



## 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

[HHS extended](#) the declaration of a public health emergency for the opioid crisis... An [FDA final rule](#) amended regulations for inspections of biological products, including removing outdated requirements... A [CMMI report](#) found that reimbursing for Medicare chronic care management services saved an average of \$74 per patient over 18 months.

The [Department of Veteran's Affairs will utilize](#) CMS data analytics tools, technology, and best practices to modernize the department's anti-fraud efforts... [CMS found](#) that 52.2% of Medicare Advantage online provider directory listings had at least one mistake... [GAO reported](#) that roughly 1% of 2015 ACA

enrollments may have been improper or fraudulent based on immigration status, flawed Social Security documentation, and automatic re-enrollment of deceased individuals... An [HHS report touts Department accomplishments](#) for 2017.



## Healthcare law and policy news

The Senate [confirmed Alex Azar as HHS Secretary](#) (55 to 43) with six Democrats and one Independent voting with Republicans in favor of the nomination... [President Trump signed a continuing resolution](#) to fund the government through February 8, [extending CHIP funding for 6 years](#) and delaying ACA medical device, insurer, and Cadillac taxes... the tax delays are [estimated to cost](#) the federal government \$31.3 billion.

Advocates filed a [lawsuit](#) on behalf of enrollees to block Kentucky Medicaid work requirements and other provisions that are likely to result in decreased Medicaid coverage... Wisconsin will [apply for a 1332 waiver](#) to establish a [\\$200 million](#) reinsurance program for its ACA individual market... Idaho [plans to allow](#) health insurers to sell cheaper ACA non-compliant “state-based plans”... Oregon [approved a ballot measure](#) to impose taxes on hospitals, insurers, and managed care companies to address rising Medicaid expansion costs.

The [Health Care Cost Institute reports](#) that per-capita healthcare spending increased 4.6% in 2016, compared to 4.1% in 2015, and that price increases outpaced utilization between 2012 and 2016; prescription drug costs increased 25%, while use only grew 1.8%... A [New England Journal of Medicine study](#) “found no evidence” that hospitals are using 340B drug discount program generated surpluses to fund safety-net providers or more care for low-income patients... PhRMA [spent 30% more on lobbying](#) in 2017 (\$25.4M) than in 2016; the Association for Accessible Medicines (representing generic manufacturers) spent 21% more.





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