



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

Center for Healthcare
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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

HHS-Labor-Treasury [reported 110,034 surprise billing disputes](#) were initiated through the independent dispute resolution process in Q4 2022, "significantly more" than expected for the full year.

CMS [data show 42% of organ procurement organizations](#) were operating at the [lowest-performing tier in 2021](#), up from [28% in 2019](#).

FDA issued [draft guidance](#) on [decentralized clinical trials](#).

OIG [estimated \\$580M of \\$1B in Medicare psychotherapy service payments](#), including \$348M for telehealth services, were improper from March 2020-February 2021.

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Healthcare law and policy news

[Treasury Department](#) and [CBO](#) forecasted the debt ceiling could be reached as early as June 1.

CVS [completed its acquisition of Oak Street Health](#)... CommonSpirit completed [acquisition of Steward's Utah health sites](#), including five hospitals... Astellas Pharma [plans to acquire Iveric Bio](#) (\$5.9B)... Option Care Health [will acquire Amedisys \(\\$3.6B\)](#)... Centene is [selling its AI tool Apixio](#) to New Mountain Capital... UnitedHealth [will pay \\$91.27M to settle claims](#) it underpaid Envision Healthcare providers.

Following positive clinical trial results, [Eli Lilly will seek FDA approval of its Alzheimer's treatment](#), donanemab.

CMS [data](#) show [half of eligible Medicare beneficiaries](#) are now in Medicare Advantage.

Health Affairs articles found: (1) patients seen by hospital-integrated cardiologists [were more likely to receive high-intensity, hospital-based interventions](#) (e.g., cardiac catheterization) than those seen by independent cardiologists; and, (2) hospital 340B program eligibility was [associated with a 22.9 percentage point reduction in biosimilar adoption](#)... A *JAMA* study [found](#) the proportion of pediatric ED visits for mental health increased from 2011 (7.7%) to 2020 (13.1%); suicide-related visits increased 5-fold.

Due to procedural disagreements, Senate HELP Committee [postponed markup of generic and PBM legislation until May 11](#), a day after a hearing [with executives from insulin and PBM companies](#)... Senate Finance Committee reported [more than 80% of listed, in-network mental health providers](#) weren't available to MA plan beneficiaries.

An AMN Healthcare survey found [30% of nurses plan to leave their career](#), due to the pandemic... Nursing school enrollment [fell for the first time](#) in two decades last year.

US [death rate dropped 5.3% from 2021-2022](#); cancer and heart disease death rates increased... CDC reported [fentanyl-related drug overdoses increased 279%](#) from 2016-2021; drug [overdoses among Black Americans increased faster](#) than for other racial/ethnic groups from 2019-2021.

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Special Section: COVID-19 News

World Health Organization [declared COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern](#).

The Biden Administration [will end the COVID-19 vaccine requirement](#) for federal employees, contractors, international travelers, head start educators, and employees of CMS-certified facilities... CDC [plans to stop tracking COVID-19 transmissions](#) in local communities and rely more on hospitalizations... CMS [released a consumer fact sheet](#) on coverage of COVID-19 tests after expiration of the PHE.

DEA is [proposing](#) to temporarily [extend telehealth flexibilities](#) permitting telehealth prescribing of controlled substance prescriptions... CMS [proposed](#) continuing telehealth and other pandemic-related flexibilities through year-end for the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program.

FDA [granted emergency use authorization for](#) a fourth dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for certain immunocompromised children aged 6 months to 4 years old... FDA vaccine advisory committee [will meet June 15 to discuss recommendations](#) on what COVID-19 strains to include in an updated vaccine this fall... Moderna anticipates its [updated COVID-19 vaccine will have a list price of \\$110 to \\$130](#).

Leapfrog Group reported the [risk of hospital-acquired infections](#) reached a five-year high during the pandemic.

FDA [approved the first RSV vaccine](#), approved for prevention of disease in individuals 60 years and older.

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KPMG LLP, 3 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ 07645

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