



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

An [OCR final rule](#) partially rescinds a 2019 rule, [restoring previous processes for handling conscience complaints](#) and strengthening protections against conscience and religious discrimination.

CMS [approved](#) New York's amended Medicaid 1115 demonstration, which includes [behavioral health, primary care, and health equity investments/initiatives](#).

FTC [announced the first ever](#) ban on a data broker's sale of sensitive location data, including for medical clinics.

ARPA-H [announced programs](#) to reduce preventable deaths and [restore vision for blind/visually impaired](#) individuals through eye transplantation.

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Healthcare law and policy news

HHS announced a record [20M+ individuals have selected](#) 2024 ACA marketplace plans.

AHA [asked a federal court for an expedited judgment](#) against OCR guidance [requiring hospitals to stop using third-party tracking technology](#) on their websites... Elevance Health [sued CMS](#) over Medicare Advantage star rating methodology changes.

IQVIA [abandoned plans](#) to purchase DeepIntent (Propel Media) following FTC's successful injunction request... Marshfield Clinic and Essentia Health [ended their merger plans](#).

Boston Scientific [will acquire Axonics \(\\$3.7B\)](#)... Johnson & Johnson [will acquire Ambrx Biopharma](#) (\$2B)... GlaxoSmithKline [will acquire Aiolos Bio](#) (up to \$1.4B)... Merck [will acquire Harpoon Therapeutics](#) (\$680M)... Novartis is in [advanced talks to acquire Cytokinetics](#)... Inovaccer [launched an AI assistant](#) to [transcribe/analyze/summarize](#) provider-patient conversations.

Socially Determined is [collaborating with Uber Health](#) to coordinate transportation, pharmacy, and food-based benefits for vulnerable patients... Option Care Health [announced a multi-year partnership](#) leveraging Palantir's AI capabilities... Rite Aid [received bankruptcy court approval](#) to sell its PBM business (\$575M)... A group of hospitals and technology companies [announced a nonprofit venture](#) to oversee a network of academic/medical laboratories testing AI applications in health care.

Rock Health reported [venture capital funding for digital health totaled \\$10.7B](#) in 2023, the lowest level since 2019... *JAMA* studies found: (1) [23% of hospitalized patients](#) who died in the hospital or were transferred to the ICU experienced a diagnostic error; and, (2) [prescriptions for antidepressants, ADHD stimulant drug, and ADHD non-stimulant drugs increased](#) 10%, 32%, and 14%, respectively, from April 2018 to March 2022... An [Epic Research analysis found](#), for most specialties, the patient follow-up visit rate is greater for patients after a telehealth visit than after an in-person visit... A [npj Digital Medicine study](#) found generative AI could [help identify SDOH](#) in EHRs.

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