



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

HHS [released](#) a [Data Strategy](#) focused on five priorities.

CMS released [revised guidance](#) on the Medicare [Part B](#) and [Part D](#) Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate program, and announced [48 drugs](#) subject to rebates and reduced beneficiary coinsurance in Q1 2024.

CMS [released guidance for states](#) to establish tools connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with home- and community-based services.

ONC issued a Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability [final rule](#), which [includes transparency requirements for AI](#) and other predictive algorithms used in certified health IT... ONC [announced the first five organizations](#) joining the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement.

FDA [approved two gene therapies](#) for sickle cell disease, including the [first FDA-approved treatment](#) using CRISPR gene-editing technology... FDA [announced an advisory committee](#) for genetic metabolic disease treatments.

GAO reported 490,000 *No Surprises Act* [billing disputes were submitted](#) through June 2023 (significantly more than expected), with 61% unresolved.

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Healthcare law and policy news

CMS [reported national health expenditures grew 4.1%](#) in 2022 to \$4.5T, led by [Medicaid spending growth](#) (9.6%); total health spending accounted for 17.3% of GDP, down from 18.2% in 2021.

Cigna [ended merger discussions with Humana](#), but announced a \$10B increase in stock buybacks... AstraZeneca [plans to acquire Icosavax](#) (\$1.1B)... Bristol Myers Squibb [will pay up to \\$8.4B \(\\$800M upfront\)](#) to co-develop/market a cancer therapy with SystImmune... KKR is [exploring buying a stake](#) in Cotiviti... Pfizer [completed its acquisition](#) of Seagen... Humana is facing [a second class action suit](#) for [allegedly using AI to deny](#) Medicare Advantage beneficiaries' care.

An [AMA analysis found](#), under current federal guidelines, 73% of MSA-level insurance markets were highly concentrated in 2022, up from 71% in 2014... An ICER [analysis](#) concluded [eight widely used medicines](#) had significant price increases in 2022 without new clinical evidence to justify increases, resulting in \$1.27B in additional costs... Turquoise Health [reported shoppable hospital services](#) costs increased 2% from Q1-Q3, consistent with overall inflation (1.9%).

The House passed the [Lower Costs, More Transparency Act](#), which [creates/codifies](#) insurer, hospital, and PBM transparency requirements; creates Part B drug site neutral payment; delays scheduled Medicaid DHS cuts; and extends community health center funding... The [House](#) and [Senate HELP Committee](#) also advanced reauthorization of SUPPORT Act opioid treatment and prevention programs.



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