.etahuhu.org

LONESTAR



www.lonestarahuhu.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

HOUSTON

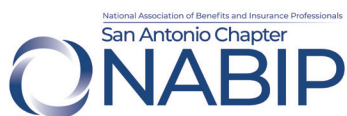


**Membership Luncheon
January 16, 2024**

**Membership Luncheon
February 20, 2024**

www.nabip-htx.org

SAN ANTONIO

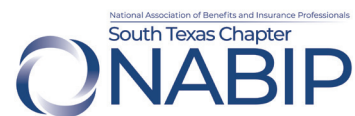


**Education Workshop
May 15, 2024**

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

www.sanantonioahu.org

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**

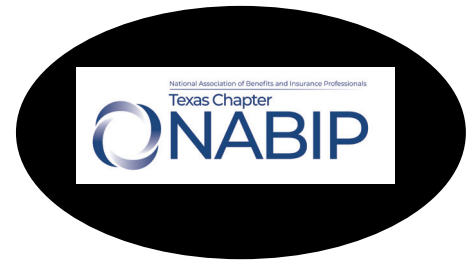
**Day of Education - 5HR CE
MAY 2, 2014**

TOPICS: GROUP & ETHICS

www.nabipsotx.org

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Click on each logo to visit their website



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

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

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