

October 7, 2026

Industry Insights

Healthcare Market Report



Banker Commentary:

Key Leading Indicators Point to Sustained Tailwinds for the Pharma Services and Tech Ecosystem

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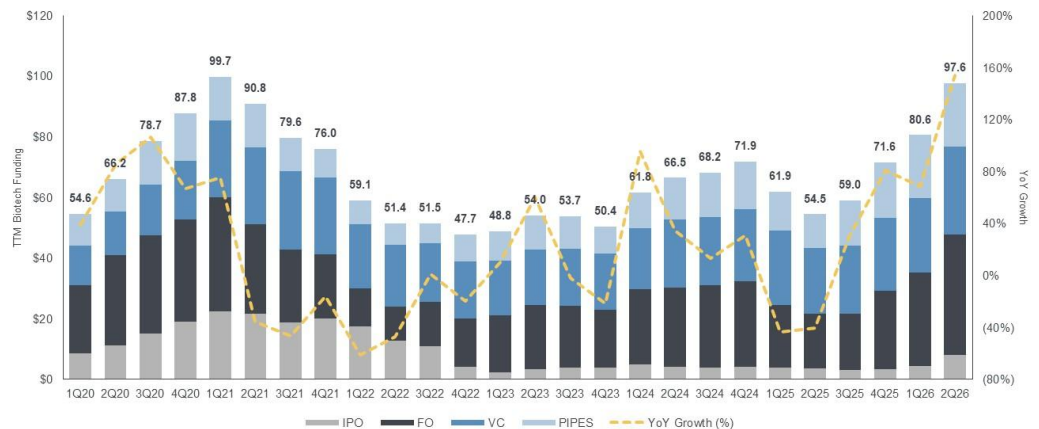
Key Leading Indicators Point to Sustained Tailwinds for the Pharma Services and Tech Ecosystem

Banker Commentary by [Roman Rezanowicz](#)



The pharma services and technology universe is approaching the end of 2026 on markedly firmer footing than it stood a year ago. Biotech funding has surged back toward record territory; clinical trial starts are compounding on a multi-year recovery; and FDA approvals are running well ahead of last year's pace, supported by continued innovation. Each of these leading indicators — capital formation, pipeline breadth, and regulatory throughput — point in the same direction, and taken together, there is much cause for optimism as investors look forward to Q4 2026 and beyond.

Biotech Funding



Source: Wall Street research, Cain Brothers estimates

Trailing twelve months biotech funding has staged a decisive recovery, climbing from a post-2022 trough of roughly \$48 billion to \$98 billion in quarter two of 2026 — within striking distance of the \$100 billion peak set in quarter one of 2021 and more than double the annual trough reached just 3 ½ years earlier. Year-over-year growth has re-accelerated sharply through 2025 and into 2026, reflecting a follow-on and IPO market that has reopened alongside steady venture deployment.

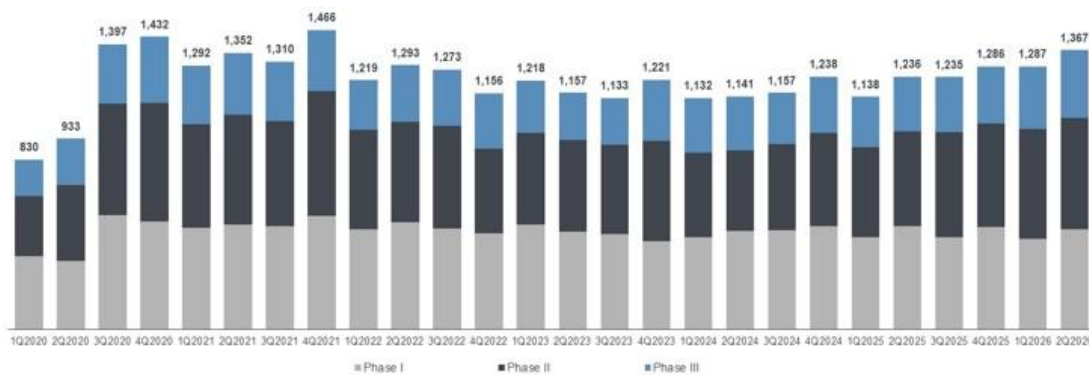
The recovery is being reinforced by an unusually active biopharma M&A market. Top 20 pharma have signed 21 biopharma transactions >\$1 billion through September, surpassing the 10 such deals struck across the same period of 2025 — pushing aggregate deal value toward \$84 billion in nine months versus \$51 billion over the same period last year. That pace of consolidation matters beyond the headline values: capital returned to investors via M&A is being recycled into new company formation and earlier-stage pipelines, refilling the funnel that eventually flows across the pharma services and tech ecosystem.

Innovation shows no sign of slowing either. Moderna and Merck's personalized mRNA cancer vaccines, paired with Keytruda, cleared a pivotal Phase 3 melanoma readout in August 2026. This marks the first positive late-stage result for an individualized neoantigen therapy, and a milestone

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likely to catalyze further investment in personalized oncology to continue to drive investment alongside continued investments within in-demand therapeutics areas, such as central nervous system and rare and orphan.

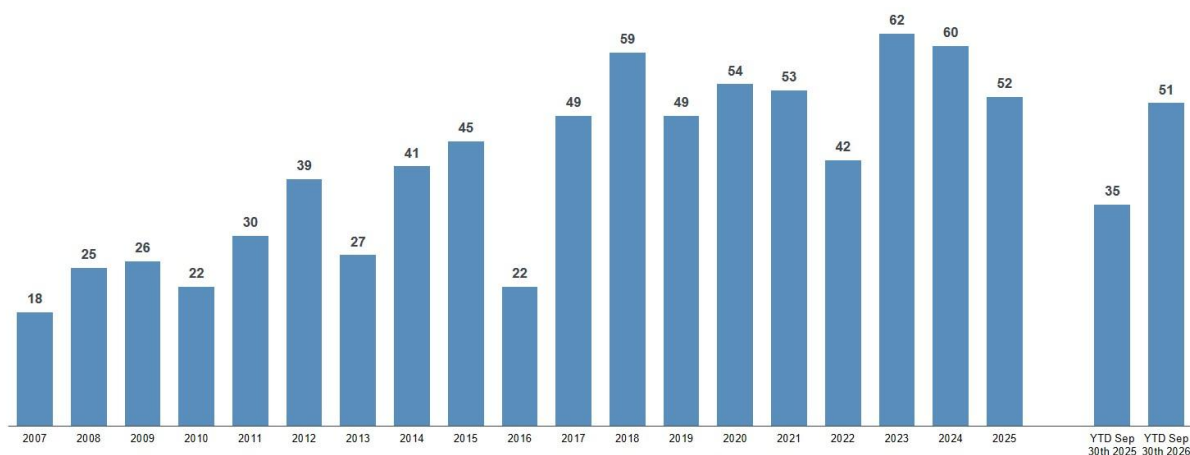
Clinical Trial Starts



Source: FDA.gov; Cain Brothers Estimates

Clinical trial starts have followed a similarly constructive path. After the most recent bottoming in late 2022 amid funding constraints, quarterly starts have built steadily higher, reaching 1,367 in 2Q26 — a post-2021 high and a clear signal that sponsors are once again committing capital to new programs, rather than simply triaging existing ones. For contract research organizations and adjacent outsourced service providers, rising starts are one of the most direct proxies available for future bookings, since nearly every new trial requires some combination of outsourced design, site management, data, monitoring capabilities, etc. The steadiness of the climb — six consecutive quarters of improvement — suggests this is a durable trend.

FDA Approvals



Source: FDA.gov; Cain Brothers Estimates

FDA approval activity offers further confirmation of the sector's momentum. Through September 2026, the agency had cleared 51 novel drugs, up meaningfully from 35 approvals over the same period the prior year — a roughly 46% increase that puts the year on pace to rank among the more productive of the past decade, alongside 2023 and 2018. Sustained approval throughput validates the regulatory

continued...

pathway biopharma and their investors are underwriting, and it signals to service providers that the back end of the pipeline — regulatory affairs, launch readiness, and commercialization support — will have steady work to absorb.

Outlook

Put simply, the transaction environment has improved, and pharma services and tech are back in favor across the board. We see this reflected in our own conversations across the space — companies with a genuine right to win are performing well, in both services and technology, and we expect transaction volume to increase.

That said, this recovery differs from prior rebounds in one important respect: investors are more discerning than they were in past up-cycles, and capital is flowing selectively. A rising tide will lift the strongest franchises meaningfully, but, unlike previous recoveries, it will not lift all boats — differentiation, not sector beta, will determine the winners from here.

M&A Activity

Selected Recent Healthcare Transactions (\$MM)

Date	Target Name	Acquirer	EV	Enterprise Value /		Description
				LTM Rev.	LTM EBITDA	
10/1/2026	Seraplex	Prairie Capital	NA	NA	NA	Specialty blood products company
9/28/2026	New Age Medical	Avesi Partners	NA	NA	NA	MedTech hub serving the spinal surgery market
9/28/2026	Evolution Consulting & Research	TJP (Renovus Capital)	NA	NA	NA	Life sciences market research organization
9/24/2026	Aligned Modern Health	Arcventis Health Partners and Harbour Point Capital	NA	NA	NA	Provider of functional medicine and hormone health
9/24/2026	Clinical Ink	Ardan Equity and GI Partners	\$400	NA	NA	Clinical trials software provider
9/24/2026	ION PT Network	5th Century Partners	NA	NA	NA	Physical therapy management company serving the workers' compensation market
9/23/2026	Velentium Medical	1315 Capital and Great Point Partners	NA	NA	NA	Full-service medical technology innovation, development, and manufacturing company for implantable medical devices
9/22/2026	NuView Health	Haelan Capital Partners	NA	NA	NA	Online acute care provider platform
9/18/2026	Mercy Care (stake)	Aetna (CVS Health)	NA	NA	NA	Medicaid insurer in Arizona
9/17/2026	Medical Optics (Probo Medical)	NMS Capital	NA	NA	NA	ISO certified provider of service, depot repair and equipment re-sale
9/17/2026	SxanPro	Vizient	NA	NA	NA	Healthcare inventory management technology
9/17/2026	PtEverywhere	Sheridan Capital Partners	NA	NA	NA	Integrated practice management platform serving outpatient physical therapy and related rehabilitation providers
9/16/2026	Vyne Medical	MRO (Parthenon Capital)	NA	NA	NA	Provider of data intake and intelligent document processing solutions for hospitals
9/15/2026	Benny the Benefits Navigator	Centauri Health Solutions (Abry Partners)	NA	NA	NA	AI-enabled platform for application process for public benefits
9/14/2026	Bluefin	Endpoint Clinical (Arsenal Capital)	NA	NA	NA	Platform for clinical supply forecasting and planning technology
9/10/2026	Fullscript (HGG and Snapdragon Capital)	Altas Partners and L Catterton Management	NA	NA	NA	Distributor of healthcare products through an online supplement dispensing platform
9/10/2026	Numotion (AEA Investors)	Hanger (Patient Square)	NA	NA	NA	Provider of complex rehabilitation technology and mobility products and services
9/9/2026	Accumulus Technologies	Eir Partners	NA	NA	NA	Cloud-based platform allowing life sciences organizations to collaborate

Private Placement Activity

Selected Recent Healthcare Transactions (\$MM)

Date	Company	Investor(s)	Type	Amount	Description
10/1/2026	Devoted Health	Advent and Temasek (co-leads), The Space Between, Centricus, GIC, Franklin Templeton, Generation, VZVC, Emerson Collective, Premji Invest, and Andreessen Horowitz	Series G	\$555	Medicare Advantage insurance plans to seniors and eligible Medicare beneficiaries
9/30/2026	OpenEvidence	Andreessen Horowitz (lead)	Equity	\$250 mm \$15 bln valuation	AI-powered search engine for doctors
9/29/2026	Ortet	Thoreau	Commitment	\$500	AI-powered healthcare lab
9/29/2026	EliseAI	Andreessen Horowitz and Bessemer Venture Partners (co-leads), Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, Sapphire Ventures, and Navitas Capital	Equity	\$350 mm \$4 bln valuation	AI-powered healthcare automation platform
9/24/2026	Rightway	Francisco Partners (lead), Thrive Capital and Khosla Ventures	Series E	\$155	Pharmacy benefit management and care navigation company
9/22/2026	Heidi	Blackbird (lead), Phoenix Court, Point72 Private Investments, and Headline	Series C	\$100	AI-powered care partner platform
9/22/2026	Heidi	General Catalyst	Growth	\$240	AI-powered care partner platform
9/22/2026	Symplr	Clearlake Capital Group and Charlesbank Capital Partners	Preferred Equity	\$175	Governance, risk, and compliance management software specifically for healthcare facilities
9/19/2026	Vheda Health	Agora	Undisclosed	\$47	Outcomes and analytics company serving health plans' highest-risk and hardest-to-reach members
9/15/2026	Datavant	New Mountain Capital, Neuburger, and KKR today	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	Healthcare data collaboration platform
9/9/2026	Inspiren	NewView Capital (lead), Insight Venture, Primary Venture, Scale Management, Avenir Management, Story Ventures Vintage Ventures, Lightbank, and Camber Creek	Series C	\$70	Cognitive patient care platform and a mobile application
9/8/2026	Forus	Bain Capital Ventures (lead), Accel, Thrive Capital, General Catalyst, Redpoint Ventures, BoxGroup and Pear VC	Series C	\$150 \$3 bln valuation	Healthcare automation startup
9/3/2026	PatientIQ	Hughes & Company (lead), Health Enterprise Partners and August Capital	Series C	\$30	Patient outcomes intelligence platform
9/2/2026	Thyme Care	Morgan Health, CVS Health Ventures, and Humana, AlleyCorp, HealthQuest Capital, Foresite Capital, Concord Health Partners, Frist Cressey Ventures, Town Hall Ventures, and a16z Bio + Health	Series E	\$125	Provides cancer care navigation, care coordination, and clinical support services
8/31/2026	Scan.com	\$90 equity: Noteus Partners (lead), Aviva, Concord Health Partners, YZR Capital, Oxford Capital \$130 debt: VerisFi Capital and Atempo Growth	Series C	\$220	Medical imaging network
8/26/2026	Faro AI	Merck Global Health Innovation Fund and S32 (co-leads), General Catalyst, Northpond Ventures, Polaris Partners, PTX Capital, Zetta, and Ankona Capital	Series B	\$37	AI platform for modern clinical development
8/26/2026	Arintra	Define Ventures, Peak XV Partners, Yale New Haven Health, Endeavor Health Ventures, Y Combinator, Counterpart Ventures, Ten13, and Spider Capital	Series B	\$25	AI platform for revenue assurance in healthcare
8/25/2026	PartsSource	Memorial Hermann Health System	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	Performance platform for clinical technology
8/20/2026	Cityblock Health	General Catalyst	Series E	\$116	Providing care for urban Medicaid and dual-eligible members
8/20/2026	Serif Health	SEVA Growth	Minority	Undisclosed	Provider of healthcare price transparency data and intelligence

Equity Capital Markets

Market Overview

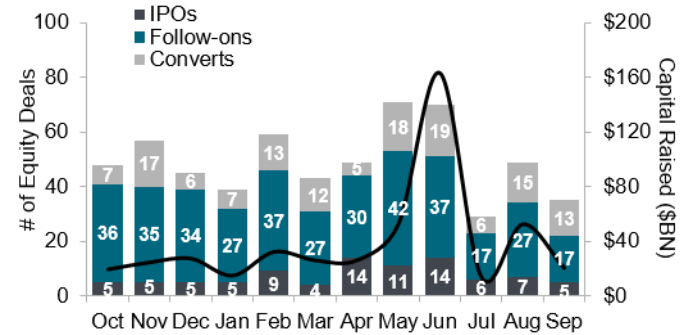
- Last week, ECM activity slowed as many companies entered blackout periods ahead of Q3 earnings releases:
 - Last week: 1 IPO, 3 follow-ons, 2 convertibles
- IPO investors remain focused on growth opportunities but continue to enforce valuation discipline amid higher Treasury rates → Prospective IPO issuers have a window over the next several weeks, ahead of the U.S. midterm elections and the November 12 financial staleness deadline, to price transactions before Q3 2026 financials must be included in registration statements
- Expect follow-on issuance to remain strong over the coming weeks as issuers look to lock in reference prices at or near all-time highs and capitalize on favorable Q3 earnings results performances in 3Q

ECM Activity (Last 4 Weeks and YoY)

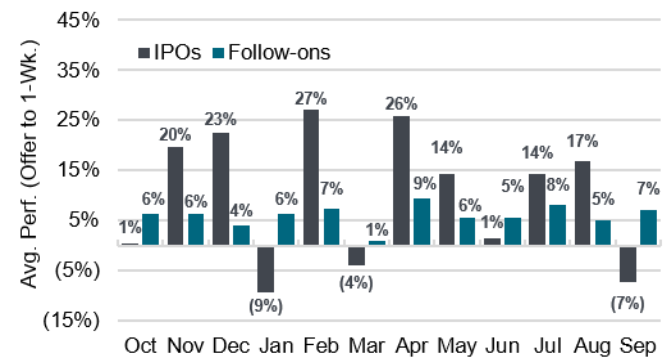
	2026 - Last 4 Weeks			2025 - Last 4 Weeks		
	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	% Share	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	% Share
IPO	1,791	5	9%	7,653	13	30%
CONV	14,082	13	69%	9,403	18	37%
FO	4,425	17	22%	8,281	32	33%
Total	20,298	35	100%	25,337	63	100%

	2026 YTD			2025 YTD		
	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	% Share	Vol (\$MM)	# Deals	% Share
IPO	131,264	75	33%	27,753	53	14%
CONV	116,847	108	29%	68,826	89	35%
FO	151,769	261	38%	98,620	217	51%
Total	399,880	444	100%	195,199	359	100%

U.S. ECM Offerings (LTM; IPOs, Follow-ons and



IPO and Follow-on 1-Week Performance (LTM)



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
5/12/2026	GMR Solutions	Services	GMRS	\$478.7	\$3,347.2	14.3%	100.0%	\$15.00	\$22.00 - \$25.00	(6.8%)	(19.5%)
5/7/2026	Mobia Medical	Medical Products	MOBI	\$150.0	\$496.3	30.2%	100.0%	\$15.00	\$14.00 - \$16.00	(21.7%)	(19.7%)
4/16/2026	Alamar Biosciences	Diagnostics	ALMR	\$219.9	\$1,130.9	19.4%	100.0%	\$17.00	\$15.00 - \$17.00	29.4%	42.8%
3/5/2026	MiniMed Group	Medical Products	MMED	\$560.0	\$5,616.3	10.0%	100.0%	\$20.00	\$26.00 - \$30.00	(7.6%)	(17.4%)
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%

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
9/22/2026	InnovAge*	Services	Marketed	INNV	\$92.5	\$1,453.9	6.4%	0.0%	(13.2%)	(2.7%)	(2.9%)
9/15/2026	Beta Bionics	Medical Products	Marketed	BBNX	\$172.5	\$1,032.0	16.7%	100.0%	(10.3%)	28.6%	32.2%
8/20/2026	Aveanna Healthcare	Services	Bought	AVAH	\$176.3	\$2,830.0	6.2%	0.0%	(9.4%)	12.0%	17.6%
6/16/2026	Sophia Genetics	Diagnostics	Marketed	SOPH	\$57.5	\$405.8	14.2%	100.0%	(3.7%)	10.3%	10.1%
6/5/2026	Nyxoah	Medical Products	Marketed	NYXH	\$95.0	\$287.8	33.0%	100.0%	(40.3%)	(19.2%)	(19.2%)

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
6/17/2026	Adaptive Biotechnologies	Diagnostics	ADPT	\$345.0	\$2,756.0	12.5%	0.00%	40.00%
6/17/2026	NeoGenomics	Services	NEO	\$316.3	\$1,365.9	3.2%	0.75%	35.00%
2/24/2026	Tandem Diabetes Care	Medical Products	TNDM	\$300.0	\$1,838.0	16.3%	0.00%	37.50%
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%

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

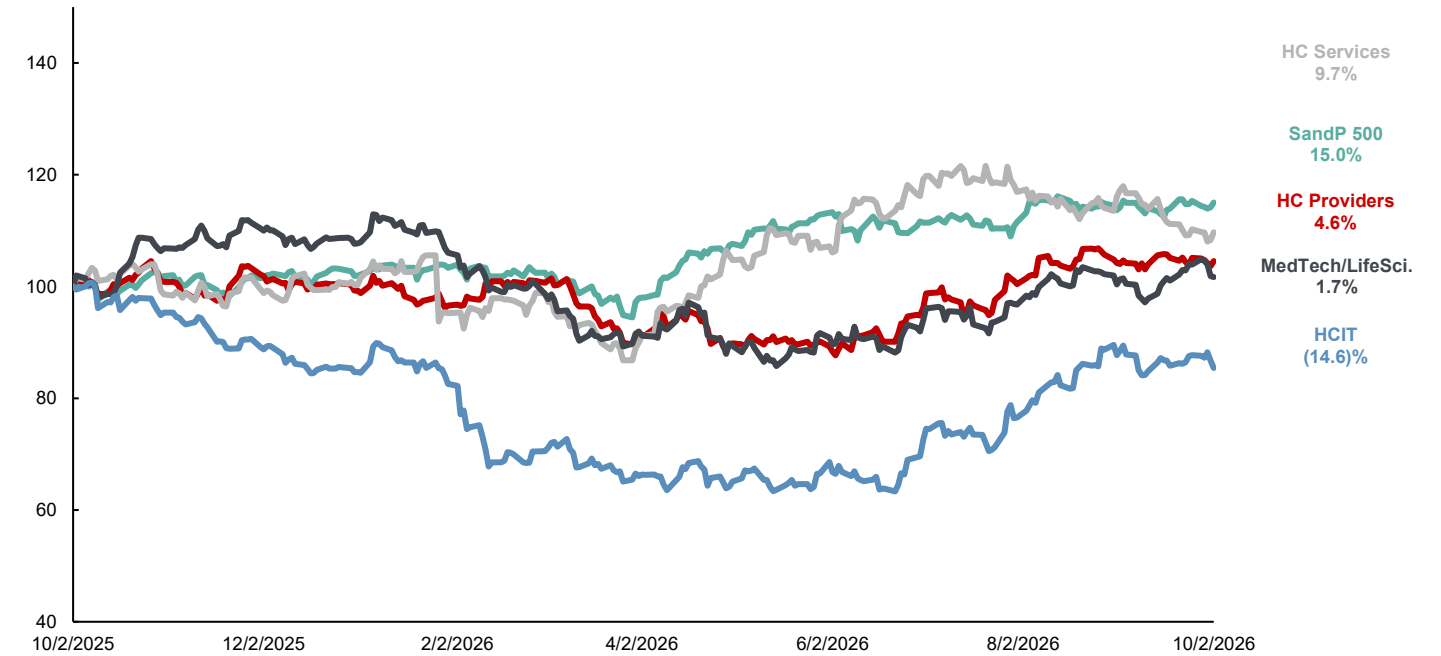
Transaction occurred the past week

Public Equity Indices

Equity Indices (as of October 2, 2026)

Index	Wk Open	Wk Close	Returns		Cain Brothers Indicies	Returns	
			52 Week	Weekly		52 Week	Weekly
DJIA	51,829	51,177	10.0%	(1.3%)	Acute Care	(5.6%)	(1.8%)
S&P 500	7,743	7,723	15.0%	(0.3%)	Alternate Site Services	(5.7%)	(0.9%)
NASDAQ	27,069	27,191	19.0%	0.5%	Diagnostics	23.6%	(0.9%)
Russell 2000	2,838	2,833	15.2%	(0.2%)	Distribution	13.0%	2.8%
NYSE Healthcare	28,718	28,940	14.0%	0.8%	Healthcare IT	(14.6%)	(2.6%)
					Healthcare REITs	34.1%	(1.9%)
					Managed Care	8.2%	(1.2%)
					Medical Technology	0.1%	(2.1%)
					Outsourced Services	41.0%	1.1%
					Pharma Services	10.0%	(2.8%)
					Pharmacy	10.9%	(3.0%)
					Primary Care	66.6%	1.0%
					Post-Acute Care Services	25.9%	0.8%
					Post-Acute Care Facilities	22.8%	0.1%

Cain Brothers Healthcare Indices (1YR Performance)



High Grade, High Yield and Leveraged Loan Market

Market Summary

High Grade

- The IG primary market missed expectations for a second consecutive week amid a large increase in base rates, as \$36.1 BN priced across 17 tranches.

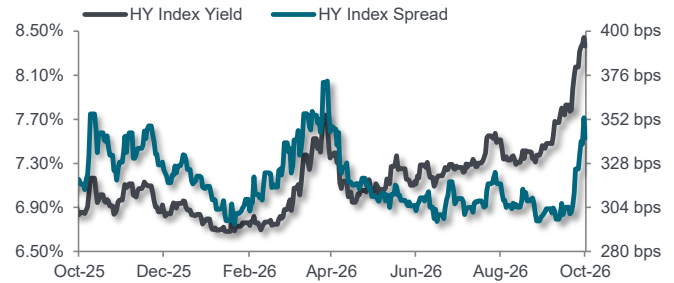
High Yield

- The high yield primary market saw the largest USD high yield bond deal ever last week as Paramount Skydance priced \$11.4 BN; September also achieved the largest monthly net issuance amount in history at \$36.0 BN.

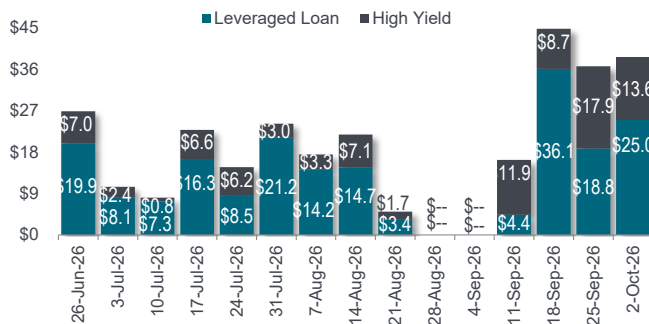
Term Loan B Market

- Technicals remain supportive, with demand continuing to outpace available supply as CLO formation remains robust and the forward calendar remains manageable.

HY Index Yield and Spread (YTD)



Weekly New Issue Volume (\$BN)



New-Issue Clearing Yields¹ (\$MM)

Double-B Issuers	1Q26	2Q26	30-Day Rolling Average
			10/02/26
Ba1	S+214 / 5.8%	S+269 / 6.6%	S+288 / 7.0%
Ba2	S+190 / 5.6%	S+190 / 5.7%	S+192 / 5.8%
Ba3	S+238 / 6.1%	S+271 / 6.6%	S+294 / 6.9%
Single-B Issuers	1Q26	2Q26	30-Day Rolling Average
			10/02/26
B1	S+251 / 6.2%	S+288 / 6.7%	S+314 / 7.1%
B2	S+325 / 7.0%	S+332 / 7.20%	S+312 / 6.8%
B3	S+404 / 7.9%	S+373 / 7.7%	S+408 / 8.3%

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

Date	Issuer	Security	Size	Ratings	Coupon	Maturity	Spread	IPT-Pricing
9/9/2026	Teva Pharmaceutical Finance Netherlands III	Sr Notes	\$1,200	Baa3 / BBB- / BBB-	5.250%	1/16/2032	+85	30 bps
9/9/2026	Teva Pharmaceutical Finance Netherlands III	Sr Notes	\$1,000	Baa3 / BBB- / BBB-	5.500%	1/16/2034	+100	30 bps
9/9/2026	Teva Pharmaceutical Finance Netherlands III	Sr Notes	\$1,000	Baa3 / BBB- / BBB-	5.750%	1/16/2037	+110	30 bps

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

Date	Issuer	Security	Size	Ratings	Coupon	Maturity	Spread	Price Talk
9/9/2026	IQVIA Inc	Sr. Notes	\$2,000	Ba2/BB/NR	6.375%	3/15/2034	163 bps	6.375% area
9/8/2026	Tenet Healthcare	Sr. Notes	\$2,000	B1/B+/BB	6.250%	9/15/2034	152 bps	6.25%-6.50%

Most Recent Healthcare Leveraged Loan Issuances (\$MM)

Date	Issuer	Ownership	Corp. Ratings	Use of Proceeds	Size	Pricing	Yield
3/19/2026	Select Medical Corporation	WCAS	B1 / B+	LBO	\$100	SOFR+300, 0% @ 99	6.925%
2/5/2026	Resonetics LLC	Carlyle Group	B3 / B-	Acquisition	\$220	SOFR+275, 0.75% @ 99.25	6.606%
1/29/2026	TEAM Services Group	General Atlantic	B2 / B-	LBO	\$700	SOFR+525, 0% @ 99	9.171%
1/29/2026	Dechra Pharmaceuticals	EQT Partners	B2 / B-	Repricing	\$834	SOFR+275, 0% @ 100	6.421%

Most Recent Healthcare Pro Rata Issuances (\$MM)

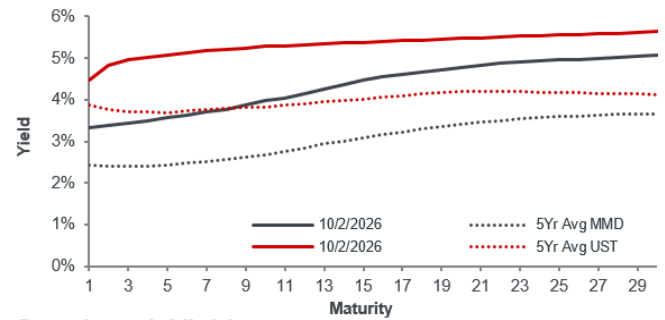
Date	Issuer	Ownership	Ratings	Use of Proceeds	Size	Pricing (in bps)	Financial Covenants
5/15/2026	VSP Optical Group, Inc.*	Private	Baa2 / NR	Refinancing	\$1,500mm 5-year Revolver \$1,375mm 5-year Term Loan A	Ratings-based Grid SOFR+87.5-150 Opens at SOFR+100	Max. Net Leverage Ratio: 3.75x w/ step-up to 4.25x Min. Interest Coverage Ratio: 2.50x
2/12/2026	Alkermes	Public	Ba2 / BB	Acquisition	\$750mm 5-year Term Loan A	Leverage-based Grid SOFR+250-300 Opens at SOFR+275	Max. Secured Net Leverage Ratio: 4.25x Min. Interest Coverage Ratio: 2.50x

Public Finance Market

Market Overview

- The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury Note increased 11 bps week-over-week, closing at 5.28% on Friday. 10-year MMD decreased 8 bps week-over-week.
- Healthcare Public Issuance in 2025 increased 34% vs 2024. YTD 2026 Issuance through September was 34% higher than YTD September 2025.
- Muni bond funds lost \$608 MM and high yield funds lost \$380 million for the week ended October 2nd

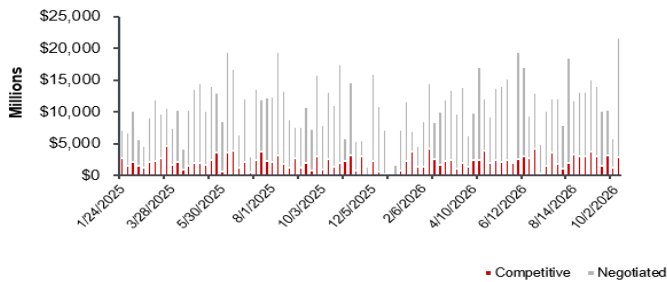
MMD and UST Yield Curve



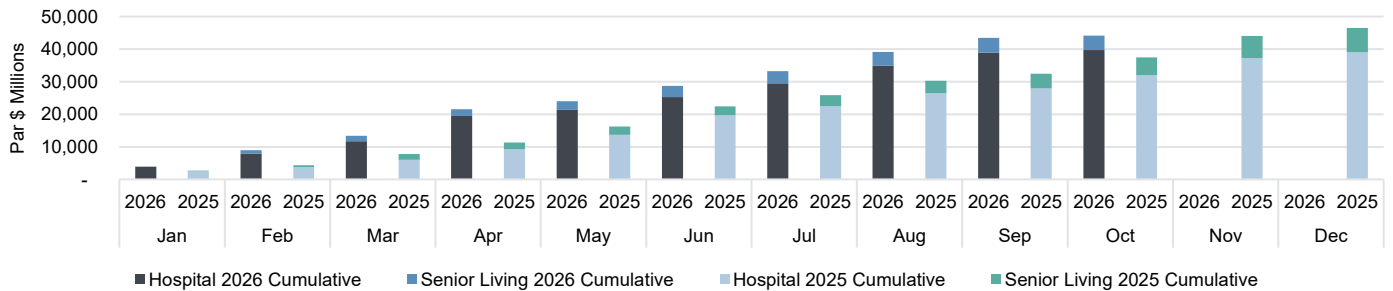
Benchmark Yields

Treasury Yields			MMD Yields			Ratio
Yr	Yield	Δ (W/W)	Yr	Yield	Δ (W/W)	MMD/UST
2	4.83%	2 bps	2	3.38%	(8 bps)	70%
10	5.28%	11 bps	10	3.97%	(8 bps)	75%
30	5.63%	14 bps	30	5.07%	2 bps	90%

Weekly New Issue Volume (\$MM)



Healthcare Public Issuance Overview



Recent Healthcare Public Issuance

Healthcare Public Issuance										
Borrower/Enhancement	Par (000s)	State	Issuer	Tax Status	LT Ratings (M/S/F)	Final Mat.	Call, Put or Reprice*	Final Mat. Cpn.	YTW	YTM
Recent Pricings, Week of 9/28										
Stanford Health Care	300,000	CA	CHFFA	TE	Aa2 / AA / AA	2031	2031(C)	5.00%	3.99%	4.04%
Stanford Health Care	178,035	CA	CHFFA	TE	Aa2 / AA / AA	2035	2035(C)	5.00%	4.26%	4.28%
SSM Health Care Corporation	100,000	MO	MSHEFA	TE	NR / NR / NR	2058	2027(C)	7.63%	7.63%	N/A
SSM Health Care Corporation	100,000	MO	MSHEFA	TE	NR / NR / NR	2058	2027(C)	7.55%	7.55%	N/A
Marshall Health Network OG	44,380	WV	WVHFA	TE	Ba1 / BBB / NR	2034	NC	5.50%	5.54%	N/A
Norman Regional Hosp. OG	40,000	OK	NRHA	TE	NR / NR / NR	2031	2026(C)	7.50%	7.50%	N/A
St. Elizabeth Med Center, Inc.	33,045	KY	KBDC	TE	NR / AA / AA	2036	NC	5.00%	4.59%	N/A
Exp. Pricings, Week of 10/5										
Cincinnati Children's Hosp.	353,505	OH	COH	TE	Aa2 / AA / NR	-	-	-	-	-
Edenwald Issue	230,815	MD	MHHEFA	TE	NR / NR / BB+	-	-	-	-	-
CaroMont Health	174,895	NC	NCMCC	TE	NR / AA- / AA-	-	-	-	-	-
OSF Healthcare System	84,000	IL	IFA	TE	NR / A / A+	-	-	-	-	-

Relevant News

[Why Health Systems Are Rethinking Volume](#)

Becker's Hospital Review | September 29, 2026

For years, the prescription for a struggling health system was familiar: grow volume, grow revenue, and use the growth to fix whatever else was wrong. More patients meant more revenue, and the capacity to solve problems. The logic was circular but comfortable. Executives who have watched it play out are no longer sure it holds. The assumption that volume growth solves financial and operational challenges isn't the default anymore.

[CMS To Exercise 'Enforcement Discretion' On New Hospice Reporting Requirement](#)

McKnights Home Care | September 30, 2026

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid disclosed Wednesday that it will "exercise enforcement discretion" during the first three months of the upcoming implementation of the M&A hospice election statement addendum. "To help hospices adjust to the new requirement, from October 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026, while hospices are required to furnish the addendum to every electing beneficiary, CMS will exercise enforcement discretion during this three-month window," CMS said Wednesday on its website

[Projected Healthcare Demand Growth Is Slowing As The Population Ages](#)

Trilliant Health | October 1, 2026

Health economy stakeholders have long assumed that a growing, aging and increasingly unhealthy population will lead to steadily rising demand for healthcare services and consistently increasing revenue. While healthcare spending has steadily increased, per capita hospital utilization has been flat to declining for decades. The utilization of healthcare services is driven by the combination of population demographics, care-seeking behaviors and access.

[Developmental Disabilities Rise To About 20% In US Children](#)

Medscape Medical News | October 1, 2026

The prevalence of developmental disabilities among US children aged 3-17 years increased to 20.45% (2023-2024) from 16.73% (2019-2020) according to parent reports. Significant increases were observed for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), learning disability, and any other developmental delay.

[Healthcare's High-Stakes Courtroom Battles](#)

Fierce Healthcare | October 5, 2026

Healthcare is facing a wave of high-stakes litigation that could redefine drug pricing, insurance oversight, health technology competition, AI deployment, labor policy and public health regulation. The cases span nearly every corner of the industry, with courts increasingly serving as the venue where major policy disputes are decided.

[HHS Unveils Efforts To Speed Up Clinical Trials With AI](#)

Nextgov | October 5, 2026

The Health and Human Services Department announced Tuesday a program and three projects aiming to speed up clinical trials with artificial intelligence, advanced computational models, real-time analysis and other technologies. The Simulation-augmented, Real-time Platform Adaptive Seamless Trials — or SURPASS — program seeks to create AI-powered platforms that continuously and adaptively support clinical trial designs, according to an HHS press release.

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