



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 [announced](#) two actions to advance real-time clinical trials: launching two proof-of-concept studies that transmit data in real time, and issuing a [Request for Information](#) on a pilot program set to begin later this year. The initiative aims to reduce inefficiencies and delays in early-phase trials by enabling continuous data monitoring and faster regulatory decision-making.

CMS [released](#) the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Measure Set, a standardized set of Medicaid measures intended to help states compare quality data and improve outcomes. The proposal would require states to report on 23 mandatory measures and 2 additional voluntary measures.

Federal funds can no longer be used to purchase drug test strips that detect substances like fentanyl and xylazine, according to [updated SAMHSA guidance](#). The change aligns with an executive order [shifting](#) funding away from harm-reduction programs, which the administration [argues](#) enable illegal drug use, despite [opposition](#) from public health advocates.



Healthcare law and policy news

Cigna [will exit](#) the ACA individual Marketplaces in 2027, citing limited growth potential and a desire to shift focus toward its Evernorth specialty and care services division, pharmacy benefits division, and flagship employer plan business. The move follows declining ACA enrollment tied to expiring subsidies and broader industry pullbacks primarily due to increasing costs and a sicker risk pool.

President Trump [withdrew](#) Dr. Casey Means's nomination for surgeon general after it stalled in the Senate, and instead [nominated](#) Dr. Nicole Saphier. Saphier is a radiologist and Director of Breast Imaging at MSK Monmouth who authored a MAHA-themed book and [advocates](#) for personal responsibility for improving health.

FDA has [appointed](#) Katherine Szarama as acting director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, replacing Vinay Prasad following his [departure](#). Szarama, a recent FDA deputy with a background in biophysics, will serve temporarily as the agency continues its search for a permanent director.

Major insurers, led by AHIP and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, are [implementing](#) a standardized electronic prior authorization process for commonly reviewed services such as orthopedic procedures and imaging across commercial, MA, and Medicaid plans. The effort, part of a broader industry commitment involving about 50 insurers, aims to reduce administrative burden, improve transparency, and expand standardization through 2027.



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