



# 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

The Biden Administration [released](#) its [Spring Regulatory Agenda](#).

HHS announced: (1) [additional flexibilities](#) to [prevent coverage lapses](#) during Medicaid/CHIP renewals; (2) a [\\$15M pediatric workforce loan forgiveness](#) program; and, (3) expansion of the Extra Help program to [decrease prescription drug costs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries](#) and those with disabilities.

FDA advisory committees unanimously recommended: (1) [full approval](#) of Biogen-Eisai's Alzheimer's drug, Leqembi; and, (2) a [monovalent COVID-19 vaccine booster this fall/winter](#) that targets an XBB variant.

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## Healthcare law and policy news

CMS Office of the Actuary [projects national health expenditures](#) (NHE) will reach \$7.2T (19.6% of GDP) by 2031; Medicare spending will grow 7.5% annually, on average, from 2022-2031, compared to 5.4% for total NHE.

MedPAC's [June Report to Congress](#) includes [recommendations](#) to reduce Medicare Part B prescription drug spending, align payments across ambulatory settings, and reform the wage index... and a [Congressionally-mandated report on telehealth](#) use during the PHE.

Chamber of Commerce [sued](#) to [block implementation](#) of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program... Following [an agreement from the parties](#), a federal appeals court [maintained its stay of a district court's order](#) striking down mandated coverage of preventive services... Allergan, Teva, CVS, and Walgreens [agreed to additional settlements](#) (\$18.75B) with state/local governments over opioid epidemic-related claims.

Novartis [will acquire Chinook Therapeutics](#) (\$3.5B)... Walgreens [sold its remaining stake \(\\$330M\)](#) in Option Care Health and is [partnering with Freenome on clinical trials](#) for early cancer detection... Astra Zeneca [will collaborate with Quell Therapeutics \(up to \\$2B\)](#) on autoimmune disease cell therapies... Uber Health [launched grocery and over-the-counter medication delivery](#) services.

A USC analysis [estimated overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans exceed \\$75B/year](#) due to [favorable beneficiary selection](#) and coding intensity... A KFF [survey found](#) 81% of insured adults rate their insurance "excellent" or "good," but 58% have experienced problems using their coverage... More than 300 non-profit hospitals [reported 7.5% year-over-year revenue growth in May](#), up significantly from April (3.5%).

AMA adopted policies, [among others](#), advocating for: (1) [overhauling Medicare physician payment](#); (2) [increasing study/oversight and patient education](#) of AI; and, (3) [deemphasizing use of BMI](#) in assessing health/obesity.

House Education and Workforce Committee [advanced legislation to offer telehealth services as a tax-free benefit](#) separate from other health plans.

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