Obamacare Replacement May Look Like Existing Law, Without Mandate

Insight

The changes likely will be phased in over time, with very few, if any, immediately repealed. That will allow the new Congress time to fashion replacement parts. And those replacement parts will mostly resemble the old law, says Dallas health care lawyer Jeff Drummond of Jackson Walker LLP.

Judge Halves Jury's $1 Billion Punitive Damages Award in J&J Hip Implant Case

News

U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade in Dallas found the jury's punitive-damage awards to six patients were excessive and should be reduced, according to court filings.

If Republicans Repeal Health

Law, Paying For A Replacement Could Be Tough

News

Leading Republicans in Congress have vowed that even if they repeal most of the Affordable Care Act early in 2017, a replacement won't hurt those now receiving benefits, reports NPR.

Nation's Largest Freestanding ER operator Shedding Executives

News

Graham Cherrington is the second executive to leave the embattled company suddenly in recent months, following a disappointing $11.7 million loss in third quarter.

Johnson & Johnson Hit With Over $1 Billion Verdict on Hip Implants

News

The New Jersey pharmaceutical and medical device maker and its

DePuy Orthopaedics subsidiary must pay damages to six California plaintiffs who say they suffered serious chronic and painful medical problems caused by the device, reports *The Dallas Morning News*.

U.S. Charges in Generic-Drug Probe to Be Filed by Year-End

News

The antitrust investigation by the Justice Department spans more than a dozen companies and about two dozen drugs, reports Bloomberg.

Compliance and Ethics Program Comparison: Survey Results

Insight

The Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics and the Health Care Compliance Association recently conducted a survey to gauge the effectiveness of compliance programs at preventing incidents from occurring.

Hedge Fund Sues Theranos, Citing ‘Lies, Material Misstatements, and Omissions’

News

Partner Fund Management, a San Francisco-based hedge fund that reportedly wrote out a $96 million check to Theranos in 2014, is now suing the blood-testing startup and its founder, Elizabeth Holmes, reports TechCrunch.

Mylan to Pay $465 Million Over EpiPen Medicaid Rebate Dispute

News

At issue is whether Mylan made more money on EpiPen than warranted from state Medicaid programs by having it classified as a generic product, Reuters is reporting.

Alabama Law Firm Says It Has Received 26k Calls After

Talcum Powder Verdicts

News

A law firm in Montgomery, Ala., says it received nearly 26,000 phone calls from people inquiring about a possible link between talcum powder and ovarian cancer after its clients won a total of $127 million in two verdicts earlier this year, reports AL.com.

Theranos Walks Away From Zika Test

News

The move is another setback for the Palo Alto, Calif., company as it tries to recover from crippling regulatory sanctions that followed revelations by *The Wall Street Journal* of shortcomings in Theranos's technology and operations.

First State-to-State Spread of Zika Magnifies Questions of Employer Liability

Insight

While Zika's dangers first appeared in Brazil, its spread to the U.S. has magnified questions about risk, including to

workers whose employers want them to travel, says Justin Markel of Roberts Markel Weinberg Butler Hailey PC.

Kentucky AG Sues Johnson & Johnson Over Transvaginal Mesh Marketing

News

CNN is reporting that Kentucky's attorney general is suing health-care giant Johnson & Johnson for millions of dollars, saying the company "concealed and misrepresented" the risk of its transvaginal mesh products to doctors and patients.

Gilead to Get Attorney Fees in Hepatitis C Patent Fight With Merck

News

Gilead Sciences Inc. is entitled to receive the attorney fees it incurred related to hepatitis C patent litigation with drugmaker Merck & Co Inc., a U.S. district judge has ruled, reports Reuters.

Largest HIPAA Settlement Ever: What You Need to Know

Insight

The operator of 12 hospitals and more than 200 other treatment centers in Chicago and central Illinois has agreed to the largest settlement to date with the Office for Civil Rights for multiple potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, reports Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick.

Disruptor Meets Regulator, and Regulator Wins: Lessons Learned from Theranos

Insight

Even in an environment that encourages innovation, health care organizations must understand the scope of regulatory oversight at the federal and state levels, and the range of remedies available to regulators for noncompliance, writes writes Robert E. Wanerman of Epstein Becker & Green.

Ex-Johnson & Johnson Unit Execs Guilty of Misdemeanors, Avoid Felony Convictions

News

The jury acquitted the two defendants on felony charges of wire fraud and conspiracy, finding they did not act with intent to defraud or mislead. But the two former executives were convicted on charges of promoting a product for an unapproved use, Reuters reports.

U.S. Sues to Block Anthem-Cigna and Aetna-Humana Mergers

News

U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch said the proposed mergers "would leave much of the multitrillion-dollar health insurance industry in the hands of three mammoth insurance companies," reports *The New York Times*.

Theranos CEO Holmes Banned

From Operating a Lab for 2 Years

News

Theranos Inc.’s Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Holmes was banned for two years from owning or operating laboratories by U.S. regulators, a major blow against the controversial blood-testing startup that’s come under scrutiny for risking patient harm with unreliable tests, reports Doni Bloomfield for Bloomberg Technology.

Judge Tosses $200M Patent Verdict; Cites In-House Lawyer Misconduct

News

A federal judge in California said Merck cannot enforce the patents because Merck’s own lawyer gave inconsistent and untruthful testimony during the trial.