



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

FDA [launched](#) TEMPO, a voluntary pilot testing a risk-based regulatory framework enabling manufacturers to deploy select digital health devices for chronic conditions while collecting real-world performance data. TEMPO coordinates with CMS's recently announced [ACCESS model](#) to broaden access to technology-enabled care, targeting cardio-kidney-metabolic, musculoskeletal, and behavioral health conditions.

HHS health IT chief Thomas Keane [signaled](#) plans for a forthcoming rule to eliminate 34 electronic health record (EHR) certification criteria and revise seven, aiming to ease regulatory burdens especially on smaller vendors. The agency plans a spring shift to application programming interface (API)-focused rules enforcing EHR interoperability.

CMS issued [guidance](#) for states to implement community engagement requirements under [H.R.1](#), requiring able-bodied, working-age Medicaid adults to meet work or community activity standards by January 1, 2027. The guidance outlines four principles: connecting members to work and community, state flexibility, policy alignment with programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and improving determinations and verifications.

HUD [withdrew](#) its Notice of Funding Opportunity for Continuum of Care mental health programs just before a court hearing on lawsuits challenging the policy, which capped permanent housing at 30% of funds (down from 90%) and shifted most to transitional housing with work or service requirements. The agency [cited](#) technical corrections and plans to reissue the notice.



Healthcare law and policy news

Senate Republicans [introduced](#) the Health Care Freedom for Patients Act, proposing direct federal deposits into health savings accounts for individuals earning up to 700% of the federal poverty level who buy bronze or catastrophic plans. Meanwhile, bipartisan House members [filed](#) a discharge petition to force a floor vote on a two-year extension of ACA premium tax credits.

HHS released its new [AI Strategy](#), unifying AI efforts across CDC, CMS, FDA, and other agencies in efforts to modernize operations and enhance decision-making. The plan builds on executive orders and prior directives, positioning AI as central to regulatory efficiency while addressing safety concerns.

MedPAC discussed draft 2027 recommendations at its [December meeting](#), including a modest physician payment increase tied to the Medicare Economic Index, an additional \$1B toward the Medicare Safety Net Index pool, and a 7% cut to home health rates to address potential inefficiencies.



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