

Bi-monthly Publication

What's New And What To Watch For In The Upcoming ACA Open Enrollment Period

It's that time of year again: In most states, the Affordable Care Act's annual open enrollment season for health plans begins Nov. 1 and lasts through Jan. 15.

Current enrollees who do not update their information or select an alternative will be automatically reenrolled in their current plan or, if that plan is no longer available, into a plan with similar coverage.

Last year marked a record enrollment of about 21 million people. This time around, consumers will find a few things have changed.

Don't Fall for Advertising Scams

While some health plans offer small-dollar gift cards or other incentives to encourage participation in wellness efforts, they would not offer cash cards worth thousands of dollars a month to help with groceries, gas, or rent. Even so, social media and online sites are rife with such promises.

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Inside This Edition

Legalized Racketeering	2
AI & HIPPA Collide	2
Tailoring Workplace	3
DATC Sponsorship Social	4
Security, ColaScam	5
NABIP-TXPAC	6
Chapter Agendas	7 - 11

Gen Reveals 24% Rise In Ransomware Attacks On Consumers

Last week, Avast, a security and privacy brand under Gen, published insights on the growing threat of ransomware attacks on individuals.

This information is part of the inaugural Gen Threat Report, which consolidates threat data previously reported separately by Norton Pulse Report and Avast Quarterly Threat Report. The Gen Threat Report offers a comprehensive overview of the evolving threat landscape.

[Read More Here...](#)

Legalized Racketeering? How PBMs Skirt The Law To Rake In Billions

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) have been under scrutiny lately for their actions as middlemen in the flow of prescription drugs from manufacturers to patients. But perhaps their worst actions are buried within a maze of consolidation and paperwork. Big Insurance has consolidated the entire pharmaceutical benefit, claim, and dispensing sector to squeeze as much money out of patients as possible.

How have they pulled this off? Using the example of the insurance company Aetna, the PBM CVS Caremark, and CVS Pharmacy, all of which are owned by CVS Health, let's examine a patient filling a prescription for cancer drugs. This patient has an Aetna insurance plan that comes with PBM services provided by CVS Caremark. The patient goes to a CVS store to fill a prescription for Imatinib, a generic chemotherapy drug. The total cost the patient and insurance company pay is \$17,710.21 for a 30-day supply.

But guess what. As the House Oversight and Reform Committee found, Mark Cuban's Cost Plus Drugs only charges \$72.20 for a 30-day supply of the same drug.

[Read More Here...](#)

When AI Technology And HIPAA Collide Minefields HIPAA Covered Entities and Business Associates Should Avoid



HIPAA Covered Entities beware! Your vendors are probably implementing artificial intelligence (“AI”) technology within their service offerings. Today, an all-too-common scenario involves an email message or telephone call from your trusted third-party vendor indicating that they are going to integrate AI technology into their service offerings that will involve the use of your patients’ Protected Health Information (PHI). They claim that by using AI technology, they can provide their deliverables in less time, generate useful insights more rapidly, interpret medical imaging, improve the delivery of diagnosis and treatment, or perform accurate predictive analytics.

However, lurking surreptitiously behind the potential benefits of using PHI in AI technology lies a murky mix of risks that could negatively impact you, your vendors, and even your patients, especially when HIPAA compliance and patient PHI are involved. So how should a Covered Entity respond to its Business Associates’ use of patient PHI in AI technology?

[Read More Here...](#)

Tailoring Workplace Benefits For A Multigenerational Workforce



As the global workforce becomes increasingly diverse, traditional cookie-cutter benefits plans are becoming a thing of the past. Companies are seeking innovative solutions to attract and retain top talent, leading to a heightened reliance on human resource consultants and insurance professionals. These experts are tasked with designing customized benefits packages that cater to the unique needs of a multi-generational workforce

The new era of benefits

A workforce composed of baby boomers, Generation X, millennials and Generation Z presents a unique set of challenges and expectations. Each generation brings its own values, priorities and circumstances, which necessitates a more nuanced approach to benefit design.

Insurance professionals are increasingly called upon to help organizations navigate these complexities, crafting benefits that appeal to a diverse employee base. Consultants play a vital role in negotiating with insurance carriers and finding cost-effective solutions that don't compromise employee satisfaction. Whether it's simplifying and modernizing the benefits experience for younger employees or providing family-centric options for older generations, the goal is clear: to create an inclusive benefits package that enhances engagement and retention.

Tailoring benefits for different generations

Gen Z employees often face challenges in navigating complex benefits offerings. This generation values transparency and guidance, requiring consultants to play a crucial role in simplifying these benefits. When employers offer educational resources, personalized consultations, and user-friendly, tech savvy platforms, Gen Z workers can better understand their options. Integrating benefits plans with digital platforms or artificial intelligence for real-time answers and immediate actions breaks down barriers to information and policies while maintaining communication across diverse teams. This not only empowers younger employees but also fosters loyalty and engagement within the company.

[Read More Here...](#)



NABIP-TX DAY AT THE CAPITOL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 • 7 AM - 1 PM

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
1100 CONGRESS AVENUE, AUSTIN, TX
LOBBYING AT THE CAPITOL 1 - 5 PM



2025 NABIP-TX DAY AT THE CAPITOL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, January 23, 2025 • 7 am – 1 pm | Followed by Lobbying at the Capitol • 1 – 5 pm

PREMIUM SPONSOR

\$2,500

- 10 minutes of podium time
- One 6' table
- Event Attendees: 4
- Morning Agency Roundtable Attendee: 1

PARTNER SPONSOR

\$1,500

- One 6' table
- Event Attendees: 3
- Morning Agency Roundtable Attendee: 1

AGENCY SPONSOR

\$400

- Event Attendees: 1
- Morning Agency Roundtable Attendee: 1

All sponsorships include an electronic attendee list, recognition in the NABIP-TX Magazine and E-News and your logo in: **Email promotions, NABIP-TX website, Event program, Event signage**

Click [HERE](#) for Sponsorship Opportunities

Email admin@nabip-tx.org or call 713-645-1490

Social Security Administration Warns Beneficiaries About COLA Scam

**Cost of living adjustments for 2025
have already been set at 2.5 percent,
said the agency.**

Scammers are targeting Americans receiving Social Security payments related to the annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA), according to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The scammers are spreading false information that beneficiaries need to take certain actions to access the COLA increases, the SSA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) said in an Oct. 11 press release.

Annual COLA adjustments are "automatic, and beneficiaries do not need to take any action or provide additional information to receive the legitimate increase," said Hannibal Ware, acting inspector general for the Social Security Administration.

"Be wary of any communication that asks you to take extra steps or provide personal details for this increase, as it's likely a scammer attempting to steal your identity or financial assets. Our office is dedicated to protecting the public and deterring these criminals from exploiting honest, hard-working people."

The SSA has already announced the COLA increase for 2025 at 2.5 percent, which it said will benefit more than 72 million Americans. Starting in January, retirement benefits are projected to rise by roughly \$50 per month on average.

Almost 68 million social security beneficiaries and nearly 7.5 million supplemental security income receivers are set to benefit from this increase. In some cases, an individual may receive both these benefits.

[Read More Here...](#)

NABIP-TX PAC DELIVERS

Senator Phil King's Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser



Cyndi Stubbs won the HOA (highest overall) for the ladies.

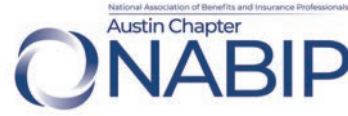
Cyndi & Cliff Stubbs delivered a PAC check on behalf of NABIP-TX



It was another great year at the TX-OU fundraising circuit. Thanks to Mark Bellman, Audra Sullivan, Clifton Stubbs, Rita Rolf, and Stacy Cochran for joining our legislative consultants Meroney Public Affairs to support 15 candidates over 10 events across Dallas on 10/11/24.

October Chapter Agendas

AUSTIN



www.austinhahu.org



NABIP Austin Legislative Update-Margaritas with the Meroney's & Rep. Carolyn Harris Davila

NABIP Austin Legislative Update-Margaritas with the Meroney's & Rep. Carolyn Harris Davila

10 Days 20 Hrs 42 Min 40 Sec

[REGISTER](#)

Upcoming Events

OCT 17

NABIP Austin Legislative Update-Margaritas with the Meroney's & Rep. Carolyn Harris Davila

NABIP Austin Legislative Update-Margaritas with the Meroney's & Rep. Carolyn Harris Davila

[View Details >](#)

NOV 21

Explain AI to Clients (Before AI Does It For You)

Confidently discuss AI's role with your clients.

[View Details >](#)

LONESTAR



www.lonestarahu.org

COASTAL BEND



www.nabipcoastalbendtx.org

FORT WORTH

www.nabip-fw.org



DETAILS

Date:

November 14

Time:

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Event Categories:

[Charity Event](#), [Happy Hour](#), [Monthly Meeting](#)

ORGANIZER

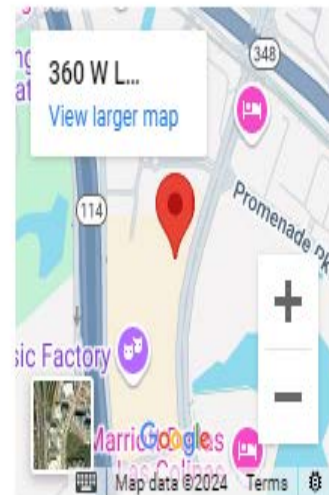
[NABIP-FW](#)

[View Organizer Website](#)

VENUE

[Bar Louie](#)

360 W Las Colinas Blvd
Irving, TX 75039 United
States + [Google Map](#)



DALLAS

www.dahu.org



NABIP-Dallas (DAHU) Monthly Luncheons and special events will be held at Vouv Dallas!

Vouv Event Space, 4445 Sigma Road,
Dallas, TX 75244
<https://vouvdallas.com>



October 16 2024 | MONTHLY LUNCHEON 11:30 - 1:00

Speaker: Cameron Wamsley with Take Command Health – "ICHRA Education and Lessons Learned"

One hour of CE available - Course ID: 131428 / Provider: 190389

[REGISTER NOW](#)

November 20 2024 | MONTHLY LUNCHEON 11:30 - 1:00

Speakers: Mike and Shannon Meroney – Legislative update

One hour of CE available - Course ID: Course # 140781

NABIP-Dallas (DAHU) Upcoming Dates - Details to follow

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 - 4:30pm | Party at Vouv!

SAN ANTONIO

www.sanantonioahu.org



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HOUSTON

www.nabip-htx.org



NABIP Houston October Luncheon



October 15, 2024 | 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

[Add to Calendar](#)



Saltgrass Steak House | 1803 Shepherd Dr. Houston, TX 77007

<https://www.saltgrass.com/location/saltgrass-houston-shepherd/Directions>

X Post | LinkedIn Share | Facebook Share

REGISTER NOW

Tickets

EAST TEXAS

www.nabip-etx.org



NABIP-ETX October Monthly Luncheon - Pillars of Wellness & 4th Quarter Readiness →

When **October 18, 2024**
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CST)

Location Heartland Security Insurance Group, 501 Shelley Drive, Tyler, TX 75701 - Main Floor Conference Room

Register



SOUTH TEXAS

www.nabipsotx.org



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NABIP-SOTX SWEEPS AWARDS

NABIP-SOTX clinched four significant accolades during the recent NABIP-TX state convention held on April 15/16, 2024, in Los Colinas, Texas. The honors they garnered include the Chapter Media Award, Small Chapter of the Year, Chapter Website Aw

WELCOME

Welcome to the National Association of Business and Insurance Professionals

- 2023 NABIP-TX State Awards
- Presidential Citation - Newsletter
- Small Chapter Growth Award
- 2023 NABIP National Award
- Best Website

