



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



December 1, 2023 | Issue 299

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 to this email with any comments or requests.

[> Subscribe here](#)



Healthcare regulatory news

HHS is [appealing](#) a federal court decision that [withdrew a Trump Administration rule](#) permitting plans/PBMs to continue not counting drug manufacturer copay assistance toward patients' deductibles and out-of-pocket costs.

Following overturned previous regulatory action, Labor-HHS-Treasury [guidance specifies](#) when/how surprise billing disputes in arbitration should be "batched."

FDA approved the first [oral treatment for desmoid tumors](#) and [the first oral appliance](#) for severe obstructive sleep apnea... FDA is [investigating whether CAR-T therapies](#) can, in rare cases, cause lymphoma.

HHS OIG [reported](#) 97% of Medicare Part D beneficiaries prescribed buprenorphine in 2022 had the recommended amount or less, suggesting low misuse/abuse.

ASPR and the Education Department will [collaborate to provide free COVID-19 tests](#) to school districts.

→



Healthcare law and policy news

President Biden [signed a presidential determination](#) giving HHS more authority under the Defense Production Act to invest in the domestic supply chain, including to prevent/mitigate “essential medicine” shortages.

Novartis [filed a motion for summary judgement](#) to immediately stop implementation of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program... Union health plans [filed a class-action lawsuit](#) alleging U.S. Anesthesia Partners and a PE firm acquired practices to [concentrate market power and engage in “price-fixing.”](#)

Cigna and Humana [are reportedly considering](#) a merger... Amgen [will acquire ImmunoGen](#) (\$10.1B) and its oncology portfolio/pipeline... Bristol Myers Squibb will [pay Avidity Biosciences up to \\$2.3B](#) to co-develop heart condition drugs... Walgreens [launched a Rx Savings Finder tool](#) that consolidates searches of third-party prescription discount cards.

A [JAMA study found](#) nearly 1 in 5 US children (16.5M) have inadequate/inconsistent health insurance, with higher rates among commercially insured... A [Modern Healthcare analysis of Merritt Research Services data found](#) health systems’ charity care as a percentage of operating expenses fell from 2020 (1.21%) to 2021 (0.99%)... Epic Research [data show 5.8% of health encounters were conducted by telehealth](#) in Q3 2023, still well above pre-pandemic levels (0.2% in Q4 2019).

A [KKF survey found](#) although 83% of Medicaid enrollees rate their insurance as “excellent” or “good,” 58% had a problem in the past year, including difficulty with prior authorization or provider availability.

Provisional [CDC data show](#) nearly 50,000 Americans died from suicide in 2022, up 3% from 2021; the [age-adjusted rate was the highest since 1941](#).

→



Questions or comments, please send to us-hclspractice@kpmg.com.

kpmg.com/socialmedia



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

You have received this message from KPMG LLP. If you wish to unsubscribe from Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less, please [click here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe from all KPMG communications, please [click here](#).

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

© 2023 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. NDP295619-1E

The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.