



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](#).

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Healthcare regulatory news

CDC [recommended](#) the first [maternal vaccine against RSV](#), intended to protect infants.

CMS announced [Medicare Advantage average monthly premiums will increase \\$0.64](#) in 2024 to \$18.50, while the number of enrollees is projected to increase from 31.6M to 33.8M.

An [Labor/HHS/Treasury FAQ](#) states that the Departments will begin enforcing Transparency in Coverage requirements that health plans publicly report prescription drug prices in machine-readable files.

HHS announced [42% of department employees would be furloughed](#) if the government shut down.

FDA [proposed labeling laboratory developed tests](#) as medical devices, allowing it to regulate such products the same as commercial diagnostics...

An FDA advisory panel [overwhelmingly declined \(17-1\) to recommend](#) approval of the [first stem cell treatment for ALS](#)... FDA [finalized guidance](#) on medical device cybersecurity design, labeling, and documentation... FDA [released an IT Strategy](#) for FY 2024-2027.

ARPA-H [announced three regional “hubs” and 10 “spoke” sites](#) and a [project to combat antimicrobial resistance](#).

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Healthcare law and policy news

President Biden [signed a law to overhaul the organ procurement/transplantation system](#).

North Carolina will [expand Medicaid beginning December 1](#).

Blue Cross Louisiana [halted merger plans with Elevance](#) (\$2.5B), but [may try again in 2024](#)... Tendo [will acquire MDsave \(\\$150M\)](#)... Virgin Pulse and HealthComp [will merge](#) (\$3B)... A [federal judge ruled](#) that Louisiana Children’s Medical Center’s purchase of three HCA hospitals is [exempt from federal pre-merger notification requirements](#), dismissing an FTC lawsuit.

Novo Nordisk [will partner with Valo Health \(up to \\$2.7B\)](#) on AI to discover/develop cardiometabolic treatments... Novartis will [spin off its Sandoz generic/biosimilar business](#) on October 4... Despite filing lawsuits challenging the program, [AstraZeneca](#), [Bristol Myers Squibb](#), [Boehringer Ingelheim](#), and [Merck](#) plan to participate in the Medicare Price Negotiation Program process.

Mercy and Microsoft [announced a multiyear partnership](#) to explore “more than four dozen” healthcare AI use cases... Boston Children’s Hospital and T-Mobile are [partnering to launch the first hybrid 5G network](#) at a health system... Costco will [offer members access to virtual health visits](#) through Sesame.

HRSA data show [discounted prescription drug purchases under the 340B program reached](#) a record \$53.7B in 2022, up 22.4% from 2021... An AHCA/NCAL-sponsored [analysis](#) projected federal nurse staffing requirements [would cost nursing homes \\$6.8B](#) or require dropping more than 287,000 residents.

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