



# 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

CMS [proposed](#) 2025 Medicare Advantage [\(MA\) and Part D reforms](#), including redefining “compensation” to set [a clear, fixed amount that agents/brokers can be paid](#), increasing prior authorization/utilization management oversight, updating behavioral health network adequacy standards, and allowing plans to substitute biologics with non-interchangeable biosimilars without requiring CMS approval.

FDA [approved](#) Eli Lilly's type 2 diabetes drug Mounjaro to treat obesity under the name Zepbound.

CMS [added a “birthing-friendly” designation](#) to its [Care Compare](#) online tool.

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## Healthcare law and policy news

President Biden [announced 1.6M individuals signed up for ACA marketplace coverage](#) in the first week of open enrollment, up 50% from last year.

The Senate [confirmed \(62-36\) Monica Bertagnolli](#) as NIH Director.

FTC is [challenging more than 100 patents](#), implicating 17 brand-name drug products [from 10 manufacturers](#), for improper/inaccurate Orange Book listings... A [federal district court ruled](#) HRSA [exceeded its authority by using a narrow interpretation](#) of a “patient” to limit access to 340B drug discounts.

Surescripts [acquired ActiveRADAR](#)... Virgin Pulse and HealthComp [completed their merger](#)... Amazon will begin [offering discounted One Medical memberships](#) to Prime subscribers.

MedPAC estimated that MA plans [were paid \\$65.4B and \\$50.8B more than fee-for-service levels in 2020 and 2021, respectively](#), due to favorable selection and coding differences.

Leapfrog Group [reported approximately 85% of hospitals](#) have improved performance on at least one of three common infections after significant increases during the pandemic; however, patient experience worsened for the second straight year... An [ICER analysis concluded](#) most large health plan formularies studied provide “fair access” to 18 treatments for several serious diseases, although [transparent coverage information is often lacking](#)... An AAFP study found [increased adoption of value-based payment models](#) decreased burnout among family physicians... AMA reported [57.8% of physician practices belonged to an ACO in 2022](#), up from 2016 (44%).

Moody's [upgraded the 2024 nonprofit hospital sector financial outlook](#) from “negative” to “stable.”

Senate Finance Committee [unanimously advanced](#) a [bill](#) to partially mitigate Medicare physician payment cuts, eliminate 2024/2025 DHS cuts, extend Advanced APM bonuses through 2024, reform PBM practices, increase mental health access, and extend expiring Medicare/Medicaid provisions... A [group of House Democrats](#) urged CMS to increase oversight of MA insurers' use of AI and algorithms to make coverage decisions.

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