



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



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Editor's note

Please note, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no issue of ATW on Monday, December 2. Have a safe and happy holiday!

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

CMS [approved](#) five Section 1115 waivers to allow children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP continuous eligibility beyond the currently mandated 12 months; typically, Medicaid beneficiaries [must undergo](#) periodic redetermination, which can lead to improper disenrollment due to the administrative burden.

DEA and HHS [issued a temporary 12-month extension](#) of telemedicine flexibility, enabling providers to prescribe controlled substances without an initial in-person visit... Advocates [have stated](#) a one-year extension is insufficient time for the new administration to fully establish itself and address telehealth flexibilities.

CMS [announced](#) over 3M enrolled in a Marketplace plan through HealthCare.gov or a State-based Marketplace since Nov. 1, including 500K new consumers, which is [below the 4.6M](#) in last year's Open Enrollment during the same time period.

The FDA has [approved](#) pill Revoforj, a first-in-class drug, to treat certain genetic forms of advanced leukemia... The [price](#) of Revoforj is \$39K per month prior to potential insurance discounts and rebates.



Healthcare law and policy news

President-elect Trump continues to announce his nominations to lead HHS agencies, including cardiothoracic surgeon and television host Dr. Mehmet Oz [for CMS Administrator](#), Johns Hopkins surgeon Dr. Marty Makary [for FDA commissioner](#), and former Florida Representative Dave Weldon, MD to [lead the CDC](#).

UnitedHealth Group, Cigna, and CVS Health, the three largest pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), have filed a [countersuit](#) against the FTC, challenging the [agency's claim](#) that PBMs are responsible for high insulin prices in an ongoing legal battle between PBMs and the Federal Government.


The US Surgeon General [report](#) on tobacco use and health disparities found a 70% reduction in smoking since 1965; however, this reduction is not uniform across all groups, with minority groups and individuals with lower socio-economic-status more likely to smoke or be exposed to secondhand smoke.

The House [passed](#) a broad VA bill that would expand access to private-sector medical care to eligible beneficiaries, increase

coverage of home-based care, fund mental health services for caregivers, and incorporate private clinician data into the VA computer system.

CDC data [shows](#) there were 2.4M new cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in 2023, a 1.8% decrease from the previous year but a [1M increase](#) compared to 2004.



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