



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



January 5, 2024 | Issue 303

## Editor's note

Since we did not publish last week, we've included a brief roundup of significant news from the remainder of 2023.

*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 Florida's](#) plan to [import prescription drugs](#) from Canada.

President Biden [issued a presidential determination](#), announced in November, giving HHS more authority to increase essential medicine production through the Defense Production Act.

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## Healthcare law and policy news

California became the [first state to offer health insurance](#) for all eligible undocumented immigrants.

A [district court granted](#) the [FTC's request](#) to temporarily block IQVIA's acquisition of Propel Media while it reviews antitrust concerns.

BJC Healthcare and Saint Luke's Health System [completed their \\$10B merger](#)... Cigna is [reportedly exploring sale](#) of its Medicare Advantage business to HCSC... Elevance Health [will acquire Paragon Healthcare](#)... Novo Nordisk [signed two research deals](#) (up to \$532M each) to develop metabolic-related drugs... Novartis will [pay Voyager Therapeutics \\$100M upfront](#) to co-discover/develop genetic disorder gene therapy candidates... BrightSpring Health [plans to go public](#).

Eli Lilly [launched an "end-to-end" digital health platform](#) for patients with obesity, migraine and diabetes... Beginning April 1, CVS Caremark will [remove Humira from major national commercial template formularies](#) in favor of biosimilar versions.

Reuters reported [FDA approved 55 innovative therapies](#) in 2023 containing previously-unapproved active ingredients/molecules, up from 37 in 2022 and 51 in 2021... A 3 Axis Advisors data analysis found drug manufacturers [will raise US prices on 500+ drugs](#) in early January.

Drug Channels [reported brand-name drug prices increased](#) about 5% in 2023; however, net prices fell for the sixth consecutive year (7.4% after adjusting for inflation)... A Commonwealth Fund [analysis found list prices](#) for the first 10 drugs selected for Medicare price negotiation are, on average, three times higher in the US than other high-income countries.

A [JAMA Pediatrics study found](#) ChatGPT failed to accurately diagnose 83/100 pediatric case studies reviewed... A [Pediatrics study found](#) 21.4% of Medicaid-insured children taking prescription drugs experienced a serious drug-drug interaction in 2019.

Fitch Ratings [reported](#) the US [nonprofit hospitals labor outlook is stabilizing](#), with the lowest job opening rate (6.4%) since early 2021... Turquoise Health [reported 5,763 \(90.7%\) hospitals have posted](#) required machine-readable files on service rates, up 562 from a year ago, and 83.1% have included a "substantial amount" of negotiated rates; 200+ payers have posted required data, up from 67 in July 2022.

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## Brief Roundup of News from December 20<sup>th</sup> to December 29<sup>th</sup>

- CMS [proposed a retrospective, expedited appeals process](#) for beneficiaries who had inpatient hospital stays changed to outpatient observation status
- HHS, Treasury, and Labor will extend until March 14 the [deadline for parties to initiate a new surprise billing batch dispute](#) or address a previously initiated dispute that may have been impacted by

temporary shutdown of the independent dispute resolution (IDR) portal

- HHS announced that [more than 15M individuals enrolled](#) in 2024 ACA marketplace coverage through HealthCare.gov and more than 4M enrolled through state-run marketplaces, a 33% total increase from last year
- FDA released two guidance documents on use of real-world data and real-world evidence in [drug submissions](#) and from [registries](#)
- A STAT analysis of [OCR data](#) found as many as 116M individuals were impacted by large health data breaches in 2023, more than double the number from 2022 (57M)
- Bristol Myers Squibb plans to [acquire Karuna Therapeutics \(\\$14B\)](#) and [RayzeBio \(\\$4.1B\)](#)
- AstraZeneca [plans to acquire Gracell Biotechnologies](#) (up to \$1.2B)
- A [JAMA study found](#) private equity acquisition of hospitals was associated with a 25.4% increase in hospital-acquired adverse events/conditions compared to controls
- 19 senators [urged HHS to drop its appeal](#) of a federal district court decision permitting use of drug copay accumulators

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