



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

FTC [issued](#) warning letters to 24 of the largest healthcare providers demanding immediate and complete compliance with hospital price transparency mandates. FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson [emphasized](#) that CMS regulations serve only as a “regulatory floor” and warned that non-compliant hospitals will face swift legal action under the FTC Act...

Separately, HHS [finalized](#) updates to the Transparency in Coverage (TiC) rules aiming to enhance the quality, accuracy, and accessibility of healthcare pricing data while reducing reporting frequency from monthly to quarterly to ease administrative burdens. Additionally, the updated rules require insurers to provide personalized cost-sharing details by phone and establish a timeline to develop and implement standardized Prescription Drug Files by late 2027.

[According to CMS](#), roughly 37% of offered 2027 MAPD contracts achieved four or more stars in the annual Star Ratings release, translating to 71% of total beneficiaries being enrolled in high-performing plans when weighted by enrollment. Additionally, the report indicates that 15 contracts (3%) achieved the maximum five-star status, while non-profit organizations [continued](#) to secure higher overall ratings compared to their for-profit counterparts.



Healthcare law and policy news

PhRMA [filed](#) a federal lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's "most-favored nation" Medicare Part B pilot program, GLOBE, which ties domestic drug prices to lower rates in peer countries. PhRMA [argues](#) that the mandatory rebate framework exceeds Medicare's statutory authority, violates constitutional separation of powers, and establishes a highly unfavorable policy precedent.

HHS [announced](#) new initiatives to enhance the national response to vaccine-related health concerns, including the opening of a dedicated NIH research clinic and modernizing the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

A bipartisan group of legislators is [urging](#) CMS to rescind a proposed Medicare payment rule that would prohibit remote patient monitoring programs from utilizing third-party clinical staff, arguing that the restriction could reduce healthcare access for rural and medically complex patients while placing unsustainable operational burdens on small, independent practices and hospitals.

According to a recent [report](#) from Moody's, pharmaceutical mergers and acquisitions are experiencing a significant global surge, with deal values rising 38% last year to \$116B.

Companies are increasingly [pursuing](#) consolidation to offset looming patent expirations, high AI investments, and strong pipeline competition.



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