

Proven Health Care Cost Reduction Through Strength in Numbers

UPDATES ON TRANSCARENT'S ARRAY OF SERVICES



Transcarent continues to expand offerings and solidify branding following its 2021 partnership with BridgeHealth. Here are three things for Coalition member plans to know about Transcarent:

BridgeHealth is now Transcarent Surgery Care

Only the name has changed. Transcarent Surgery Care remains an outstanding option for member plans seeking to provide their members access to bundled costs and pre-negotiated fixed case rates at 106 nationwide Centers of Excellence. It also delivers transparency, so patients never receive an unexpected bill for seeking surgical care.

If your plan participated in BridgeHealth, please update your member communications to reflect the new name.

Virtual Physical Therapy

Physical therapy has moved from

hands-on to virtual with Transcarent's new Virtual Physical Therapy product. Participants can get started with Virtual PT without having to schedule appointments, travel, or wait in crowded waiting rooms. No referral is needed and there is no copay for eligible plan participants and family members enrolled in a qualifying health plan. (Plan participants enrolled in a high-deductible health plan who have not met their deductible may have a cost.)

Virtual PT uses sensor-based technology to deliver real-time feedback that is more accurate than the human eye. The technology is used to treat all major joints for chronic pain and surgical support.

"Virtual PT been proven to out-perform in-person care and it delivers measurable quality data," said Transcarent Regional Vice President Sarah Brown. "The convenience of in-home care delivered on the plan participant's terms is another benefit."

Oncology Care Online and In-Person

In 2022, it is estimated that nearly two million people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer. Transcarent Oncology Care offers an integrated solution that supports patients, their families and loved ones from a cancer diagnosis to treatment to remission and recovery, resulting in a better experience during a difficult time. The service includes diagnosis and treatment plan review by national experts, access to treatment at leading medical centers, online and in-home provider appointments, help finding low-cost medications, and on-demand emotional well-being tools and therapist visits to manage stress and anxiety. Individuals can also talk to a dedicated Health Guide, 24/7, for any health and care needs.

Learn more about Transcarent services on the Coalition's website at phcoalition.org/programs/surgery-benefit/

A STRATEGIC PLAN TO BUILD A STRONG FUTURE



Building on the input from the recent member plan survey and laying the groundwork for continued growth, the Coalition Board has identified two top priorities for its 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

Priority One

The Coalition's first priority is to meet with each member plan to (re)introduce and educate them regarding the programs offered by the PHC, identify and overcome any barriers as to why they are not currently participating in Coalition programs, and explore and fill gaps in programs not presently offered by the PHC.

To the extent that schedules allow, meetings with member plans are part of Executive Director Fred Brown's "Big Finish" tour before he retires at the end of 2022.

Brown emphasizes that the Coalition encourages plan members to "be smart health care consumers by recognizing cost, as well as quality of care" and notes that Coalition member plans "own the Coalition. We built this organization, and we hold its future in our hands."

The vision of a stronger future, according to Brown, includes a high level of engagement by member plans in the Coalition's program offerings. Brown points out that in 2021, member plans realized overall savings of \$721 million, although less than half of the plans participated in each of the various PHC programs. That's just over one-third of the total estimated realizable savings! While significant, if all the 50 PHC member plans had participated in each of the Coalition's individual program offerings, **Brown estimates that total savings realized could have exceeded \$1.9 billion.**

The meetings will involve as much listening as speaking. "We need to hear from our member plans about what works for them, what isn't working and what might work for them that we haven't yet thought about," Brown added.

Priority Two

"Strength in numbers" has always been a central theme for organized labor in general and for the Coalition in particular. Accordingly, the Coalition's second priority is to increase the number of participating plans

in PHC's existing geography, explore expansion into Oregon and Northern California, and make presentations outside of the Coalition's current geographical area, through speaking engagements and networking at conferences and conventions, and in strategic cooperation with partners.

The PHC's membership has grown steadily. Its 50 member plans cover 250,000 total lives. Just as important, its geographic reach now stretches from Alaska to Washington and eastward to Colorado and beyond.

"We would like to extend more into Oregon and Northern California, which forms a natural corridor up and down the Pacific Coast," said Brown.

While acting on the insights gained from these meetings will fall to Brown's successor and the PHC Board of Trustees, Brown sees this campaign as laying a foundation for the Coalition's next growth phase. "The more we can connect with member plan trustees and new groups to demonstrate the Coalition's value, the better we are positioned to achieve the best price and value for labor," he concluded. □

COALITION HEALTH CENTER OPENS IN WASILLA

Participants of PHC member plans who live in the Mat-Su Valley now have a Coalition Health Center to call their own.

The newly remodeled space offers a full range of primary, preventive, and many acute care services in a convenient, central location. It is open for both appointments and walk-in care.

North Fork Professional Building
1700 East Bogard Road
Building A, Suite 103
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Phone: 907-206-4601

Hours of Operation

By Appointment:
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Walk-ins:
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about the advantages for Coalition member plans that sign up for the Coalition Health Centers—also located in Anchorage and Fairbanks—visit phcoalition.org/programs/coalition-health-centers/. □

Dialysis Limitations Do Not Violate Medicare Law: U.S. Supreme Court



On June 21, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case *Marietta Memorial Hospital Employee Health Benefit Plan v. DaVita Inc.*, No. 20-1641, decided that a group health plan that uniformly provides limited benefits for outpatient dialysis to all plan participants does not violate the Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) statute.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, writing for a 7-2 majority, ruled that the plan did not “differentiate in the benefits provided to individuals with and without end-stage renal disease,” because it provided the same benefits, “including the same outpatient dialysis benefits, to individuals with and without end-stage renal disease.” The case now returns to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio for trial.

The PHC was one of several organizations to write “friend of the court” briefs in the case, supporting Marietta Memorial’s arguments that it had not discriminated. The decision protects the Renalogic cost-containment program offered through the PHC. Since the Coalition began offering Renalogic in 2010, participating member plans have achieved a combined savings of more than \$65.5 million off billed charges for outpatient dialysis claims - about \$1 million in savings per patient.

To learn more about dialysis cost containment from Renalogic, visit the PHC website: phcoalition.org/programs/dialysis-cost-containment/. □

CALENDAR

2022 QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS:

November 16

Anchorage and virtual

Invitations and meeting materials will be distributed via email in advance of the meeting date, including instructions about how to attend virtually.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (IFEBP)

68TH ANNUAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONFERENCE

October 23-26, 2022

Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, NV

The PHC/National CooperativeRx Reception – Evening of Monday October 24

Watch for your invitation; be sure to RSVP as attendance is limited. □



If your plan is participating in the Coalition’s 2022 Health Fairs, be sure your plan participants remember to pre-register for their local Health Fair.

Pre-registration is required for all Coalition Health Fairs. Be sure to communicate the appropriate pre-registration closure dates for your location:

- **Alaska:** Seven business days before the Health Fair date
- **Washington:** Three weeks before the Health Fair date

For plans participating in the Health Fairs, your plan participants can pre-register at coalitionhealthfair.org. □

3000 A Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503

READ ABOUT NEW COALITION HEALTH CENTER IN WASILLA, AK, P. 3.

Since 1994, the Pacific Health Coalition (aka HCCMCA) has been helping member health plans control health care costs by negotiating better pricing on health benefits and services than these same plans could achieve on their own. Currently, there are more than 50 health plans participating throughout the United States.

Extensive Search for New Executive Director



The year-end retirement of Fred Brown as executive director set the stage for a recruitment effort to fill the position, led by consultant Colleen Savoie.

“Colleen has worked with the Coalition for many years, and she knows the organization about as well as we know ourselves,” said Board President Joey Merrick.

The qualifications listed on the job description include the ability to work with member coalitions, third-party administrators, consultants, attorneys and other

labor/management groups. The candidate must be able to manage these groups’ varying workloads and priorities to complete the PHC initiatives, and advocate for the PHC and its member plans with a commitment to the Coalition’s values and philosophy.

The position description was posted on Indeed.com, the International Federation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP) and other online job boards. By the application deadline in mid-July, Savoie had received more than 100 statements of interest.

Savoie has narrowed down the list of candidates and will present the best-qualified to the Coalition’s Executive Committee. The committee will interview a short list of candidates and meet with qualifying individuals in person as the final step in the hiring process.

“I am very encouraged by the caliber and the number of candidates interested in the position,” Savoie said. “This speaks well to the PHC’s reputation and potential.” □