



Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



[August 3, 2018](#) | [Issue 31](#)

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.

In order to continue receiving ATW 360 in future weeks, you will need to subscribe to our mailing list [here](#). Please share this email with colleagues and other interested individuals.

[Subscribe here](#)



Healthcare regulatory news

CMS final rules increase 2019 payments to [skilled nursing facilities](#) by \$820 million (2.4%), [inpatient rehabilitation facilities](#) by \$105 million (1.3%), [inpatient psychiatric facilities](#) by \$50 million (1.1%), [hospice](#) by \$340 million (1.8%), [acute care hospitals](#) by \$4.8 billion (1.85%), and long-term care hospitals by \$39 million (0.9%); also, CMS [revamped the hospital interoperability program](#) and will require hospitals to post “standard charges” online; and will [reimburse SNF providers](#) based on patient condition and complexity, rather than volume, beginning in October 2019.

CMS finalized the [short-term, limited-duration \(STLD\) plan rule](#), allowing individuals to enroll in ACA non-compliant plans for up to a year, with possible renewed coverage up to 36 months.

The [HHS OIG recommended](#) CMS take 15 actions to improve Medicare hospice program integrity and care quality.



Healthcare law and policy news

CMS [announced](#) that the average Medicare Part D plan premium will decline from \$33.59 to \$32.50 next year; [extended for another six months](#) a moratorium on new home health agencies and non-emergency ground ambulance providers/suppliers in 6 states; and [lowered star ratings](#) for staffing levels at one in 11 nursing homes (nearly 1,400 facilities).

CMS approved 1332 waiver requests from [Wisconsin](#) and [Maine](#) to create or reinstate ACA reinsurance programs in 2019 of \$200 million and \$93 million, respectively, and [launched a “rate review” website](#) with data on ACA-compliant and noncompliant plan rate requests.

California’s Insurance Commissioner [urged the Justice Department](#) to block the proposed CVS-Aetna merger... House Energy and Commerce Committee [leadership asked nine 340B contract pharmacies](#) for details on their relationships with 340B-eligible providers and [urged the FTC](#) to review past mergers of PBMs... Senate HELP Committee [explored efforts to reduce](#) healthcare administrative costs... Centene and Ascension [plan to launch](#) a joint Medicare Advantage plan in 2020.

Kaiser Family Foundation [reported that individual market enrollment](#) decreased by 12% in Q1 2018, driven by off-exchange market individuals ineligible for ACA subsidies; a [Brookings analysis](#) concluded that ACA premiums would fall 4.3% next year if the policy environment were more stable... The [Mercatus Center concluded](#) that a “Medicare for All” plan would cost the federal government nearly \$33 trillion over 10 years, but would likely [result in \\$2 trillion in net savings](#).





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



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

You have received this message from KPMG LLP. If you wish to unsubscribe from Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less, please [click here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe from all KPMG communications, please [click here](#).

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

© 2018 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. NDPPS 698390

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.