



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



January 13, 2025 | Issue 352

Editor's note

Please note the next issue of ATW will be published on Tuesday, January 21, in observance of MLK Day. Have a great week!

[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

In a new [final rule](#), the Biden administration announced it will eliminate medical debt from consumer credit reports, removing \$49 billion in debt from the credit reports of about 15 million Americans and prohibiting the use of medical debt information in lending decisions.

The 2026 Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Advance Notice would increase payments to MA plans by 4.33% on average, [according to](#)

[CMS](#), and includes Part D redesign modifications to align with IRA requirements.

CMS [released](#) explanations of the Maximum Fair Price (MFP) for each of the 10 drugs covered under Medicare Part D that were selected for the first cycle of negotiations under the Drug Price Negotiation Program, as established by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)... The MFP is the ceiling or highest negotiated price for a selected drug; MFPs for the 10 drugs will take effect January 1, 2026.

FDA [will expand](#) types of nonprescription drugs available to consumers, establishing requirements for a nonprescription drug product with an additional condition for nonprescription use (ACNU). Nonprescription drugs with an ACNU require specific conditions to ensure safety, often involving additional labeling or usage instructions.

HHS is [awarding](#) \$306 million dollars to continue its H5N1 Avian Flu response, allocating funding to ASPR, CDC, and NIH to focus on disease surveillance, testing, and monitoring... HHS Secretary Becerra reiterated that the risk to humans remains low, but preparedness is critical.



Healthcare law and policy news

Waivers on limitations for Medicare coverage of telehealth services [will extend](#) through March 31, 2025, due to legislation passed by Congress at the end of last year. Originally established in connection with the COVID-19 PHE, the waivers provide flexibilities to expand access and continuity of care.

Over 23 million consumers enrolled in Marketplace coverage for 2025, [CMS reported](#). Due to the expanded tax credits under the IRA available through 2025, 4 out of 5 HealthCare.gov consumers can find a plan for \$10 or less per month.

The U.S. Surgeon General [issued](#) a new advisory highlighting the link between alcohol consumption and an increased risk for at least seven different types of cancer. Annually, alcohol contributes to nearly 100,000 cancer cases and around 20,000 cancer deaths.



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