amb | investment banking

Weekly Newsletter

August 3rd, 2026

AMB | Investment Banking
677 King Street, Suite 410 | Charleston, SC 29403
www.ambwealth.com

amb | investment banking

Weekly Newsletter

August 3rd, 2026

Market Updates

Almost all of HCA's Affordable Care Act patients are going uninsured

HCA's patients who lost ACA coverage are going uninsured almost one to one, executives said on Friday's investor call. That's hitting reimbursement and reducing demand for elective care, unfavorable trends that ate into the for-profit hospital operator's income by about $400 million in the quarter. However, HCA's bottom line benefited from accelerating volume growth, along with higher Medicaid payments in Florida. The company beat analyst expectations on both revenue and earnings in the second quarter. Net income came in at $1.7 billion, up 3% year over year, while revenue rose 9% year over year to $20.2 billion.

29 large health systems growing bigger

Hospital consolidation is accelerating again after a brief post-pandemic lull. Large health systems are expanding across state lines, absorbing independent hospitals, and reshaping regional care markets. From portfolio resets and strategic exits to cross-market mergers and billion-dollar investments, these moves reflect how scale, capital access and geographic reach are becoming critical advantages in today's healthcare landscape.

AI and energy prices will strain hospitals' non-labor spending in 2027

Hospitals should plan for their supply chain expenses to climb in 2027, with the prices for indirect spending categories like IT, construction and even food projected to grow at an even faster rate than those for drugs, Vizient warned in its most recent forecast report. Vizient's latest twice-yearly report mapped out overall supply chain price inflation of 3.39% for 2027, an increase of 0.61 percentage points compared to the forecast it released in February

Healthcare Operators

Wellstar makes leadership structure changes amid 761 job cuts

Marietta, Ga.-based Wellstar Health System is making changes to its leadership structure amid 761 job cuts. "We are recalibrating our leadership structure to reduce administrative layers and better align with industry best practices, which means that some Wellstar leaders' roles are changing," a health system spokesperson said in a July 30 statement shared with Becker's. The cuts affect about 2% of its more than 35,000-employee workforce, including corporate and shared services functions, as well as certain administrative roles within Wellstar Medical Group, a health system spokesperson said in a July 28 statement shared with Becker's.

Included Health inks agreement to acquire Firefly Health to scale alternative health plans for employers

Virtual care and health navigation company Included Health inked a deal to acquire Firefly Health to scale health plan alternatives for employers. In January, Included Health launched an alternative health plan design for employers, broadening its existing all-in-one virtual care platform. Firefly Health, founded in 2017, is a primary care and health plan provider serving more than 20,000 individuals nationally. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter of 2026.

'Back on track': Centene swings to more than $1 billion in profit in Q2

Insurers overhauled their ACA businesses this year to account for that higher spending - increasing premiums at the same time that more generous federal subsidies for ACA plans expired, fueling a cost crisis for enrollees that has led millions to drop the coverage. Centene's ACA membership fell by almost 2.4 million people year over year, to just below 3.5 million enrollees. But the people who remain are significantly more profitable to the payor.

Healthcare Legislative and Legal Updates

Revised 340 billion rebate model pilot program moves forward, despite provider pushback

The Health Resources and Services Administration has finalized a revised version of its 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program after a federal judge struck down the earlier version over regulatory deficiencies, according to Fierce Healthcare. The new pilot shifts from upfront discounts to retrospective rebates for certain drugs and is set to begin January 1, 2027, running for at least a year. Provider groups have pushed back on the approach, and a separate analysis flagged potential duplication of discounts with Medicare's drug price negotiation program.

ASC fraud case becomes 1st test of new DOJ enforcement policy: 6 notes

The Department of Justice released its first-ever, departmentwide Corporate Enforcement and Voluntary Self-Disclosure Policy March 10, replacing a patchwork of policies that individual divisions and U.S. attorney's offices had maintained on their own. The policy applies to all corporate criminal matters the department handles except antitrust violations. Campus Eye's declination is the department's first healthcare-sector resolution under the new framework.

Judge rejects states' bid to pause Medicaid work requirements

The states asked the court to issue a preliminary injunction to pause the implementation of the work requirements. But the judge rejected the states' request. It's not clear that states' expenditures to set up work requirements will be entirely unrecoverable, as the federal government has said it will reimburse 90% of states' costs to develop eligibility systems to implement the regulation, District Judge Richard Stearns wrote.

Transactions Overview

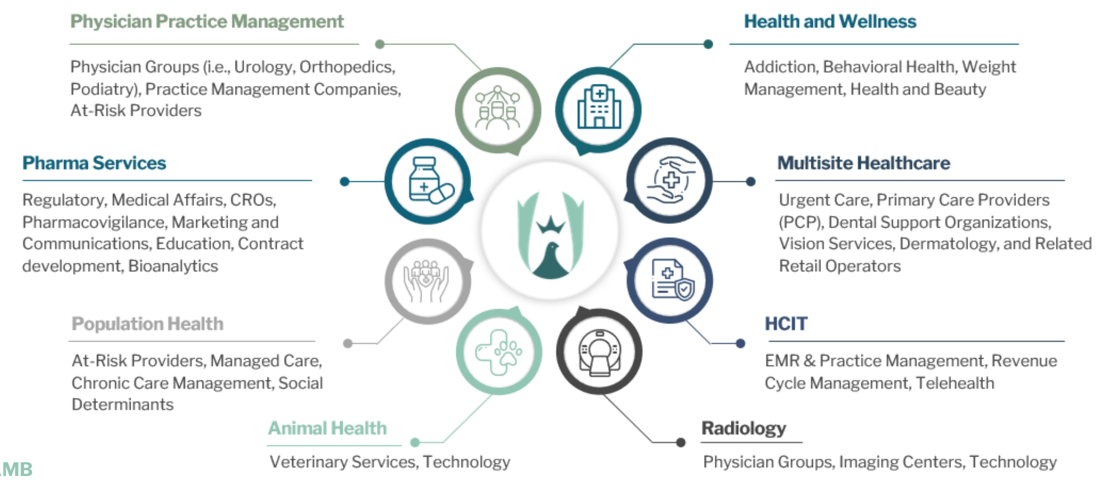
Select M&A Transactions from 07/27/2026 to 08/02/2026

Date	Target	Buyer/Investor	Description	Status	Healthcare Vertical
07/31/2026	MyMD Select Texas	Timshel Health	Operator of direct primary care clinics intended to provide membership-based primary care to patients in East Texas.	Closed	HS: Primary Care
07/30/2026	GPOphtho	EyeProGPO	Operator of an ophthalmic group purchasing organization intended for eye care professionals.	Closed	HS: Vision
07/29/2026	Summer Health	Doctronic	Provider of pediatric telehealth services intended to simplify access to healthcare.	Closed	HS: Pediatrics
07/29/2026	New Image Primary Care	Optima Medical	Operator of a primary care practice intended to provide primary care alongside med spa and aesthetics services.	Announced	HS: Primary Care
07/28/2026	Firefly Health	Included Health	Operator of alternative health plans and integrated primary care services intended for employers and individuals.	Announced	HS: Health Plan Provider / Primary Care
07/27/2026	RevCycle Partners	Sustainable Medical Billing	Provider of revenue cycle management services intended for the eyecare industry.	Closed	HCIT: RCM

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:



Research

New sector insights each month

For our recent sector insights, click below

Learn More

AMB
Investment Bank
229-225-1500
info@ambwealth.com

AMB Investment Banking | Key Contacts

Ryan Loehr, Managing Director
843-405-1108
ryan.loehr@ambadvisors.com

Mikel Parker, Managing Director
843-501-2183
mikel.parker@ambadvisors.com

Johnny Cross, Vice President
843-371-8596
johnny.cross@ambadvisors.com