



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](#).

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Healthcare regulatory news

CMS [finalized a rule](#) to [facilitate exchange of healthcare data](#) by impacted payers, including through electronic prior authorization (PA) processes, and improve PA decision-making/transparency.

CMS announced the [Innovation in Behavioral Health Model](#) aiming to [improve health outcomes for Medicare/Medicaid populations](#) with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorder.

HHS [launched a resource hub](#) for partners to [access Medicaid/CHIP renewal and coverage transition](#) resources.

FDA [expanded approval](#) of the gene therapy Casgevy to include use in [patients age 12+ with transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia](#) and authorized the [first AI-powered medical device](#) to detect skin cancers.

ARPA-H [announced](#) a [program to improve rural health](#) access/outcomes.

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Healthcare law and policy news

Congress [passed a short-term continuing resolution \(CR\)](#) to extend federal government funding into March; the CR [extends certain healthcare programs](#) and [delays DSH cuts](#).

Supreme Court heard [oral arguments in a case](#) with [significant implications](#) for how federal agencies interpret ambiguous statutory language.

Following [HHS dropping its appeal](#) of a federal court decision, drug manufacturer [copay assistance will count](#) toward patients' deductibles and out-of-pocket costs.

A [MedPAC staff analysis projected](#) CMS will pay Medicare Advantage plans [\\$88B more than it would for fee-for-service beneficiaries](#) in 2024, driven by coding (\$54B) and favorable selection (\$36B)... MedPAC [recommended](#) 2025 [pay increases for hospitals and physicians](#) and cuts for post-acute care providers/facilities.

Hudson Regional Hospital and CarePoint Health System [plan to merge](#) into a new health system, Hudson Health... General Catalyst's [HATCo plans to acquire Summa Health](#)... Novartis backed off [pursuit plans for Cytokinetics](#)... Microsoft [announced general availability](#) of its clinical documentation automation tool in Epic's EHR software.

Wall Street Journal reported [drug companies increased list prices of 775 brand-name drugs](#) (a median of 4.5%) in early January... A *Health Affairs* study found [physicians commonly lack familiarity with drug/medical device regulatory practices](#) and often [believe data used for approvals are more rigorous](#) than required... A [JAMA study found](#) health care premiums for employer-sponsored coverage represented 17.7% of employee compensation in 2019, up from 7.9% in 1988, with [increased earnings inequality by race/ethnicity](#)... A [Lancet review article](#) summarized [widespread patterns of racial/ethnic inequities](#) in US pediatric care quality.

OCR data show [more than 133M individuals were impacted](#) by health data breaches in 2023.

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