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Weekly Newsletter

January 13th, 2025

Market Updates

[UnitedHealth shareholders urge company to review utilization management practices](#)

A group of UnitedHealth Group shareholders is pressuring the company to examine practices they say deny or limit patient access to care. The shareholders, who are members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), filed a proposal that UnitedHealth included a report on the "public health-related costs and macroeconomic risks" that may stem from claims denials and other utilization management practices. In particular, the shareholders are asking UHG to track how often prior authorization leads to delays or abandonment of medical services, which can cause adverse effects for patients.

[Medical schools see record-high enrollment as applications fall](#)

While the total number of applications declined in the 2024-to-2025 academic year, enrollment in U.S. medical schools reached a new high, according to data released January 9th by the Association of American Medical Colleges. The total number of medical school applications declined for the third consecutive year, dropping 1.2% to its lowest level since 2017 to 2018. Meanwhile, total medical school enrollment in 2024 to 2025 was 99,562, up 1.8% from the previous academic year.

[Where ROI is taking a backseat for health system C-suites](#)

Among healthcare C-suites, return on investment is often a critical part of discussions surrounding new technology. But when it comes to ambient clinical documentation, the calculus transcends immediate financial gains. Increasingly, health system leaders point to physician well-being and job satisfaction as the primary drivers for investing in ambient documentation tools, which use AI to listen to medical appointments and draft clinical notes.

Healthcare Operators

[Sanford Health, Marshfield Clinic finalize \\$10 billion health system merger](#)

Sanford Health finalized its merger with Marshfield Clinic Health System, the health systems announced last week, and the deal expands Sanford's reach to communities in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The two health systems announced their intent to combine in July. The combined system will serve patients across the upper Midwest, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, Iowa, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Sanford committed to invest \$500 million in capital spending in Marshfield over five years and will switch the health system to its Epic electronic health record system.

[Dayton Children's acquires 2 pediatric practices](#)

Dayton Children's has acquired two pediatric offices, Springboro, Ohio based Cornerstone Pediatrics and Sidney, Ohio based Shelby Pediatrics. The acquisitions are part of the hospital's goal to improve accessibility to pediatric primary care, according to a January 9th news release. Providers, nurses and employees at the two offices will become Dayton Children's employees, but will still provide care under their Shelby and Cornerstone names.

[California system tees up 12 hospital acquisitions](#)

Ontario, California based Prime Healthcare has lined up plans to acquire 12 hospitals this year and is open to the possibility of further acquisitions should the opportunities make sense. The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board in mid-December unanimously approved Prime's \$375 million acquisition of nine Ascension hospitals in the state. The transaction is expected to be completed this quarter, pending approval from the Archdiocese of Chicago since St. Louis based Ascension is a Catholic health system

Healthcare Legislative and Legal Updates

[CMS selects states for Medicaid maternal health model](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has named 14 states plus the District of Columbia to participate in the Transforming Maternal Health Model. First announced in December 2023, the 10-year model aims to help mothers and children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program through physical, mental and social guidance during and after pregnancy. "The goal of this support is to improve maternal health care and birth outcomes while reducing associated health disparities," the CMS said in a news release.

[Biden signs Dole Act, expanding access and funding for vets' at-home care](#)

Veterans will have expanded access to at-home care under a new law signed last week by President Joe Biden. "This bill will dramatically expand the options available to our veterans who want to age in place," President and CEO of the National PACE Association Shawn Bloom said in a press release. "Moving forward, there are a myriad of additional actions that Congress can take to easily implement PACE for hundreds of thousands of additional seniors and their families who would benefit from PACE."

[FTC updates merger reporting rules](#)

The Federal Trade Commission has updated the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act's jurisdictional thresholds and filing fees for 2025, with the size-of-transaction threshold for reporting mergers and acquisitions increasing from \$119.5 million to \$126.4 million. The adjustments, required annually based on changes in gross national product and consumer price index, take effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Transactions Overview

M&A Transactions from 1/6/2025 to 1/12/2025

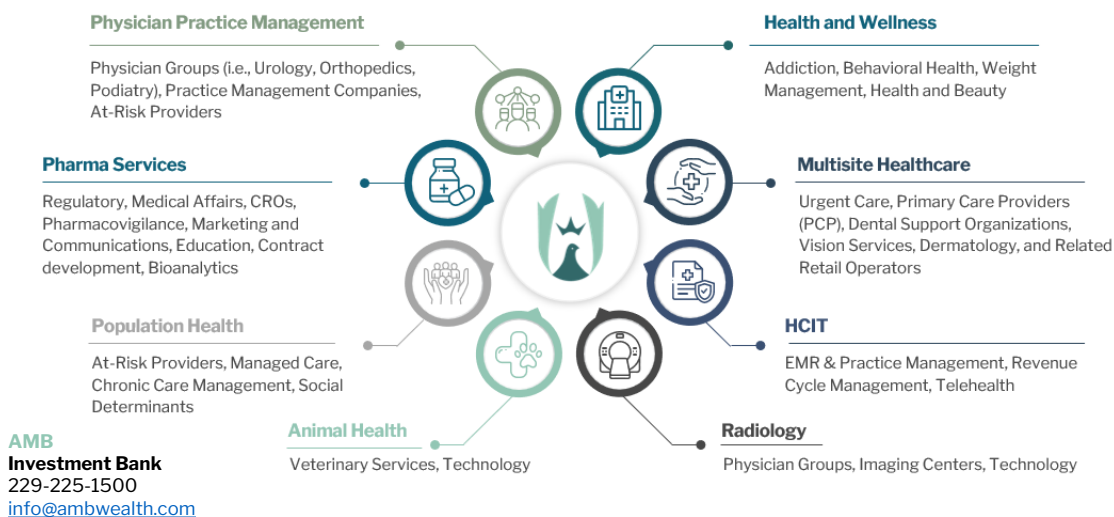
Date	Target	Buyer/Investor	Description	Status	Healthcare Vertical
1/6/2025	Reproductive Health and Wellness Center	IVI-RMA Global	Provider of fertility and wellness care services focused on the reproductive wellness of our patients.	Closed	Fertility
1/7/2025	Brief Strategic Family Therapy Institute	Empower Community Care, Northlane Capital Partners	Provider of training and consultation intended for behavioral health.	Closed	Healthcare Staffing & Education
1/7/2025	iuvo BioScience	Canyon Labs	Provider of laboratory and scientific consulting services.	Closed	Lab
1/7/2025	Rothman Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital	NYU Langone Health	Provider of orthopedic healthcare services intended to serve the NYC area.	Closed	Orthopedics
1/7/2025	Target RWE	Highlander Health	Provider of clinical data management services.	Closed	Digital Health, IT, & Software
1/8/2025	Affordable Home Care	Help at Home, Centerbirdge Partners	Provider of home care services intended for the elderly and disabled.	Closed	Home Care
1/8/2025	Best Home Care	HouseWorks	Provider of home health care services.	Closed	Home Health
1/8/2025	Cornerstone Pediatrics	Dayton Children's	Provider of pediatric care services.	Closed	Pediatrics
1/8/2025	O'Connell Care at Home	HouseWorks	Provider of round-the-clock in-home care services intended for elders and patients.	Closed	Home Care
1/9/2025	Feedtrail Healthcare XM	Relias	Developer of a patient engagement platform.	Closed	HCIT - Patient Engagement
1/9/2025	Neurology Institute of San Antonio	Vivo Infusion, InTandem Capital Partners	Provider of diagnostics and infusion services intended to serve the healthcare sector.	Closed	Infusions
1/9/2025	Protenus	Bluesight, Thoma Bravo	Developer of a healthcare compliance analytics platform.	Closed	Digital Health, IT, & Software
1/10/2025	Eastern Dental Management	Branford Castle Partners	Provider of comprehensive dental services.	Announced	Dentistry

Based on publicly available information

The transactions featured in this week's newsletter represent a collection of notable deals, and unless stated otherwise, ambwealth was not involved in these transactions.

AMB at a Glance

AMB focuses on healthcare niches where consumerism and fragmentation meet to disrupt traditional healthcare channels. We are currently most active in the following segments:



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Know our clients, Appreciate their concerns, Work diligently to accomplish their goals