



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 by the KPMG Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight and is intended to be short and succinct, less than 360 words, to provide a digestible bite of news relevant to our clients and practices. Links are provided to source material (proposed and final regulations, agency guidance and press releases, reports, research, etc.) when available.

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Special Section: Budget and Spending Deal

This morning, President Trump [signed into law](#) a two-year [budget deal](#), which includes government funding through March 23, following early morning votes by the Senate (71 to 28) and House (240 to 186). In addition to the short term funding provisions, the legislation will extend and raise spending limits, and adjust policies, for a broad range of healthcare programs and services, including:

- An additional 4 year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), on top of the 6 years passed by Congress last month, for a total of 10 years

- \$6 billion to combat the opioid epidemic and related mental health crises, \$7 billion for community health centers, and \$2 billion for the National Institutes of Health;
- Repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB);
- Include provisions of the CHRONIC Care Act which aim to improve care coordination and lower Medicare costs for patients with chronic illnesses; and
- Cut \$12.7 billion from the ACA's Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The legislation is estimated to add \$320 billion to the federal budget deficit over a decade.



Healthcare regulatory news

OMB is [reviewing a CMS proposed rule](#) to reduce “unnecessary, obsolete, or excessively burdensome” regulatory provisions, including some impacting Medicare Conditions of Participation and Conditions for Coverage... following a [GAO report](#) calling for better oversight of Medicaid assisted living services, [CMS will](#) reportedly increase enforcement action against states failing to submit required annual reports about home and community-based services.

[HHS approved an extension](#) of Indiana’s 1115 Medicaid waiver, which [imposes work requirements](#) and continues required premium payments by beneficiaries, among other provisions... CMS is [considering letting states impose lifetime limits](#) on adults’ access to Medicaid coverage.



Healthcare law and policy news

CMS Administrator Seema [Verma told stakeholders](#) that the agency will soon release strategies to improve rural health, including making it easier for providers to use telehealth services... CMS [Innovation Center cancelled](#) the Direct Decision Support Model designed to test the impact of providing decision support services to Medicare beneficiaries with seven specific conditions... HHS Secretary Alex Azar said the President’s budget will include [proposals for addressing prescription drug costs](#); a

[Council of Economic Advisors report](#) released today offers some drug policy options.

FDA [warned Republican leaders](#) that a Senate-passed bill “right to try” bill is too broad because it could include patients with non-life threatening chronic diseases such as diabetes, which [could prompt changes](#) in the House... Members of Congress [expressed concerns](#) about shortages of medical supplies resulting from slowed manufacturing caused by recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico.

[National Academy for State Health Policy data](#) show that 11.8 million individuals selected ACA plans in 2018, a 3.7% drop from 12.2 million in 2017, with higher drop-offs in federally-facilitated marketplaces (5.3%)... BCBSA [expressed “urgent need”](#) for Congressional action to stabilize the ACA marketplaces; without a new reinsurance program and funding of cost-sharing reduction subsidies (CSRs), [silver plan premiums could rise 13%](#) on average next year... At least nine states are [considering proposals to](#) counter impacts of the individual mandate repeal in 2019.

An AHIP [poll](#) found that 71% of workers with employer-sponsored health insurance are satisfied with their insurance plan... a non-partisan coalition, the [United States of Care](#), was announced this week to “ensure that every single American has access to quality, affordable health care.”



Questions or comments, please send to us-hcinsight@kpmg.com





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