



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](#).

We welcome your feedback. Let us know if KPMG can help. Please [reply here to me](#), **Larry Kocot**, principal and national leader, KPMG Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight or simply reply to this email with any comments or requests.

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Special Supplement: COVID-19 News

In light of the continuing daily volume of COVID-19 activity and news, we have summarized [COVID-19 news for the week in this special supplement](#).





Healthcare regulatory news

CMS [extended](#) the 2022 ACA [open enrollment period by a month \(through January 15\)](#) and expanded navigator services.

CDC is investing [\\$2.1B in healthcare-setting infection prevention/control](#)... HRSA awarded [\\$350M to support maternal and child health](#)... CMS awarded [\\$15M to 20 states](#) to expand Medicaid community-based mobile crisis intervention services... ONC awarded [\\$73M to 10 colleges/universities](#) to expand the diversity of the public health IT workforce.

FDA released a [commitment letter for the third iteration of the Biosimilar User Fee](#) Amendments program... FDA approved the [first biosimilar to Roche's Lucentis](#).

HRSA [referred six pharmaceutical manufacturers](#) to the OIG for failing to comply with 340B program statutory obligations... [OIG found that 20 health insurers](#) drove a ["disproportionate" share](#) of the \$9.2 billion in 2017 Medicare Advantage payments from diagnoses reported only on chart reviews and health-risk assessments... OIG recommended [states improve oversight of telehealth](#) for behavioral health.



Healthcare law and policy news

Department of Justice charged 138 individuals with involvement in [\\$1.4B in telemedicine-related fraud](#).

A [federal district court ruled](#) that the FDA's [drug compounding MOU violates the law](#) and cannot be enforced.

Ohio reached a [\\$808 million settlement](#) with Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, and McKesson over their role in the opioid epidemic... Centene and Humana [separately sued Merck for alleged pay-for-delay tactics](#).

HCA will [purchase five Steward hospitals](#) in Utah... Walgreens [paid \\$970M to increase ownership](#) stake in Shields Health Solutions... Boehringer Ingelheim [acquired Abexxa Biologics](#)... Humana is [rumored to be considering acquiring](#) Centene... Boston Scientific [plans to acquire Devoro](#) (\$336)... The European Commission [intends to intervene to block](#) Illumina's acquisition of Grail.

Apple is [developing iPhone features](#) to diagnose depression and cognitive decline.

A [JAMA study found](#) inpatient mortality rates for acute myocardial infarction [decreased from 9.4% to 5% after rural hospitals were acquired](#) by a larger health system... AMA [reported a 44.4% decrease in opioid prescribing](#) over the past decade... KFF found [Medicare beneficiaries paid an average](#) of \$914, \$874, and \$230 out-of-pocket for hearing, dental, and vision services, respectively, in 2018... An [AHA-commissioned report estimated](#) hospitals could lose \$54B this year due to greater expenses and sicker patients... An NIH study found [methamphetamine overdoses deaths nearly tripled](#) from 2015 to 2019.



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

Succeeding in the new reality

Visit the COVID-19 resource center for KPMG analysis, insights, and perspectives.

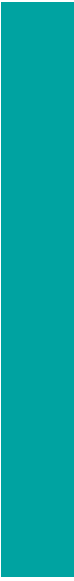


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