



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

An [HHS proposed rule](#) requires “clear physical and financial separation” between Title X funds and groups that provide abortions... [GAO urged CMS](#) to continue prior authorization demonstrations, which could save nearly \$2 billion per year.

FDA will [release guidance](#) to speed development of gene therapies... FDA [warned parents](#) about over-the-counter teething remedies that could cause fatal side effects and threatened legal action against manufacturers that do not discontinue the products.



Healthcare law and policy news

HHS Secretary Alex Azar [will testify before the Senate HELP Committee](#) on June 12th on the drug pricing Blueprint... Azar also [pledged \\$7 million](#) to fight the Ebola outbreak in Africa... Congress passed [right-to-try legislation](#) and a bill [increasing private care options](#) for veterans; President Trump is expected to sign both bills... Republicans plan to [release an ACA repeal bill](#) in June, while a [bipartisan House bill](#) would delay the ACA health insurer tax until 2021.

HHS [rejected Ohio's 1332 request](#) to waive ACA minimal essential coverage... Alaska's [Medicaid funding could run out](#) by the end of June which would delay funding to some hospitals and large providers.

CDC [reported that 9.1%](#) (29.3 million) of Americans were uninsured in 2017, not significantly different from 2016; the uninsured rate in states not expanding Medicaid increased from 17.9% to 19.0%... [CBO projected](#) that 5 million more Americans will be uninsured in 2027 than previous estimates, primarily driven by elimination of the individual mandate penalty... [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association estimates](#) premium increases for its plans ranging from single-digits to 80%, and averaging in the "low teens."

[Milliman reports](#) that the cost of employer-based health coverage increased 4.5% over the past year, the second-lowest growth rate since 2001; however employee expenses are increasing (5.9%) more than employer expenses (3.5%)... [Avalere found](#) that moving coverage of Part B drugs to Part D may cost some Medicare beneficiaries more in out-of-pocket costs for cancer therapies (\$3,200 vs. \$2,400); and that generics are being increasingly [placed on higher formulary tiers](#), resulting in a 93% increase in patient cost-sharing in Part D between 2011 and 2015.

The Association of American Medical Colleges [reported that teaching hospitals](#) spent \$3.1 billion more on community benefit in 2015 than 2012.



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



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