



# Around the world of US 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

CMS [issued](#) a Request for Information for “ClaimsCore,” a modernization of its aging Medicare claims system into a cloud-based platform. The agency [seeks](#) vendors to build and test real-time adjudication solutions during a low-cost proof-of-concept phase (targeting \$1 base cost), with up to four initial awards. After performance evaluation, CMS will down-select for a potential production contract integrating core processing systems.

Following significant pressure from Congress, the Trump administration [reinstated](#) roughly \$2B in discretionary SAMHSA grants for substance use and mental health programs that had been cancelled earlier in the week to realign funding with the administration's priorities.

Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [released](#) its [Strategic Plan for FY 2026-2029](#), aligning with the administration's priorities to enhance national health security through pre-disaster preparedness and supply chain resilience. The plan details five goals: bolstering workforce unity and internal culture; enhancing state and local preparedness; delivering rapid federal response; securing domestic medical supply chains; and countering emerging health security threats.

OMB has [cleared](#) a Department of Labor rule [requiring increased transparency](#) into the direct and indirect compensation of PBMs. This regulatory action coincides with lawmakers considering [similar PBM reforms](#) for potential inclusion in upcoming healthcare legislation aimed at lowering premiums.

ARPA-H [launched](#) the ADVOCATE program to build the first FDA-authorized autonomous AI agent to manage care for heart failure patients. The initiative [aims](#) to develop AI that can handle tasks like scheduling, diagnostics, and prescriptions, and a "supervisory agent" to ensure the clinical AI tools are safe and effective.



## Healthcare law and policy news

President Trump announced a [framework for a new healthcare plan](#) that proposes to send federal subsidies directly to individuals to purchase coverage instead of insurance companies and codify the "Most-Favored-Nation" drug pricing deals. The White House is calling on Congress to pass legislation including these provisions, along with stronger price transparency requirements and additional health plan options.

Enrollment in ACA Marketplace plans for 2026 is [trailing behind](#) last year's numbers, with 22.8M sign-ups as of early January, a 3% decrease from the same period in 2025. The decline has been associated with the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies, leading to a sharp [increase in premiums](#) for many consumers.



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