



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

CMS released several 2019 proposed payment rules with payment increases: [skilled nursing facility \(SNF\)](#) 1.9%; [hospices](#) 1.8%; [inpatient rehabilitation facilities](#) 0.9%; and [inpatient psychiatric facilities](#) 0.98% ; in addition, SNF payments would move to a new [“patient-driven model” based](#) on patients' conditions and needs, rather than volume and intensity of service.

HRSA [withdrew a proposed rule](#) modifying 340B program ceiling prices and penalties...[OMB is reviewing](#) a proposed rule to help transition ACOs to “performance-based risk;” at the same time,

[71% of the original MSSP ACO participants](#) may leave the program if required to assume downside financial risk... The [FDA and FTC sent 13 warning letters](#) to e-cigarette manufacturers and distributors whose packaging resembles children-friendly products... FDA [delayed by 18 months](#) the compliance deadline for food manufacturers to update nutrition labels.



Healthcare law and policy news

According to HHS Secretary [Alex Azar](#), President Trump's drug pricing speech, now scheduled for May 8th, will go "much further" than proposals in the President's Budget; while FDA Commissioner [Gottlieb announced](#) HHS may reconsider safe harbor protection for prescription drug rebates under the anti-kickback statute.

The NIH announced [details of a](#) precision medicine initiative to collect and study health data of at least 1 million Americans... CMS [reported](#) that it previously overestimated savings from the Independence at Home Demonstration in year two by 26%.... CMS released the [2018 Quality Measure Development Plan](#) describing progress in developing quality measures to support the QPP... ONC and SAMHSA released fact sheets on the "Disclosure of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records" for [providers](#) and [health information exchanges](#).

HHS [petitioned the Supreme Court](#) to review a [case brought by Allina Health](#) over how DSH payments are calculated... Advocates [sued the Maine Department of Health and Human Services](#) to force implementation of a voter-approved law expanding the Medicaid program, which has been stalled by the Governor... A [Commonwealth Fund survey](#) found that the uninsured rate has increased to 15.5%, up from a low of 12.7% in 2016.

Fitbit [announced a partnership](#) with Google to improve the integration of patient-generated and clinical data across the healthcare system... an [Annals of Internal Medicine study](#) found hospital readmissions within 7 days after discharge are more preventable than later readmissions.





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



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