



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



March 24, 2023 | Issue 264

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

CMS [guidance directed](#) No Surprises Act independent dispute resolution arbitrators to resume processing decisions and to more directly consider multiple factors when determining the payment amount.

The Medicare Advantage VBID Model [will be extended through 2030](#).

ONC is [considering new EHR certification](#) requirements to facilitate electronic prior authorization.

ASPE reported [40M+ individuals are enrolled](#) in ACA-related Marketplace or Medicaid expansion coverage.

HRSA will [rebid its contract to manage](#) the country's organ procurement and transplantation network and launched [a dashboard with data](#) on donors, recipients, and waitlist outcomes.

Despite [concerns about full approval](#), an FDA advisory committee [recommended accelerated approval \(i.e., conditional\) for Biogen's ALS drug](#)... A senior FDA official said the [agency should start using the Accelerated Approval pathway](#) for gene therapies.

→



Healthcare law and policy news

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee [reported on health and national security risks](#) of drug shortages, which increased 30% from 2021 to 2022... The White House set a [goal of producing at least 25% of all small-molecule drug active pharmaceutical ingredients](#) in the US within five years.

In response to a Congressional inquiry, CBO reported that [mandatory healthcare spending from 2010-2020 was 9% lower than projected](#) due to lower government spending per beneficiary (totaling \$1.1T); 2019 net spending for Medicare Part D drugs, in particular, was overestimated.

Hospitals [sued HHS to recoup tens of millions](#) in delayed DSH payments owed due to a miscalculation.

DOJ and state attorneys general [dropped their appeal](#) of the UnitedHealth-Change Healthcare merger.

NIH [denied a petition to use march-in rights](#) to lower the price of Pfizer-Astell's prostate cancer drug, Xtandi; petitioners [appealed the decision](#).

Microsoft and Nuance will [add OpenAI's GPT-4 to its latest clinical documentation application](#)... Cleveland Clinic and IBM [unveiled the first quantum computer](#) dedicated to biomedical research...

California [contracted with CivicaRx to produce state-labeled insulins](#) costing no more than \$30/vial.

North Carolina [passed, and the governor will sign](#), legislation to expand Medicaid.

Senate [Commerce Committee advanced a bipartisan PBM transparency bill](#)... meanwhile, a bipartisan group of House members [introduced legislation to ban the use of spread pricing by PBMs](#) in Medicaid.

Novo Nordisk-funded research from NORC found [42% of US adults are living with obesity](#).



Special Section: COVID-19 News

The White House will [disband its COVID-19 response team](#) after the public health emergency ends in May.

President Biden [signed legislation to declassify intelligence](#) on COVID-19 origins... Following findings that the [pandemic may have originated from infected racoon dogs](#), WHO advisors [urged China to release all information on the origins](#) of COVID-19.

Moderna [expects to price its COVID-19 vaccine at around \\$130/dose](#) in the US as purchases move to the private sector.

A COVID States Project's [report concluded just 75% of US adults have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine](#), significantly lower than the 92.1% reported by the CDC... FDA is considering [whether to recommend additional Omicron-specific COVID-19 booster doses](#) for older adults and other vulnerable individuals.

A [Lancet study found](#) that COVID-19 “magnified the polarization and persistent social, economic, and racial inequities that already existed across US society,” with significant variation in impacts across states based on their respective responses... A [JAMA study found](#) that the antiviral nirmatrelvir, one of the two pills in Paxlovid, could cut the risk of developing long COVID if given within five days of testing positive.



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