



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](#).

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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Special Supplement: COVID-19 News

In light of the continuing daily volume of COVID-19 activity and news, we have summarized COVID-19 news for the week in the attached special supplement.



Healthcare regulatory news

HHS [declared](#) monkeypox [a public health emergency](#)... The White House named [a national monkeypox coordinator](#).

HHS reported the [uninsured rate reached an all-time low \(8.0%\)](#) in Q1 2022.

HHS and Department of Justice (DOJ) [released guidance](#) on [federal non-discrimination laws and telehealth](#).

CMS finalized 2023 payment increases for [skilled nursing homes 2.7% \(\\$904M\)](#), [inpatient hospitals 4.3% \(\\$2.6B\)](#), and long-term care hospitals [2.3% \(\\$71 billion\)](#), and [a birthing-friendly hospital designation](#).

CMS [projected average 2023 Medicare Part D monthly premiums](#) will drop 1.8% to \$31.50.

FDA [approved the first biosimilar](#) interchangeable across all five Lucentis indications... FDA ordered [88,000 synthetic nicotine products](#) off the market.

Federal agencies can [opt into Carequality's interoperability framework](#).



Healthcare law and policy news

The Senate will [begin consideration of Democrats'](#) reconciliation bill tomorrow.

West Virginia cities/counties [reached a \\$400M settlement with McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardinal Health](#) over epidemic-related claims... A [federal appeals court rejected](#) Sanofi's claims that Mylan [schemed to block EpiPen competition](#)... A federal appeals court [declined to revive](#) a lawsuit [alleging Abbvie used "patent thickets"](#) to thwart Humira competition... A federal court [jury ordered Eli Lilly to pay \\$61M](#) for intentionally underpaying Medicaid drug rebates.

KPMG, EBG, and FPP reported [healthcare deals through Q2 are down 23% year-over-year](#), but on pace to exceed historical trends... Ochsner Health closed its [merger with Rush Health System](#)... Amgen [will acquire ChemoCentryx](#) (\$4B)... CVS plans to [invest in or acquire a provider](#) organization by year-end.

CivicaRx [launched its first generic product](#)... Optum will [offer a 30-day supply of Sanofi insulins for \\$35 to uninsured individuals](#) with diabetes.

Senate Finance Committee reported [70 organ recipients died January 2008-September 2015 from donor-derived diseases](#) due to testing failure... A separate government review recommended [overhaul of the UNOS organ transplant system](#) due to technology issues.

Altarum reported health spending [declined year-over-year in Q1 for the first time](#) in 60+ years... *Health Affairs* studies found [dialysis provider consolidation](#) led to [Medicare Advantage plan cost markups](#) and annual patient [out-of-pocket spending ranges](#) across states from \$7,250 (Utah) to \$14,500 (Alaska)... JD Power reported customers are [increasingly comfortable/interested in receiving routine healthcare services](#) at pharmacies.

West Health/Gallup found [38% of Americans skipped/delayed healthcare](#) in the last 6 months due to costs.



Questions or comments, please send to
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COVID-19 News Supplement

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COVID-19 by the Numbers

Over [91.8 million COVID-19 cases](#) have been documented in the US, with the death toll exceeding 1.03 million... As of August 3, 2022, the current 7-day moving average of [daily new cases](#) (117,350) decreased 7% compared with the previous week's 7-day moving average (126,536); the current 7-day moving average of [new deaths](#) (377) has decreased 5% compared with the previous week's 7-day moving average (397)... The 7-day [moving average of hospitalizations](#) with a confirmed case of COVID-19 was 6,321 for the week ending August 1, down 1.7% from the previous week.

As of July 30, the BA.5 variant [accounted for 86% of COVID-19 cases](#), up from 82% the previous week.

More than [12.3 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered across 184 countries](#)... Over 599 million COVID-19 [vaccine doses have been administered](#) in the US... Over 261.6 million Americans ([approximately 83.5% of Americans 5 and older](#)) have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; over 223 million Americans are fully vaccinated (71.5% of Americans 5 and older); over 107.9 million Americans have received a booster or additional dose (just 48.4% of those fully vaccinated)... Approximately 632,000 children under age 5 have received at least one vaccine dose, out of [nearly 20 million eligible](#) recipients.

Executive and Administrative Action

HHS released a report on [services and supports](#) for long COVID and a [national research action plan](#) for long COVID, which includes creation of the Office of Long COVID Research... Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine will serve as long COVID coordinator and [laid out the Administration's plans](#).

CDC could [issue updated COVID-19 community guidance as soon as today](#), which is expected to relax quarantine requirements for those exposed to the virus and deemphasize social distancing measures and regular testing in schools.

Healthcare Law, Business, and Policy News

A [JAMA study found](#) hospital workers receiving a fourth dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine were far less likely to have a breakthrough infection (6.9%) as compared to individuals with three doses (19.8%).

A *Lancet* study [estimated the prevalence of long COVID at 1 in 8 adults](#) (12.7%) testing positive for COVID-19.

Surveillance, Testing, and Treatment

HHS agreed to purchase [66 million doses \(\\$1.74B\) of Moderna's bivalent COVID-19 vaccine](#) updated with the Omicron subvariant for the fall/winter.

FDA does not plan to authorize a [second booster dose of the original COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for people ages 18 to 49](#) and will wait until booster doses are available that target BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.

Eli Lilly will [sell its COVID-19 monoclonal antibody, bebtelovimab, commercially](#) as the government's supply of the product comes close to depletion.

HHS data show that July marked the [first month that more than 1 million courses of Pfizer's Paxlovid were prescribed](#).