



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

The Departments of Labor, HHS and the Treasury [finalized](#) Mental Health Parity Rules that strengthen requirements for commercial health plans to cover mental health and substance use disorder care at the same level as benefits for physical health... Health insurers have come [under scrutiny](#) in recent years for not complying with parity laws.

HHS published the [2024 Public Health Service \(PHS\) Policies on Research Misconduct Final Rule](#), clarifying the responsibilities of HHS personnel and PHS funded organizations in upholding research ethics

and integrity...through this policy update, the agency aims to rebuild public trust in [government research after the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

CMS released [a request for information](#), seeking input on extending Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) contracts to a duration of 10 years and consolidating four MAC jurisdictions into two.

The FDA [will commission a review](#) on materials used in tampons after a [published research study](#) found evidence of toxic metals, such as arsenic and lead, in over a dozen tampon brands.



Healthcare law and policy news

According to a recently released Census Bureau report, [8.0% of the US population was uninsured](#) in 2023, unchanged from 2022, [assuaging fears](#) that the uninsured rate would increase with the resumption of Medicaid redeterminations early last year.

The GAO [published a report](#) examining behavioral health services available and beneficiary cost-sharing under the Medicare program, finding beneficiaries in traditional Medicare typically pay deductibles and co-insurance for behavioral care, while those in Medicare Advantage tend to have co-payments; most MA plans also require prior authorizations for behavioral health services.

The CDC [identified](#) a man in Missouri as the first American infected with H5N1 without knowingly being exposed to an infected animal; while federal officials maintain that the risk of H5N1 spreading between humans is minimal, the government nevertheless has [started stockpiling](#) vaccines against this latest strain of bird flu.

The California legislature passed [SB1120](#), requiring state health plans and health insurers to comply with new guardrails around the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for utilization management decisions; the state legislature [passed another bill](#) that added requirements around communication between providers and patients generated through AI.





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