



## 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 every Friday by the [KPMG Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight](#) and is intended to be short and succinct, no more than 360 words, to provide a digestible bite of healthcare and life sciences news from the past week. Please share this email with colleagues and other interested individuals, and encourage them to [subscribe to our mailing list here](#).*

We welcome your feedback. Let us know if KPMG can help. Please [reply here to me](#), **Larry Kocot**, principal and national leader, KPMG Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight or simply reply to this email with any comments or requests.

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### Healthcare regulatory news

CMS released: (1) a [final rule to implement sections of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#), authorizing HHS to establish special enrollment periods; (2) [CY 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule](#), that decreased the PFS conversion factor by \$1.55, extended several Medicare telehealth PHE flexibilities through 2023, and overhauled the Medicare Shared Savings Program; (3) [CY 2023 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule with comment period](#), that introduced measures to improve behavioral health access; (4) [CY 2023 End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System Final Rule](#); (5) [CY 2023 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update and Home Infusion Therapy Services Requirements Final Rule](#).

[OIG released an updated report on 12 previous hospital compliance audits; in written comments](#), CMS reported collecting 91% of the sustained amount of OIG-identified overpayments.

[Marketplace Open Enrollment began this week](#) with four out of five consumers eligible for coverage for \$10 or less per month after tax credits.

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## Healthcare law and policy news

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) partnered with the National Security Council to issue an [RFI on its Data Collection for Emergency Clinical Trials and Interoperability Pilot](#).

The [Senate Finance Committee urged CMS to address deceptive marketing practices](#) by Medicare Advantage plans.

[Kaiser Family Foundation released an updated issue brief](#) examining factors contributing to maternal and infant health disparities.

[McKinsey agreed to settle hundreds of claims by U.S. local governments and school districts](#) that it fueled an epidemic of opioid addiction... [CVS](#) and [Walgreens](#) tentatively agreed to pay \$5B each to settle lawsuits brought by states and local governments alleging mishandling opioid prescriptions; [Walmart tentatively agreed](#) to pay \$3B to settle similar lawsuits.

New studies found: (1) [the first 8 months of the COVID-19 pandemic were associated with worsening blood pressure among individuals with hypertension](#); (2) [one in eight deaths of working age adults were attributable to excessive alcohol consumption](#).

[Johnson & Johnson acquired Abiomed](#) for \$16.6B... [Google acquired Sound Life Sciences](#), a startup with an application to detect respiratory problems... [Carta Healthcare, a clinical data company, raised \\$20M](#) in series B funding... [Lusaris Therapeutics raised \\$60M](#) in series A funding to address treatment-resistant depression.

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## Special Section: COVID-19 and Monkeypox News

A study found a greater risk of [long COVID is associated with female gender](#) and older age.

The [Supreme Court upheld a ruling, Corbett v. TSA et al.](#), from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit [allowing TSA to require mask-wearing on planes, trains, and other forms of transit](#).

[Pfizer and BioNTech launched a Phase 1 trial](#) for a vaccine that would target COVID-19 and influenza.

[New Pfizer data from a Phase 2/3 clinical trial showed](#) that its updated omicron-targeting COVID-19 booster increased antibodies for adults 55 and older four-fold in comparison to an extra dose of the original vaccine.

[HHS renewed the national public health emergency for the monkeypox outbreak](#).

[The seven-day average of reported U.S. monkeypox cases hit 29 cases](#) on November 2nd.

A study found that [the U.S. public health workforce needs 80,000 more full-time workers](#) to fully implement core Foundational Public Health Services.

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