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# Industry Insights

## Healthcare Market Report



Banker Commentary:

**Embracing vs. Conquering: Stop Waiting for the New New Thing to Save Healthcare**

# Banker Commentary

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## Embracing vs. Conquering: Stop Waiting for the New New Thing to Save Healthcare

*Banker Commentary by Todd Rudzenske*

I was recently introduced to the book *Without Ever Reaching the Summit* by Paolo Cognetti (a note of thanks to Matt Hicks and Justin Unertl at Excellere for making me aware of it). It's a wonderful 135-page read, and I highly recommend it. Why am I mentioning it here? Without giving away anything that the title of the book doesn't already do, Cognetti wrote about a journey that he made to the Himalayas in a region that is very near Tibet, which he wasn't allowed to enter. He shared in the book that "the most important Tibetan pilgrimage consists of going around Mount Kailash" versus trying to summit it. He further noted that while the mountaineers of other religions leave behind flags or other markers at the tops of the mountains that they have climbed, Buddhists (like those in Tibet) circle around them. In essence, they have a desire to embrace versus a desire to conquer.

This concept from the book has been going through my head in relation to healthcare, particularly as I was in route to and from the healthcare conference in San Francisco last week. I have believed for the better part of the past 25 years that the time would come when a Steve Jobs-like entrepreneur would develop a new technology, i.e. a "New New Thing," that would conquer the healthcare summit by bending the cost curve, while, at the same time, achieving better outcomes.

Examples that come to mind are EMRs and value-based care models. While well intentioned, neither has resulted in meaningful cost reductions to the overall system, or better outcomes for the patient. I think that is largely because the cost of the new infrastructure or investment in such models has resulted in more dollars being spent without achieving any meaningful productivity gains. For those who measure it, it is estimated that the productivity gains at private community hospitals had average labor productivity growth of about +0.1% a year from 1993 to 2022. By comparison, the rest of the economy has experienced productivity gains of between 1.5% to 2.3%. As a result, the overall cost of healthcare continues growing at between 5% to 10% annually – much higher than the rate of growth in the overall rate of inflation.

So, my viewpoint has become more like those of the Buddhists, thus requiring me to accept that we don't have to conquer some new summit in healthcare, but instead embrace the system that we have and make it more productive – i.e., achieve more efficient output from the same (or fewer) resources. Because the "New New Thing" has only proven to make healthcare more expensive, it is time to focus instead on increasing the productivity of all existing resources, especially clinicians. Technology should lead to faster diagnoses and optimal care models; but the clinicians need to be taught how to translate that into faster throughput, and patients will also have to accept that they will have less time with that clinician. It also means that it's time to stop building new buildings and spending money on branding. In the back office, where AI can be a disruptor, administrative costs like RCM are projected to be able to be cut by 30% or more. As those costs savings are

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achieved, redeploy such savings into efforts like re-training physicians and other frontline healthcare workers to increase their product to increase their productivity. In essence, the time has come when healthcare providers must be operated like widget factories. Surgical procedures in all specialties need to look more like a Ford factory floor. Fortunately, there are some medical specialties where this is being accomplished and can be looked at as examples. Anyone who has had a colonoscopy has likely witnessed the factory floor-like throughput that is achieved at the outpatient facilities where patients are lined up like cars waiting to get their oil changed. Start focusing on how procedure times can be reduced (even if it is only one minute) and further reduce the time for care from there.

Progress and enlightenment will come from accepting and embracing that healthcare can advance to a better place without having to invent something new and revolutionary. It's a scale game. Start doing more time and motion studies and have a renewed focus on being the lowest cost providers with the highest volumes and the quickest throughput. In short, healthcare needs more people like Tim Cook and Andy Jassey, who were the operational experts who scaled Apple and Amazon, respectively, versus the inventors like Steve Jobs and Jeff Bezos. I think that is the future of healthcare, and the providers that embrace it will be the future leaders of the industry and get there without ever having had to scale to any new heights.

# M&A Activity

## Selected Recent Healthcare Transactions (\$MM)

Date	Target Name	Acquirer	EV	Enterprise Value /		Description
				LTM Rev.	LTM EBITDA	
1/14/2026	PedsOne	Lead Capital Partners	NA	NA	NA	Provider of outsourced RCM and specialized consulting services to independent pediatric practices
1/14/2026	Pillr Health	Water Street Healthcare Partners	NA	NA	NA	Provider of software and tech-enabled services that optimize pharmacy operations for health care delivery organizations
1/14/2026	Spine Diagnostic & Pain Treatment Center	Resolve Pain Solutions (Compass Group Equity Partners)	NA	NA	NA	Pain management platform with clinic locations Louisiana
1/13/2026	StarLIMS (Francisco Partners)	Turn/River Capital	NA	NA	NA	Healthcare services company providing laboratory information management and data solutions
1/13/2026	Torch	OpenAI	~\$100	NA	NA	AI healthcare start up unifying lab results, medications, and recordings from doctor visits
1/13/2026	Autism ETC	Behavioral Framework (Renovus Capital)	NA	NA	NA	Provider of center-based applied behavior analysis therapy and autism diagnostic services
1/13/2026	Core Analytics Lab & Radiology	Integrated Diagnostic Services (HCAP Partners)	NA	NA	NA	Provider of mobile radiology and laboratory services across California
1/12/2026	Rivet	Zelis (Bain and Parthenon Capital)	NA	NA	NA	Revenue cycle management platform
1/12/2026	Avalon Healthcare Solutions (Francisco Partners)	WindRose Health Investors	NA	NA	NA	Healthcare analytics and diagnostics platform
1/12/2026	RxAnte	Primus Capital	NA	NA	NA	Provider of analytics, software, and services for pharmacy care management
1/9/2026	InBloom Autism (Webster Equity Partners)	Elysium Management	\$70 - \$75	NA	14x - 15x	Provider of therapy services for autistic children
1/8/2026	CareRev	IntelyCare	NA	NA	NA	On-demand workforce platform purpose-built for acute care
1/7/2026	3 Comprehensive Eye Care Platforms	Ascend Vision Partners (Chicago Pacific Capital)	NA	NA	NA	Oklahoma Retinal Consultants, Wise Eye Associates, Sylvester Eye Care
1/7/2026	Burlington Medical	TIDI Products (TJC)	NA	NA	NA	Manufacturer of radiation protection apparel and accessories
1/7/2026	PatientCare EMS Solutions	Grant Avenue Capital	NA	NA	NA	Provider of ground-based healthcare transportation services
1/7/2026	Radiology Regional (LucidHealth)	RadNet	NA	NA	NA	Comprehensive multi-modality offering that includes MRI, CT, PET/CT, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and other related procedures
1/7/2026	Trialbee	Varsity Healthcare Partners	NA	NA	NA	Technology-driven patient recruitment for clinical trials
1/6/2026	Evidinno Outcomes Research	United BioSource (Avista Capital Partners)	NA	NA	NA	Healthcare research consulting firm
1/6/2026	First Choice Wellness Centers	BioMatrix Infusion Pharmacy (Frazier Healthcare Partners)	NA	NA	NA	Provider of ambulatory infusion services

# Private Placement Activity

## Selected Recent Healthcare Transactions (\$MM)

Date	Company	Investor(s)	Type	Amount	Description
1/14/2026	Vista AI	Cedars-Sinai Health System, Intermountain Health, University of Utah Hospital System, Temple University/Fox Chase Cancer Center, Tampa General Hospital, Khosla Ventures and Bold Brain Capital	Series B	\$30	Automated MRI scanning software for hospitals and imaging centers
1/13/2026	HPS/PayMedix	HLM Investment Partners and Escalate Capital Partners	Equity and Debt	\$33	Healthcare financing and payments solution provider
1/8/2026	Pomelo Care	Stripes, Andreessen Horowitz, PLUS Capital, Atomico, BoxGroup, and SV Angel	Series C	\$92 \$1.7bn valuation	Evidence-based healthcare for women and children
12/23/2026	Truemed	Andreessen Horowitz, Bessemer Venture Partners, Long Journey Ventures, BoxGroup, and Trust Ventures	Series A	\$34	HSA/FSA marketplace for top preventive health products
12/16/2025	Curalta Foot & Ankle	SharpVue Capital (lead), NewSpring Capital, BPEA Private Equity, North Haven Capital, and Bluwave Capital	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	Network of foot and ankle care providers
12/15/2025	ContinuEM	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	\$30	Provider of emergent and urgent care through ER-level physicians and technology
12/11/2025	SafeinHome	SEMCAP Health	Series D	\$25	Remote supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
12/11/2025	Ritten	Five Elms Capital (lead), Threshold Ventures, 8VC, Bienville Capital, and others	Series B	\$35	AI-powered behavioral health platform
12/4/2025	Paradigm Health	ARCH Venture Partners (lead), DFJ Growth and existing investors F-Prime, General Catalyst, GV, Lux Capital, Mubadala Capital, BrightEdge Fund	Series B	\$78	Technology platform to broaden access to clinical trials
12/3/2025	Angle Health	Portage (lead), Blumberg Capital, Mighty Capital, PruVen Capital, SixThirty Ventures, TSVC, Wing VC, and Y Combinator	Series B	\$134	Vertically-integrated health benefits platform
12/3/2025	Artera.io	Lead Edge Capital (lead), Jackson Square Ventures, Health Velocity Capital, Heritage Medical, Summation Health	Growth	\$65	AI-powered patient communications platform
12/2/2025	Curative	Upside Vision Fund (lead), JAM Fund, Galaxy Digital and family offices	Series B	\$150	Tech-enabled health plan start up
11/13/2025	Clarity	ACE Global Equity and Santé Ventures (co-leads)	Series B	\$43	AI Platform for Breast Cancer Risk Prediction
11/12/2025	House Rx	New Enterprise Associates and Town Hall Ventures (co-leads), LRVHealth, First Round Capital, Bessemer Venture Partners, and Silicon Valley Bank	Series B	\$55	Technology-enabled pharmacy services company
11/6/2025	myLaurel	SteelSky Ventures (lead), Deerfield Management and Google Ventures	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	High-acuity, in-home care for complex and medically fragile patients through a hospital-aligned, tech-enabled model.
11/4/2025	Tala Health	Sofreh Capital (lead)	Undisclosed	\$100	AI company built to empower clinicians with AI agents across the full patient journey
11/3/2025	Hippocratic AI	Avenir Growth (lead), CapitalG, General Catalyst, Andreessen Horowitz, Kleiner Perkins, Premji Invest, Universal Health Services, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and WellSpan Health	Series C	\$126	Safety-focused generative AI healthcare agents
10/21/2025	Hyro	Healthier Capital (lead), Norwest and Define Ventures, Bon Secours Mercy Health, ServiceNow Ventures	Growth	\$45	Responsible AI Agent Platform for healthcare
10/16/2025	Brook.ai	UMass Memorial Health and Morningside (co-leads)	Series B	\$28	Remote patient care company focused on AI-enabled patient support and care coordination
10/14/2025	MD Integrations	Updata Partners and Denali Growth Partners	Undisclosed	\$77	End-to-end telehealth platform enabling digital health brands
10/14/2025	Onelmaging	Vy Capital (lead), Aquiline, Sempervirens Venture Capital, XRC Ventures, Dylan Field, Balaji Srinivasan, Jon Oringer and others	Undisclosed	\$38	Tech-enabled radiology platform

# Equity Capital Markets

## Market Overview

- Issuance last week was muted as markets struggled to find direction all week and many issuers found themselves in earnings-related blackout periods
  - Last week: 0 IPOs; 2 follow-ons; 1 convert
- Several prospective IPO issuers have flipped registration statements public in recent weeks to target offerings ahead of the upcoming financial staleness deadline on February 18<sup>th</sup>
- The HC community flocked to San Francisco for the annual JPM HC Conference → we will look for issuers to capitalize on the momentum coming out of the conference as 2026 is expected to start off strong

## ECM Activity (Last 4 Weeks & YoY)

2026 - Last 4 Weeks			2025 - Last 4 Weeks			
	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	% Share	
IPO	365	1	5%	491	1	60%
CONV	3,446	5	49%	0	0	0%
FO	3,227	11	46%	321	3	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,038</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>
2026 YTD			2025 YTD			
	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	% Share	
IPO	365	1	5%	491	1	60%
CONV	3,446	5	50%	0	0	0%
FO	3,127	10	45%	321	3	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Most Recent Healthcare Initial Public Offerings (\$MM)

Issuer Information				Deal Sizing				Pricing		Performance	
Pricing Date	Company	Sector	Ticker	Deal Value (\$MM)	Market Cap (\$MM)	Deal as % of Mkt. Cap	% Primary	Offer Price	Final Range	1-Day	1-Week
12/16/2025	Medline	Medical Products	MDLN	\$7,204.7	\$38,097.8	18.9%	72.1%	\$29.00	\$26.00 - \$30.00	41.4%	50.5%
12/10/2025	Lumexa Imaging	Services	LMRI	\$462.5	\$1,749.5	26.4%	100.0%	\$18.50	\$17.00 - \$20.00	0.1%	(7.7%)
11/5/2025	BillionToOne	Diagnostics	BLLN	\$314.0	\$2,724.2	11.5%	100.0%	\$60.00	\$49.00 - \$55.00	81.6%	69.7%
8/7/2025	Heartflow	Medical Products	HTFL	\$364.2	\$1,531.7	23.8%	100.0%	\$19.00	\$17.00 - \$18.00	51.3%	77.3%
7/30/2025	Shoulder Innovations	Medical Products	SI	\$75.0	\$303.4	24.7%	100.0%	\$15.00	\$19.00 - \$21.00	0.3%	(12.9%)

## Most Recent Healthcare Follow-on Offerings (\$MM)

Issuer Information					Deal Sizing				Pricing		Performance	
Pricing Date	Company	Sector	Deal Type	Ticker	Deal Value (\$MM)	Market Cap (\$MM)	Deal as % of Mkt. Cap	% Primary	Discount to File	1-Day	1-Week	
12/2/2025	Kestra Medical Technologies	Medical Products	Marketed	KMTS	\$158.7	\$1,321.9	12.0%	100.0%	(14.8%)	12.3%	7.6%	
11/6/2025	Sotera Health	Medical Products	Bought	SHC	\$471.0	\$4,548.3	10.4%	0.0%	(1.9%)	(0.1%)	2.0%	
11/4/2025	Guardant Health	Diagnostics	Marketed	GH	\$345.0	\$12,745.9	2.7%	100.0%	(8.3%)	5.6%	8.6%	
10/21/2025	Aveanna Healthcare	Services	Marketed	AVAH	\$103.5	\$2,137.2	4.8%	0.0%	(12.0%)	5.3%	9.0%	
10/20/2025	Brightspring Health Services	Services	Bought	BTSG	\$435.0	\$5,516.5	7.9%	0.0%	(4.8%)	11.2%	16.7%	

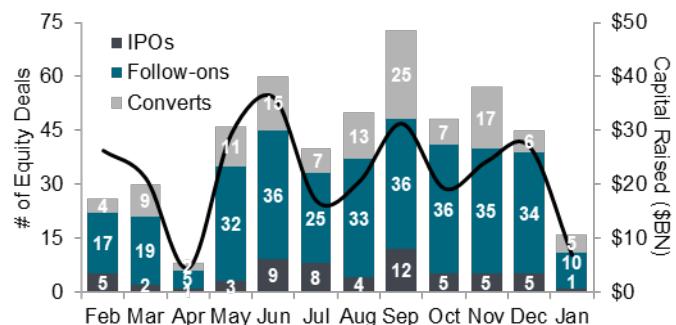
## Most Recent Healthcare Convertible Debt Offerings (\$MM)

Issuer Information				Deal Sizing				Pricing		
Pricing Date	Company	Sector	Ticker	Deal Value (\$MM)	Market Cap (\$MM)	Deal as % of Mkt. Cap	Coupon	Premium		
11/4/2025	Guardant Health	Diagnostics	GH	\$402.5	\$12,745.9	3.2%	0.00%	35.00%		
9/16/2025	Oscar Health	Health Insurance	OSCR	\$410.0	\$4,842.8	8.5%	2.25%	32.50%		
8/19/2025	Evolent Health	Services	EVH	\$145.0	\$1,059.9	13.7%	4.50%	50.00%		
6/30/2025	Tempus AI	Healthcare Technology	TEM	\$750.0	\$10,999.8	6.8%	0.75%	32.50%		
5/8/2025	Hims & Hers Health*	Healthcare Technology	HIMS	\$1,000.0	\$11,504.9	8.7%	0.00%	37.50%		

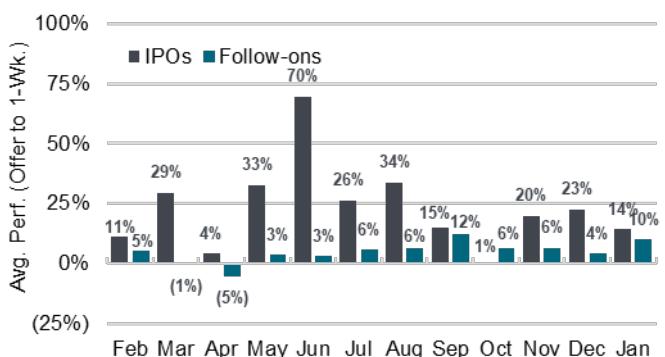
Sources: Bloomberg, Capital IQ, Dealogic, and Press Releases

Note: Transactions include IPOs, follow-ons (including bought deals) and convertible offerings of \$25MM or more priced on a U.S.-based exchange; Price performance includes both marketed and bought deal follow-ons; \* denotes Cain Brothers / KBCM transaction; excludes SPACs and fixed price IPOs

## U.S. ECM Offerings (LTM; IPOs, Follow-ons & Converts)



## IPO & Follow-on 1-Week Performance (LTM)



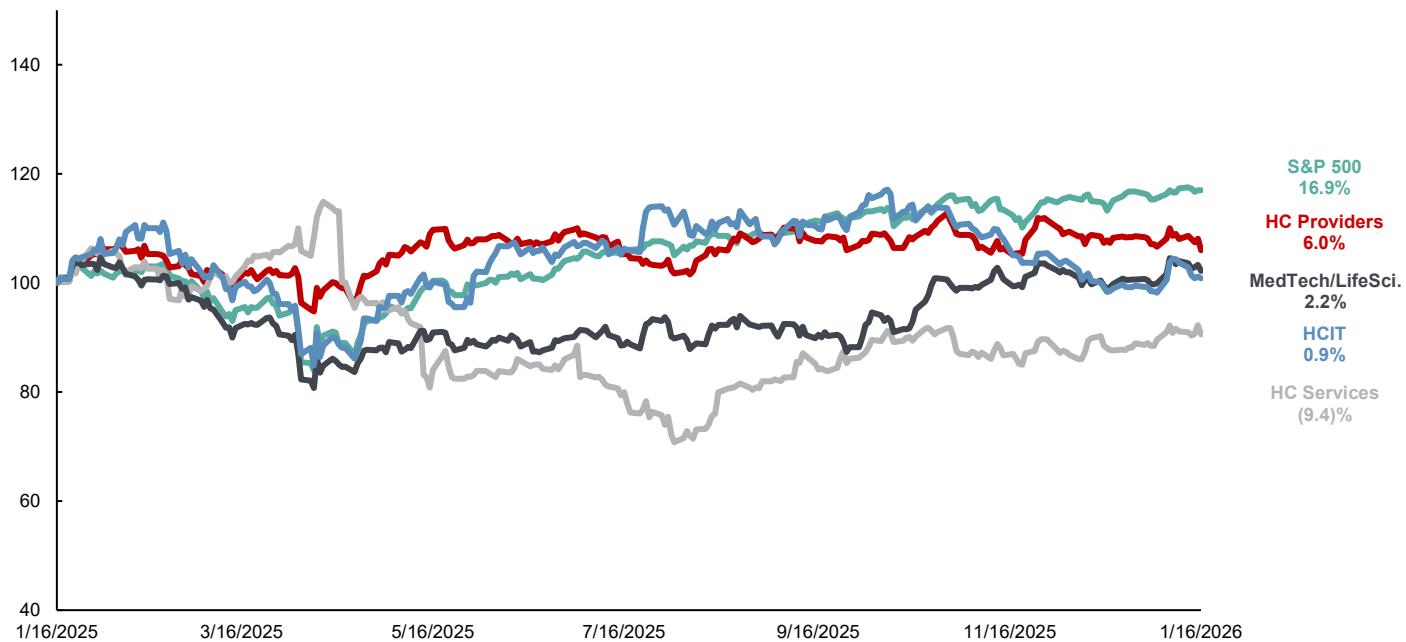
# Public Equity Indices

## Equity Indices (as of January 16, 2026)

Index	Wk Open	Wk Close	Returns	
			52 Week	Weekly
DJIA	49,504	49,370	14.4%	(0.3%)
S&P 500	6,966	6,943	16.9%	(0.3%)
NASDAQ	23,671	23,530	21.7%	(0.6%)
Russell 2000	2,624	2,679	18.2%	2.1%
NYSE Healthcare	27,385	27,275	10.2%	(0.4%)

Cain Brothers Indices	Returns	
	52 Week	Weekly
Acute Care	32.6%	(1.1%)
Alternate Site Services	(24.8%)	(4.4%)
Diagnostics	14.8%	1.2%
Distribution	43.1%	4.2%
Healthcare IT	0.9%	(2.7%)
Healthcare REITs	52.4%	2.6%
Managed Care	(26.8%)	(2.3%)
Medical Technology	0.7%	(2.1%)
Outsourced Services	(18.0%)	1.3%
Pharma Services	14.7%	0.4%
Pharmacy	49.8%	(1.5%)
Primary Care	(44.0%)	(3.6%)
Post-Acute Care Services	14.5%	1.0%
Post-Acute Care Facilities	18.7%	1.8%

## Cain Brothers Healthcare Indices (1YR Performance)



# High Grade, High Yield & Leveraged Loan Market

## Market Summary

### High Grade

- IG bond markets beat estimates last week, with 21 issuers printing \$59.2 BN across 47 tranches; issuance was driven by "Big Six" banks, which accounted for 64% of last week's volume.

### High Yield

- After a strong opening week, the high yield primary market fell short of expectations, with five issuers pricing only \$2.7 BN in total volume.

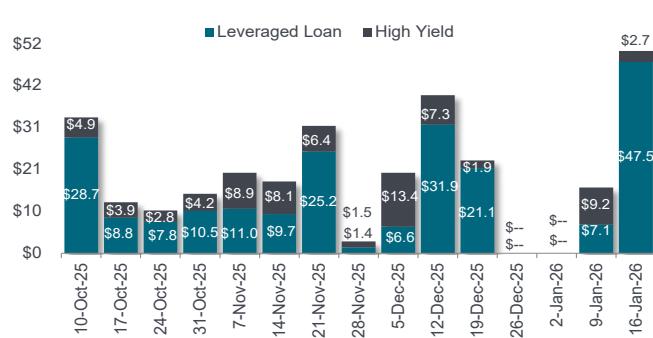
### Term Loan B Market

- CLO issuance saw a second consecutive strong year in 2025, although new money issuance has yet to ramp up in 2026.

## HY Index Yield & Spread (YTD)



## Weekly New Issue Volume (\$BN)



## New-Issue Clearing Yields<sup>1</sup> (\$MM)

Double-B Issuers	2Q25	3Q25	30-Day Rolling Average
	01/16/26		
Ba1	S+265 / 7.1%	S+211 / 6.4%	S+250 / 6.2%
Ba2	S+230 / 6.6%	S+200 / 6.3%	S+175 / 5.4%
Ba3	S+268 / 7.2%	S+241 / 6.7%	S+185 / 5.5%
Single-B Issuers	2Q25	3Q25	30-Day Rolling Average
01/16/26			
B1	S+317 / 7.7%	S+280 / 7.1%	S+281 / 6.6%
B2	S+340 / 7.8%	S+311 / 7.5%	S+318 / 6.9%
B3	S+378 / 8.4%	S+352 / 7.9%	S+314 / 6.8%

## Most Recent Healthcare High-Grade Issuances (\$MM)

Date	Issuer	Security	Size	Ratings	Coupon	Maturity	Spread	IPT-Pricing
12/1/2025	Merck & Co Inc	Sr Notes	\$750	Aa3/A+/-	3.850%	3/15/2029	+35	25 bps
12/1/2025	Merck & Co Inc	Sr Notes	\$500	Aa3/A+/-	FRN	3/15/2029	SOFR+57	25 bps
12/1/2025	Merck & Co Inc	Sr Notes	\$1,000	Aa3/A+/-	4.150%	3/15/2031	+50	25 bps

## Most Recent Healthcare High-Yield Issuances (\$MM)

Date	Issuer	Security	Size	Ratings	Coupon	Maturity	Spread	Price Talk
12/11/2025	Surgery Center (add-on)	Sr. Notes	\$425	Caa1/CCC+/NR	7.250%	4/15/2032	335 bps	101.00%
12/5/2025	Sevita*	Sr. Sec. Notes	\$1,275	B3/B-/NR	10.500%	12/15/2030	728 bps	11.00% yield
11/18/2025	Genmab Finance	Sr. Sec. Notes	\$1,500	Ba2/BB+/BB+	6.250%	12/15/2032	237 bps	6.375% area

## Most Recent Healthcare Leveraged Loan Issuances (\$MM)

Date	Issuer	Ownership	Corp. Ratings	Use of Proceeds	Size	Pricing	Yield
1/14/2026	Hologic	Blackstone; TPG; GIC Capital	B1 / B+	LBO	\$7,250	SOFR+225, 0% @ 99.75	5.990%
1/8/2026	Amneal Pharmaceuticals	Public	B1 / B+	Repricing	\$2,095	SOFR+300, 0.5% @ 100	6.674%
12/18/2025	RxBenefits	Advent International; Great Hill	B2 / B	Refinancing	\$450	SOFR+500, 0% @ 98	9.234%
12/12/2025	Lumexa Imaging	Public	B2 / B+	IPO	\$825	SOFR+300, 0% @ 99.75	6.797%

## Most Recent Healthcare Pro Rata Issuances (\$MM)

Date	Issuer	Ownership	Ratings	Use of Proceeds	Size	Pricing (in bps)	Financial Covenants
1/8/2026	Waters Corp*	Public	NR / NR	Acquisition	\$3,500mm 1-year TLA \$500mm 2-year Term Loan A	Ratings-based Grid TL: SOFR+122.5	Max. Net Leverage Ratio: 3.50x Min. Interest Coverage Ratio: 3.50x
12/29/2025	Sonida Senior Living	Public	NR / NR	Refinancing / Acquisition	\$375mm 4-year Revolver \$525mm 5-year Term Loan A	Leverage-based Grid RC: SOFR+135-200 TL: SOFR+130-195	Max. Debt to Cap: 65% Min. Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio: 1.35x

Sources: Capital IQ, Mergersmarket, and press releases

\* Denotes Cain Brothers/KeyBanc Capital Markets participation

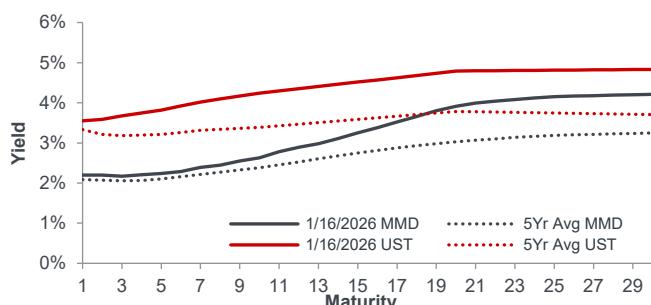
Transaction occurred over the past week

# Public Finance Market

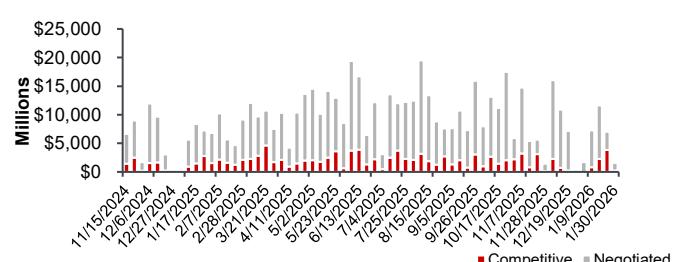
## Market Overview

- The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury Note increased 6 bps week-over-week, closing at 4.24% on Friday. 10-year MMD decreased 4 bps week over week
- Healthcare Public Issuance in 2024 increased 143% vs 2023. 2025 Issuance was 34% higher than 2024
- Muni bond funds gained \$1.8 BN and high yield funds gained \$347 MM for the week ended January 16<sup>th</sup>

## MMD & UST Yield Curve



## Weekly New Issue Volume (\$MM)



## Relevant News

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### MedPAC Calls For Halt On Hospice Rate Increases; 'Not Keeping Pace' For Sustainable Future<sup>1</sup>

#### *Hospice News | January 16, 2026*

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) has voted to recommend that Congress eliminate payment updates for hospice care in fiscal year 2027. If Congress adopts the recommendation, it could potentially decrease hospice spending by billions of dollars and leave providers facing significant financial strain, according to industry stakeholders and advocacy groups. MedPAC unveiled its vote on Thursday. If implemented, the recommendations would reduce hospice spending by \$250 million to \$750 million over one year and between \$1 billion and \$5 billion over five years, according to the National Alliance for Care at Home (Alliance).

### Health Care Spending Reaches \$5.3 Trillion, Or 18% Of U.S. Economy, In 2024<sup>2</sup>

#### *Medical Economics | January 15, 2026*

Physician and clinical services reached \$1.1 trillion in 2024, or 21% of that year's total spending of \$5.3 trillion toward health care. The 2024 national health expenditure (NHE) tally was published in *Health Affairs*, with Executive Editor and Interim Editor-in-Chief Donald E. Metz hosting an online briefing with statisticians of the National Health Statistics Group in the Office of the Actuary of the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Statistician Micah Hartman presented data with Deputy Director Aaron Catlin and analysts Anne Martin and David Lassman. In 2024, the nation spent the estimated equivalent of \$15,474 per person on health care. Health care spending made up 18% of the U.S. economy, with total spending up 7.2% from 2023. The year before, 2023 expenditures were up 7.4% from 2022.

### Trump Takes Aim At Insurance Industry, Drug Prices In Unveiling 'The Great Healthcare Plan'<sup>3</sup>

#### *Fierce Healthcare | January 15, 2026*

President Donald Trump has hinted at "concepts of a plan" for healthcare for months as legislators debate the future of key subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, and on Thursday the White House unveiled a more concrete version of its vision for health policy. Called "The Great Healthcare Plan," Trump's proposal would send the value of the now-lapsed Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced subsidies directly to consumers rather than route the tax credits through their insurer to bring down premiums. A fact sheet on the plan offers few details on how this would work, but, in an announcement video, Trump said the funds would be deposited into a health savings account in the individual's name. Generally, individuals cannot apply funds from HSAs toward premiums, and it's unclear whether the White House plan would make changes to enable this.

# Relevant News

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## EBRI Study: Accelerating Healthcare Costs Could Erode Coverage From Small Businesses<sup>1</sup>

**Fierce Healthcare | January 16, 2026**

With the healthcare affordability and insurance premiums in particular in the headlines, a new report finds that while the employer-sponsored space is largely stable, declines continue among smaller firms. The Employee Benefit Research Institute released a report diving into the “shifting landscape” around employer-sponsored health insurance and found that just under half (49%) of employers offered health benefits. The portion of individuals eligible for coverage through their employer was 80.2%, which reflects large employers’ commitment to offering benefits even as smaller players pull back. About two-thirds of workers are employed by large firms, per the report.

## HLC Proposes Path To AI Regulation, From Simple To Strenuous<sup>2</sup>

**Fierce Healthcare | January 15, 2026**

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) has released an AI policy road map to help guide the administration and Congress toward a long-term solution to ensure AI is safely overseen in healthcare. They promote a risk-based approach, which says AI should be regulated based on its risk to the user, as well as propose intermediate steps to help achieve national AI policy rather than separate state-based approaches. The policy framework was created through a series of interviews with healthcare technologists at HLC’s member organizations, which include hospitals, health systems, payers, pharma and group purchasing organizations. The report was written in collaboration with ZS, a management consulting and technology firm.

## Hospital-At-Home Programs Face Uncertainty As Another Deadline Looms<sup>3</sup>

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Providers are once again watching a looming deadline at the end of the month when waivers that allow hospitals to deliver acute care in patients’ homes could lapse, creating administrative complexity and uncertainty for providers, experts say. The program is set to expire in just a few weeks absent congressional action. If it does, hospitals may have to physically relocate patients back to facilities, a costly process that experts say could harm both patients and providers. The Acute Hospital Care at Home Program was created by the CMS at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 in a bid to help hospitals manage an influx of patients and ease capacity challenges.

Industry Insights is compiled weekly by Cain Brothers, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 37<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10019 Ph: (212) 869-5600. To receive our Industry Insights email, please register on. For questions regarding Industry Insights please email [rgruber@cainbrothers.com](mailto:rgruber@cainbrothers.com)

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