Healthcare Weekly News and Deals –Sept 21st, 2026

1. **CareTrust REIT (NYSE: CTRE) Acquires Southwest Skilled-Nursing Portfolio for $400 Million**
   First public print of a transaction effective September 1. The book is 2,622 licensed SNF beds, triple-net to the incumbent operator with inflation escalators and renewal options. Structured as a joint venture; CareTrust put in about $380 million from cash and settled equity forwards and models an 8.6% stabilized yield. Sourced off-market in markets where both landlord and operator already have scale. Year-to-date deployment is now about $1.9 billion and Q3-to-date about $710 million. Management reloaded the near-term pipeline at about $600 million. (Link)

2. **Lisata Therapeutics (NASD: LSTA) Acquires Marea Therapeutics; $225 Million PIPE Concurrent**
   Stock-for-stock reverse merger plus PIPE. RA Capital, Forbion, Third Rock, Alpha Wave, Perceptive, Sofinnova, Omega, Surveyor/Citadel, Columbia Threadneedle, Nantahala, Affinity, venBio and Rock Springs filled the round. Combined cap table: legacy Lisata about 2.4%, Marea holders about 59.5%, PIPE about 38.1%. Assets are MAR001/005, an ANGPTL4 monoclonal in Phase 2b for severe hypertriglyceridemia, and MAR002, a growth-hormone-receptor antagonist headed to Phase 2 in acromegaly. Runway into 2028; key reads targeted for the fourth quarter of 2027. (Link)

3. **Veracyte (NASD: VCYT) acquires Convergent Genomics for $150 million in cash plus up to $30 million in milestone payments, adding urine-based bladder cancer testing.**
   Veracyte closed its purchase of Convergent Genomics on September 14. It paid $150 million in cash at closing, subject to customary adjustments, with up to $30 million more tied to UroAmp publication and reimbursement milestones. Convergent was founded in 2015 in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University and runs a CLIA-certified lab in South San Francisco. Its UroAmp urinary tumor DNA assay is validated for monitoring therapy response and post-treatment surveillance in non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer. The asset sits alongside Decipher Bladder and TrueMRD, so Veracyte now covers urine, tissue and blood across the bladder cancer pathway. Management expects no material impact on 2026 EBITDA guidance. (Link)

4. **Oaktree commits up to $115 million in milestone-based capital to Saol Therapeutics ahead of the FDA decision date for SL1009.**
   Funds managed by Oaktree will provide up to $115 million to Saol Therapeutics, a private clinical-stage drug company in Roswell, Georgia. An initial tranche funds launch preparation, and the rest is released as regulatory, clinical and commercial milestones are met. The lead drug, SL1009 (sodium dichloroacetate), treats pyruvate dehydrogenase complex deficiency, a rare mitochondrial disease with no approved therapy. The FDA rejected an earlier application in 2025. Saol resubmitted, and the FDA's decision date is December 30, 2026. Later tranches would fund SL1009 in congenital lactic acidosis and expand SL1002 into more pain indications and spasticity. (Link)

5. Agora makes a $47 million first investment in Vheda Health, a Columbia, Maryland outcomes and analytics platform for health plans.

   Agora is a San Francisco private equity firm focused on healthcare technology, founded by Neil Vangala. It has invested $47 million in Vheda Health. This is Agora's first deal and the first institutional capital in Vheda's 13-year history. The previously bootstrapped company runs chronic-condition and maternity programs for high-risk Medicaid, Medicare and Special Needs Plan members. It cites more than $975 million in savings for health plan partners and an average 3:1 return on investment. Co-founder and CEO Shameet Luhar stays. The money funds expansion beyond 18 states, new analytics products and targeted acquisitions. (Link)

6. Ambu (Nasdaq Copenhagen: AMBU B) acquires U.S.-based TIMS Medical (Foresight Imaging) for $45 million upfront plus up to $20 million in milestones to advance its EndoIntelligence platform.

   Ambu, the Danish single-use endoscopy leader, has bought Foresight Imaging, LLC, which trades as TIMS Medical. It is paying $45 million upfront and up to $20 million in milestones, for total consideration of as much as $65 million. Founded in 2004, TIMS builds hardware and software that record procedure imaging and integrate it into hospital EMR and imaging systems. Its flagship TIMS MVP is widely used in ENT procedures, including FEES exams. The business has about 55 employees, roughly $15 million in annual revenue and around 7,000 installations across U.S. hospitals. Ambu expects the deal to accelerate revenue growth and kept its FY2025/26 outlook unchanged. (Link)

7. WJRJJ Ventures, owned by Copart (NASD: CPRT) founder Willis Johnson, completes a $40 million private placement in HealthStream (NASD: HSTM).

   WJRJJ Ventures bought 1.5 million HealthStream shares at $29.50 each. That comprised 1,355,932 new shares for about $40 million and 144,068 existing shares bought from CEO Robert Frist Jr. for about $4.25 million. Frist remains the largest shareholder, with about 16.4%. Johnson, a Nashville-area entrepreneur, was also the first investor in Empath Nursing, founded in 2025. HealthStream sells workforce technology to hospitals and will use the money for product investment and possible acquisitions. (Link)

8. Arsenal Capital Partners–backed Endpoint Clinical acquires Boston-based Bluefin, a clinical supply forecasting and planning technology provider.

   Endpoint Clinical, the randomization and trial supply management vendor Arsenal acquired in 2024, has bought Bluefin, a Boston cloud platform for planning clinical supply demand and distribution. The add-on moves Endpoint upstream from RTSM execution into forecasting. Supply plans will link to live enrollment and inventory data, so sponsors can anticipate shifts rather than react to them. Bluefin will keep operating independently and will still connect to competitors' RTSM systems. Endpoint will add implementation, quality, project management and customer support. Bluefin CEO Andy Maltun stays. (Link)

9. Seven Hills Capital–backed Spa Medicca of Canton, Ohio acquires Dr. Nicholas E. Sherock LLC & Associates, an Ohio women's health practice in Massillon and Orrville.

   Spa Medicca has acquired Dr. Sherock & Associates, a two-location women's health group in Massillon and Orrville. Dr. Nicholas Sherock leads a five-person clinical team offering gynecologic care, hormone replacement therapy, minimally invasive surgery and aesthetic services. Those services map onto Spa Medicca's focus on medical aesthetics, hormone optimization and women's health. The deal adds density in northeast Ohio after earlier work such as Amy Brenner, MD & Associates in Cincinnati. Patients keep existing providers and locations. (Link)

10. Gauge Capital–backed Reliable Medical acquires Freedom in Mobility and Action Seating & Mobility, expanding CRT coverage across Alabama, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Colorado.

    Reliable Medical is a Nashville CRT and home medical equipment provider Gauge recapitalized from Seven Hills in January. Freedom in Mobility adds three sites in north Alabama and Tennessee; president Teresa Glass Owens and COO Forrest Owens join. Action Seating & Mobility adds Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Muskogee, Fayetteville, Sherwood and Denver — manual and power chairs, custom seating, ATP-led fitting and repair. Combined network is more than 50 locations. Two add-ons in one week on the same platform. (Link)

11. NMS Capital launches Asurgence Medical by recapitalizing ENDOCORP and acquiring Medical Optics from Probo Medical.

    NMS partnered with management to recapitalize Endoscopy Corporation of America of Southfield, Michigan and at the same time bought Medical Optics of Tamarac, Florida from Probo Medical. ENDOCORP supplies more than 15,000 repair-part SKUs for flexible endoscopes. Medical Optics repairs and resells flexible and rigid scopes across manufacturers. Both keep their names as Asurgence subsidiaries. Former Probo CEO Michael Asmer becomes CEO. Thesis is aging equipment fleets and hospital pressure to avoid OEM overhaul pricing. (Link)

12. Amulet Capital Partners closes a continuation vehicle to recapitalize US Fertility.

    New and existing investors participated. US Fertility was formed in 2020 and now supports more than 120 clinic and IVF lab locations and over 200 physicians. It has treated more than 400,000 patients. The deal builds on L Catterton's 2025 entry as co-lead alongside Amulet and the physician partners. Amulet, a healthcare-only sponsor managing about $3.8 billion, stays involved. The new capital funds geographic expansion and clinical innovation. (Link)

13. Sheridan Capital Partners acquires a majority stake in PtEverywhere, a Raleigh-based practice management and payments platform for physical therapy clinics.

    Sheridan completed a majority investment in PtEverywhere. The Raleigh platform brings scheduling, clinical documentation, billing and collections into one workflow for small and mid-sized outpatient physical therapy clinics, including cash-pay and hybrid reimbursement models. CEO Andrew Shofner stays. Sheridan plans organic growth and add-ons that broaden the product into adjacent rehab segments. The deal sits next to Sheridan's 2025 investment in post-acute billing vendor National Care Systems. (Link)

14. Martis Capital– and Din Ventures–backed Archway Dental Partners acquires Veale Dental, its first Massachusetts practice.

    Archway Dental Partners, based in Danbury, Connecticut, acquired Veale Dental, a two-location general practice in South Easton and Dartmouth. This is Archway's first Massachusetts practice and its third acquisition of 2026, after five deals in 2025. The group began as the four-location Dental Associates of Connecticut and now supports more than 40 practices across Connecticut and New York. Entry into a new state rather than an add-on in an existing market. (Link)

15. Neuberger and KKR (NYSE: KKR) agree to acquire a significant minority stake in Datavant, which remains controlled by New Mountain Capital.

    Funds managed by Neuberger Capital Solutions and Neuberger Private Markets, together with KKR's Strategic Investments Group, agreed to buy a significant minority stake in Datavant. New Mountain Capital, an investor since 2014, keeps control. Datavant's network spans more than 80,000 providers and 75 of the top 100 health systems, and its data touches about 90% of the U.S. population. Growth capital into a scaled asset rather than an exit, funding further digitization and clinical AI. Closing expected in the fourth quarter of 2026. (Link)

16. Parthenon Capital–backed MRO acquires Vyne Medical from TJC-owned Vyne, adding clinical data intake and document processing.

    MRO, a Norristown clinical data management platform, acquired Vyne Medical from Vyne, a TJC portfolio company. Vyne Medical turns paper, fax, voice and image inputs into structured data for more than 800 hospitals. Together the companies serve over 2,500 hospitals and 35,000 clinics. Intake tools feed MRO's medical-records release and data exchange services. Vyne Dental is not part of the deal and stays with TJC. Clean sponsor-to-sponsor handoff. (Link)

17. NewSpring-, Kineticos-, HealthQuest- and Great Point–backed Kincell Bio Merges with Cellipont to Form Kincellis Advanced Therapies

    U.S. cell-therapy CDMO combination. Kincell's immune-cell shop plus Cellipont's stem, iPSC, MSC, dendritic, exosome and mRNA work. About 140,000 square feet across Gainesville, Research Triangle Park and The Woodlands; 16 qualified GMP suites; more than 150 GMP batches released; 10 INDs this year; 200-plus staff. Darren Head is CEO. Equity led by NewSpring with Kineticos Life Sciences, HealthQuest Capital and Great Point Partners; debt from J.P. Morgan. (Link)

18. Arlington-Backed Everest Clinical Research Acquires Firma Clinical's Data Services Unit

    Toronto data-first CRO buying Firma DS, a biometrics and clinical-data book that has touched more than 1,000 studies and 60-plus NDAs across oncology, neurology, rare disease, hepatology and nephrology. Adds delivery capacity in the U.S. and Asia-Pacific. Firma DS clients get Everest's full-service stack — regulatory, operations, safety, medical writing — on one CRO. Arlington Capital has owned Everest since 2020. (Link)

19. Gauge-Backed Rovia Clinical Research Acquires Pinnacle Research Group and Cullman Clinical Trials in Alabama

    Site-network add-ons on Gauge's Rovia platform. Pinnacle is an Anniston-area multi-specialty site founded in 1998, with 500-plus completed trials and Phase I capability. Cullman Clinical Trials is its north-central Alabama partner site. The pair gives Rovia owned density in a state it did not previously control. Gauge has funded the site roll-up since the 2024 platform launch. Separate from Reliable Medical, another Gauge healthcare vehicle. (Link)

20. HealthEdge- and United Western–Backed Veridian Healthcare Acquires ScarScience from Mitchell-Vance

Medical-grade silicone scar sheets and gels into plastic surgery, dermatology and physical-therapy channels. Brand add-on onto a wound-and-scar distribution platform rather than a clinic buy. Robert Friedberg remains CEO; Jessica Rowen stays on the seller side of the handoff. HealthEdge Investment Partners and United Western Group are the sponsors. (Link)

21. Medallion acquires Andros, an NCQA-certified credentials verification organization, creating a credentialing platform covering more than one million providers.

Medallion, a San Francisco AI-assisted credentialing and payer-enrollment platform, acquired Andros, an NCQA-certified CVO serving health plans, health systems, provider groups and telehealth companies since 2013. The combination brings more than one million providers across nearly 400 organizations and health plans onto one platform. Andros verifies data on more than 8 million providers and runs about 300,000 credentialing checks a year. Health-plan customers will move onto Medallion's automated verification tools and AI outreach agents. (Link)

22. Abry Partners–backed Centauri Health Solutions of Tempe, Arizona acquires Iowa-based Benny the Benefits Navigator to expand its SSI/SSDI eligibility technology.

Centauri acquired Benny the Benefits Navigator, an Iowa startup founded in 2024 by Jeremy Shapiro, James Vancel and Joel Segre. Its AI platform replaces paper forms with a conversational digital intake for SSI and SSDI applications. Benny folds into Centauri's Member Connect disability eligibility service, which already reaches more than 60 million lives. Latest add-on under Abry after the 2025 MedAllies purchase. (Link)

23. Ignitus Recovery acquires AIM Health Boulder, a Colorado mental health and substance-use treatment program for young adults.

Englewood-based Ignitus acquired AIM Health Boulder, a 20-year Boulder program treating adults 18–30 through PHP and IOP at the historic Earl House. Ignitus plans to keep existing programs and add residential treatment, alumni engagement and long-term recovery support. Founder Danny Conroy said he chose Ignitus to carry the program forward. CEO Steve Millette committed to no disruption for clients, staff or referral partners. (Link)

24. Stony Brook Medicine Community Medical Group acquires South Shore Digestive Medicine, a Bay Shore, New York gastroenterology practice led by Dr. Darius Sorbi.

The community physician arm of Stony Brook Medicine acquired South Shore Digestive Medicine in Bay Shore. Dr. Darius Sorbi trained in internal medicine at Stony Brook and completed his GI fellowship at Mayo Clinic. He specializes in advanced endoscopy, biliary and pancreatic disease and GI cancers. The practice is now listed at 10 Brentwood Road, Bay Shore, alongside Stony Brook GI sites in Commack and Lake Grove. Extends the SUNY-owned academic system's coverage onto Long Island's South Shore. (Link)

25. AKTIV Against Cancer Merges with CancerFit

Exercise-oncology combination. AKTIV is the U.S. sister of Norway's Aktiv mot kreft — hospital gyms branded Pusterom in Norway and AKTIVcenter in the U.S., research funding at Memorial Sloan Kettering, first U.S. site at Summit Health in New Jersey. CancerFit is the digital and program counterpart. No price and no cap table on the open wire. Merger of two mission-aligned exercise-as-treatment platforms, not a clinic roll-up. (Link)

26. Daia Orthodontics & TMJ Orthopedics acquires four former docbraces clinics in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, its first expansion outside the U.S.

    Rochester Hills, Michigan-based Daia acquired four clinics that previously operated under the docbraces name, in Grand Falls and Woodstock, New Brunswick, and Charlottetown and Summerside, Prince Edward Island. The founder-owned practice goes from one location to five. Founder Dr. Hadi Daia is certified in both the U.S. and Canada and has treated patients at these clinics since 2021, converting an existing clinical relationship into ownership. Current clinical and administrative teams stay. No outside sponsor was named. (Link)

27. Medartis Holding (SIX: MED) Acquires M.A.R.C. Institute in Doral, Florida

    First permanent training site outside Europe and the group's largest, with 36 surgical stations and capacity for 140 participants. Name and general manager Heloise Peixoto stay; the IBRA partnership continues; universities, societies and other device companies keep access. Satellite activity in São Paulo, Rio and Curitiba. Osteosynthesis implant maker buying education infrastructure, not a clinic roll-up. (Link)

28. Xenetic Biosciences (NASD: XBIO) to Acquire Santersus AG in an All-Stock Exchange; Combined Company to Be Santersus Bio

    Agreement dated September 14, public print September 16. Swiss NucleoCapture blood-purification device plus Xenetic's DNase platform against neutrophil extracellular traps. Santersus holders about 85%, Xenetic about 15% on a fully diluted basis. Pipeline includes Breakthrough Device-designated work in sepsis and SLE. Combined company expected to trade as Santersus Bio. Close targeted in the fourth quarter on a stockholder vote and Nasdaq listing of new shares. (Link)

Venture Deals and Other

1. Vitruvian Partners leads Angle Health's $600 million financing at a $2.7 billion valuation, with Town Hall Ventures, Blumberg Capital, Portage Ventures, Prudential Financial (NYSE: PRU)'s PruVen Capital and Y Combinator participating.

   London-based Vitruvian Partners led a $600 million equity financing in Angle Health at a headline $2.7 billion valuation. It combines a $200 million Series C with a $400 million tender offer for existing shareholders. New investor Town Hall Ventures joined existing backers Blumberg Capital, Portage Ventures, PruVen Capital and Y Combinator. The San Francisco company provides AI-driven health benefits to more than 5,000 small and mid-sized employers, with nearly $1 billion in annualized premiums. It reports 120% growth and four profitable quarters in a row. (Link)

2. Thoreau leads a $100 million funding commitment to Penelope Health, with Bertelsmann Healthcare Investments, Twine Ventures and Seedcamp participating.

   Thoreau, the healthcare investment platform led by former New Mountain Capital president Matt Holt, has committed $100 million to London-based Penelope Health. Existing backers Bertelsmann Healthcare Investments, Twine Ventures and Seedcamp joined. The funding comes with a partnership to build shared infrastructure for real-time payments and clinical coverage rules. Penelope's platform tracks insurer coverage policies for more than 200 million Americans across over 15,000 procedure and drug codes. The amount is a commitment rather than a closed round. (Link)

3. **JMI Equity leads Archy's $50 million Series C, with TCV, Entrée Capital, Bessemer Venture Partners, CRV and Alven participating.**
   JMI Equity led a $50 million Series C in Archy, a San Jose AI platform for running dental practices. Existing investors TCV, Entrée Capital, Bessemer, CRV and Alven joined. Total funding now stands at $97 million. Built-in AI agents handle claims and collections, visit notes, insurance eligibility, patient communications and analytics. Archy serves more than 1,000 practices in 45 states and processes over $300 million in payments a year. (Link)

4. **Catalio Capital Management leads AVAVA's $45 million financing, made up of $30 million in equity and a $15 million debt facility.**
   Catalio, AVAVA's first institutional investor, led a $45 million package of $30 million in equity and a $15 million debt facility. The relationship includes $10 million of growth capital from Catalio's Structured Opportunities Fund in 2024. Boston-based AVAVA sells aesthetic laser devices built on Focal Point Technology, which delivers energy to targeted depths in the skin. The money funds commercial expansion, new products and international growth. (Link)

5. **Obvious Ventures leads Mithrl's $20 million Series A, with Headline and AGI House participating.**
   Obvious Ventures led a $20 million Series A in Mithrl, a California company building AI infrastructure for drug developers. Headline, AGI House and several pharma executives participated. Its second-generation platform, Mithrl-1, pairs a proprietary biomedical model with agents that choose models and manage cost. It runs inside each client's environment. The company says top-10 pharma companies and clinical-stage biotechs already use it, with a goal of 50% faster IND timelines. (Link)

6. **Neon leads Ayble Health's $16 million Series A, with Unum Group (NYSE: UNM)'s Unum Ventures, Upfront Ventures, M13, Ohio-based Cleveland Clinic Ventures, DigiTx and Accomplice participating.**
   Neon led an oversubscribed $16 million Series A in Boston-based Ayble Health. Total capital raised now exceeds $27 million. Ayble runs an AI-enabled virtual clinic for digestive conditions, sold to national health plans, large employers and benefit platforms. It reports a 47% average improvement in symptoms and at least a 3:1 return for customers. The money strengthens AI care tools and expands the company into autoimmune conditions. (Link)

7. **GOA Therapeutics Emerges from Stealth with $15.5 Million; Unveils GOA26 for Acute Alcohol Intoxication**
   Dallas preclinical shop. In an IND-enabling porcine model after 1.2 g/kg oral ethanol, blood alcohol concentration was 61.3% lower versus control at 20 minutes. No FDA-approved drug rapidly lowers BAC today. IND targeted by year-end 2026; first-in-human work in 2027. Data were presented the same day at AAST in Dallas. (Link)

8. **Khosla Ventures leads Nara Health's $14 million pre-seed and seed financing, with Long Journey Ventures and Superior Studios participating.**

   Khosla led $14 million across pre-seed and seed in Nara Health, formerly Avant Health. Long Journey Ventures, Superior Studios and angels joined. The Chicago company administers health plans for self-insured employers using AI — benefits, claims, care coordination and member support. Nara has more than 25,000 members and has processed over $600 million in claims. CEO Sid Sinha said the money funds Chicago hiring and platform scale. (Link)

9. **Flare Capital Partners leads Kairon Health's $5 million round, with Tau Ventures, Lightbank, General Advance and Pave Health Ventures participating.**

   Flare led a $5 million round in Kairon Health, joined by Tau Ventures and existing backers Lightbank, General Advance and Pave Health Ventures. Founder Nick Bartz spent nine years at Aledade. The New York AI platform turns claims, records, admission alerts, lab and pharmacy data into task lists for staff at ACOs, health systems and physician groups. It covers more than one million patients across 30-plus states under Medicare, Medicaid and commercial value-based contracts. (Link)