



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 [1332 waiver guidance](#) allows [more consumer plan options](#), including short-term policies; streamlines the waiver request process and provides [more flexibility](#) for states in meeting regulatory requirements... A CMS [proposed rule](#) seeks input on an “[International Pricing Index](#)” [payment model](#) to better align Part B drug prices with prices in other countries... CMS [announced that 75,000 individuals' files](#) were improperly accessed on the ACA agents and brokers direct enrollment portal... CMS [announced release](#) of SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) data on Nursing Home Compare.

An [IRS-Labor-HHS proposed rule](#) would expand the use of health reimbursement accounts (HRAs), allowing employers to provide subsidies for employees to purchase individual health coverage... OMB is [reviewing a HRSA proposed rule](#) to change the effective date of 340B ceiling prices and penalties from July 1 to January 1.

FDA [approved the first novel-mechanism flu drug](#) in almost 20 years... FDA, with international partners, [took action against 465 online pharmacies](#) selling potentially dangerous and unapproved opioid, cancer, and antiviral drugs... FDA [draft guidance](#) clarifies verification system requirements for drug manufacturers to meet statutory changes for quarantine and investigation of suspect drugs, and disposal of illegitimate drugs... FDA [authorized "WideTrial" to charge patients](#) for participation in an experimental drug trial.



Healthcare law and policy news

President Trump signed the [bipartisan opioid package](#); a diverse group of private sector partners [pledged efforts](#) to help combat the opioid crisis... CMS announced the [Maternal Opioid Misuse \(MOM\) model](#) to help [align and coordinate care](#) of pregnant and postpartum Medicaid beneficiaries with opioid use disorder.

CMS [approved North Carolina's 1115 waiver](#) to transition Medicaid to managed care... A [KFF survey](#) found that Medicaid enrollment decreased 0.6% in FY18, while program spending grew 4.2%; [A2 Strategy Group](#) found that three-quarters of Medicaid beneficiaries (54.9 million) are enrolled in managed care... [KFF estimated](#) that ACA policy changes increased 2019 premiums, on average, by 6%.

Maryland [asked the Supreme Court](#) to [uphold the state's drug pricing gouging law](#), while Arkansas [asked the Supreme Court](#) to overturn a federal appeals court decision [striking down its drug pricing law](#) regulating PBMs.

Amgen [cut the price](#) of its cholesterol medicine, Repatha, by 60%... Express Scripts [informed pharmacies](#) that networks will expand, including mail-order pharmacies in 2019.





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



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