



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

### Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



[October 12, 2018 | Issue 41](#)

#### 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 estimated](#) that more than 91% of MA beneficiaries will have access to 10 or more plan options next year ... CMS [reported that average premiums](#) in ACA federally-facilitated exchange plans will [decrease 1.5% next year](#).

CMS is [seeking public comment](#) on expanding Medicare coverage of blood pressure monitoring devices... CMS is [developing a proposed rule](#) to impose financial penalties on nursing home staff who fail to report elder abuse and illegal activities... OMB is reviewing the Medicare [physician fee schedule](#) and [home health](#)

[payment](#) final rules... An [HHS final rule](#) applies a 2% inflation adjustment to civil monetary penalties.

FDA [approved a record 971 generic drugs](#) in FY18, up from 937 in FY17 and released [two draft guidance](#) documents to advance development of complex generic products... also, FDA [banned seven food additives](#) often labeled as “artificial flavors” on nutrition labels; [approved Gardasil 9 HPV vaccine](#) for individuals up to age 45; and [approved marketing of the first self-fitting hearing aid](#) that does not require a provider’s assistance to program and control.



### Healthcare law and policy news

CMS [announced that 1,300 entities](#), including over 800 hospitals, will participate in the Bundled Payment for Care Improvement Advanced Model... A federal court [ordered HHS to pay a Montana co-op](#) more than \$1.2 million in cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments (*subscription required*)... Centene [will enter 4 new states](#) with ACA plans, and expand offerings in 6 other states.

The [Department of Justice cleared](#) the CVS-Aetna merger contingent on Aetna divesting its Medicare Part D business to Wellcare... [KKR acquired Envision Healthcare](#) for \$9.9 billion... [PitchBook reported](#) that healthcare companies have received more than \$23 billion in venture capital funding this year, 28% of all venture capital spending.

US Bureau of Labor Statistics [reported that healthcare](#) accounted for nearly 20% of new employment in September... Kaiser Family Foundation [found that 45% of 18 to 29 year olds](#) do not have a primary care provider, compared to 28% of individuals between 30 and 49, 18% of individuals between 50 and 64, and 12% of individuals 65 and older... A [Health Affairs study](#) found that US hospitals pay 2 to 6 times more for cardiac implants than European countries.





Questions or comments, please send to [us-hcinsight@kpmg.com](mailto:us-hcinsight@kpmg.com)



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