



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

CMS [announced CY 2024 updates to the ACO REACH Model](#), including revising calculation of the health equity benefit adjustment and reducing beneficiary alignment minimums... CMS said [14 states have paused Medicaid disenrollments at some point](#) since April to address potential renewal requirement issues... CMS confirmed surprise billing independent dispute resolution (IDR) [administrative fees will go back to \\$50/dispute](#) and that the IDR portal would reopen soon.

Virginia [received CMS approval](#) to operate the 19th state-based insurance exchange.

HHS' AI [use cases more than tripled](#) to [163 for FY2023](#).

FDA granted accelerated approval to [a Pfizer bispecific therapy for advanced multiple myeloma](#), (following a [similar Janssen drug approval last week](#)) and approved the [first treatment](#) for an ultra-rare bone disease... FDA [finalized informed consent guidance](#) for IRBs, clinical investigators, and sponsors.

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Healthcare law and policy news

A US [appeals court ruling](#) maintained access to the abortion pill mifepristone, but [with continued restrictions](#) such as revoked access to mail-order prescriptions.

HHS and [consumer/patient groups](#) separately [urged a judge to dismiss the Chamber of Commerce's lawsuit](#) to stop the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program; [PhRMA](#), [Bristol-Myers Squibb](#), and [Janssen](#) requested summary judgements, seeking an early ruling to [stop the program](#).

OHSU and Legacy Health [plan to merge](#)... National Quality Forum and Joint Commission are [strategically affiliating](#)... Pitchbook [reported private equity healthcare deal volume fell](#) 23.7% during Q2, the [6th straight quarter](#) of volume decline... Justice Department [requested more information on UnitedHealth Group's acquisition](#) of Amedisys.

Blue Shield of California [will modify its CVS Caremark PBM](#) contracting arrangement to partner with other companies, including Amazon and Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company... Epic [will integrate Abridge's generative AI](#) for clinical documentation into its EHR workflow... Amazon Pharmacy [introduced automatic coupons to provide savings](#) on 15+ insulin and diabetes care brands.

A [Neurology study found just 8% of older adults](#) with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage Alzheimer's disease [may be prescribed Eisai's drug, Leqembi, based on clinical trial exclusion](#) criteria... KFF [reported two-thirds of American adults](#) have personal/familial experience with alcohol or drug addiction... An American System of Health-System Pharmacists survey found [99% of hospital pharmacists reported drug shortages](#), resulting in 97% using therapeutic alternatives and 85% using rationing criteria.

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