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MBGH Employer Health Purchasing Strategy Survey Issued

The Midwest Business Group on Health (MBGH), one of the nation's leading nonprofit business groups of large, self-insured public and private employers, has released the results of its annual national survey of employers gauging their views and plans related to current and future health purchasing strategies. According to this year's survey results, while the future of the Affordable Care Act continues to evolve, employers are moving forward with strategies to reduce unnecessary healthcare costs while finding ways to improve the health of their covered populations.

Key survey findings include:

- Despite the potential of change, over 40% of employers still place a high priority on avoiding the 2020 "Cadillac tax" that is still on pace to become law.
- There's high priority by 73% of employers to increase engagement in their programs, 51% will offer telemedicine services, 55% of employers are committed to create more effective communications and 47% to a culture of health, and 43% see managing specialty drugs as their highest priority.
- To reduce costs, employers are primarily focused on offering high deductible health plans (HDHP) (69%), targeting wellness programs (58%), and increasing employee cost share (49%).
- Strategies to optimize providers are expanding, with 75% of employers promoting use of Centers of Excellence; 31% offering smaller, high performance networks and 34% offering on-site health centers.
- HDHPs are now being offered at the same rate as preferred provider organizations (PPOs), with health savings accounts (HSA) the dominant plan type offered among HDHPs (65% for HSAs versus 15% for health reimbursement arrangements).
- The employer share of premiums continues to drop, with 50% now offering 75/25 cost sharing.
- Employers continue to try to motivate employees toward healthy behaviors and identifying risk factors by offering incentives for tobacco cessations (61%), completing risk assessments (42%), and participating in biometric screenings (38%).

The full text of the news release is available online [here](#).

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