



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



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### Editor's note

*This note is produced every Friday by [KPMG](#) 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](#).*

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### Healthcare regulatory news

CMS released the [FY 2025 Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) proposed rule](#) that would increase the hospital reimbursement rate 2.6%, increase Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) gene therapy cost reimbursement to 75%, and create an incentive payment for small independent hospitals to establish and maintain a buffer stock of essential medicines... the [American Hospital Association \(AHA\) responded](#) that the proposals do not adequately address inflation and expressed concern that it may unduly burden already financially strained hospitals.

The [FDA approved expanded use of Enhertu](#) as the first drug to treat solid tumors anywhere in the body for HER2-positive patients, a protein known to accelerate cancer growth.



### Healthcare law and policy news

According to a [report from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists \(ASHP\)](#), active and ongoing drug shortages have reached 323 as of March 2024, the highest since the organization began tracking shortages in 2001; 60% of shortages were of unknown cause or lack of manufacturer reporting.

[New KFF data](#) shows over 20M individuals have been disenrolled from Medicaid due to unwinding-related coverage redeterminations; community health centers lost approximately 23% of their Medicaid patients due to redetermination, leading to average revenue loss of \$600K per health center.

A [JAMA study](#) found less than half (43%) of cancer drugs that received accelerated FDA approval provided clinical benefit after five years; accelerated approval drugs were also more quickly withdrawn from the market, decreasing over the study period from 9.9 years on the market to 3.6 years.

Anti-obesity drug Wegovy was found to improve symptoms and physical function in patients with obesity-related heart failure and type-2 diabetes in a [New England Journal of Medicine \(NEJM\) study](#).

The CMS Office of the Actuary (OACT) estimates Alzheimer's treatment [Leqembi could cost Medicare approximately \\$3.5B](#) in 2024, significantly outpacing market and manufacturer Biogen's projections.

States that relaxed Medicaid coverage policies for Hepatitis C direct-acting-antivirals (DAAs) saw 966 more DAA treatment courses dispensed per 100,000 Medicaid enrollees each quarter than states with no policy changes, according to a [JAMA Health Forum study](#).

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. [to acquire Alpine Immune Sciences Inc.](#) (\$4.9B)... Prime Healthcare [acquired five New Jersey and California hospitals \(\\$350M\)](#) from real estate investment trust (REIT) Medical Properties Trust.



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

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