



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 [proposed](#) the RAPID Coverage Pathway, a new program designed to expedite Medicare coverage for FDA-designated breakthrough medical devices. The pathway [would allow](#) for a proposed national coverage determination on the same day as FDA market authorization, potentially reducing the time to Medicare reimbursement to as little as two months from the current one-year timeline.

Following an [HHS analysis](#) released earlier this year, a new [executive order](#) aims to align childhood vaccine recommendations with those of other “peer, developed countries.” Physicians and public health experts were [broadly critical](#) of the order, citing lack of scientific evidence supporting the changes and concern about delayed vaccines among children.

HHS [announced](#) two new actions in food safety regulation, with the FDA [proposing a rule](#) that requires manufacturers to notify the agency about substances added to food considered "Generally Recognized as Safe" (GRAS) and submitting the first federal definition of ultra-processed foods (UPFs) for review. The reforms are [intended](#) to modernize federal oversight of food ingredients and establish a stronger scientific foundation for nutrition policy as part of the "Make America Healthy Again" agenda.



Healthcare law and policy news

A Fifth Circuit [ruling](#) has invalidated the methodology used to determine the qualifying payment amount (QPA) for out-of-network bills under the No Surprises Act. The court's ruling [sides with](#) providers by prohibiting the inclusion of so-called "ghost rates" and the exclusion of bonus payments in these calculations.

In response to a [court order](#) that blocked portions of the [2027 Exchange rule](#), CMS [extended deadlines](#) for qualified health plan (QHP) certification for Marketplace participation. The extension gives insurers more time to revise their 2027 portfolios to include the now-required standardized plan options and adhere to a limit of two non-standardized plans.

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, prescription drug prices experienced their [sharpest annual decline](#) in over 60 years, dropping 3.1% in the 12 months ending in July. Experts note there is debate about the exact causes of this decline, citing several contributing factors including President Trump's push to lower drug prices, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the recent [loss of patent exclusivity](#) for a wave of blockbuster drugs.



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