



# 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

A new CMS policy that [overhauls](#) Medicare payment for skin substitutes is [projected](#) by CBO to save approximately \$245B by 2035. The savings are expected to result from changing the payment methodology by moving from reimbursing skin substitutes as biologics to paying a lower flat fee as "incident to supplies," intending to curb the recent [surge](#) in spending.

FDA [approved](#) the removal of warnings about cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, and dementia from the labels of six hormone replacement therapy (HRT) products for menopausal women. The decision has sparked controversy, as some critics [argue](#) the decision was not based on formal advisory committee processes or new scientific evidence.

Following [legal challenges](#) that halted a previous initiative, HRSA issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) for a new 340B rebate model pilot program. HRSA is now soliciting detailed responses and data from stakeholders on the design and potential challenges of a new model, with comments due by March 19.



## Healthcare law and policy news

According to a new [GAO report](#), the passage of the No Surprises Act was followed by an increase in the percentage of in-network claims for three of the four specialties studied, suggesting a rise in provider network participation. Changes in inflation-adjusted payments for these services, however, largely continued trends that were established before the Act's implementation.

NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya has been [appointed](#) to also serve as acting director of CDC, according to an administration official, replacing outgoing acting director Jim O'Neill. This appointment would make him the third leader of the agency during President Trump's second term, as the administration continues to seek a permanent candidate.

A group of bipartisan Senators [introduced](#) the "[Break Up Big Medicine Act](#)," aiming to address vertical integration in the healthcare industry. The legislation would force healthcare conglomerates to separate their insurance and PBM businesses from physician practices, pharmacies, and other medical providers that they own.

The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) [released](#) the largest open-sourced Medicaid dataset in its history, stating aggregated, provider-level claims data by billing code over time may improve fraud detection; however, [some experts caution](#) its partial scope, data quality issues, and privacy-related suppression mean it cannot alone prove or disprove widespread Medicaid fraud.



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