



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

Center for Healthcare
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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

FTC and Department of Justice [released](#) draft [Merger Guidelines updates](#)... FTC also: (1) [withdrew two "outdated" antitrust enforcement](#) policy statements; (2) released [a statement cautioning against reliance](#) on previous statements/studies on PBMs that no longer reflect current market realities; (3) [requested additional information](#) on Pfizer's [proposed acquisition of Seagen](#); and, (4) [sued to block IQIVIA's acquisition](#) of Propel Media... FTC and OCR [warned 130 hospitals/telehealth providers](#) that [third-party tracking technologies may impermissibly disclose](#) PHI.

CMS [proposed removing its national coverage determination](#) for amyloid plaque detection PET scans and allow MACs to make coverage decisions, supporting increased access to [new Alzheimer's drugs](#).

CMS [ordered a half-dozen states to pause procedural-based Medicaid terminations](#) to correct redetermination errors and reinstate wrongly-terminated individuals... CMS-Treasury-Labor [urged employers/plans to extend](#) special enrollment periods for those losing Medicaid coverage.

FDA [approved the first monoclonal antibody](#) to prevent RSV in infants/newborns.

OIG: (1) reported [Medicaid managed care plans denied 12.5% of prior authorization requests](#) in 2019 with insufficient oversight; and, (2) [projected 19% of \\$4.2B in COVID-19 Uninsured Program payments](#) were improper between March 1-December 31, 2020.

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Healthcare law and policy news

Johnson & Johnson [sued](#) to stop [the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program](#).

Novartis [acquired DTx Pharma](#)... TPG [will acquire Nextech](#) (\$1.4B)... Big Health [is acquiring Limbix](#).

Eli Lilly [reported its Alzheimer's drug donanemab significantly delayed Alzheimer's disease progression](#) in a late-stage trial; an FDA approval decision is expected by year-end... Flagship and Pfizer are [each investing \\$50M to co-discover/develop](#) 10 potential drugs... Teladoc and Microsoft [expanded their partnership to integrate AI and ambient clinical documentation](#) into the Solo virtual care platform.

KFF analyses found: (1) [29% of nursing homes would meet](#) staffing requirements recommended in a CMS-commissioned report; and, (2) health-related spending accounted for [15% of Medicare households' 2021 total spending](#), compared to 7% for non-Medicare households... AMA reported [the share of physicians in private practices fell](#) from 60.1% to 46.7% between 2012 and 2022... A [JAMA study concluded](#) COVID-19 relief funding may have been "larger than necessary for many hospitals," as evidenced by all-time high operating margins for some hospitals.

House Energy and Commerce Committee [advanced 15 healthcare bills, many along party lines](#)... Senate HELP Committee [advanced PAHPA reauthorization legislation](#).

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