



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



[November 21, 2018 | Issue 47](#)

**Editor's note**

*In observance of the holiday, we will not publish on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, we want to take this opportunity to provide a short update and extend our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!*

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**Healthcare regulatory news**

CMS [reported the lowest rate](#) of improper Medicare payments since 2010; 8.12% in FY18 down from 9.51% in FY17... [GAO recommended](#) that CMS provide more guidance to states on submitting accurate encounter data from managed care plans.

FDA is [seeking comments](#) on a draft framework for the regulation of some prescription drug-linked smartphone apps, including reducing review requirements prior to launch and updates... FDA Commissioner [Scott Gottlieb noted](#) that most post-market studies are proceeding as expected and that the agency plans to

release a framework to increase use of real-world evidence... FDA and USDA [announced a joint framework](#) for cell-based meats.

HHS released [a progress report](#) on the national action plan on combatting antibiotic-resistant bacteria... OIG [reported on its Q2 2018 comparisons](#) of average sales price (ASP) and average manufacturer price (AMP) to determine which ASPs exceed AMPs by more than 5 percent.



### Healthcare law and policy news

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) will [chair the Senate Finance Committee](#) next Congress... which could increase the chances of bipartisan cooperation on drug pricing issues in the new Congress. Senator Grassley and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), [sent a joint letter to HHS](#) urging that the policy for price transparency in direct-to-consumer drug ads be effectuated by year's end.

Pfizer [will raise the list price](#) of 41 prescription drugs, 10% of its portfolio, next year... A [bipartisan Senate report](#) found that taxpayers paid \$142 million over the past 4 years due to significant price increase of an opioid overdose antidote... A [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association study](#) found that brand-name drugs made up 17% of total prescriptions filled in 2017, but represented 79% of their total drug spending.

Florida is [adding Walgreens and CVS](#) to a lawsuit of opioid manufacturers accusing the pharmacy chains of contributing to the opioid crisis.



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





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