



## Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



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Editor's note

*This note is produced every Friday by the [KPMG Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight](#) and is intended to be short and succinct, no more than 360 words, to provide a digestible bite of healthcare and life sciences news from the past week. Please share this email with colleagues and other interested individuals, and encourage them to [subscribe to our mailing list here](#).*

We welcome your feedback. Let us know if KPMG can help. Please [reply here to me](#), **Larry Kocot**, principal and national leader, KPMG Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight or simply reply to this email with any comments or requests.

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### Healthcare regulatory news

CMS released a proposed rule to [streamline Medicaid and CHIP enrollment](#), establishing consistent renewal policies and processes across states, including limiting renewals to once every twelve months.

CMS' Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) 2021 results show [58% of Accountable Care Organizations \(ACOs\) generated shared savings](#), totaling \$1.6B in Medicare spending.

HHS announced its [largest investment ever \(\\$98.9M\) in health insurance Navigators](#) ahead of Open Enrollment 2023...HHS announced [\\$79M investment to expand Substance Use Disorder treatment and prevention](#)...HRSA announced a [\\$20M investment to reduce disparities in maternal and infant health](#).

DOL reported [arbitrators have rendered determinations on just 1,200 of 46,000 cases](#) submitted to the *No Surprises Act* dispute portal since April 15th.

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## Healthcare law and policy news

KaufmanHall reported [July hospital operating margins are the lowest](#) in the pandemic period... Fitch Ratings mid-year report downgraded the [outlook for the non-profit health sector from “neutral” to “deteriorating”](#) following ongoing staffing issues and unpredictable patient volume.

Astra Zeneca’s Farxiga phase III clinical trial analysis demonstrated [14% reduction in cardiovascular death](#) among heart failure patients.

JAMA studies found: (1) [only modest improvements in mean quality measures associated with higher Medicare Advantage premiums](#); (2) receipt of [emergency-telehealth-waiver-expanded services improved opioid use disorder outcomes in Medicare patients](#).

A new study found [Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants](#) hold a majority of U.S. primary care roles (51%).

Advocacy groups filed a [lawsuit](#) alleging a 2020 HHS/CMS rule illegally limits patients from using copay assistance.

Florida filed a suit against the [FDA for unlawfully delaying action on Florida’s application to import Canadian prescription drugs](#).

[Wellstar Health announced plans to close Atlanta Medical Center Nov 1<sup>st</sup>](#), the health system’s second closure in six months.

Illumina prevailed in an [FTC antitrust lawsuit](#) seeking to unwind the company’s \$7B acquisition of cancer startup Grail.

[Ocean Biomedical announced a \\$345M merger](#) with Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp, a special acquisition corporation (SPAC)... [InterWell Health finalized a \\$2.4B merger with Fresenius Health Partners and Cricket Health](#) forming a value-based kidney care company... [Walgreens Boots Alliance completed its \\$330M acquisition](#) of at-home-care tech platform CareCentrix.

George Washington University data indicate over [half of U.S. counties have no active psychiatrist or addiction medicine specialist](#).

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## Special Section: COVID-19 and Monkeypox News

New data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) show [evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in Monkeypox vaccine distribution](#)—only 10% of doses have been distributed to Black patients when they account for one third of all U.S. cases.

HHS Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority ([BARDA](#)) will provide [\\$11M to support domestic production of Smallpox and Monkeypox vaccines](#).

Texas health officials confirmed the [first known death attributed to Monkeypox in the U.S.](#)

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CDC data revealed U.S. life expectancy at birth declined for second consecutive year, [COVID-19 cited as main driver](#).

[FDA authorized emergency use](#) of updated COVID-19 booster vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

ASPR Secretary Dawn O'Connell [signaled that funds for free COVID-19 vaccines may run out](#) as early as January 2023.

GAO report found that [hospitals were unprepared to deal with COVID-19 surges](#), despite participating in HHS readiness activities.

Vaxart, released positive Phase 2 clinical trial data on its oral COVID-19 vaccine, the [first oral COVID-19 vaccine candidate to conclude a Phase 2 trial](#).



Questions or comments, please send to

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