



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



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Editor's note

This note is produced by KPMG's Federal Healthcare Advisory Practice and is intended to be short and succinct, less than 360 words, to provide a digestible bite of news relevant to our clients and practices. Links are provided to source material (proposed and final regulations, agency guidance and press releases, reports, research, etc.) when available.



Healthcare regulatory news

New [price transparency guidance](#) issued by CMS requires hospitals to post actual prices of items and services rather than estimates or placeholder values. The Trump administration also [intends to update](#) technical specifications for payers for in-network reimbursement rates and out-of-network allowed amounts required by the Transparency in Coverage [final rule](#).

CDC modified its [COVID-19 vaccine guidance](#), now advising the vaccine for healthy children based on shared clinical decision-making between parents and providers rather than providing a direct recommendation. The update appears to [contradict](#) an earlier statement from HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. that the vaccine recommendation would be removed for that group.

FDA [announced](#) new steps intended to boost importation programs, allowing states and tribes to import certain prescription drugs from Canada more easily to help reduce drug prices. Measures include offering pre-review of proposals, streamlining cost-savings analyses, and providing tools to facilitate the approval process for these programs.

CMS [will extend](#) options for the Kidney Care Choices (KCC) Model through 2027, modifying financial methodology and participation options to improve sustainability after the model resulted in net financial losses to Medicare in

2023. Notable changes include reduced capitated payments and elimination of transplant bonuses, aiming to continue improvements in kidney care quality while addressing cost concerns.

GAO [recommended](#) that CMS target behavioral health in its audits of prior authorization criteria after finding that most Medicare Advantage organizations reviewed required prior authorization for such services.



Healthcare law and policy news

HHS [terminated](#) a contract with Moderna to develop mRNA-based flu vaccines targeting potential pandemic strains like H5N1. Some vaccine researchers [noted](#) that the development marks a shift in pandemic preparedness strategy, as mRNA technology offers the potential for faster vaccine development compared to other methods.

A bipartisan group of Senators introduced [legislation](#) that would eliminate cost-sharing for prenatal, childbirth, neonatal, perinatal, and postpartum care under private insurance. The bill [aims](#) to make maternity care more affordable by requiring insurance companies to cover these services fully.

Amid concerns of rising costs and a substantial increase in demand, some Blue Cross Blue Shield plans intend to [remove coverage](#) of GLP-1 drugs for weight loss and instead restrict prescriptions to certain patient groups.



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