

EHEALTH

Monthly Newsletter by **Healthsync** Health Management and Wellness Company

SPECIAL EDITION -MAY 2014

“Healthcare Spending the Highest Since 1980 - 9.9% Annual Rise”

Healthcare spending rose at the fastest pace since 1980 during the first 3 months of this year, as the new health insurance law prompted many more Americans to visit doctors and hospitals. (Jan—March 2014).

The sharp increase also reflects other trends that should continue to drive up spending in 2014 after years of slow growth. Healthcare spending climbed at a 9.9% annual rate last quarter because of higher spending at hospitals, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reports. This compared to a 5.6% gain the last quarter in 2013.

Most of the increase can be traced to the 8 million Americans who signed up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Further increases are likely in the second quarter, in part because of the ACA’s deadline was extended to April 15 for many people.

It was noted that the upward pressure on health costs, such as growth of expensive high-tech treatments, are emerging after several years of declines. Cost had fallen because ACA gave hospitals incentives to be more efficient, an insurers shifted some cost to patients, prompting fewer doctor visits.

Consumers also may see higher prescription costs. Many drug patents expired in 2011-12, as cheaper generics replaced expensive name brands. But fewer patents expire in the next two years, so drug prices will increase. (USA Today, May 5, 2014)

The Solution:

A wellness partner that can integrate your claims data, clinical data and wellness data in one platform and apply consistent risk stratification tiers. By integrating all data sources we are able to measure, manage and take action to drill down health claims costs to bend the upward trend.



For more information, contact Michelle Amshoff at Healthsync

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Our next edition will cover the last puzzle piece, Clinical Services/Health Coaching/Disease Management.

Not All Wellness Programs Are Equal!



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Visit us on the web at
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Get A Grip On Your Healthcare Costs