



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](#).

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Healthcare regulatory news

CMS [announced efforts](#) to reduce unnecessary antipsychotic use in nursing homes and improve transparency about citations... CMS [approved 12-month Medicaid post-partum coverage](#) in Alabama and North Dakota.

CMS data show [Medicare Advantage enrollment has topped 30M](#)... CMS announced [13.2M Medicare beneficiaries will be served through accountable care initiatives](#) in 2023.

FDA [denied accelerated approval](#) to Eli Lilly's Alzheimer's drug donanemab.

An FDA official indicated [lab-developed diagnostic reform could be included](#) in pandemic preparedness authorization legislation or [pursued through rulemaking](#).



Healthcare law and policy news

Treasury Department [began “extraordinary measures”](#) as the US reached its [statutory debt limit](#).

MedPAC warned [Medicare drug price negotiation may increase some new drug costs...](#) Prescription drug purchasers [expect drug prices to average 8% annual growth over the next three years](#); 19% believe newer, pricier therapies will drive the growth.

Ponder data show the [number of hospital mergers in 2022 \(55\)](#) was the lowest since 2009... STAT [reported on hospitals’ 2023 plans](#) for growth and increasing market power... Gibbins Advisors reported [46 large healthcare bankruptcy filings \(liabilities \\$10M+\) occurred](#) in 2022, [up 84% from 2021 \(25\)](#) and roughly even with 2020 (45).

HHS [reported the uninsured rate fell](#) from 11.1% in 2019 to 10.5% in 2021... CDC [reported 10.8% of individuals were in families having trouble paying](#) medical bills in 2021, down from 2019 (14%)... A [Gallup survey found 38% of respondents \(or family members\) delayed](#) medical treatment due to costs in 2022, a record high.

A [NEJM study found a preventable adverse event occurred in 6.8%](#) of sampled 2018 patient admissions... A [JAMA study concluded](#) prescription drugs promoted in direct-to-consumer advertising were not any better than existing therapies... An [ICER analysis found](#) nearly all major health plans provide “fair access” to 19 selected therapies, although just 70% have fair/transparent cost-sharing policies... A [study found](#) just [19% of selected hospitals fully complied](#) with CMS price transparency requirements... CDC reported [opioids were prescribed at 8.1% of ED discharges](#) in 2019-2020, down from 12.2% in 2017-2018.

KFF reported, despite a surge in telehealth use, [private insurers paid similarly for telehealth and in-person](#) professional services in 2020.

Pfizer will sell [its full portfolio of medicines](#) to 45 low-income countries at a not-for-profit price.



Special Section: COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Illnesses News

GAO [recommended HHS improve oversight of research](#) into “enhanced potential pandemic pathogens.”

HHS announced [David Kessler is leaving his position](#) as COVID Chief Science Officer.

A [study found hybrid immunity](#) (mixed protection provided by COVID-19 vaccination and infection) was [97% effective at preventing severe disease or hospitalization](#) for up to 12 months after infection or initial immunization; previous infection with no vaccination was 75% effective against severe disease or hospitalization a year out.

OIG reported [more than 1,300 nursing homes had COVID-19 infection rates of 75% or more](#) in 2020 and recommended changes to better protect residents and prepare for future health emergencies.

Moderna reported its [RSV vaccine was 83.7% effective at preventing disease](#) in older adults.

The World Health Organization [launched an initiative to accelerate development, licensing, and use](#) of a novel tuberculosis vaccine.

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