



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

A CMS [proposed rule](#) would provide Part D plans [new tools to lower prescription drug costs](#), including flexibility to [manage "protected class"](#) drug spending... CMS guidance illustrates examples of permissible [1332 waiver concepts](#)... CMS announced a [three-year program](#) to [improve patient safety and care quality](#) in nursing homes... [OIG found](#) that CMS overpaid hospitals more than \$140.5 million between 2014 and 2017, and recommended a wage index overhaul.

An [investigation](#) found that medical devices caused 83,000 deaths over the last decade, including more than a [dozen FDA-approved devices](#) for export to other countries... FDA [announced efforts](#) to modernize the 510(k) medical devices clearance pathway... FDA [approved the first biosimilar](#) for treatment of adult non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

A long-delayed [HRSA final rule](#) will implement 340B ceiling prices and penalties on January 1... OMB is reviewing the [2020 ACA exchange](#) proposed rule... CMS [launched its "enhanced" direct enrollment](#) pathway for ACA plans.



Healthcare law and policy news

ONC [released a draft strategy](#) on reducing regulatory and administrative burdens associated with use of EHRs and other health IT... CMS launched a [tool](#) to help consumers compare [hospital and ambulatory surgical center](#) procedure costs... 73% of SNFs will [receive a penalty](#) through the Value-based Purchasing Program for FY19 as a result of readmission rates.

[2.4 million Individuals have enrolled](#) in healthcare.gov plans, down from [2.8 million last year](#)... eHealth [reported a significant increase](#) in customers selecting short-term health plans over ACA-compliant plans... A [Georgetown analysis found](#) that the number of uninsured children increased in 2017 for the first time since 2008.

CVS [closed its \\$70 billion merger](#) with Aetna, although a [federal judge](#) still must give final approval... Walgreens and Humana are [considering strategic alliances](#)... Amazon will [begin selling software](#) to analyze electronic health records... [Apple is exploring](#) giving veterans access to their medical records on iPhones... Teva [released an EpiPen generic](#) for \$300 (same price as Mylan's)... a [data breach](#) at Atrium Health could affect 2.65 million patients.

[CDC reported](#) that US life expectancy dropped between 2016 and 2017... A [JAMA study](#) found that 83% of telehealth utilization is from urban, not rural, populations... An [AMA study](#) found that 73% of metropolitan areas have highly concentrated insurance markets.



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



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