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# C-SUITE NEWS

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## 2019 Corporate Sponsors:



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## Annual Wage Index Review

The preliminary results from Healthcare Council's annual wage index "data scrub" shows estimated increases in Medicare reimbursement in four of the five core based statistical areas (CBSAs). One CBSA is below the rural floor and is elevated to the rural floor. The "data scrub" was conducted by the firm BKD on behalf of Healthcare Council.

BKD reported The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 preliminary wage index results showing estimated increases as follows: an increase of \$8.3 million for the Pittsburgh CBSA; an increase of \$923,000 for the Johnstown CBSA; an increase of \$5.8 million for the rural Pennsylvania CBSA; and an increase of \$1.1 million for the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman CBSA. The report notes that the Erie CBSA is below the rural floor. As a result of the rural Pennsylvania CBSA efforts, the Erie CBSA will benefit as well.

The report also outlines several additional opportunities for consideration for next year's data scrub.

Healthcare Council's Chief Financial Officers Committee agreed to continue engaging BKD for next year's wage index review, impacting FFY 2022 Medicare payments. The wage index review will continue to be offered through Healthcare Council for the Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Pennsylvania Rural, and other CBSAs interested in participating.

For more information contact [Denis Lukes](#).

## 2020 Fall Conference

It's not too early to save the date for Healthcare Council's 2020 Fall Conference!

The Conference will be held on Friday, October 9, 2020 at the Pittsburgh Marriott North.



**Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania** is a strategic partner with health care providers and affiliated organizations, enabling them to realize

**Terry Madonna, director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs for Franklin & Marshall College, will be the keynote speaker for the Conference.** He will provide insights, current polling data, and the most up-to-date information on the November 2020 elections. He also serves as a professor of Public Affairs at the college and director of the Franklin & Marshall College Poll.

He is a frequent political analyst and public affairs commentator in national, state, and regional media and is the author of numerous publications in the fields of American history, government, and politics.

For more information contact [Jane Montgomery](#) or [Pat Raffaele](#).

## Allied Member Meeting and Holiday Reception

Healthcare Council's Allied Members are invited to a meeting and holiday reception from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. on December 10, 2019, at the Jack C. Robinette Conference Center.

Registration and networking will be held from 3 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., followed by the meeting from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. A holiday reception will be held immediately following the meeting from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Allied Members recently received invitations to the meeting and reception. There is no charge to attend the event, however registration is required. Registration is open through December 5, 2019.

Allied members will receive additional information in the near future.

For more information contact [Pat Raffaele](#).

## New Committee for Supply Chain and Materials Management Professionals

Healthcare Council is forming a new member Committee for supply chain and materials management professionals. The Committee will continue the work of the former Healthcare Purchasing and Materials Management Association of Western Pennsylvania.

The Association closed its chapter and entered into an agreement with Healthcare Council to continue providing a forum for supply chain professionals as a formal Committee of Healthcare Council. The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis to provide education, information, and networking opportunities

their mission while maintaining their status as economically viable entities.

Visit: <http://www.hcwp.org>  
Call: 1-800-704-8434

for supply chain and materials management professionals throughout Healthcare Council's membership.

Information will be sent to member Chief Executive Officers and other members of the C-Suite team inviting participation from leaders of supply chain and materials management in Healthcare Council's new Committee.

For more information contact [Pat Raffaele](#).

## October Health Literacy Program



More than 60 people from throughout western Pennsylvania attended a regional health literacy program held at Carlow University on October 25, 2019. The program was held by Healthcare Council in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Health Literacy Coalition. The event was held in October in recognition of Health Literacy Month.

Mary Ann Abrams, MD, MPH, from Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, opened the program with a discussion on the importance of health literacy. Mario Browne, director of the Office of Health Sciences Diversity, from the University of Pittsburgh, led a discussion on implicit bias and cultural competency.

The day-long program also included several breakout sessions. Hillary Holes, director of Health Equity for Healthcare Council, led a breakout session on the ***Ten Attributes of Health Literacy***.

For more information or to schedule a training session on health literacy contact [Hillary Holes](#).

## Trends in Observation

Healthcare Council continues to see greater volumes of

cases classified as observation rather than inpatient admissions. The data is collected for Healthcare Council's quarterly Flash Survey report.

The data shows that under Medicare fee for service, 16.7 percent of cases are categorized as observation. In comparison, managed care entities for Medicare, Medical Assistance, and commercial insurance classify between 30 and 44 percent of cases as observation.

This differential in classification by these payors results in reduced payments to western Pennsylvania hospitals of approximately \$253 million annually as reported in the Flash Survey ending June 30, 2019. This represents an increase of approximately \$22 million from the period ending June 20, 2018.

Observation classification also increases the patient's financial responsibility, which further increases hospital costs, and in addition, reduces net patient revenue for hospitals even further.

For more information contact [Denis Lukes](#).

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## Survey Updates

### Data Collection

Healthcare Council is collecting data from members for the **Benchmark Salary Survey**, the **Management Compensation Survey**, and the **Physician Practice Administrators Compensation Survey**. Survey results will be released to members in January 2020.

### Labor Turnover Report

The request for information for the November Labor Turnover Report has been distributed. The October Labor Turnover Report was sent to participating members.

For information about data collection contact [Steve Forest](#). For questions about the surveys contact [Jane Montgomery](#).

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## Upcoming Meetings

*All meetings will be held at the Jack C. Robinette Conference Center unless otherwise noted.*

### HR Committee

Attorneys Maria Passarelli and Tiffany Jenca, from the firm Cozen O'Conner, will speak at the November 21, 2019, HR Committee meeting. They will discuss best practices related to the Fair Labor Standards Act, disability issues, and veteran employment, among other topics.

The agenda also includes a discussion and update on

Healthcare Council's HR Surveys. The meeting will conclude with a roundtable discussion. Topics for the roundtable discussion include proposed legislation related to workplace violence and a discussion of best practices related to working from home. For more information contact [Jane Montgomery](#).

### **Managed Care Committee**

The Managed Care Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. More information will be sent to members soon. For information contact [Jane Montgomery](#) or [Denis Lukes](#).

### **Chief Nursing Officers Committee**

The CNO Committee meeting will be held on Friday, December 6, 2019. More information will be sent to members soon. For more information contact [Jane Montgomery](#).

### **Compliance Committee**

Assistant United States Attorneys for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Robert Cessar and Rachael Mamula, will speak at the December 13, 2019, Compliance Committee meeting. They will provide an update on "hot" topics related to compliance.

The Committee will also discuss the Office of Inspector General's recent notice of proposed rulemaking related to safe harbors and a new disclosure requirement issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The meeting will conclude with a roundtable discussion. For more information contact [Pat Raffaele](#).

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## **Healthcare Council Welcomes New Allied Member**

*Healthcare Council welcomes Trinity Automated Solutions as a new Allied member.*

[Trinity Automated Solutions](#), located in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, is a provider of building automation solutions in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The company's primary focus is to design and implement solutions that provide safe and comfortable environments for building occupants, while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability and energy optimization.

For more information, contact [Dianne Fretz](#), vice president of Trinity Automated Solutions at 412.489.3305 or visit the company's [website](#).

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## **Other Programs of Interest**

### **HIMSS Hockey and Hat Night in Pittsburgh**

*The western Pennsylvania chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems*

***Society (HIMSS) is hosting a networking event for members to attend the November 25, 2019, Pittsburgh Penguins game.***

There are a limited number of discounted game tickets available for registered HIMSS members. Members can purchase a ticket for \$50 (tickets have a face value of \$80). Those attending the game will meet at 5 p.m. at Buford's Kitchen, located at 1014 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, across from the entrance to PPG Paints Arena.

Those attending the game will receive a free Penguins hat and since it's also "socks" night, each participant will receive a free pair of Penguins socks.

For more information and to purchase a ticket visit the [HIMSS website](#).

### **ACHE Annual Event and Chapter Celebration**

***The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) of western Pennsylvania will hold its 2019 Annual Meeting and Chapter Celebration on December 5, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh.*** Healthcare Council is the sponsor of the event.

Heather J. Rohan, FACHE, president of HCA TriStar Division, Brentwood, Tennessee, and chairman of ACHE, will provide the keynote address. In addition, the leaders of the western Pennsylvania chapter will provide an overview of this year's accomplishments as well as plans for 2020. Members will also be recognized for their dedication to ACHE.

The chapter will also be collecting donations for a local organization.

The event is free of charge for ACHE members and \$10 for nonmembers.

For more information and to register visit the [ACHE website](#).

### **HFMA's Annual Holiday Education Conference & Ethics Update**

***The western Pennsylvania chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) will hold its Annual Holiday Education Conference & Ethics Update on December 6, 2019, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Treesdale Country Club.***

The Annual Awards Ceremony will begin at 1 p.m.

For more information and to register visit the [HFMA website](#).

### **Bringing the Body into the Computer: Immersive Technology**

***The western Pennsylvania chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems***

***Society (HIMSS) and Chatham University are hosting their annual joint event on Wednesday, December 11, 2019.***

Douglas North Cook, faculty member at Chatham University, is the keynote speaker for the event. He is a designer, professor, and researcher focused on immersive technology, experience design, and accessibility. He is the founding faculty for the Immersive Media programs at the University and the lead instructor for the Immersive Design Residencies at Fallingwater.

The program will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Chatham Eastside Campus. There will be networking receptions before and after the program and admission is free. There is also free parking available behind the building.

To register and for more information visit the [HIMSS website](#).

**Pittsburgh Business Group on Health Hosts President of Leapfrog Group**

***Leah Binder, president and chief executive officer of The Leapfrog Group will speak at the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health's (PBGH) 2019 Annual Meeting and Community Forum. The program will be held on December 12, 2019 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Marriot City Center.***

PBGH is issuing a special invitation to chief executive officers of the region's hospitals to attend the event. More than 100 employer-members of PBGH will be present to recognize the region's hospitals that are excelling in protecting the region's workforce through programs that eliminate medical errors, injuries, accidents, and infections.

The keynote speaker is Sorrel King, the founder of the Josie King Foundation. She is an active participant in the Patient Safety Movement and writes and speaks frequently about her personal experience with losing her young child, Josie King, due to a medical error.

For more information and to register for the program visit the [PBGH website](#).

**Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award**

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society-Western Division (PAGS-WD), is accepting nominations for the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. The award will be presented to two outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatrics education.

The annual award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the programs of geriatrics education across the health professions. This award will be presented to a physician and a professional from another healthcare discipline such as nursing, advanced practice, physical therapy, and others for

their geriatrics teaching excellence.

Award eligibility and criteria, along with the nomination form, is available on the society's [website](#). Nominations must be received before January 25, 2020.

For more information contact [Nadine Popovich](#), administrator, via e-mail or at 412-321-5030.

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