

# PNC PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCES

## Monthly News Brief

March 2025

### **Trump Administration Policies Could Create Headwinds Across Healthcare** *(MedTech Dive)*

Changes to healthcare policy under President Trump could negatively impact the credit ratings of healthcare providers, payers, pharmaceutical companies and medical device firms, according to Fitch. Insurers could feel downstream effects of Medicaid cuts if hospitals seek to hike payment rates for privately insured patients to mitigate the costs of providing care for uninsured patients. A reduced workforce at the FDA, delays for medical device manufacturers and a slower drug and device approval process could also cause credit implications

### **EPA to Reconsider Emissions Standards for Medical Device Sterilizers** *(MedTech Dive)*

The EPA plans to reconsider emissions standards for facilities that sterilize medical devices as part of broader deregulation, which comes on the heels of a final rule from the EPA in 2024 limiting emissions of ethylene oxide. The MedTech industry initially pushed back against the 2024 requirements, saying they could reduce capacity for sterilizing medical devices, potentially leading to shortages. As a result, the EPA gave companies two years to comply with the new emissions limits

### **FDA Official's Ouster Sends Shares of Vaccine Makers Sliding** *(BioPharma Dive)*

FDA's top vaccine official, Peter Marks, resigned due to differences with new HHS Secretary Kennedy, citing RFK Jr sought "subservient confirmation of his misinformation and lies." Marks oversaw the review of new vaccines, blood products and gene therapies. The resignation is bringing attention to the potential changes in regulation and review of shots for infectious diseases. Shares of some vaccine producers experienced declines following the announcement

### **J&J Boosts Planned US Manufacturing Investment to \$55B** *(MedTech Dive)*

J&J will invest \$55B over the next four years, a 25% uptick compared to the prior four years, in an effort to bring manufacturing back to the U.S. The announcement comes as big pharma faces pressure from the Trump administration to open more U.S. based facilities, with Eli Lilly, Merck, and Amgen all announcing plans for U.S. based manufacturing facilities

### **OSD Manufacturing Market: Growth Trends & Outlook** *(Contract Pharma)*

Oral solid dosage (OSD) products, the oldest and most well-understood type of formulation, continue to dominate the pharmaceutical industry, accounting for the largest category of manufactured drugs and the most prescribed dose form for various indications. Two-thirds of the total drugs prescribed worldwide are dispensed in the form of oral solids. Furthermore, approximately 84% of the best-selling pharmaceuticals are administered orally, and oral solid dose forms account for nearly 30% of the small molecules in the development pipeline. The consensus among industry insiders is that the market for outsourcing oral solid dose development and manufacturing remains strong

### **Top 15 US Pharmacies of 2024: Market Shares & Revenues at the Biggest Chains, PBMs, & Specialty Pharmacies** *(Drug Channels)*

For 2024, total prescription dispensing revenues at retail, mail, long-term care, and specialty pharmacies reached \$683B, up 9% from 2023. The top 15 pharmacies accounted for about 75% of total dispensing revenues with the largest four accounting for half of total U.S. prescription dispensing revenues. While the industry racked up strong revenue growth, the retail pharmacy shakeout accelerated. Over the past four years, the three largest drugstore chains have found themselves behind the eight ball, collectively cutting nearly 3,000 locations

### **HHS to Cut 10,000 Staff in Major Restructuring Under RFK Jr.** *(BioPharma Dive)*

Health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. plans to dramatically reshape the department he leads through mass layoffs of ~10,000 full-time employees and consolidation of the sprawling agency that provides health insurance to tens of millions of Americans, responds to disease outbreaks and regulates medical products. The layoffs are mainly aimed at administrative positions, as well as roles in "high-cost regions" or in areas "that have been determined to be redundant or duplicative"

### **Dr. Oz Stresses Need for Faster Medicare Coverage of New Devices During Confirmation Hearing** *(MedTech Dive)*

Dr. Oz, President Trump's nominee to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), told senators that Medicare should cover newly approved medical devices more quickly to give beneficiaries earlier access to potentially life-saving technology. Oz, who spoke before the Senate Finance Committee during his nomination hearing, criticized CMS for delaying Medicare coverage of new technologies approved by the FDA

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