



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 Trump Administration [unveiled a plan](#) to reorganize the federal government, including consolidating public welfare programs into HHS and renaming it the Department of Health and Public Welfare... [Department of Labor finalized a rule](#) to allow businesses and trade groups to form association health plans, which are exempt from certain ACA plan requirements; Attorneys General from New York and Massachusetts will [sue to stop](#) the rule.

SAMHSA [announced \\$390 million](#) in state opioid response grants... FDA [plans to waive certain fees](#) for drug manufacturers to spur innovative HIV drugs... HHS further [delayed implementation of the Common Rule](#) on human subjects research until January 21, 2019... CMS is [seeking comment](#) on the impact and burden of the physician self-referral (Stark) law, and potential changes to support coordinated care.



Healthcare law and policy news

Senate Finance Committee will [hold a hearing](#) with HHS Secretary Alex Azar on June 26 to discuss prescription drug affordability and HHS' Drug Pricing Blueprint... A [New York Times Editorial](#) urged use of a little used federal law to lower drug prices for certain public health needs... HRSA [told the Senate HELP Committee](#) that it needs more authority to track and monitor provider 340B savings.

Senate Budget Committee Republicans [asked Secretary Azar for details on](#) what HHS is doing to address improper Medicare and Medicaid payments, which totaled \$89 billion in FY17... [MedPAC](#) and [MACPAC](#) issued their respective Reports to Congress... HHS [OIG plans to review](#) whether MA plans are inappropriately denying access to, or reimbursement for, services to increase profits.

Maine's Governor [appealed a judge's order](#) to expand the state's Medicaid program, while the [state legislature voted](#) to fund the expansion... Avalere [reports that ACA premium](#) filings for 2019 are 15% higher on average than 2018 rates... [Centene, Molina,](#) and [Oscar](#) plan to enter into new, or expand in existing, state ACA marketplaces next year.

[AMA testified](#) at a California Department of Insurance hearing, urging regulators to [block the proposed CVS-Aetna merger](#) ... CVS [reached an agreement](#) with the US Postal Service to deliver prescriptions to patients in one or two days for a \$4.99 fee... [Atul Gawande was appointed CEO](#) of the Boston-based Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JPMorgan Chase healthcare venture.





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



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