



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



[March 2, 2018 | Issue 9](#)

### 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 issued [guidance](#) for marketplace qualified health plan issuers and web-based brokers to offer an “enhanced direct enrollment pathway” beginning in 2019... an [IRS final rule](#) defines which entities are required to pay the health insurer tax... the [Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs reported](#) that the estimated benefits of Obama Administration regulations exceeded estimated costs.

CMS is seeking clinicians to participate in a [study on the burdens](#) associated with reporting through the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).



## Healthcare law and policy news

The House [Judiciary Committee explored](#) potential pharmaceutical supply chain impacts of the proposed CVS-Aetna merger, while merger [discussions between Walgreens and AmerisourceBergen](#) appear to have ended... Verily is [considering partnering with insurance companies](#) to start a care management business... Uber is [launching a dashboard](#) to enable healthcare providers to book transportation for patients.

The [House Energy and Commerce Committee considered](#) seven Republican-sponsored bills to address the opioid crisis, including increasing the attorney general's authority; while HHS Secretary Azar encouraged states to [use Medicaid waivers](#) to expand payments for substance abuse treatment.

A [federal judge struck down](#) the formula used by HHS to [calculate insurer payments](#) under the ACA risk adjustment program; HHS is likely to appeal... Twenty states [filed a lawsuit alleging](#) that repeal of the individual mandate invalidates the penalties, and therefore the entire ACA... the Washington DC [Health Benefit Exchange approved](#) a resolution recommending adoption of an individual mandate.

A [coalition of business groups urged](#) policies to stabilize ACA markets, including reinsurance and state waivers... Wisconsin governor [Scott Walker signed legislation](#) allowing the state to apply for a 1332 waiver for establishing a reinsurance program... The Wyoming Senate [passed a Medicaid work requirement bill](#), despite reservations from the state Department of Health... The [Urban Institute estimates](#) that ACA premiums will increase an average of 18% next year, with 6.4 million more individuals losing coverage.

A number of industry groups, including the National Association of ACOs, AMA, and AAMC [urged CMS to allow certain ACOs](#) to continue participating in Track 1 (one-sided risk) for an additional three-year performance period... An [analysis from GoodRx](#)

concluded that prescription drug list prices increased 6% in the past 12 months, including 15% for diabetes medications.



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



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