

PNC PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCES

Monthly News Brief

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[How the Healthcare Industry is Reacting to a Second Trump Term](#) *(MedTech Dive)*

Trump's first term as president was characterized by efforts to chip away at key tenets of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), curtail the Medicaid program and deregulate the healthcare industry. It's unlikely that Trump will again attempt to repeal the ACA, which is widely popular among Americans. However, his administration could move to cut costs stemming from the Obama-era law, including allowing more generous subsidies for plans on ACA exchanges to expire next year

[The Health Care Credit Beat: Republican Red Wave a Net Negative for Health Care](#) *(MedTech Dive)*

Health care was not a major campaign issue in this past U.S. election, and neither party provided many details about their plans for health care. Now, with a Republican sweep in the White House and in both houses of Congress, Trump has significant ability to potentially influence U.S. health care. The top five developments analysts are monitoring include what map happen with the Affordable Care Act, the Medicare drug price negotiation that is part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the tone at the Federal Trade Commission on M&A and tariffs, and the priorities of the new head of Department of Health and Human Services

[With Trump Victorious, Biotech Industry's Focus Turns to His Plans for FDA, FTC](#) *(BioPharma Dive)*

Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election means change is coming for federal health agencies and the industries they regulate. It's not quite clear yet how dramatic that change might be. A Trump administration could change how the federal government approaches drug pricing. In his first term, Trump floated several policies to cut drug costs that either failed to advance or were thwarted by legal action. The range of possible outcomes for the industry on drug pricing policy in a second Trump term is quite substantial, and the outlook for the new Medicare drug price negotiation program is perhaps the best case in point

[What RFK Jr.'s Influence on Trump Could Mean for Pharma](#) *(BioPharma Dive)*

Kennedy outlined three goals directed to him from Trump: "clean up corruption," return health agencies to evidence-based science and "make America healthy again." Kennedy's key issues include drug prices, vaccines, NIH funding, drug advertising, obesity and chronic illness. Kennedy wants to use federal health data to prove whether vaccines are unsafe. However, Kennedy said he "won't take away anyone's vaccines" and instead promote "choice." Kennedy also wants to change funding for the National Institutes of Health and has a plan to "devote half of research budgets toward preventive, alternative and holistic approach to health"

[What Might a Trump Administration Mean for the Biosecure Act?](#) *(BioPharma Dive)*

The Biosecure Act is in legislative limbo and now in the hands of a lame duck Congress. It is aimed at limiting perceived security and intellectual property vulnerabilities by prohibiting U.S. companies that receive federal funds from doing business with five named Chinese biotechs which are partners for many U.S. pharmaceutical companies. Even if Congress doesn't pass the bill as one of its last acts, it has bipartisan support and rhetoric from President-elect Donald Trump around U.S.-Chinese relations could add momentum for its passage once he's sworn into office

[Advamed CEO Stresses Need for Safety, Efficacy After Trump Picks Markary to Lead FDA](#) *(MedTech Dive)*

In a statement responding to Trump's nomination of Martin Makary to lead the FDA, the Advamed CEO said "It is critical that FDA maintain the highest standards for safety and efficacy while ensuring the review process is efficient, transparent, and predictable to ensure every patient has access to the best medical technologies." Makary's career as a surgeon and professor should help him understand the value of medical technology for patients. Makary could have the largest influence over the medtech industry among Trump's health nominees, as the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health oversees medical devices

[Advamed CEO Welcomes Dr. Oz as Trump's Pick to Lead CMS](#) *(MedTech Dive)*

Advamed's CEO praised Mehmet Oz's "firsthand experience" as a heart surgeon with medical technology as he welcomed Trump's choice of the celebrity physician to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "CMS" which oversees health insurance coverage for more than 160 million Americans through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and Affordable Care Act Plans. The head of the influential medtech trade group said Oz understands the impact medical technologies can have on preventing disease progression and restoring health

[Biden Administration Proposes Medicare, Medicaid Coverage of Pricey Weight Loss Drugs](#) *(MedTech Dive)*

In one of its last major policy actions, the Biden administration proposed a rule that would allow Medicare and Medicaid to expand access to drugs like Wegovy and Zepbound that have shown remarkable efficacy in helping patients lose weight, but at a steep price tag of roughly \$40 billion over a decade for federal and state governments. Currently, Medicare is forbidden by statute from covering drugs for weight loss, while only a handful of state Medicaid programs pay for the medications. More than 40% of Americans are obese, according to the CDC with that percentage expected to reach 50% by 2030

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