



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 HHS OIG [recommends](#) HHS' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) evaluate its HIPAA Audit Program to ensure that OCR is effectively assessing and enforcing measures to protect healthcare information as mandated by [HIPAA](#)... The report follows [GAO's assessment](#) that HHS struggles to implementing cybersecurity responsibilities, citing the Change Healthcare attack in February.

FDA [submitted](#) a proposed rule to OMB that would limit the amount of nicotine in cigarettes, a move it [has been signaling](#) for years;

however, [it is uncertain](#) if the incoming Trump administration would advance the proposal.

A [final rule](#) released by the HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ASTP/ONC) aims to increase interoperability by simplifying health IT certifications, preventing information blocking, defining the role of Qualified Health Information Networks, and streamlining the methods by which health systems exchange information.



Healthcare law and policy news

Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) [introduced](#) a bill that would require health insurance companies to divest from their owned pharmacy benefit managers within three years; [a companion bill](#) has been introduced in the House... In recent years, vertical integration between PBMs, health insurers, and pharmacies have [raised concerns](#) about decreased competition and distorted prices.


A federal district court in North Dakota sided with 19 Republican attorneys general and [blocked](#) a [recently finalized rule](#) that would have allowed Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (i.e. 'Dreamers') to enroll in and receive subsidies for Marketplace health plans for the first time.

Medicare spends 27% more for individuals who disenrolled from Medicare Advantage (MA) and switched to Fee-for-Service (FFS) than those continuously enrolled in a FFS plan, [according to KFF](#). Individuals who need more services [are more likely to switch](#) from MA to traditional Medicare, often due to plans' cost containment measures that can limit care for beneficiaries.

A new [study](#) in JAMA Oncology found prevention and screening practices have reduced mortality from the five most common cancers in the United States more so than treatment advances,

contributing to [evidence](#) that primary prevention and treatment are paramount to preventing cancer deaths.



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