



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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Healthcare regulatory news

CMS released the 2019 Medicare Advantage and Part D [Advance Notice and Draft Call Letter \(Part II\)](#) which proposes an average 1.84% rate increase and would allow MA plans to [offer new supplemental benefits](#)... CMS will [begin paying certain claims for outpatient therapy](#) held since January 1 as a result of Congressional failure to pass Medicare extenders.

CMS [extended a temporary moratorium](#) in six states on new home health agencies and Medicare Part B nonemergency ground ambulance providers and suppliers... CMS [approved a one-month](#)

[extension](#) of Indiana's current 1115 Medicaid waiver as [agency review of a longer extension](#) continues.

A [Justice Department memo](#) prohibits the department litigators [from using guidance documents](#) to establish a violation of an applicable statute or regulation in affirmative civil enforcement actions.



Healthcare law and policy news

Amazon, JPMorgan Chase, and Berkshire Hathaway [announced plans](#) to join forces to address rising healthcare costs for their employees, initially focusing on "technology solutions"... the [Justice Department requested](#) additional details on the proposed CVS-Aetna merger.

Congressional Republicans [are not likely](#) to attempt another repeal of the ACA repeal this year... [President Trump said HHS Secretary Alex Azar would](#) be "very tough" on pharmaceutical companies and bring "drug prices way down"; in his [State of the Union](#) speech, Trump said drug prices would be one of his "greatest priorities".

CDC Director [Brenda Fitzgerald resigned](#) following questions about a tobacco company stock purchases and other financial conflicts of interest... [House Oversight Committee Chairman](#) Trey Gowdy (R-SC) criticized HHS for failing to fulfill Committee request in a timely fashion and withholding documents necessary for proper oversight... Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) [urged HHS Secretary Azar](#) to move oversight of the 340B drug discount program from HRSA to CMS.

[More states are reconsidering expanding Medicaid](#), in part due to CMS guidance creating a pathway for imposing eligibility work requirement... The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) [recommended allowing states to enroll all Medicaid beneficiaries](#) into managed care programs without requiring a waiver from CMS.

[Kaiser Family Foundation estimated](#) that Medicare beneficiaries spent 41% of their Social Security income on out-of-pocket

healthcare costs in 2013, that percentage is expected to increase to 50% by 2030.



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



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