



## 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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### **Breaking News:**

Last night, the House [passed a short term continuing resolution](#) to extend government funding until February 16<sup>th</sup> that includes an extension of CHIP funding for 6 years and delays in healthcare taxes. However, at press time, [chances of passage in the Senate are slim](#) and without a bipartisan agreement, it appears that the government may shut down as of midnight tonight unless and until Congress can agree on funding legislation.



[Healthcare regulatory news](#)

HHS [delayed the effective date](#) to July 19 of the revised “Common Rule” regulating human subjects research... FDA [announced a pilot program](#) to publicly release additional clinical trial data about newly approved drugs... [FDA proposed to indefinitely delay](#) the effective date of [new limitations](#) on off-label information sharing on pharmaceutical and medical device products... [FDA and DOD launched](#) a pilot program to expedite review of medical products used by the military... [OMB withdrew a draft April 2017 regulation](#) creating a new coverage pathway for certain medical devices.

HHS [established a division](#) in the Office for Civil Rights to oversee “conscience” protections allowing providers to decline to perform certain medical procedures based on moral or religious objections... [HHS OIG reported](#) that 28% of Medicare Advantage beneficiary encounter records had at least one potential error in Q1 of 2014 and recommended better oversight to reduce future potential errors.

The Senate Finance Committee voted 15-12 to [advance the nomination of Alex Azar](#) as Secretary of HHS... CMS Administrator [Seema Verma said that](#) CMS will focus on modernizing Medicare and Medicaid in 2018 [by reducing regulatory burdens](#)... CMS plans to [convene an interagency group](#) with the OIG, HHS General Counsel, and DOJ to consider Stark law revisions... CMS [proposed revising its MRI coverage policy](#), making it easier for Medicare beneficiaries with implantable devices to receive imaging... [IRS will delay by nine months](#) penalties for certain companies failing to pay the medical device tax.



### Healthcare law and policy news

A group [of health systems](#) announced a nonprofit to produce generic drugs for hospitals... [Several healthcare stakeholders](#) pledged to work to streamline prior authorization processes... Gallup [reported that the US adult uninsured rate](#) increased from 10.9% in 2016 to 12.2% in 2017, the largest one-year increase in a decade... Kentucky Governor [Matt Bevin issued an executive order](#) that would end the state’s Medicaid expansion if a court strikes down any part of the state’s newly approved 1115 waiver.

CMS [announced 17 new participants](#) in the [Next Generation ACO Model](#)... [CMS reported](#) that less than 2% of Medicare providers will see a positive adjustment based on their 2016 Value Modifier Performance (26% will see cuts; 72% will see no adjustment).



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



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