



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

The CMS inpatient and long-term care hospital prospective payment [proposed rule](#) would, among other things, [increase hospital payments](#) next year by 3.4% (\$4 billion); require hospitals to post standard charges online; and remove 18 hospital quality measures. CMS also seeks comment on improving healthcare data sharing between providers, while recasting “meaningful use” as “promoting interoperability” to reflect more flexibility and reduced reporting burdens.

CMS [released preliminary 2015 MA encounter data](#) for research purposes, with plans to release Medicaid and CHIP data next

year... [CMS requested](#) public comment on offering direct provider contracting models for traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and CHIP... [CMS provided guidance](#) to Part D plans for developing strategies to combat the opioid crisis... FDA will [expand a program](#) encouraging the use of artificial intelligence in drug development; released a [working model](#) for its software precertification program; and launched a [premarket digital safety](#) program.



Healthcare law and policy news

Ronny Jackson [withdrew from consideration](#) to be VA Secretary after misconduct allegations... HHS Secretary Alex Azar [renewed the public health emergency declaration](#) for the opioid crisis; the Senate HELP Committee [unanimously approved](#) an [opioid crisis package](#), while the House Energy and Commerce Committee [approved 56 opioid-related bills](#)... The Senate [unanimously confirmed](#) all five FTC nominees.

The Supreme Court [upheld 7-2](#) a process for expedited patent review, which [pharmaceutical companies hoped would be stuck down](#)... At least two generics companies and several executives [could be indicted soon](#) on drug price fixing charges... Shire [recommended to shareholders](#) that they accept Takeda's \$64 billion bid to acquire the company.

IRS [reversed a \\$50 decrease](#) in the annual contribution limit for health savings accounts... [Kaiser Family Foundation highlighted](#) implications of short term, limited duration (STLD) health plans, which [AHIP argues](#) could increase the number of uninsured and lead to higher long-term costs... A National Council on Aging [report](#) recommends improvements for the Medicare Plan Finder tool.

An [Altarum report](#) examines the impacts of drug rebates on health plans and consumers... A [Venrock survey](#) found that 94% of respondents believe little or no action will happen over the next year to address drug prices and only 7% believe that artificial intelligence will make a difference in healthcare in 2018.





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



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

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