



Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



[March 23, 2018 | Issue 12](#)

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.

In order to continue receiving ATW 360 in future weeks, you will need to subscribe to our mailing list [here](#). Please share this email with colleagues and other interested individuals.

[Subscribe here](#)



Healthcare regulatory news

A [CMS proposed rule](#) would exempt 17 states with 85% or more of their Medicaid patients in managed care plans from reporting requirements on patient access to fee-for-service care... CMS [finalized a national coverage determination](#) to reimburse diagnostic genetic sequencing tests for Medicare cancer patients... An FDA [advance notice of proposed rulemaking](#) indicates its intent to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Seven Next Generation ACO [participants left the program](#) citing concerns about program policies, including the risk adjustment methodology.

President Trump formally [appointed Robert Redfield](#), a prominent AIDS researcher, to be Director of the CDC.



Healthcare law and policy news

Congress passed a [\\$1.3 trillion FY2018 omnibus spending bill](#) to avert a government shutdown, although [President Trump suggested](#) he may veto it; the [ACA stabilization package](#) was not included in the bill; nor were some pharmaceutical industry requests such as [reversing the donut hole changes](#) made in last month's budget bill.

President Trump's Administration announced [plans to address the opioid epidemic](#), which include increased enforcement action, a public awareness campaign, and renewed treatment and prevention efforts... the Administration [plans to announce proposals](#) to lower drug prices in the coming weeks... meanwhile, a [new poll](#) shows 72% of Americans believe pharmaceutical companies have too much influence in Washington, and 52% believe reducing drug prices should be a top priority.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown [signed a law](#) requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers to publicly disclose significant price increases; while Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson [signed into law](#) licensing and other requirements for pharmacy benefit managers, including a ban on "gag clauses" preventing pharmacists from telling consumers when drugs are cheaper out-of-pocket than through insurance... "Gag clause" [legislation was introduced](#) in Congress last week.

The [FTC approved](#) the merger of Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care... The [Altarum Institute reported](#) that healthcare spending increased by 4.6% last year, reaching \$3.6 trillion... A [Pharmacy Benefit Consultants analysis](#) shows prescription drug list price increases since January 2017, including 20 drugs with increases greater than 200%... The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and [Urban Institute reported](#) that premiums for the cheapest silver plan increased an average of 32% in 2018, with the greatest increase in Iowa (117.5%).



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

[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

You have received this message from KPMG LLP. If you wish to unsubscribe from Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less, please [click here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe from all KPMG communications, please [click here](#).

KPMG LLP, 3 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ 07645

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. NDPPS 698390

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.