



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

NIH has [proposed](#) a new "binning" process for grant applications, which would replace specific numerical peer-review scores with broad categories and keep the exact scores secret from applicants. The plan has [drawn criticism](#) from the scientific community regarding a potential lack of transparency, the risk of political interference in funding decisions, and the loss of valuable feedback for researchers.

Following the release of a new [discussion paper](#), FDA is [seeking](#) public feedback on a new regulatory framework for generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)-enabled medical devices. The proposed framework includes a risk assessment, a pre-market evaluation process modeled after how providers are trained, and ongoing monitoring based on the device's specific risk level.

HHS is [soliciting nominations](#) for appointments to the [National Vaccine Advisory Committee \(NVAC\)](#), a federal advisory group providing broad vaccine policy and strategic recommendations to the HHS Secretary. The committee recently expanded its scope to include reviewing dietary supplements for infectious disease prevention and developing strategies to protect unvaccinated individuals while controlling disease transmission.

SAMHSA [awarded](#) nearly \$97M in grants to strengthen behavioral health services. The funding will target a range of initiatives including services for the homeless, suicide prevention, substance use disorder treatment, and disaster-related emotional support.



Healthcare law and policy news

President Trump [nominated](#) Dr. Heidi Overton, a board-certified public health and preventative medicine physician and White House policy aide, to be the next FDA Commissioner. Her nomination follows a period of [instability](#) at the agency and comes amid major public health challenges including the recent [cyclosporiasis outbreak](#).

A federal judge [issued](#) a preliminary injunction, temporarily blocking HHS from cutting funding to the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP). The [lawsuit](#) contends that the Trump administration's new funding conditions unlawfully deviate from the evidence-based criteria established for the program by statute.

Based benefits consultant Aon, employers are projected to face a [9.5% increase in healthcare costs](#) in 2027, representing the fourth consecutive year of near double-digit increases. The Aon report cited a larger patient population, chronic conditions, more expensive claims, and high-cost prescription drugs like GLP-1 medications as the major drivers of persistently high cost increases.



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