



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 [reported that Medicaid spending](#) reached nearly \$600 billion in 2017, and could exceed \$1 trillion over the next decade.

OMB [began review](#) of an ONC rule to [implement parts of the 21st Century Cures Act](#), including defining information blocking... A [CMS proposed rule](#) aims to reduce or remove [Medicare provider and supplier regulations](#) that are “unnecessary, obsolete, or excessively burdensome”.

FDA is considering a [“subscription-based model”](#) to supply hospitals with antibiotics... FDA [launched an education campaign](#) to reduce e-cigarette use among teenagers.



Healthcare law and policy news

HHS [awarded \\$1 billion in grants](#) to states, communities, and organizations to address the opioid crisis and is [working with Opiant Pharmaceuticals](#) to develop a fast-acting, intranasal, overdose drug... SAMHSA [reported that 11.4 million Americans](#) abused opioids in 2017, down from 11.8 million in 2016 and 12.7 million in 2015... [AHRQ reported](#) that seniors hospitalized with opioid-related diagnoses increased more than 50% and opioid-related ED visits increased more than 100% between 2010 and 2015.

The [Senate passed an \\$8.4 billion opioid package](#); Congressional leaders hope to reconcile it with the House version for a final vote next week; PhRMA is [promoting inclusion of a provision](#) to reduce manufacturer payments for the Part D donut hole... The Senate [passed legislation](#) (98-2) to prohibit pharmacist “gag clauses”... a [bipartisan Senate bill](#) would crack down on surprise billing from out-of-network providers.

HHS reached [HIPAA settlements](#) with three hospitals that allowed TV crews to film patients without consent... DOJ approved the \$67 billion [Cigna-Express Scripts merger](#).

Athenahealth [extended the deadline](#) for potential acquirer bids... AHA [launched an initiative](#) to promote transparency of hospital savings from the 340B drug discount program... [46brooklyn reports](#) that some generic drug prices, including for those most frequently prescribed, are declining...The [National Quality Forum released](#) its first quality measures for rural hospitals and ambulatory care facilities.

A [Health Affairs study](#) found that per-person healthcare spending increased 44% between 2007 and 2016, or 4% annually... [CDC estimates](#) that the percentage of the US population with Alzheimer’s and related dementia will double by 2060 to 13.9 million, or 5% of the population...[Moody’s warned](#) that rising

healthcare costs and the aging population could constrain economic growth and harm competitiveness.



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



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