



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

[HHS is seeking public comment](#) on drug pricing proposals announced by President Trump last week... In [speeches this week](#), HHS Secretary Alex Azar promoted the [drug pricing "blueprint"](#); encouraged manufacturers to work with the agency; and announced plans to launch a Part B drug competitive acquisition program... CMS released its [updated drug pricing dashboard](#) to provide information on companies raising prices and notified Part D plans to [prohibit pharmacy gag clauses](#).

FDA Commissioner [Scott Gottlieb released](#) a list of drug manufacturers limiting access to branded product samples to slow

generic competition... FDA [published draft guidance](#) on waivers, exceptions, and exemptions to requirements for traceability and security of certain drugs... CMS initiated a [national coverage analysis](#) for CAR-T cell therapies.



Healthcare law and policy news

President Trump [nominated acting VA Secretary](#), Robert Wilkie, to be VA Secretary... CMS Administrator Seema Verma [emphasized that CMS would not approve](#) state-proposed lifetime limits on Medicaid enrollment... CMS will [consolidate several Medicare quality programs](#) under a [single contract](#) worth up to \$25 billion... [HHS OIG reported](#) that 10.1% of Medicaid payments were improper in FY2017, short of its 9.57% reduction target; and that HHS failed to comply with the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012.

The [Defense Department reported](#) that a pilot to replace its EHR system had 156 “critical” or “severe” incident reports between September and December 2017 that could lead to patient deaths; also, the [VA finalized its contract with Cerner](#) to modernize the VA health IT system... [HHS OIG told the Senate HELP Committee](#) that HRSA’s oversight of the 340B program is inadequate.

CMS renewed and expanded [Maryland’s all-payer payment system](#) through 2023... Vermont [enacted legislation](#) making it the [first state to legalize importation](#) of prescription drugs from Canada... Attorneys General from [six states are filing lawsuits](#) against Purdue Pharma, claiming deceptive marketing of OxyContin contributed to the opioid epidemic.

The [CMS Actuary estimated](#) that 0.8 million individuals would leave the ACA marketplace for short-term limited duration plans by 2022 resulting in premium increases 6% above baseline... [Kaiser Family Foundation found](#) that despite market uncertainty, ACA individual insurers are regaining profitability... UnitedHealth [estimates that Medicaid coverage](#) costs 43% less than ACA marketplace coverage.





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



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