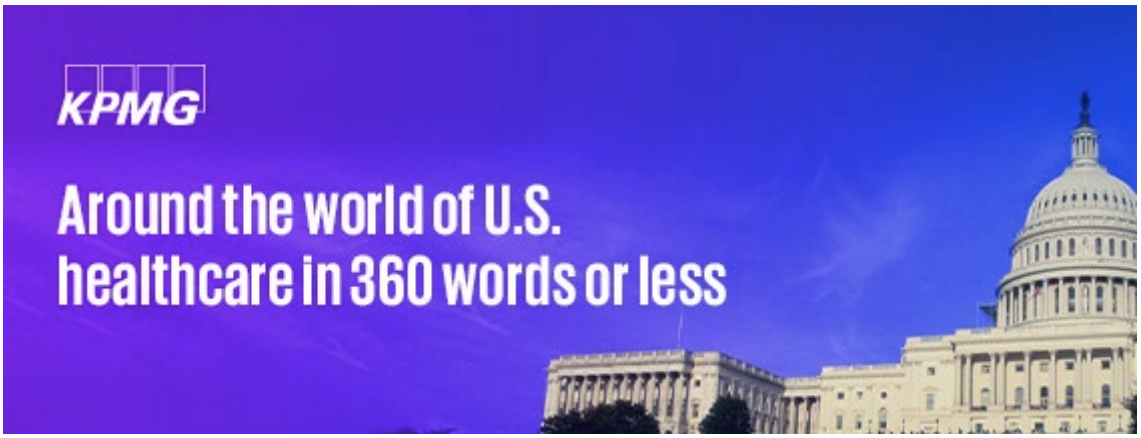

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Editor's note

This series is produced by KPMG Healthcare and is intended to be short and succinct, less than 360 words, to provide a weekly digestible bite of healthcare regulatory, policy, and industry news relevant to our clients. Links are provided to source material (proposed and final regulations, agency guidance and press releases, reports, research, etc.) when available. 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

The FDA finalized a rule on laboratory-developed tests (LDTs) reclassifying LDTs as medical devices/in vitro diagnostic tests, subject to the entire FDA approval process.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is investing $105M in 100+ community-based organizations to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in communities with infant mortality rates 1.5x or greater than the national average.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued a final rule affirming nondiscrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in HHS-funded programs and services… The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) finalized a rule that protects LGBTQI+ youth in foster care by ensuring placements are free from harassment, mistreatment, and abuse.

Healthcare law and policy news

In a new lawsuit, Allegiance Health Management alleges that MultiPlan and several major payers, including Aetna, UnitedHealth Group, and Humana, engaged in anticompetitive practices by deflating out-of-network reimbursement rates; MultiPlan used its repricing tools to generate out-of-network payments below benchmark rates for more than 700 payers, resulting in $22B and $22.9B in "underpayment" in 2022 and 2023, respectively, according to the complaint.

A federal judge dismissed Johnson & Johnson's and Bristol Myers Squibb Co.'s bids to block the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program, which requires these drugmakers to negotiate the prices of their blood clot prevention drugs with the Medicare program or pay penalties.

Walmart Health closes all 51 of its clinics and its virtual care platform, citing costs and a challenging reimbursement environment… CVS Health acquired Medicare Advantage brokerage, Hella Health, expanding its technology platform to provide direct-to-consumer Medicare enrollment.

The Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit watchdog organization, found improved patient experience scores in at least 70% of hospitals and an improvement in overall safety grades for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oregon is the first state to use Medicaid money purely to help prevent the health impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate-related disasters. In March, Oregon began shipping air conditioners, air purifiers, and power banks to its most vulnerable residents.

New data from the CDC demonstrates that people living in rural areas are more likely to die early from five leading causes than their urban counterparts.

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