



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

Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight



[February 1, 2019 | Issue 56](#)

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 released the 2020 MA and Part D [Advance Notice Part II and Draft Call Letter](#), which would [increase MA rates by 1.59%...](#) A long awaited HHS [OIG proposed rule](#) would amend a safe harbor to [exclude protection of Medicare and Medicaid rebates](#) between drug manufacturers and Plans/PBMs, while protecting discounts offered to patient at the point-of-sale.

HHS is [drafting proposed regulations](#) to reform Stark Law and the Anti-Kickback Statute... VA released [proposed access standards to determine when](#) Eligible Veterans would be able to choose between eligible community providers and care at a VA facility.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb [announced efforts](#) to advance [real world evidence](#), including a stakeholder-developed [framework on enhancing clinical trials through digital systems](#)...FDA [final guidance](#) clarifies labeling requirements for products approved through the accelerated pathway... FDA officials believe it [could take nearly a year](#) to catch up on work delayed by the government shutdown, particularly reviewing [new drug applications](#).



Healthcare law and policy news

CBO [estimated that the government shutdown](#) cost the economy a net \$3 billion in permanent losses; also, CBO projects that Medicare spending will [increase 7% annually](#) between 2020 and 2029 when it reaches \$1.3 trillion.

CMS launched a [“What’s Covered” app](#) to help traditional Medicare beneficiaries determine what items and services are covered... CMS Administrator Seema Verma [discussed quality and coming demonstrations](#) on rural telehealth and state-based payment arrangements at the CMS Quality Conference... the White House released its [National Drug Control Strategy](#).

The [Senate Finance](#) and [House Oversight](#) Committees explored [approaches for reducing](#) prescription drug prices... Meanwhile, IQVIA [forecasted that prescription drug prices](#) will grow between 0 and 3% over the next five years, while manufacturers’ sales grow of 3 to 6%... PhRMA is considering a [self-imposed cap](#) on drug price increases.

Anthem will [launch its own PBM](#), IngenioRx, in Q2 2019... AstraZeneca [entered an outcome-based contract](#) for its blood thinner with UPMC... Aetna [will partner with Apple](#) to develop a new health app for Apple Watches to drive wellness... HCA [finalized its purchase](#) of Mission Health.

AHRQ [reported that hospital-acquired conditions](#) declined 13% from 2014 to 2017... A [NEJM study](#) found that e-cigarettes were twice as effective as traditional nicotine replacement methods for smoking cessation.



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



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KPMG LLP, 3 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ 07645

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