



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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Healthcare regulatory news

CMS [proposed](#) increasing FY2024 inpatient hospital payments by [2.8%](#) ([\\$3.3B](#)) and decreasing long-term care payments by 2.5% (\$59M), while advancing health equity goals.

OCR [proposed modifying](#) HIPAA to [improve reproductive health](#) privacy.

ONC issued [proposals](#) furthering [implementing the 21st Century Cure Act and enhancing the Health IT Certification](#) Program.

FDA is [seeking comment](#) on a Data and Technology Strategic Plan... FDA advisory panels will soon meet to [consider broader approval of Biogen-Eisai's Alzheimer's drug, Legembi](#), and accelerated approval of [Sarepta's Duchenne muscular dystrophy](#) treatment.

EPA [proposed restricting emission of ethylene oxide](#), a carcinogenic gas used to sterilize some medical devices.

OIG [recommended CMS strengthen processes](#) for reporting nursing home inspection results.

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Healthcare law and policy news

President Biden [announced plans to expand health coverage eligibility](#) to DACA recipients.

A federal [judge issued an order suspending FDA's approval](#) of the abortion pill, mifepristone; a federal appeals court [partially stayed the ruling](#), but [allowed restrictions lifted since 2016](#), such as telehealth prescribing, to be reinstated... Department of Justice [asked the Supreme Court to intervene](#).

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer [sued to block generics of Eliquis](#) for patent infringement... Juul will [pay \\$462M to six states plus DC to settle allegations it violated state laws](#) by targeting advertising to underage teens.

Froedtert Health and ThedaCare [plan to merge](#) into [a \\$5B system](#)... Express Scripts [announced](#) a 100%-cost-passthrough PBM model and a flat-copay-benefit-plan option... Microsoft [expanded cloud](#) capabilities for payers and launched AI capabilities to leverage SDOH... Prothena [contracted with Walgreens to recruit](#) Alzheimer's drug clinical trial participants.

ICER [concluded](#) sickle cell gene therapies [could be cost-effective](#) at \$2M in certain instances... An [ONC study found](#) 42% of surveyed hospitals observed some behavior perceived to be information blocking... Lown Institute [reported 77% of evaluated nonprofit hospitals received more in 2020 tax breaks](#) than they spent on charity care, totaling \$14.2B.

KFF [reported 21% of Americans have been threatened by a gun](#) and 19% have a family member who was killed by a gun, including by suicide... CDC reported: (1) the [suicide rates increased 4%](#) from 2020 to 2021; (2) [sexually transmitted infections](#) cases reached a [record 2.5M](#) in 2021; and (3) 20.9% of adults [experienced chronic pain](#) in 2021.

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Special Section: COVID-19 News

President Biden [signed legislation to immediately end](#) the COVID-19 national emergency; the public health emergency is still [scheduled to end](#)

[on May 11th](#) according to Administration statements... The White House is [launching a \\$5B “Project Next Gen” to accelerate development](#) of new COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

The inpatient hospital payment proposed rule [would continue the New COVID-19 Treatments Add-On Payment \(NCTAP\)](#), which provided hospitals with additional payments when they treat patients with certain new products approved or authorized to treat COVID-19, for patients discharged through September 30, 2023.

A [MedPAC staff analysis found](#) that expanded use of telehealth likely improved access to care for some Medicare beneficiaries during the pandemic, but that telehealth may not have improved quality or reduced costs.

[A JAMA study found](#) maternal mortality risk was 14 times higher for pregnant patients with COVID-19 than for those without it between April and December 2020.

A predictive analytics firm estimated [a 27.5% chance that a pandemic as deadly as COVID-19](#) could take place in the next 10 years.

FDA's vaccines advisory committee will meet next month to consider [Pfizer's application for use of its RSV vaccine during pregnancy](#).

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