



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight

February 24, 2023 | Issue 260

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 [is not reconsidering its national coverage determination policy](#) for monoclonal antibodies directed against amyloid for treating Alzheimer's... CMS [proposed](#) a revised methodology for calculating the hospital-specific limit on Medicaid DSH payments.

Office of National Drug Control [is encouraging states to use Medicaid](#) funds to cover substance use disorder treatments for incarcerated individuals.

FDA [approved the first treatment for geographic atrophy](#), a leading cause of blindness in older people, and a [Sanofi long-lasting hemophilia A therapy](#)... FDA granted accelerated approval to the [first non-immunosuppressive drug for IgA nephropathy](#), a rare and deadly kidney disease... FDA [issued the first four civil monetary penalties](#) against manufacturers of unauthorized vapes.

GAO [urged stronger FDA oversight of institutional review boards](#).

CBO [published estimates of the budgetary impacts of Inflation Reduction Act](#) prescription drug provisions..

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Healthcare law and policy news

CMS [data show](#) current Medicare Advantage (MA) [enrollment is nearly 31.2M, up 7.1% from 2022](#)... Commonwealth Fund [reported MA beneficiary voluntary plan disenrollment](#) averaged 17% in 2021, up from 10% in 2017.

Humana will [exit the employer commercial health insurance market](#) and focus on government-sponsored products, such as MA.

After [FTC chose not to intervene](#), Amazon [closed its \\$3.9B acquisition of One Medical](#)... Following [FTC scrutiny over their proposed merged](#), SUNY Upstate Medical Center and Crouse Health [agreed to a “strategic affiliation agreement”](#)... UnitedHealth Group [completed its acquisition](#) of LHC Group... Elation Health [acquired Lightning MD](#)... [Redox and Google Cloud will partner](#) to accelerate healthcare data interoperability for plans, providers and digital health organizations.

A [Milbank Memorial Fund-supported Primary Care Scorecard](#) concluded primary care is systemically underinvested; the workforce is strained; access to primary care is declining, particularly in underserved areas; and federal funding is lacking.

Cardinal Health [reported 62% of rheumatologists and 86% of gastroenterologists are “very comfortable”](#) prescribing biosimilars to patients; over 60% of providers are only comfortable prescribing an adalimumab (Humira) biosimilar if it has interchangeability designation.

A review of 373,574 EHR records found the decline in cancer screenings during the pandemic [was not correlated with a significant increase](#) in the rate of cancer diagnoses (2020-2022).

An [Axios-Ipsos survey found](#) 50% of Americans believe lowering healthcare and drug costs should be the top government public health priority.

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Special Section: COVID-19, Other Respiratory Illnesses, and mpox News

CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) unanimously recommended using Bavarian Nordic A/S's [Jynneos mpox vaccine](#) for at-risk adults in the case of a future outbreak of the virus; the committee will discuss today whether to move forward with recommending an annual, bivalent COVID-19 vaccine dose.

An [Urban Institute survey](#) found, as of December 2022, 64.3% of Medicaid enrolled families were not aware they could lose coverage at the end of the public health emergency (PHE).

Merck disclosed [its COVID-19 antiviral was not effective at reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection in people living with someone who has tested positive...](#) A [Canadian study](#) found Paxlovid significantly [reduced risk of hospitalization and death](#) from COVID-19 in high-risk individuals.

FDA [granted priority review](#) to Pfizer's RSV vaccine for pregnant individuals to help protect against severe infection for infants from birth through six months.

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