



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

President Biden [signed an Executive Order](#) to, among other things, [increase access to childcare and long-term care](#).

The [2024 ACA Marketplace final rule](#) phases in a [limit on non-standardized plans](#), creates a SEP for eligible individuals losing Medicaid/CHIP coverage, and includes new essential community provider categories for [substance use disorder and mental health facilities](#).

CMS [released ownership information](#) for all Medicare-certified [hospice](#) and [home health agencies](#).

HHS will [offer free online cybersecurity training](#) for healthcare workers.

HHS [released guidance encouraging states](#) to apply for a Medicaid demonstration to [increase healthcare for individuals leaving carceral facilities](#).

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Healthcare law and policy news

The Supreme Court [extended the hold](#) on restrictions to mifepristone until midnight tonight.

President Biden is [expected to nominate National Cancer Institute Director, Monica Bertagnolli](#), as NIH Director.

Merck [will acquire Prometheus Biosciences](#) (\$10.8B)... GlaxoSmithKline [will acquire Bellus](#) (\$2B)... Epic [expanded collaboration with Microsoft to integrate AI technology](#) into its EHR software... Kaufman Hall reported [health system M&A transaction value](#) was \$12.4B in Q1 2023, up from \$3B in Q1 2022, with increasing transactions between mid-sized regional systems.

Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company [created a network of 36 pharmacies](#) to [accept a prescription drug discount card](#)... Express Scripts announced [an initiative to increase reimbursement for independent rural pharmacies](#).

Emergent BioSolutions [plans to charge "less than \\$50"](#) for a two-pack of over-the-counter naloxone.

ICER [concluded](#) Eisai-Biogen's Alzheimer's drug lecanemab [does not show a net health benefit over current treatment options](#) and represents "low" long-term value at current cost... A [JAMA study found 27 of 50 top-selling Medicare drugs](#) had a "low added therapeutic benefit" rating from European health technology assessment organizations.

Turquoise Health reported [84% of hospitals have posted machine-readable pricing data files](#), up from [76% in Q3 2022](#)... A [Health Affairs study](#) found hospital cash prices were lower than median commercial negotiated rates in 47% of instances examined... A [National Council of State Boards of Nursing survey](#) found [nearly 100,000 registered nurses left the field during the pandemic](#) and nearly one-fifth of RNs (900,000 more) could leave by 2027... Health Care Cost Institute [reported healthcare spending for individuals](#) with employer-sponsored insurance increased 15% in 2021 and 21.2% cumulatively from 2017 to 2021.

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Special Section: COVID-19 News

FDA (1) [authorized a bivalent-only COVID-19 vaccine regimen](#) for individuals ages 6 months and older and declared that Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's two-dose monovalent COVID-19 vaccine regimens are no longer authorized for use; and (2) authorized a second omicron-targeted bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 65 and older or who are immunocompromised... CDC's vaccine advisory [committee broadly supported](#), and the [CDC Director recommended](#), the changes.

The Biden Administration [announced a \\$1.1B program](#) to cover COVID-19 vaccines for unvaccinated individuals through 2024.

HHS [announced amendments to the PREP Act emergency declaration](#), including permitting pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to continue administering COVID-19 vaccines and test and influenza vaccines through December 2024.

AstraZeneca reported its [antibody treatment appeared effective at neutralizing all known COVID-19 variants](#) in immunocompromised patients and that it could be available by the end of the year.

A group of infectious disease doctors and epidemiologists [proposed dropping universal mask requirements](#) in healthcare settings.

A [STAT-Harris Poll survey found](#) 46% of Americans are familiar with RSV, and of those familiar, 71% are concerned their children may contract RSV and 57% are concerned their older parents or relatives may get sick.

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