

Employee Benefits Conference Wraps Up After Presenting Real-World Strategies to Contain Plan Costs

Cypress University returned to Las Vegas last week with a full line-up of presenters and presentations covering cost containment strategies in employee benefits. The two-day conference was back in session for the 7th year, hosted by Cypress Benefit Administrators.

(Appleton, WI) – A popular conference in the health care industry, Cypress University wrapped up in Las Vegas last week after two days of sharing the latest tips, tools and techniques for controlling employee benefit costs with self-funding. [Cypress Benefit Administrators](#) presented the event to more than 285 attendees at The LINQ, with all seats filling up for this 7th annual edition just a week after registration first opened.

To kick off Cypress University 2018, the third party administrator (TPA) announced its new population management program offered in collaboration with Narus Health and explained why member education and engagement is proving to be such a critical factor to health plan success.

The information sharing continued as industry pros took the stage for educational sessions on a variety of key topics, including:

- The Next Generation of Employee Engagement, Todd Cato and Dr. Jim Meadows of Narus Health
- Harmonizing Plan & Other Governing Docs, Tim Callender of The Phia Group
- Opioid Addiction Crisis & Solutions, Michael Burcham of Narus Health
- Group Captives, Andrew Clayton of Pareto Captive Services
- Direct Contracting with Surgery Centers & International Drug Purchasing, Dr. Marc Grossman of Price MDs
- The Member Experience, Chad McMahon of HealthJoy

“At Cypress University, our main goal is to take a deeper look at the issues driving health plan costs and explore effective strategies to help our employer-clients deal with them,” said Tom Doney, president and CEO of Cypress.

In addition to these presentations, Cypress organized a group panel on reference/value-based reimbursement (also known as RBP and VBP) as this was identified as a “hot topic” in the self-funded industry and one that attendees were eager to learn more about. The Q&A was followed by a discussion with long-time employee benefits consultant Henry Lindeman of Collier Insurance. Lindeman shared his clients’ experiences with RBP/VBP plans.

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A second panel of industry authorities presented on the topic of stop loss insurance, giving conference attendees the chance to ask experts questions on everything from coverage to contracts.

“The stop loss panel has been a staple at Cypress University since 2013,” Doney explained. “It covers an important topic that affects nearly all self-funded plans, and attendees ask for it to be brought back every year.”

“Table Time” was another popular Cypress University feature to return this year. These sessions, scheduled throughout the conference, allowed attendees the opportunity to further connect one-on-one with conference presenters and sponsors. Through them, attendees could acquire more individualized and detailed information about the different benefit solutions and strategies covered.

To round out the agenda, [Cypress University](#) also featured “Critical Update” sessions that included actual case studies for topics that were covered at the conference in 2017. These included:

- Chronic Care Management, Matt Baki of Tria Health
- Provider Transparency, Thomas Grumley of Healthcare Bluebook
- Cancer Care Management, John Van Dyke of Interlink

“As Cypress University has evolved over the last seven years, it’s become a trusted resource that so many people turn to for help managing their employee benefit offerings,” Doney said. “Our team is happy to make this educational opportunity available.”

About Cypress Benefit Administrators

A privately held company headquartered in Appleton, Wis., Cypress Benefit Administrators has been pioneering the way toward cost containment in self-funded health benefits since 2000. The third party administrator (TPA) is the country’s first to bring claims administration, consumer driven health plans and proven cost control measures together into one package for companies ranging from 50 employees to thousands of employees. It serves employer-clients across the U.S. with additional locations in Portland, Ore., Omaha, Neb. and Denver, Col. For more information on Cypress and its customized employee benefits, visit www.cypressbenefit.com.

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