



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



November 18, 2024 | Issue 347

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](#).

We welcome your feedback. Let us know if KPMG can help. Please reply to this email with any comments or requests.

[> Subscribe here](#)



Healthcare regulatory news

HHS OIG found [37 out of 100](#) evaluated hospitals fail to publish prices of items and services [as required](#) by the 2021 Hospital Price Transparency Rule; industry representatives have [cited](#) limited resources as a challenge in adhering to price transparency rules.

The FDA [proposed](#) banning oral phenylephrine, a common ingredient in oral decongestants, after findings show the ingredient fails to alleviate cold symptoms... If enacted as proposed, the removal of this ingredient would effectively ban current

formulations of certain versions of popular brand name over-the-counter drugs, such as Benadryl, Mucinex, and Tylenol.

CMS [announced](#) the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) REACH program generated \$700 million in net savings for Performance Year 2023... Industry advocates are [calling](#) for CMS to extend ACO REACH— which prioritizes addressing the needs of underserved communities — beyond its 2026 expiration date.



Healthcare law and policy news

President-elect Trump [announced](#) he will appoint Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the Secretary of HHS... Kennedy is known for his advocacy [against](#) standard public health practices, his proposals for [reorganizing public health agencies](#), and his [critical stance](#) on vaccines.


Drug overdose deaths fell to [under 100,000](#) from June 2023-June 2024 for the first time since 2020; CDC Director Mandy Cohen [attributes](#) the lower death rate in part to improved access to fentanyl test strips and efforts to help overdose victims find long-term addiction care.

The US Justice Department and four state attorney generals [filed a civil antitrust lawsuit](#) against United Healthcare to prevent it from acquiring Amedisys, a home healthcare company, for \$3.3B.

A KFF report [found](#) states doubled their Medicaid expenditures on GLP-1 drugs from 2022 to 2023, although many states still refuse to cover these medications due to their high cost... A [study](#) in the Lancet found over 75% of US adults are now classified as overweight or obese, a significant increase from 1990 when 50% of adults were considered to have excess weight.

A GAO report [found](#) market concentration in private health insurance steadily increased between 2011 and 2022, with three or fewer insurers holding 80% of the market in 35 states... [Concentrated markets](#) typically offer fewer choices to consumers and have less competition, often leading to higher prices.



 Questions or comments, please send to us-hclspractice@kpmg.com.

kpmg.com/socialmedia



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

You have received this message from KPMG LLP. If you wish to unsubscribe from Around the world of U.S. healthcare in 360 words or less, please [click here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe from all KPMG communications, please [click here](#).

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

© 2024 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved.

USCS011380-1B

The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.