



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



March 15, 2024 | Issue 313

Editor's note

This note is produced every Friday by [KPMG](#) 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

President Biden signed [a bipartisan spending bill](#) including a 1.68% increase to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and delayed \$8B in disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payment cuts until 2025... President Biden's [proposed 2025 budget blueprint](#) requests \$130.7B in discretionary funding for HHS, a 2% decrease from 2024.

CMS [will make advance Medicare payments](#) to providers impacted by the Change Healthcare attack; HHS [launched an investigation](#) into the incident and Change Healthcare's compliance with federal breach notification rules.

CMS is reviewing the [FDA's approval expansion](#) of weight-loss drug Wegovy to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease for Medicare coverage; [the Medicare Modernization Act](#) prohibits Medicare from covering anti-obesity drugs.

In a [request for applications \(RFA\)](#) to cell and gene therapy (CGT) manufacturers for the CGT Access Model, [CMS will require participants to pay directly for fertility preservation services](#) at no cost to patients; access to these services is a significant barrier to CGT.

An [HHS OIG audit](#) found Pennsylvania improperly claimed approximately \$551M in federal payments for Medicaid school-based services between 2015-2019.



Healthcare law and policy news

A bipartisan group of senators [introduced the Delivering United Access to Lifesaving Services \(DUALS\) Act](#) to improve coverage for nearly 13M individuals who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid; the legislation would require states to have at least one integrated health plan for dual eligibles.

A federal court [ruled](#) against a PhRMA-backed lawsuit that Arkansas can prevent pharmaceutical manufacturers from limiting providers' use of 340B drug discounts.

Community Health Systems [finalized an agreement](#) with Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drugs as the first national health system to partner with the pharmaceutical distributor.

AstraZeneca to [acquire Amolyt Pharma \(\\$1B\)](#) to expand its rare disease portfolio... Elevance Health [completed its acquisition](#) of infusion therapies manufacturer Paragon Health (\$1B).

A [FBI report on internet crime](#) found the healthcare industry experienced the most ransomware attacks out of all 16 industries identified as critical U.S. infrastructure in 2023.

According to a [JAMA Health Forum study](#) continuous Medicaid eligibility during COVID-19 was associated with less postpartum healthcare coverage loss (6.6% decrease) and increased postpartum Medicaid coverage (5.1% increase).

A [Paytient survey of individuals with employer-sponsored health coverage](#) reported 40% of respondents delayed care due to cost.



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

© 2024 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. USCS011380-1B

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