



## Healthcare Weekly News and Deals – January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### 1. Winter Storm Fern Cripples Half the Country This Weekend

- a. **CNBC:** \$100B expected economic loss and damages from storm ([Link](#))
- b. **CNBC:** Transportation Sec. Duffy says air travel will return to normal by Wednesday ([Link](#))
- c. **The Weather Channel:** Winter Storm Fern Turns Deadly In Louisiana, Outages For Hundreds Of Thousands Vulnerable To Ice, Snow ([Link](#))
- d. **National Public Radio:** As the winter storm rages, here's what to know in your state ([Link](#))

### 2. GSK (NYSE:GSK) pays \$2.2B to acquire Rapt Therapeutics (NASDAQ:RAPT) and Food Allergy Antibody Ozureprubart

GSK's acquisition grants it global rights to ozureprubart, a long-acting anti-IgE antibody developed for food allergy prevention with dosing every 12 weeks. The therapy targets the same pathway as Xolair but requires fewer injections. Backed by GSK's resources, ozureprubart advances toward phase 2 results in 2027 and phase 3 trials. ([Link](#))

### 3. BioCryst (NASDAQ: BCRX) acquires Astria Therapeutics (NASDAQ:ATXS) in \$700M deal to Build Comprehensive Hereditary Angioedema Treatment Platform

The acquisition adds Navenibart, a Phase 3 long-acting plasma kallikrein inhibitor for hereditary angioedema, offering dosing every three to six months alongside BioCryst's oral therapy ORLADEYO. This creates injectable and oral treatment options, strengthens leadership with Astria executives, and includes STAR0310, an early atopic dermatitis program under strategic review. ([Link](#))

### 4. Georgia ProtonCare Center, Inc. Files Chapter 11 to Facilitate Competitive Sale Process and Enters Into Asset Purchase Agreement With Emory Healthcare

Georgia ProtonCare Center (GPCC) has signed an asset purchase agreement with Emory Healthcare (via Emory University Hospital Midtown) as the stalking horse bidder to acquire substantially all assets, with Emory clinicians already providing daily treatment at the center. ([Link](#))

### 5. KidsChoice Announces Majority Investment from Aquitaine Capital to Support Growth and Clinical Excellence

KidsChoice, an Oklahoma-based provider of clinic-centered autism and pediatric therapy services including ABA, speech, and occupational therapy, has secured a majority investment from women-owned private equity firm Aquitaine Capital to fuel expansion, enhance clinical excellence, and strengthen infrastructure. The partnership supports thoughtful growth through new clinic openings, strategic M&A, and complementary offerings while prioritizing individualized, outcomes-driven care for children and families. ([Link](#))

### 6. Community Health Systems Sells Crestwood Medical Center to Huntsville Hospital Health System in \$450M Deal

The sale transfers Crestwood Medical Center, its emergency department, and outpatient facilities to Huntsville Hospital Health System, ensuring continuity of services and staffing. The nonprofit buyer aims to enhance regional care coordination amid Huntsville's growth, while Community Health Systems pursues divestitures to improve its overall financial stability. ([Link](#))

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### 7. BioStem Technologies (OTC: BSEM) and BioTissue sign Up to \$40M Surgical and Wound Care Asset Deal

The acquisition adds BioTissue's Neox and Clarix tissue allograft products, sales network, and GPO contracts to BioStem's portfolio, expanding its presence in hospitals and wound care markets. The deal enhances BioStem's offerings in burns and soft-tissue repair and diversifies its revenue base. ([Link](#))

### 8. Harmony Healthcare IT acquires Blue Elm, via its financial sponsor Novacap to build Comprehensive MEDITECH Data Lifecycle Platform

The acquisition unites Harmony Healthcare IT and Blue Elm to provide MEDITECH hospitals with full-service data management, including extraction, migration, archiving, and optimization. The integrated platform streamlines EHR transitions, cuts legacy system costs, improves data integrity, and enhances security using U.S.-based teams to accelerate projects and support hospital efficiency. ([Link](#))

### 9. PhaseWell Research acquires Bio Behavioral Health Partner, via its financial sponsor Shore Capital Partners to expand Community-Based Neuropsychiatric Clinical Trials

PhaseWell Research and Bio Behavioral Health are joining forces to expand access to neuropsychiatric clinical trials through a strengthened community-based site network. The partnership combines BBH's local expertise with PhaseWell's national infrastructure to improve patient enrolment, data quality, and operational efficiency while supporting next-generation CNS and multisystem therapeutic research. ([Link](#))

### 10. Pair Team acquires Town Square to Advance AI-Enabled Community Care for Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries

The acquisition merges Pair Team's AI-enabled medical model with Town Square's social care platform to unify medical, behavioral, and social services for underserved patients. By automating coordination, teams can focus on clinical care and local relationships. The initiative prioritizes responsible AI, measurable outcomes, and expanding community-based healthcare infrastructure. ([Link](#))

### 11. Aspen Surgical Expands Infection Prevention Portfolio with acquisition of Ruhof Healthcare, via its financial sponsors Linden and Audax Private Equity

The acquisition adds Ruhof's enzymatic detergents, cleaning verification tools, and endoscope reprocessing products to Aspen Surgical's infection prevention portfolio. Integrating brands like Endozime, ScopeValet, and CleanRead strengthens its SPD360 platform and enhances presence across surgical and sterile processing environments, with full operational continuity expected during the transition. ([Link](#))

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### 12. TridentCare acquires DispatchHealth Imaging Unit to Grow National Portable Diagnostics Network

The deal brings DispatchHealth's multistate mobile X-ray and ultrasound operations into TridentCare's network, expanding access to in-home and facility-based diagnostics. Integration will enhance response times, scheduling efficiency, and service consistency nationwide, while DispatchHealth continues delivering home-based acute care and coordinating imaging through technology-enabled collaborations for seamless patient experiences. ([Link](#))

### 13. Morris & Dickson Completes Transaction to Acquire Prodigy Health

Morris & Dickson (M&D), the nation's largest independent wholesale and specialty pharmaceutical distributor, has completed its acquisition of Prodigy Health, a specialty pharmaceutical distribution and services company focused on plasma-derived therapies. The transaction expands M&D's specialty portfolio, broadens access to plasma therapies for hospitals, clinics, infusion centers, and alternative care sites nationwide, and strengthens its independent platform for manufacturers through a compliance-first approach. ([Link](#))

### 14. Main Post Partners and HomeWell Leadership acquire HomeWell Franchising to Accelerate Senior In-Home Care Growth

The acquisition joins HomeWell's national senior home-care network with Main Post Partners' franchising expertise to accelerate growth. Emphasizing collaborative relationships with franchisees and caregivers, the partnership aims to expand local services while maintaining mission and culture through investments in tools, training, and support for community-based senior care delivery. ([Link](#))

## Venture and Other News

### 1. Zarminali Paediatrics raises \$110M in Series A funding led by Healthier Capital, with participation from General Catalyst, K2 HealthVentures, and Boston Children's Hospital to expand integrated paediatric care footprint

Zarminali Paediatrics will deploy its new funding to expand its tech platform, acquire practices, and open new clinics across additional states. Its integrated model combines primary, specialty, and urgent care under one brand. Operating 28 clinics, it plans 15 more in 2026 while developing analytics and value-based care capabilities. ([Link](#))

### 2. Mendra launches with \$82M Series A co-led by OrbiMed, 8VC, and 5AM Ventures, with participation from Lux Capital and Wing VC to advance AI-driven rare disease therapeutics

Mendra will use its financing to acquire and develop rare disease therapies using AI to optimize patient identification, trial design, and global access. Guided by an experienced leadership team from leading biotech and tech firms, the company aims to modernize drug development and deliver treatments more efficiently worldwide. ([Link](#))

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3. [AnswersNow raises \\$40M in Series B funding led by HealthQuest Capital, with participation from Left Lane Capital and Owl Ventures to Scale AI-Enabled Virtual Autism Therapy](#)

AnswersNow will use its funding to grow its AI-powered virtual ABA platform, expand clinical and leadership teams, and launch new services. Its model connects families with expert BCBAs for efficient, parent-led therapy that reduces time and costs while maintaining strong outcomes, with additional validation studies planned for 2026. ([Link](#))

4. [BrightInsight secures \\$13M investment from Eclipse, General Catalyst, Insight Partners, Mayo Clinic and New Leaf Venture Partners to scale its AI-enabled medication adherence platform](#)

BrightInsight will use its new funding to expand its AI-driven platform that improves medication adherence through predictive analytics and personalized patient support. The company plans to enhance its Patient App, strengthen biopharma collaborations, and integrate caregiver and educator tools to raise engagement and ease burdens on global health systems. ([Link](#))

5. [McKinsey & Co Released their Annual Healthcare Outlook Report](#). To remain competitive in 2026 and beyond, healthcare leaders must improve performance, embrace technology and rethink traditional care models ([Link](#))

### 6. IPO Watchlist

- a. **Once Upon a Farm:** Organic children's food company co-founded by Jennifer Garner, is targeting a valuation of up to \$764.4 million in its upcoming U.S. IPO on the NYSE under the ticker OFRM. ([Link](#))
- b. **Kallyope:** New York City-based biotechnology company specializing in novel therapeutics targeting the gut-brain axis and neural circuits.
- c. **Kardium:** Vancouver area based medical device company focused on cardiac electrophysiology solutions; develops advanced catheter-based systems for the diagnosis and minimally invasive treatment of atrial fibrillation.
- d. **Tenpoint Therapeutics:** London, UK-headquartered (with U.S. operations in Seattle and Irvine) ophthalmic biotechnology company dedicated to age-related vision restoration therapies.
- e. **Vensure Employer Solutions:** Chandler, AZ -based professional employer organization (PEO) and provider of human capital management (HCM) technology serving the healthcare and broader employer ecosystem.