

Bi-monthly Publication

Humana Stock Slides On Lower Ratings For Its Medicare Advantage Plans

Humana (HUM) saw its stock dive Wednesday morning after announcing Medicare's star ratings resulted in lower enrollment for 2025 and will impact revenue in 2026. The changes will also impact the company's bonuses for 2026.

The stock is trading down about 15%, at \$235.75 per share, after sliding more than 20% in premarket trading.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rates Medicare Advantage plans offered by commercial providers, like Humana, on a scale from 1 to 5. Medicare Advantage plans are offered to eligible seniors aged 65 and older and cover traditional Medicare Parts A and B.

CMS lowered the rating of the contract with Humana to 3.5 from 4.5 in 2024, and the individual ratings of its hundreds of plans have also decreased.

Humana has had a reputation for being among the top-rated plans. It currently has 25%, or about 1.6 million members, enrolled in four-star or higher plans. [Read More Here...](#)

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U.S. Healthcare System Ranks Last Among 10 Nations, According To New Study

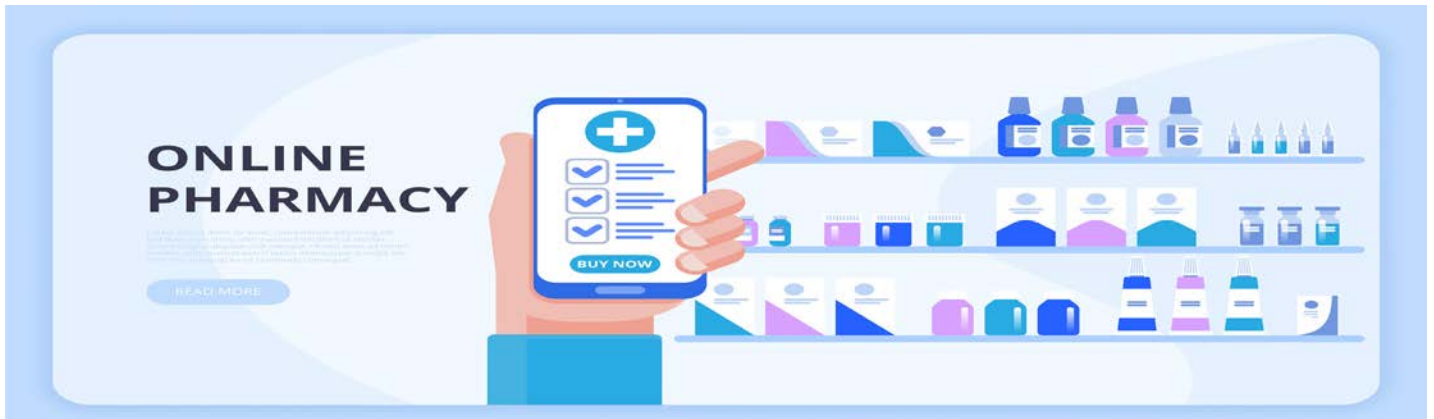
Among ten peer nations, Americans live the shortest lives and are the least healthy, despite the United States spending the most on healthcare, according to a recent Commonwealth Fund study.

The U.S. healthcare system ranks last among ten comparably wealthy, industrialized nations on important metrics, such as life expectancy, preventable deaths, access to healthcare and health equity. Yet, the U.S. spends the most of any nation examined in the study, twice the average per capita.

Conspicuously, Americans face the most barriers to obtaining affordable healthcare. This is partly due to the U.S. being the only nation in the study that does not provide universal health coverage. Twenty-five million Americans are uninsured, and tens of millions more are underinsured, meaning they have high deductibles, cost-sharing and limited affordable care options. KFF News reports that more than 100 million Americans are saddled with medical debt. Yet the vast majority of these people have employment and health insurance.

Also, physicians and patients in the U.S. experience the greatest burdens when it comes to payment and billing. The complexity and fragmentation of the U.S. healthcare system, with its mix of public and private insurers and thousands of health plans, force healthcare providers and patients to navigate a labyrinth of coverage and cost-sharing requirements, paperwork and insurance disputes. [Read More Here...](#)

CDC Warns Of Potential Overdose Risk From Online Pharmacy Prescriptions



Key takeaways:

- The DOJ charged 18 defendants accused of running illegal pharmacies and selling unregulated drugs.
- The CDC advised that people should take prescriptions only from a licensed HCP and pharmacy.

The CDC issued a warning to health care officials, clinicians and patients about a potential risk for overdose among people ordering counterfeit prescription medications from online pharmacies.

According to a CDC press release, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced charges on Sept. 30 against 18 defendants running illegal online pharmacies.

[Read More Here...](#)

New Prescription Drug Price Hikes Hit Black Patients Hard

Prices for prescription pharmaceutical drugs have skyrocketed, disproportionately making them harder for people of color to afford, a new report finds.

The advocacy organization Patients for Affordable Drugs released a report this month showing that pharmaceutical companies increased prices on at least 1,000 prescription drugs so far this year, with about half of the price increases being above the rate of inflation.

One in 3 Americans cannot afford their prescription drugs, the report states, and these high drug prices particularly affect Black and Latino patients aged 65 and over — who can be twice as likely to report difficulty in affording their medication, according to the report. [Read More Here...](#)



A 50-Year-Old Federal Law Makes It Nearly Impossible to Hold Big Insurance Accountable.

I Testified at The Department of Labor About It.



Fifty years ago this month, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) was signed into law with the promise of safeguarding employee benefits. What started as a well-intentioned attempt to protect workers' health and retirement benefits has since become a shield for the health insurance industry's most harmful practices. This legal loophole has been a goldmine for the insurance industry, which has successfully lobbied to keep ERISA intact for decades, all while countless patients are left to suffer from decisions made in boardrooms, not doctors' offices.

ERISA was designed to make it easier for employers, especially those with a national workforce, to offer health benefits. But the reality that has taken hold over the years is far from that ideal. What we have now is a system in which insurers in their capacity as third-party administrators (TPAs) — the middlemen hired by employers to manage health benefits

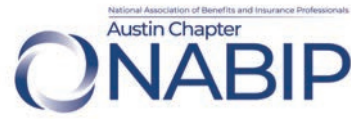
for their workers and dependents—are the real winners. One could argue that TPAs have become the biggest beneficiaries of this law, collecting billions in fees from employers while avoiding accountability. These companies are focused not on controlling health care costs in a way that ensures access to necessary care, but on maximizing their bottom lines by erecting barriers to care and systematically reducing the value of health benefits for workers.

One of the most concerning aspects of ERISA is how it allows TPAs to avoid meaningful oversight and escape legal accountability for wrongfully denied care and claims. As the law has been amended and interpreted over the years, it has allowed TPA to escape accountability in the courts, state courts in particular. That's because ERISA preempts state laws designed to protect consumers.

[Read More Here...](#)

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 >](#)

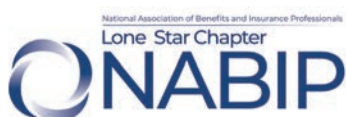
NOV
21

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

Bloodies, Benefits, and Brunch: GA's Meeting

October 10 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm




ADD TO CALENDAR ^

DETAILS

Date:

October 10

Time:

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Event Category:

Monthly Meeting

ORGANIZER

NABIP-FW

[View Organizer Website](#)

VENUE

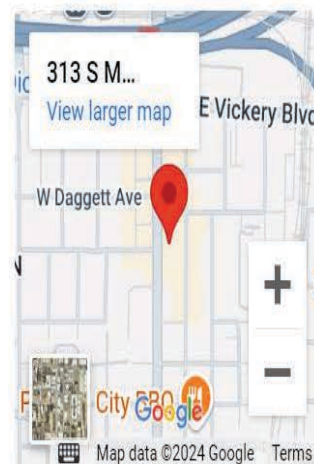
Hot Box Biscuit Club

313 S Main St

Fort Worth, TX 76104

[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://vouvallas.com>



September 18 2024 | MONTHLY LUNCHEON 11:30 - 1:00

Speaker: Michelle McLaren – "Marketing Yourself: Letting people know who you are and what you do while remaining compliant."

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

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

Speaker: Take Command Health – "Understanding and working with ICHRAs and QSEHRAs."

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

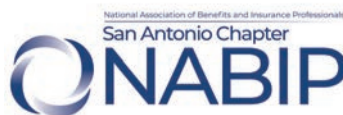
Speakers: Mike and Shannon Meroney – Legislative update

December 2024 (TBD) | Happy Hour

Time and Location to be determined. This end of year celebration will include Happy Hour, dinner and awards...stay tuned!

SAN ANTONIO

www.sanantonioahu.org



MESSAGE FROM OUR NABIP SAN ANTONIO PRESIDENT

Hello NABIP San Antonio Chapter!



I am very honored and excited to serve our Chapter for the 2024-2025 NABIP Board year! I'd like to give kudos to our Past President, Heather Garcia, and all of the previous Board Members for working to keep the NABIP San Antonio Chapter active. I'm excited to get our Chapter refreshed with a full team of Board of Directors. My goal is to help all of our NABIP San Antonio Chapter Members understand their benefits and use your membership to its fullest potential. Stay tuned as our new Board of Directors continues to collaborate on ways to connect our Membership with like-minded Insurance Professionals, and most importantly have some fun together with our fellow NABIP SA Members!

I'm an Agency Owner here in San Antonio and have been in the Health Insurance industry for the past 25 years, mainly on the Carrier side. My family and I moved to San Antonio from the Pacific Northwest about 2 years ago where I had previously spent my time in SE Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The sunshine is therapeutic here!

I spent several years in Oregon on the State and Local NABIP Boards and planned many successful events back in the day: CEO Roundtables and the Annual Spring Forum, to name a few! It made perfect sense to throw my hat into the ring as President of our Chapter, to help refresh it and keep the Chapter active here in San Antonio.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming NABIP San Antonio meetings, events and Happy Hours! Stay tuned for more details very soon.

I'm always open to your suggestions and feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out!

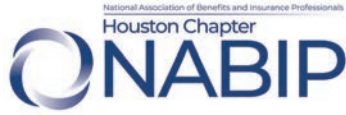
Sincerely,

Shelly Solorzano

NABIP San Antonio President, 2024-2025


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>

 Post  Share  Share

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Tickets

EAST TEXAS

www.nabip-etx.org



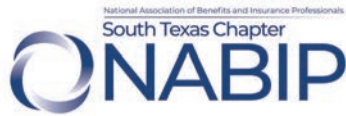
NABIP-ETX October Monthly Luncheon - Pillars of Wellness & 4th Quarter Readiness

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](#)





SUMMIT! IT'S A WRAP! - 2024 NABIP-SOTX SUMMIT! IT'S A WRAP



It's A Wrap - NABIP-SOTX 2024 Summit

Scholarship

Lisa Adriana Gracia (LAG) Scholarship

NABIP-SOTX supports the Lisa Adriana Gracia Scholarship Foundation and provides two, \$1,000 scholarships to local chapter members who have children/grandchildren attending a higher-education towards a professional degree. A percentage of dollars raised from our Day of Education and Summit help fund these scholarships.