



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

In a new statement on [Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs](#), CMS highlighted that reducing drug costs is a top priority for President Trump and that his administration will incorporate lessons learned and feedback from the public to improve the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

GAO issued a [report](#) that outlines actions the USDA should take to improve oversight for meat and poultry products, noting the importance of food safety and inspection standards. The CDC [estimates](#) foodborne illnesses affect one in six Americans annually.

FDA withdrew a proposal to ban menthol cigarettes and other flavored cigars, according to new regulatory [filing](#). The proposal was introduced by the Biden administration but delayed [indefinitely](#) in response to feedback about civil rights.



Healthcare law and policy news

HHS Secretary nominee Robert F. Kennedy Jr. [faced](#) questions about Medicare, Medicaid, and vaccine safety in Senate confirmation hearings last week. The Senate Finance Committee is set to vote on his confirmation recommendation on February 4th.

The Kansas City metropolitan area is experiencing a severe [outbreak](#) of tuberculosis, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Tuberculosis is a contagious disease that commonly affects the lungs and [spreads](#) through the air.

Bipartisan [legislation](#) introduced in the U.S. Senate would require that all direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertisements include price disclosures for prescription drugs and biological products. Legislators [noted](#) that the bill aims to improve transparency and better inform patient decision-making.

The Senate HELP committee introduced bipartisan [legislation](#) to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, which would [reauthorize](#) several grant programs and education campaigns focused on suicide prevention and mental health treatment for healthcare professionals.

According to an [analysis by KFF](#), Marketplace plans available through Healthcare.gov denied 20% of all claims on average, citing a lack of prior authorization or referral, as well as other administrative reasons.

Congress introduced a [bill](#) to offset [cuts](#) in Medicare payments for physicians, including a payment increase to account for inflation.

A KFF [poll](#) on public health information outlines declining public trust in government health agencies and shifting attitudes about vaccines,

noting that challenges have increased following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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