



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

HHS-Labor-Treasury [proposed](#) clarifying requirements for health plans to [provide comparable access to mental health](#) and medical benefits; a [report to Congress](#) detailed noncompliance with current requirements.

CMS finalized payment increases for [inpatient rehabilitation facilities \(4%\)](#) and [inpatient psychiatric facilities \(2.3%\)](#), and eased new facility opening requirements.

FDA [released draft guidance](#) on [clinical trial design for devices](#) intended to treat opioid use disorder.



Healthcare law and policy news

White House (1) [launched a permanent](#) Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy; and (2) announced the [first cancer-focused ARPA-H initiative](#), the [Precision Surgical Interventions](#) program.

FTC [reached a proposed settlement with Surescripts](#) over alleged anticompetitive practices.

A [lawsuit alleges Cigna](#) used an algorithm to [automatically deny claims in bulk](#) without reviewing individual cases.

Teleflex is [acquiring Palette Life Sciences](#) (\$600M upfront)... Marshfield Clinic and Essentia Health [plan to merge](#)... CHS is [selling three Florida hospitals to Tampa General Hospital](#) (\$290M)... Roche is [collaborating with Alnylam Pharmaceuticals \(up to \\$2.8B\)](#) on an investigational RNAi hypertension treatment... Amazon [announced AWS Healthscribe](#), a generative AI-powered service for clinical documentation support... Palo Alto VA Medical Center is [expected to become the first completely 5G-enabled US hospital](#) this week.

JAMA studies: (1) [identified barriers](#) to buprenorphine prescribing, even [among clinicians approved for prescribing under education-exempted practice guidelines](#); and (2) [found social isolation among older adults may increase](#) likelihood of entering a nursing home.

Commonwealth Fund reported [rural Americans are more likely to skip needed care due to costs](#) (36%) or struggle with medical bills (23%) than nine other high-income countries... A Patient Rights Advocate [report found just 36% of hospitals fully comply](#) with price transparency requirements, up from 16% in August 2022.. An [IBM Security report found](#) healthcare had the highest data breach costs (\$10.93M) of any industry in 2023; the average cost of healthcare data breaches has grown 53.3% over the past three years.

Congress [passed legislation](#) to [overhaul the organ procurement/transplantation system](#), including allowing competitive bidding for system management... House Ways & Means Committee [advanced along party lines](#) legislation to, among other things, increase [hospital, plan, and PBM transparency](#); implement site-neutral payment policies; and require electronic prior authorization in Medicare Advantage... Senate Finance [advanced](#) (26-1) PBM [reform and transparency](#) legislation.



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