



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

Center for Healthcare
Regulatory Insight



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Editor's note

Since we did not publish on July 7th, we've included a brief roundup of significant news from the week of July 3rd.

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 proposed decreasing the 2024 [physician payment conversion factor](#) 3.34%, increasing [hospital outpatient payments](#) 2.8%, and strengthening [hospital price transparency requirements/enforcement](#).

CMS [proposed Medicare coverage of HIV PrEP without cost-sharing](#) for high-risk individuals... A [CMS review concluded](#) many Innovation Center models [lack sufficient data](#) to adequately assess health equity impacts.

FDA [approved the first](#) over-the-counter daily oral contraceptive.

OCR [proposed revising nondiscrimination requirements](#) for HHS grants.

CDC will [provide free COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured/underinsured](#) individuals.

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Healthcare law and policy news

The White House [released](#) a [plan](#) to address the emerging threat of fentanyl combined with xylazine in the illicit drug supply.

US Chamber of Commerce [filed a motion for preliminary injunction](#) to [block implementation](#) of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

Aspirus Health and St. Luke's Duluth [plan to affiliate...](#) Eli Lilly [will acquire Versanis](#) (\$1.93B)... Following [launch of several Humira biosimilars](#), Express Scripts and Optum will add [some to their formularies...](#) CVS Caremark will [offer members access to GoodRx prescription pricing](#) on certain generic drugs next year.

HCA [disclosed a data breach](#) impacting 11M patients; including this incident, HHS [data show](#) the total number of patients impacted by breaches year-to-date [already meets last year's total \(52M\)](#).

KFF reported the 10 top-selling Part D drugs in 2021 [accounted for 22% \(\\$47.7B\) of gross Medicare drug spending](#), but just 0.3% of covered drugs... An EBRI [analysis found](#) allowed charges for innovator biologics were 121% [higher at hospital outpatient departments than physician offices](#) in 2020... A [JAMA study found 27.6% of children](#) had delayed/missed preventive care during the pandemic, with

disproportionate impact among Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and multiracial individuals.

An [Epic Research analysis](#) found most specialties have a greater rate of 90-day in-person follow-up visits after an in-person visit than after a telehealth visit... Another [study concluded](#) the benefits of telehealth are highest among diseases with “high virtualization potential” (e.g., mental health and skin conditions).

House Education and Workforce Committee [advanced hospital, health plan, and PBM price transparency](#) bills... House Energy and Commerce Committee [advanced healthcare bills](#), including to [reauthorize](#) the [Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act](#) (PAHPA), [permanently allow employers to offer telehealth](#) as a separate tax-free benefit, and [reauthorize substance use disorder support](#) programs.

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Brief Roundup of News from the Week of July 3rd

- FDA granted [full, traditional approval](#) to Eisai-Biogen’s [Alzheimer’s drug, Leqembi](#); CMS [made its facilitated registry](#) available, which a physician or clinical team members must participate in for Medicare to cover the drug.
- HHS [announced efforts](#) to protect consumers and reduce healthcare costs by: (1) [proposing](#) (along with Labor and Treasury) [rollback of short-term, limited-duration insurance](#) (STLDI) regulations that, among other things, expanded duration of plans; (2) releasing [an FAQ further clarifying](#) surprise billing and out-of-pocket cost protections, particularly with respect to facility fees and in-network status; and (3) issuing a [request for information](#) (along with Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Treasury) on [use and impact of medical credit cards and loans](#) used to pay for healthcare.
- CMS [proposed cutting](#) 2024 home health agency [payment 2.2% \(\\$375M\)](#); National Association for Home Care and Hospice [sued](#) to [vacate 2023 home health payment cuts](#) and withhold the 2024 proposed rule.

- CMS [proposed](#) paying 1,600 340B hospitals [\\$9B in lump-sum payments to make up for 2018-2022 cuts deemed unlawful](#) by the Supreme Court and a [0.5% cut to non-drug aspects of the hospital outpatient system](#) over 16 years, beginning in 2025, to ensure budget neutrality.



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