



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

Center for Healthcare
Regulatory Insight



December 20, 2023 | Issue 302

Editor's note

Due to the holidays, we are providing an early issue of ATW 360 this week and will not publish next Friday, December 29th. We'll be back with our next issue on January 5th.

We wish you the best of the holiday season and a great New Year!

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 to this email with any comments or requests.

[> Subscribe here](#)



Healthcare regulatory news

CMS [announced](#) the [Transforming Maternal Health \(TMaH\) Model](#) to support up to 15 states in developing [whole-person pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care](#) approaches, including expanded access to maternal health providers.

HHS-Labor-Treasury [finalized](#) an amended [\\$115 administrative fee](#) for the surprise billing independent resolution process; the [dispute resolution portal also reopened](#) for batched disputes.

Department of Labor [proposed rescinding](#) the 2018 association health plan (AHP) rule and reevaluating AHP criteria.

CMS [data show](#) 5 states accounted for 54.1% (1.2M of 2.2M) of all children disenrolled from Medicaid from March through September 2023, with highest disenrollment in non-expansion states... HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra [urged 9 states to adopt additional federal strategies](#) to prevent further disenrollments.

FDA released [draft guidance](#) on use of real-world data/evidence in medical device approval decisions... FDA [granted priority review](#) to Merck's experimental pneumococcal vaccine.

—4



Healthcare law and policy news

Department of Justice (DOJ) and FTC [finalized](#) updated [Merger Guidelines](#).

DOJ [asked a federal judge](#) to [transfer/dismiss a Humana lawsuit](#) challenging Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) program changes.

Following [an appeals court decision](#) finding their merger anticompetitive, [Illumina plans to divest Grail](#)... Elevance Health and BCBS Louisiana [are reattempting a merger](#), with the Blues plan seeking to reorganize as a for-profit... EQT Private Equity [plans to acquire Zeus](#)... Jefferson and Lehigh Valley Health Network [plan to merge](#), creating a 30 hospital system... HCSC and Elevance are [reportedly exploring purchasing](#) Cigna's Medicare Advantage business... Community Health Network will pay \$345M to settle [False Claims Act violations](#).

Driven by an [AI Executive Order](#) in October, 28 payers and providers [made voluntary commitments](#) on safety, security, and transparency of AI use in healthcare.

A *Washington Post* investigation found [nearly 100 people have died after wandering away](#) or being left unattended outside of assisted-living and memory-care facilities since 2018.

A *JAMA Health Forum* analysis found facility fees for colonoscopies at hospitals were approximately 55% higher than those at ambulatory surgical centers in the same county with the same insurer... A *Gallup survey* found Americans' assessment of care provided in the US healthcare system has declined for nearly every healthcare entity since 2010; nurses remain the highest rated (82% of respondents rate their care as excellent/good).



Questions or comments, please send to us-hclspractice@kpmg.com.

kpmg.com/socialmedia



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

You have received this message from KPMG LLP. If you wish to unsubscribe from Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less, please [click here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe from all KPMG communications, please [click here](#).

KPMG LLP, 3 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ 07645

© 2023 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. NDP295619-1E

The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.