



# 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 will increase FY2024 payments for [acute-care hospitals 3.1% \(\\$2.2B\)](#), [skilled nursing facilities 4.0% \(\\$1.4B\)](#), and [hospice 3.1% \(\\$780M\)](#)... CMS projected [average monthly Medicare Part D premiums will decrease 1.8% in 2024 to \\$55.50](#).

CMS Innovation Center announced the [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#), an 8-year voluntary model to [improve quality of life for Medicare beneficiaries with dementia](#) and reduce burden/strain on unpaid caregivers.

CMS and contractor Maximus [notified 612,000 Medicare beneficiaries of a data breach](#).

FDA [approved the second over-the-counter naloxone spray](#), manufactured by [the nonprofit Harm Reduction Therapeutics](#)... OMB is reviewing a [proposed rule asserting FDA authority to regulate](#) laboratory developed tests as medical devices.

CDC's ACIP [recommended use of a monoclonal antibody](#) to prevent RSV in infants/high-risk toddlers... USPSTF may [recommend COVID-19 screening](#) for coverage without cost-sharing.

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## Healthcare law and policy news

HHS [launched](#) the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice and NIH long COVID clinical trials... NIH [appointed Jeanne Marrazzo](#) as the next Director of NIAID.

Labor Department [sued UnitedHealth Group](#) for allegedly denying [thousands of emergency department and drug screening claims](#).

CDC data show the uninsured rate [reached an all-time low \(7.7%\)](#) in Q1 2023... CMS data show [715,000 individuals lost Medicaid coverage in April](#), 80% due to procedural reasons; KFF reports [3.8M have lost coverage](#) since redeterminations began.

Biogen [will acquire Reata \(\\$7.3B\)](#)... AstraZeneca [purchased early-stage rare disease gene therapies](#) from Pfizer... Microsoft [announced a five-year partnership with Duke Health](#) to advance AI in medicine... Amazon is [expanding its virtual clinical service, Amazon Clinic](#), nationwide.

A [JAMA study found](#) obesity/diabetes GLP-1 drugs manufacturers secured a median of 19.5 patents/product, extending exclusivity to 18.3 years... A [USC Schaeffer Center study projected](#) Medicare coverage of weight-loss therapies would save Medicare \$175-245B, depending on private insurance coverage... An Elevance Health [study found following a health system acquisition of independent hospitals](#), prices for commercially insured patients increased 5% and hospital readmissions for cardiac care patients increased 10-12%... March of Dimes [classified 36% of counties as "maternity care deserts" in 2022](#), up 2% from 2020... An [Urban Institute study found](#) 22% of Black parents reported being treated/judged unfairly in healthcare settings in the past year, compared to 13% of parents overall.

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