



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 approved [Oregon as the first state to use Medicaid funds for mobile mental health](#) crisis units.

FDA and NIH announced a [public-private partnership led by the Critical Path Institute \(C-Path\) to accelerate drug development for rare neurodegenerative diseases](#).

The Biden Administration pledged [\\$2B to launch the National Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Initiative \(NBBI\)](#) to expand domestic drug development and production.



Healthcare law and policy news

New Census Bureau data show the number of [uninsured individuals fell by 1.1M in 2021](#), pandemic-era public program expansion cited as a main driver.

An American Hospital Association report found that between 2010 and 2021, [136 rural hospitals have closed, with 19 of the closures occurring in 2020](#), the most in any year of the past decade.

[A JAMA study](#) found Medicare Advantage beneficiaries receive fewer lower-value care services (9.2%) than those in traditional Medicare.

New studies found: (1): [24% of organizations that experienced a ransomware cyberattack in the past 12 months reported an increase in patient mortality rates](#); (2) [Daily multivitamin use in adults 65 or older produced improvement in cognition](#), particularly in participants with history of cardiovascular disease.

[Morgan Health \(JP Morgan's healthcare venture\) will invest \\$20M](#) in virtual genetic testing company LetsGetChecked... [Acelryin, Inc. announced \\$300M in Series C financing](#) to accelerate Phase 2 development of psoriatic arthritis treatment.

The American Medical Association joined a [class-action lawsuit against Cigna, alleging the insurer misrepresented its relationship](#) with cost-management company MultiPlan, leaving enrollees exposed to balancing billing... [Envision Healthcare filed a suit against UnitedHealthcare](#) alleging the insurer systematically denied emergency care claims... [CarePoint Health filed a lawsuit against RWJBarnabas](#) accusing the health system operator of monopolistic behavior in northern New Jersey... [Home Depot filed an appeal to the \\$2.7B Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association antitrust settlement](#).

[AstraZeneca won dismissal of a shareholder class-action lawsuit](#) alleging the company failed to disclose issues with their COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials... [Novartis won second-time dismissal of a whistleblower kickback lawsuit](#).

The World Health Organization (WHO) added the [U.S. to list of nations with circulating vaccine-derived Poliovirus](#).

A [new Employer Benefit Research Institute report](#) found average annual spending on mental health services for individuals in employer-sponsored coverage increased 20% since 2013.

Special Section: COVID-19 and Monkeypox News

FDA issued its first [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) for Monkeypox testing](#)... [NIH-sponsored Phase 3 clinical trial of tecovirimat \(TPOXX\)](#), an antiviral for Monkeypox, is now enrolling patients.

CMS will [provide free updated COVID-19 bivalent boosters](#) against the Omicron variant.

A [new report from the Lancet Commission on lessons learned from COVID-19](#) says world leaders must invest at least \$60B annually to appropriately address global disease outbreaks.



Questions or comments, please send to
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