

IN THE KNOW

Bulletins for Benefits & HR Professionals



February 4, 2022

Upcoming Deadlines for ACA Reporting and Similar State Reporting

“With respect to health coverage in 2021, the ACA deadlines range from February 28 to March 31, 2022, and the state deadlines range from January 31 to April 31, 2022. All of the reporting discussed in this alert relates to health coverage in 2021.”

[Full Article](#)

Venable LLP



How Are Private Insurers Covering At-Home Rapid COVID Tests?

“At this time, about half of the insurers reviewed are implementing their testing coverage policy using only reimbursement. The remaining half of the top insurers had a direct coverage option set up. Enrollees in plans with a direct coverage option may have reimbursement limited to \$12 per test if a test is purchased outside of this option.”

[Full Article](#)

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

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Incoming PhRMA Chair Expects Drugmakers to Face ‘Some Pain’ in 2022 Amid Reform and Efforts to Rebuild Patient Trust

“The debate over drug costs may have hit a tipping point. A recent federal report found that more than 5 million Medicare beneficiaries struggle to afford their prescriptions, while Morning Consult polling consistently pegs health care costs as a top issue for voters. And PhRMA spent record sums last year to oppose some proposals, arguing that lawmakers are taking the wrong approach to curb patients' costs by targeting drug prices rather than the 'broken insurance system.'”

[Full Article](#)

Morning Consult



In 2022 MHPAEA Report, DOL Highlights Robust Enforcement of CAA-21 and Widespread Noncompliance

“The report does include guideposts for complying with MHPAEA including: [1] Insight into how the Departments chose who to request comparative analyses (CAs) from. [2] A list of the most common NQTLs for which DOL requested CAs. [3] The most common deficiencies in submitted CAs. [4] Common corrections and plan amendments in response to the Departments' enforcement. The DOL has also focused its efforts on service providers that administer claims for large numbers of plans so that any resulting changes are passed through to those plans.”

[Full Article](#)

Thomson Reuters Practical Law



Washington State Long-Term Care Premium Tax Formally on Ice

“Lawmakers have passed legislation delaying the implementation of Washington state's novel long term care premium tax until July 2023. Employers who have already withheld the tax will need to refund it to their employees within 120 days. Those about to run their payroll should take steps to avoid (further) withholding of the tax.”

[Full Article](#)

Lane Powell

Health Plan Fiduciaries Must Solicit Information from Brokers and Consultants

“Plan fiduciaries should consider taking the following actions: [1] Identifying and assigning internal responsibility for soliciting and evaluating required information from brokers and consultants. [2] Introducing contractual obligations on brokers and consultants to provide the required information. [3] Developing the means to evaluate the information received. [4] Assessing whether the compensation is, in fact, reasonable.”

[Full Article](#)

Ballard Spahr LLP