

Your Quarterly Companion GUIDE

First Quarter 2024

As a valued partner of Companion Life Insurance Company, **CompanionCARE** works on your behalf to keep you apprised of relevant health care industry trends. Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues.

Because we

Cost-effective alternatives

Analysis of claims and clinical referrals

Resource for health care trends and benchmarks

Education and training opportunities



Fast Facts

Hospitals account for 30% of total health care spending—\$1.4 trillion in 2022—with expenditures projected to rise rapidly through 2031, contributing to higher costs for families, employers, Medicare, Medicaid, and other public payers. As policymakers consider a variety of strategies to make health care more affordable, there is growing interest in understanding the factors that drive hospital and health system spending.

[Read More](#)



Our Tech & Data Corner

A new artificial intelligence-based approach can predict if and when a patient could die of cardiac arrest. The technology improves physicians' assessment and clinical decision making which improves survival from sudden, lethal arrhythmias. The technology is called Survival Study of Cardiac Arrhythmia Risk or SSCAR.

[Click for more information!](#)

SIIA Gene Therapy Task Force

The Self-Insurance Institute of America, Inc. (SIIA) is a membership-based association that aims to protect and promote the interests of companies involved in the self-insurance/captive industry. SIIA has established a task force which consists of healthcare and payer systems individuals that have knowledge and experience with cell and gene therapy. The key objective of the taskforce is to develop resources for the self-funded members to increase awareness of and appropriately manage cell and gene therapies. The first meeting was held on March 4th in Indianapolis. The second meeting will be held after the SIIA Cell and Gene Therapy Stakeholders Forum the end of May.

Lenmeldy is Now Considered the Most Expensive One-Time Treatment

On March 18, 2024, the FDA approved Lenmeldy, a stem cell based gene therapy to treat pre-symptomatic late infantile (PSLI), pre-symptomatic early juvenile (PSEJ) or early symptomatic early juvenile (ESEJ) Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) in children. Invoice price is \$4.25 million plus administration charges.

Metachromatic Leukodystrophy is a rare, inherited genetic disorder that affects the nervous system and is caused by a deficiency in a specific enzyme which leads to a build-up of lipids in cells. This affects approximately 1 in every 40,000 births in the US and there is no cure. Neurologic symptoms are progressive and include seizures, hearing loss, loss of motor, intellectual and memory skills. Supportive medications, therapy and nutrition have been utilized for symptom management. Lenmeldy is the first approved Gene Therapy used to prevent progression of the disease.



Education & Training

Companion Life 4th Annual Claim & Clinical Conference, Louisville, KY, June 4th-6th

Phoenix PBM Webinar on May 8th from 1-2pm ET.

Successful Growth and Innovation of a Kidney Transplant Program presented by INTERLINK on April 24th, 2024 at 8:00 - 9:00 am PT.

Register Now_ [\[cdk0z04.na1.hubspotlinksstarter.com\]](https://cdk0z04.na1.hubspotlinksstarter.com)

Vendor Spotlight

CompanionCARE has access to an extensive portfolio of external consultants who provide benchmark information and resources which is incorporated into the development of alternatives for your clients, third party administrators, and brokers/consultants. Each consultant has undergone a rigorous due diligence process with validated outcomes. Please contact CompanionCARE for more information.

Questions, need more information, or have topics for future newsletters?

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