



## 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 [guidance will allow](#) states to [require “community engagement”](#) such as work, skills training, education or volunteering for “able-bodied” Medicaid beneficiaries—[Kentucky’s waiver was approved today](#); 9 other states’ work requirement waiver requests are pending... Medicare Part D [guidance allows](#) coverage for new technologies for insulin injection... HHS’ Chief Technology Officer said the agency will [review existing, “arcane” telemedicine payment rules](#).

[CMS announced](#) a [voluntary bundled payment model](#) launching in October that will [qualify as an Advanced APM](#) under the Quality Payment Program (QPP)... CMS [announced that 561 ACOs](#) now

serve 10.5 million beneficiaries in the Medicare Shared Savings Program; 18% of ACOs are in downside risk arrangements, including [55 in the newly launched](#) Track 1+... [CMS announced](#) that the number of issuers in the individual and small group market declined from 2,400 to 700... The ONC [Draft Trusted Exchange Framework](#) includes principles and requirements for effective health data sharing.

HHS released its [semiannual regulatory agenda](#)... [HHS OIG announced](#) it would not take enforcement action against drug companies providing free prescription drugs to patients in government healthcare programs resulting from Caring Voice Coalition (CVC) cutting off financial assistance in 2018... the [FDA plans to](#) streamline development and approval of biosimilars and generics, modernize agency processes, and empower consumers to make healthy choices.



### Healthcare law and policy news

During his [confirmation hearing](#), HHS Secretary Nominee Alex Azar told the Senate Finance Committee he would explore ways to reduce prescription drug prices and support mandatory demonstrations necessary to promote innovation in payment models... [CBO estimated that legislation](#) extending the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for ten years would decrease the deficit by \$6 billion; but Congressional support for a 6 year fix is growing.

MedPAC [voted 14-2](#) to recommend that Congress scrap the QPP MIPS program and replace it with a [voluntary value program](#)... Hospitals will [appeal a federal court](#) decision allowing Medicare cuts to 340B drug discount program payments; meanwhile, [a House Energy and Commerce Committee report](#) calls for clarifying the purpose of the 340B program and providing more regulatory authority to administer the program... [ModernHealthcare estimates](#) that healthcare systems dedicated 1.4% of their operating revenue to charity care in FY2016, about the same as FY2015.





Questions or comments, please send to [us-hcinsight@kpmg.com](mailto:us-hcinsight@kpmg.com)



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