



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

President Trump [signed an executive order](#) directing federal agencies, including HHS, to implement work requirements for welfare program beneficiaries.

The CMS [final 2019 ACA marketplace rule](#), among other things, provides more state flexibility on coverage of “essential health benefits;” adjusts the rate review threshold from 10% to 15% premium increases; and relaxes medical loss ratio (MLR) requirements...CMS also [extended ACA non-compliant transitional health insurance plans](#) through 2019 and [broadened hardship exemptions](#) for the individual mandate... A CMS

[coverage decision](#) makes it easier for beneficiaries with implantable devices to receive MRI scans.

FDA [approved marketing](#) of the first medical device using artificial intelligence and [restricted the sale](#) of Bayer's birth control implant Essure to facilities providing full information to patients about potential risks.



Healthcare law and policy news

[OIG reported](#) that HHS and the Justice Department won or negotiated over \$2.4 billion in healthcare fraud settlements and judgments in FY2017; and that [Texas improperly billed](#) the federal government for \$20.7 million in Medicaid claims... A [GAO report identified](#) several Medicare beneficiary data security vulnerabilities, including lack of timely software updates and failure to address low-risk security issues.

[CBO projected](#) that healthcare spending will rise faster than the rest of the economy over the next decade, with Medicare spending growing 7% annually, contributing to a \$1 Trillion projected annual federal deficit by 2020; meanwhile, [Altarum reported](#) that the annual growth rate of hospital prices was 3.7%, up from 1.5% in March 2017... Adam Boehler, Former CEO of Landmark Health, [was appointed Director](#) of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

Novartis [will acquire](#) AveXis, a gene therapy company, for \$8.7 billion... [A CVS tool](#) will help patients and pharmacists identify potentially cheaper prescription alternatives... An [Annals of Internal Medicine study](#) concluded that money-back guarantees based on a drugs' effectiveness, such as PCSK9 cholesterol inhibitors, may not significantly reduce overall drug costs.

A House Ways and Means Committee [white paper](#) highlights ways to address the opioid crisis...Arizona [enacted a drug price transparency law](#), prohibiting "gag clauses" to allow pharmacists to freely discuss drug prices with customers.... A [Center for American Progress report](#) examined the impacts of state-level payment and delivery reforms in Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Arkansas.





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



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