



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

FTC voted unanimously to [investigate Pharmacy Benefit Managers](#) (PBMs) role in access and affordability of prescription drugs.

CMS announced the [launch of its National Quality Strategy](#), with stakeholder listening sessions beginning this summer.

The House passed [FDA user fee legislation](#) including provisions to increase generic drug competition, enhance clinical trial diversity, and reform FDA's accelerated approval pathway.

CMS proposes to [suppress public access to key hospital safety data](#), citing impact of COVID-19.

CMS [held a forum for the general public](#) to present information regarding HCPCS coding requests for new [products, supplies and services for Medicare](#) beneficiaries.



Healthcare law and policy news

States [will have an additional year to use American Rescue Plan funds](#) to strengthen home care workforce and expand access to services.

A [Supreme Court ruling](#) allows states to seek reimbursement from Medicaid beneficiaries' injury settlements.

[Oracle](#) completed its \$28.4B acquisition of Cerner...[Eagle Pharmaceuticals](#) (NJ) acquired Britain-based Acacia Pharma for \$104M...[Singing River Health Systems'](#) board voted to pursue sale or merger.

A clinical trial for a [rectal cancer treatment](#) found 100% of patients achieved complete remission... Cancer treatment [Enhertu](#) was found to reduce risk of death by 36% in patients with advanced breast cancer with chemotherapy... [Adicet Bio](#) reported a 75% overall response rate and complete response in a Phase 1 trial for a potential treatment for aggressive Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

A *JAMA* study found only [6% of hospitals comply with the federal Hospital Price Transparency rule, hospitals in highly concentrated markets are even less likely to comply](#)...CMS issued its first fines to two GA hospitals for [failure to comply with the rule](#).

A *JAMA* study found the [median launch price of new prescription drugs has increased 20% per year from 2008-2021](#).

A Survey found 8 in 10 [Black patients with metastatic breast cancer would consider participating in a clinical trial but are not offered the chance](#).

Teladoc is facing a [shareholder class-action lawsuit](#) over allegedly downplaying challenges to their mental health and chronic care businesses and violating federal securities laws...HCA Healthcare faces a second antitrust [class-action lawsuit](#) over price inflation allegations following its acquisition of Mission Health.

A Shields Health Care Group data breach impacted [two million individuals and 50 facilities](#) in March 2022.



Questions or comments, please send to
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COVID-19 News Supplement

Center for Healthcare Policy Insight



COVID-19 by the Numbers

Approximately [85.2 million COVID-19 cases](#) have been documented in the US, with the death toll exceeding 1 million... As of June 8, 2022, the current 7-day moving average of daily new cases (109,032) increased 7.5% compared with the previous 7-day moving average (100,915); meanwhile, the current 7-day moving average of new deaths (306) has increased 15.7% compared with the previous 7-day moving average (258)...[global cases and deaths were down 27% and 17%](#), respectively, over the past two weeks.

The BA.2.12.1 variant now [accounts for 62% of COVID-19 cases](#), while BA.2 accounts for up to 24% of cases and BA.5 accounts for 7% of cases.

More than [12 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered across 184 countries](#)... Over 590 million COVID-19 [vaccine doses have been administered](#) in the US... Over 258 million Americans ([approximately 82.9% of Americans 5 and older](#)) have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; over 221.5 million Americans are fully vaccinated (70.9% of Americans 5 and older); over 103.9 million Americans have received a booster or additional dose (just 47% of those fully vaccinated).

Executive and Administrative Action

The Biden Administration has [shifted \\$10B in federal COVID-19 funds](#) from test procurement to secure an additional round of vaccines and treatments.

The Biden Administration has set aside [10 million doses of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for children under five](#) to be shipped as early as June 20th, pending FDA authorization.

Healthcare Law, Business, and Policy News

CDC is investigating [100 deaths that may be attributed to long-COVID-19](#).

CMS ended [the pandemic-related Temporary Nursing Assistant \(TNA\) hiring flexibility](#) for nursing homes... American Health Care Association survey found [87% of nursing homes face moderate or high staffing shortages](#), and 73% expressed closure concerns over staffing challenges.

CMS released [new guidance](#) for states with ten priority actions to prepare for the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding. [KPMG](#) recently published a primer on the top 5 health care issue to watch during the unwinding.

A preprint study found [independent laboratories may be inflating costs of COVID-19 tests](#), which may be passed on through higher consumer health premiums.

Surveillance, Testing, and Treatment

An [FDA advisory panel recommended Novavax COVID-19 vaccine](#) for emergency use authorization in adults.

Pfizer will [invest \\$120M](#) in a Michigan plant to manufacture ingredients for its COVID-19 treatment, Paxlovid.

A study found that Moderna's [bivalent COVID-19 booster](#), which targets the omicron variant and the original coronavirus, produces a stronger immune response in adults than its current vaccine.

CDC data shows [U.S. has wasted 82 million COVID-19 vaccine doses](#) (11% of federally distributed doses) since December 2020.