



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



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Editor's note

In observance of the holiday, we will not publish on Friday, November 26th. However, we want to take this opportunity to provide a short update and extend our best wishes for a healthy and Happy Thanksgiving

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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Healthcare regulatory news

An IRS [proposed rule](#) specifies that Medicaid coverage limited to COVID-19 testing and diagnostic services provided under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act does meet the definition of ACA "minimum essential coverage."

FDA approved the first [treatment for the most common cause of dwarfism](#).





Healthcare law and policy news

The House [passed the Democrats' \\$1.7T social spending bill](#), which [includes several healthcare provisions](#); passage by the Senate is uncertain.

A *JAMA* study found [uneven performance by states on ensuring access](#) to opioid use disorder treatment during the pandemic.

Bain and Hellman & Friedman [acquired Athenahealth](#) (\$17B)... Bain Capital [purchased a majority stake in InnovaCare](#)... A pair of European investment groups are [considering a joint offer to purchase Novartis' generics business](#), Sandoz.



COVID-19 News

Following FDA authorization, CDC [expanded eligibility for COVID-19 booster doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's vaccines to all adults age 18](#) and older at least six months after receiving a second dose.

Pfizer and BioNTech reported that their [COVID-19 vaccine was 100% effective at preventing infections in adolescents ages 12 to 15](#) within four months of a second dose, with no serious safety concerns after six months.

The White House reported that over [90% of federal employees have received a COVID-19 vaccine dose](#); as a result of approved exceptions, 95% are compliant with the Administration's vaccine requirements.

Vice President Kamala Harris [announced \\$1.5B in federal funding](#) to address health workforce equity during and after the pandemic.

Two-thirds of Americans plan to [celebrate Thanksgiving with friends/family outside of their immediate household](#), regardless of vaccination status.

Anthony Fauci, the President's Chief Medical Advisor, said that [fully vaccinated families do not need to wear masks](#) during holiday celebrations.



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

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