



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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Healthcare regulatory news

HHS released a [behavioral health integration roadmap including improving behavioral health care workforce capacity, affordability, access and outreach](#)... a bi-partisan Senate bill aims to [increase funding and training for mental health care providers](#) to address workforce shortages.

[FDA granted accelerated approval for Bluebird Bio's SKYSONA... a rare neurological disorder gene therapy](#), costing approximately \$3M per treatment.

[OIG found \\$1.9M in 2019 Part B overpayments](#) to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and related providers and almost \$300K in excess beneficiary cost-sharing.



Healthcare law and policy news

A federal judge [denied DOJ's request to block UnitedHealth Group's \\$13B acquisition of Change Healthcare](#).

[Moody's issued its lowest credit rating to Envision Healthcare](#), warning that the company may face bankruptcy or major restructuring.

[A KaufmanHall report, sponsored by AHA, projected](#) over half of hospitals will have negative margins through 2022, down 37% relative to pre-pandemic levels.

Urban Institute reports found: (1) Uninsured and publicly insured individuals were more than twice as likely as privately insured individuals to [report unfair treatment](#) in healthcare settings; (2) Without additional funding, reducing Medicare costs will be [insufficient to prevent projected insolvency of the HI trust fund by 2028](#).

New studies found: (1) [Medical debt is associated with 1.7x and 3.1x risk of worsening housing and food security, respectively](#); (2) More than [80% of pregnancy-related deaths between 2017 and 2019 were preventable](#).

Walgreens [completed its acquisition of Shields Health Solutions](#) for \$1.3B...McKesson [will acquire Rx Savings Solutions for \\$875M](#)...Humana [plans to acquire senior-focused primary care centers from Welsh Carson](#) for up to \$550M...[Graphite Health will partner with Datavant](#) to utilize Datavant's healthcare data platform for several major U.S. health systems...[Pfizer will invest \\$20M in CytoReason partnership](#) to leverage its AI technology for drug development...Naveris, a cancer detection startup, [raised \\$33.4M in series A funding](#) to commercialize its cancer detection tests.

[Following the AHA and AMA move to dismiss their lawsuit](#) challenging the No Surprises Act arbitration process, the [Texas Medical Association filed a new lawsuit](#) alleging the Act's arbitration favors insurers.

Centene will [pay \\$165M](#) to resolve claims that it overcharged Texas for Medicaid pharmacy services.

A draft report from the [U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommended](#) screening all adults under 65 for anxiety.

Special Section: COVID-19 and Monkeypox News

President Biden [declared the COVID-19 pandemic "is over"](#) in a "60 Minutes" interview, which was "clarified" by the Administration in [subsequent comments](#).

New CDC data showed that [COVID-19 variant BF.7 doubled its incidence rate](#) nationally in the last two weeks from 0.8% to 1.7%.

The CDC expects [updated COVID-19 boosters to be available to children aged 5-11 years](#) by mid-October.

A new OIG report found the [FDA's Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) process for COVID-19 treatment compromised test quality](#) at the beginning of the pandemic.

The CDC announced that [new Monkeypox cases are down 50%](#) since early August.

A new HHS cybersecurity alert announced that [a Monkeypox-themed phishing campaign targets healthcare providers](#).



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