



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



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Editor's note

This note is produced every Friday by [KPMG](#) 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 released a [proposed rule](#) strengthening oversight of Medicare accrediting organizations in response to [conflict of interest and performance concerns](#) identified by the agency.

CMS announced [changes to its data dissemination policy](#), eliminating physical access to certain CMS data, citing increased data breaches and data security risks; [researchers expressed concerns](#) regarding the impact on access to CMS data.

CMS issued [additional guidance](#) on the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, including outreach and education requirements, pharmacy processes, and operational considerations; the payment plan allows Medicare beneficiaries to spread prescription drug costs across monthly payments.

FTC/HHS issued a [RFI](#) on pharmaceutical group purchasing organizations' (GPOs) and drug wholesalers' compliance with antitrust laws and potential role in generic drug shortages.

HHS/HUD [announced](#) eight states and D.C. were selected for participation in the [Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator \(Accelerator\)](#); the inter-agency initiative aims to reduce homelessness by addressing health-related social needs... HHS [announced](#) six states were selected for participation in the Postpartum Maternal Health Collaborative, which funds initiatives to improve equity in post-partum care.



Healthcare law and policy news

Gilead Sciences Inc. to [acquire](#) CymaBay Therapeutics Inc., an experimental liver disease drug developer (\$4.3B).

A federal judge dismissed a [PhRMA-backed lawsuit](#) opposing Medicare's new [drug price negotiation program](#); the suit is [one of eight pharmaceutical industry and trade-group backed challenges](#) to the negotiations.

[A 2024 Chartis report](#) found 50% of rural hospitals are operating at a loss, up 7% from 2023; increasing MA penetration and disruption of traditional reimbursement mechanisms for rural hospitals cited as potential drivers...

[A new Private Equity Stakeholder Project report](#) found private equity investment in MA declined to just four deals in 2023 after a record high of 19 in 2021; the report cited a stricter regulatory climate and high interest rates as potential contributing factors.

A National Association of ACOs (NAACOs) investigation [alleges a group of high-volume catheter suppliers may have fraudulently billed Medicare](#) for nearly \$2B from 2022-2023.

Baptist Health [filed a suit](#) against Humana alleging underpayments for outpatient drugs purchased via the 340B discount program; the suit argues Humana should retroactively adjust its MA reimbursement rates to align with a 2022 Supreme Court decision that undid 340B rate cuts.



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