



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



May 26, 2023 | Issue 273

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](#) Medicaid [drug price transparency policies](#), including creating [a drug price verification survey](#), requiring reporting of PBM payments in managed care plans, and [addressing misclassification of drugs](#) in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.

FDA approved: Paxlovid, the oral [COVID-19 antiviral treatment](#) for high-risk adults; OPVEE, the [first nasal spray for overdose](#) reversals; and, Brixadi, an [extended-release form of buprenorphine](#)... FDA [requires](#) an additional [three weeks](#) to complete review of Sarepta's DMD gene therapy.

CMS [will continue paying](#) for telehealth services provided [by all facility-based physical/occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists](#) through at least 2023.

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Healthcare law and policy news

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy [issued an advisory on the impacts of social media](#) on youth mental health.

Four companies [agreed to purchase parts of Pear Therapeutics](#)... Novartis will [buy an Avrobio gene therapy \(\\$88M\)](#) for a rare genetic condition... Ironwood Pharmaceuticals [will acquire VectivBio \(\\$1.15B\)](#)... Boston Scientific [cancelled its acquisition of M.I. Tech](#) due to regulatory concerns.

Epic announced [22 health systems and other organizations will join the TEFCA](#) interoperability framework... Novo Nordisk [paused ads for its Wegovy obesity drug](#) due to surging demand... Novo Nordisk [will partner with ElevateBio on gene editing therapies](#) for rare and cardiometabolic diseases... Walgreens [asked a judge to vacate a \\$642M drug pricing dispute arbitration award](#) to Humana Health Plan... Johnson & Johnson [settled a patent infringement suit over Amgen's proposed biosimilar of Stelara](#).

House Energy and Commerce Committee [passed six healthcare bills](#), including legislation on [price transparency](#), [PBM oversight](#), delaying of DSH cuts, and site neutral drug administration payment... House Oversight Committee [held a hearing on PBMs](#).

CBO [projected the 2023 uninsured rate will be a record low \(8.3%\)](#), but grow to 10.1% by 2033 as pandemic coverage expansion policies expire.

A [Federal Reserve survey found 28% of Americans went without some medical care](#) in 2022 due to unaffordability, up from 2021 (24%)... a [JAMA study found 20.2% of survey respondents were nonadherent to medication in 2022 due to costs](#)... Crowe reported [31% of Q1 2023 inpatient claims submitted to commercial payers were not paid after 90+ days](#), compared to just 11% of claims for traditional Medicare.

NIH-funded [researchers identified the dozen most common](#) long COVID symptoms.

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