‘No’ to tariffs on healthcare products: HIDA

Healthcare products should be exempt from any additional tariffs, said Matt Rowan, president and CEO of the Health Industry Distributors Association, testifying on Aug. 20 before the U.S. Trade Representative. His testimony detailed how the proposed tariffs will increase the cost of healthcare for all Americans and hinder our country’s ability to respond to public health emergencies. The testimony came after the USTR released a third list of Chinese imports that would be subject to tariffs, including healthcare products such as exam gloves, disposable underpads, wet wipes, and specimen bags.

Medical device safety plan criticized

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) raised concerns with the merit and logistics of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s recent action plan to promote medical device safety, reports the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society. The five-pronged action plan – revealed in April—consists of establishing a medical device safety net, exploring regulatory options for postmarket mitigations, spurring innovation towards safer devices and strengthening cybersecurity. It also involves plans for a major structural reorganization at FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), which is expected to have an impact on the regulatory reviews, approvals and clearances of devices, to better support the total product life cycle.

Value-based purchasing: Full speed ahead

The question is no longer whether the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will proceed with value-based purchasing, but what form it will take, according to a report in Health Affairs. Indeed, many successful ACOs are primary care groups, and moving away from fee-for-service payment for specialized care can help align specialists and hospitals with their primary care counterparts in pursuit of population health goals.