



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

A Texas federal court [has ruled](#) that the FDA lacks the authority to regulate laboratory-developed tests (LDTs), vacating a final rule that would have treated these tests as medical devices and remanding the matter back to the HHS Secretary.

The [Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force](#) was launched by DOJ to identify opportunities to eliminate state and federal laws and regulations that “create unnecessary barriers to competition,” with a specific focus on healthcare, housing, and food & agriculture.

CMS is moving to finalize an [Information Collection Request \(ICR\)](#) for the Medicare Transaction Facilitator (MTF), which will allow the agency to collect data needed to operationalize the Maximum Fair Price negotiated

under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program. The agency has requested public comments by May 1, 2025.



Healthcare law and policy news

The Senate [confirmed](#) Dr. Mehmet Oz as CMS Administrator.

FTC [paused its antitrust lawsuit](#) against the largest pharmacy benefit managers alleging they inflated insulin prices through unfair practices. The case is on hold [due to a shortage of commissioners](#) following the dismissal of staff by the Trump administration; FTC Chair Andrew Ferguson later [announced](#) he will no longer recuse himself.

[Bipartisan legislation](#) re-introduced in the House would modify requirements in Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans to stipulate that all prior authorizations and adverse determinations must be made by board-certified physicians of the same specialty as the provider managing the condition.

A [House budget resolution targeting up to \\$880 billion](#) in federal Medicaid spending reductions [could force states to implement new policy modifications](#) in return, such as raising taxes, cutting other programs like education, or reducing Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

According to a [new Gallup poll](#), 11% of adults reported they have recently been unable to afford or access quality healthcare – the highest level since 2021.

[New research suggests](#) that individuals who received the shingles vaccine had a 20% lower risk of developing dementia over a seven-year period compared to those who did not receive the vaccine; the correlation may be linked to the vaccine's ability to prevent reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, which may contribute to neuroinflammation and cognitive decline.



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