



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



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Editor's note

[This series](#) is produced by KPMG Healthcare and is intended to be short and succinct, less than 360 words, to provide a weekly digestible bite of healthcare regulatory, policy, and industry news relevant to our clients. Links are provided to source material (proposed and final regulations, agency guidance and press releases, reports, research, etc.) when available. 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

NIH [allocated ~\\$270M](#) to a newly established research program that will provide funding and support to Indigenous communities struggling with opioid disorder; American Indian and Alaska Natives have suffered the [highest overdose rates](#) in recent years.

Novovax's latest COVID-19 vaccine [recently received FDA emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#); the EUA comes as [summer rates of COVID-19](#) are the highest since 2022.





Healthcare law and policy news

The House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation [will hold a hearing](#) on oversight of the US Transplant System, a year after passage of [a new law](#) that decentralized the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network.

The CDC and FDA [announced](#) youth e-cigarette use declined 25% from 2.1M in 2023 to 1.6M in 2024, attributing the decline to tobacco control strategies, regulations and enforcement.

Humana [will leave 13 MA markets](#) next year, following its disclosure in July that it will likely lose [several hundred thousand members](#) during the Medicare open enrollment season due to benefit cuts and exits from certain markets.

A recent USDA report found that [13.5% of US households](#) struggle to access and afford groceries in 2023... food insecurity has increased significantly since 2022 and is correlated with the ending of enhanced temporary SNAP benefits provided during the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

Over 5.4M Medicare beneficiaries [likely have some form of dementia](#), according to a new model and data hub that is the first national surveillance system able to track diseases resulting in cognitive decline... Alzheimer's [cost the US economy](#) \$321B in 2022 and costs are expected to increase to \$1T by 2050 as the population ages.

A [study](#) published in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that dialysis rarely improved the life expectancy for elderly individuals with chronic kidney disease; those on dialysis had a life expectancy of 770 days vs. 761 days for those on medical management.

McKesson, Cardinal, and Cencora, three of the largest wholesale drug distributors, [have agreed](#) to pay health insurers \$300M for their role in the opioid epidemic... [~1M Americans](#) have died from opioid overdoses between 1999 and 2020.





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