



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

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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](#).

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Healthcare regulatory news

FDA [approved Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 booster vaccines](#); CDC [recommended everyone 6 months+](#) receive an updated vaccine... HHS [will require Regeneron](#) to offer the list price of its Project NextGen COVID-19 monoclonal antibody at or below international prices.

DEA plans [another written comment period](#) for its telemedicine prescribing proposed rule, likely extending pandemic-related policies.

CMS [announced 34 drugs subject to inflation rebates and reduced beneficiary coinsurance](#) in Q4 2023... Preliminary CMS data show [78% of hospitals will receive readmission penalties](#) in FY24, up from [FY23 \(75%\)](#).

FTC [warned drug manufacturers](#) of possible legal action for [improper Orange Book listings](#) intended to delay generic competition.

GAO [reported Medicare Part D plans received \\$48.6B](#) in manufacturer rebates in 2021, and recommended CMS monitor effects of rebates on formularies and beneficiary spending.

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Healthcare law and policy news

President Biden [announced new Cancer Moonshot initiatives](#), including a \$240M ARPA-H cancer research investment.

Moderna will collaborate with Immutis ([up to \\$1.8B](#)) on [mRNA-based cancer research programs](#)... Froedtert Health and ThedaCare [finalized merger plans](#)... Walmart is [reportedly exploring acquiring](#) a majority stake in ChenMed... Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center [plan to partner on a freestanding cancer](#) hospital.

L.A. Care [will pay HHS \\$1.3M](#) to settle potential HIPAA violations... Kaiser Permanente [will pay California \\$49M](#) to settle allegations of illegally disposing of medical waste and protected patient information... Walgreens and Pearl Health [announced a value-based care strategic partnership](#)... Jazz Pharmaceuticals [will restrict 340B discounts](#) for its childhood epilepsy medication, the 25th manufacturer to impose 340B restrictions... GoodRx [will offer](#) 40% discounts, on average, for nearly 200 medications at Walgreens.

Fair Health reported [59.4% of ground ambulance rides in 2022 were out-of-network](#), down only slightly from 2018 (63.7%)... A BCBSA [analysis found the cost of six procedures were "substantially higher"](#) at hospital outpatient departments, compared to ambulatory surgery centers or physicians' offices.

Washington Post reported the [number of opioid pills shipped in the US fell 45% from 2011-2019](#), even as fatal overdoses increased... Census data show the US [uninsured rate fell to 7.9% in 2022](#), tying the record low in 2017 .

The House [plans to vote](#) next week on a tri-committee [transparency, PBM reform, and health extenders bill](#).

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