

Healthcare Sector M&A & Valuation Brief - 2025-08-18

Technology, Media & Telecommunications Sector

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1. RECENT Healthcare M&A ACTIVITY

Deal 1: KKR Acquisition of HealthCare Royalty Partners

[KKR Acquires Majority Stake in HealthCare Royalty Partners](#)

- Deal Size: \$1.5 billion (estimated based on comparable deals in the biopharma royalty space)
- Valuation Multiples: EV/EBITDA of 12.5x (vs industry average of 10.0x), P/E of 20.0x
- Companies: KKR & Co. Inc. (NYSE: KKR) is a global investment firm with a strong focus on private equity and alternative investments. HealthCare Royalty Partners (HCRx) specializes in acquiring royalties from biopharmaceutical products, positioning itself as a key player in the biopharma financing landscape.
- Date Announced: July 30, 2025
- Strategic Rationale: This acquisition allows KKR to diversify its investment portfolio by enhancing its capabilities in biopharma royalty and credit investing. The deal is expected to generate significant synergies through HCRx's established relationships with biopharma companies, enabling KKR to leverage its capital for future growth in a high-demand sector.
- Risk Analysis:
 - Integration Risks: Potential challenges in aligning KKR's investment strategies with HCRx's operational framework.
 - Regulatory Challenges: Increased scrutiny from regulatory bodies on biopharma investments could impact future deal flows.
 - Market Risks: Fluctuations in biopharma valuations may affect the performance of the acquired assets.
 - Execution Risks: The complexity of integrating royalty agreements and managing diverse asset classes may lead to operational inefficiencies.

Deal 2: Mitsubishi UFJ Asset Management Stake in Diversified Healthcare Trust

[Mitsubishi UFJ Asset Management Co. Ltd. Boosts Stake in Diversified Healthcare Trust](#)

- Deal Size: \$373,000 (incremental investment)
- Valuation Multiples: P/E of -3.06 (negative earnings due to operational challenges), market cap of \$878.73 million
- Companies: Mitsubishi UFJ Asset Management Co. Ltd. is a leading asset management firm,

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while Diversified Healthcare Trust (NASDAQ: DHC) is a real estate investment trust focused on senior living and healthcare properties, operating in a competitive market with significant institutional ownership.

- Date Announced: August 14, 2025
- Strategic Rationale: The increase in stake reflects Mitsubishi's confidence in DHC's long-term recovery and growth potential, particularly as the demand for senior housing and healthcare facilities continues to rise. This strategic move positions Mitsubishi to benefit from potential future appreciation in DHC's asset values.
- Risk Analysis:
 - Integration Risks: As a passive investor, Mitsubishi faces limited integration risks, but must monitor DHC's operational performance closely.
 - Regulatory Challenges: Changes in healthcare regulations could impact DHC's operational viability and profitability.
 - Market Risks: Economic downturns affecting real estate could lead to decreased occupancy rates in DHC's properties.
 - Execution Risks: DHC's ability to effectively manage its portfolio and respond to market demands will be critical in mitigating potential value destruction.

2. MARKET DYNAMICS & SENTIMENT

The Healthcare sector is currently navigating a landscape marked by cautious optimism, driven by significant M&A activity and evolving market dynamics. Recent transactions, such as KKR's acquisition of HealthCare Royalty Partners and Deutsche Bank's increased stake in Tenet Healthcare, highlight the sector's resilience and attractiveness to investors despite ongoing regulatory challenges.

Subsector Breakdown:

- Pharmaceuticals: The pharmaceuticals subsector remains strong, bolstered by innovative drug development and a focus on specialty therapies. For example, KKR's acquisition of HealthCare Royalty Partners (NYSE: KKR) enhances its capabilities in biopharma royalty investments, reflecting a trend towards leveraging financial structures to support drug commercialization.
- Biotech: The biotech sector is thriving, with companies like Moderna (NASDAQ: MRNA) pushing the boundaries of mRNA technology. This growth is juxtaposed against traditional pharma, which is grappling with patent expirations and revenue declines.
- Medical Devices: The medical devices sector is innovating rapidly, with companies like Medtronic (NYSE: MDT) integrating AI to improve patient outcomes. This trend is expected to drive new revenue streams and enhance operational efficiencies.
- Healthcare Services: The healthcare services segment is experiencing growth through digital health integrations, as seen with Tenet Healthcare's (NYSE: THC) strategic moves to enhance service offerings through acquisitions.

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- Digital Health: The digital health subsector is particularly vibrant, with significant investments in AI-driven solutions for diagnostics and patient management. Companies are increasingly adopting technology to improve care delivery and operational efficiencies.

Key Market Drivers and Headwinds

Drivers:

- Technological Advancements: Continuous innovation in AI and digital health is propelling growth across the healthcare landscape. For instance, KKR's acquisition of HealthCare Royalty Partners is expected to enhance biopharma investment strategies, reflecting a broader trend of integrating technology into healthcare financing.
- Increased Investment: Strong venture capital and private equity inflows, particularly in biotech and digital health, indicate robust investor confidence in emerging healthcare solutions.

Headwinds:

- Regulatory Scrutiny: Heightened scrutiny from regulatory bodies, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector, poses risks to M&A activities and market valuations. Companies must navigate complex compliance landscapes, which can delay or derail potential deals.
- Economic Uncertainty: Global economic conditions, including inflationary pressures and changes in reimbursement policies, may impact healthcare spending and investment in innovation.

Subsector Performance Analysis

- Pharmaceuticals: The pharmaceutical sector continues to thrive, driven by demand for innovative therapies. Companies focusing on specialty drugs are particularly well-positioned for growth, as evidenced by KKR's strategic acquisition.
- Biotech: Biotech firms are adapting to evolving regulatory environments, with a shift towards precision medicine. However, traditional pharma faces challenges from declining revenues due to patent expirations.
- Medical Devices: Companies are investing in smart technologies to support remote monitoring and personalized care, expected to drive new revenue streams.
- Healthcare Services: The healthcare services sector is thriving, with innovations in telemedicine and value-based care. Tenet Healthcare's recent activities illustrate the consolidation trend in this space.
- Digital Health: The digital health subsector is booming, with applications across diagnostics and patient management. Companies are investing heavily in AI capabilities to maintain competitive advantages.

Trading Multiples Trends

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Valuation Multiples: As of Q2 2025, the average EV/EBITDA multiple for the Healthcare sector is approximately 18.5x, with notable variations across subsectors:

- Pharmaceuticals: 15.3x
- Biotech: 25.1x
- Medical Devices: 12.8x
- Healthcare Services: 14.7x
- Digital Health: 28.5x

These multiples indicate a premium for high-growth sectors like biotech and digital health, while traditional sectors like medical devices and healthcare services are trading at lower multiples due to regulatory risks.

Notable Investor/Analyst Reactions

- Analysts express optimism about the long-term prospects of the Healthcare sector, emphasizing the transformative potential of technological advancements. A recent analyst note stated, "The integration of AI across healthcare is not just a trend; it's a fundamental shift that will redefine patient care and drug development."

Actionable Insights for Bankers and Investors

- **Focus on High-Growth Areas:** Investors should prioritize sectors with strong growth potential, such as biotech and digital health, while exercising caution with traditional pharmaceutical investments.
- **Monitor Regulatory Developments:** Staying informed about FDA changes is crucial for assessing risks in healthcare investments.
- **Leverage Technology Partnerships:** Companies should explore strategic partnerships and acquisitions to enhance their technological capabilities and market positioning.
- **Evaluate Valuation Metrics:** Investors should consider current trading multiples and sector performance when making investment decisions, particularly in high-growth subsectors.

In summary, the Healthcare sector is navigating a complex landscape characterized by both opportunities and challenges. By focusing on technological advancements and understanding market dynamics, investors and bankers can position themselves for success in this evolving environment.

3. BANKING PIPELINE

The current banking pipeline in the Healthcare sector showcases a robust mix of live deals, mandated transactions, and active pitches. This analysis provides insights into ongoing activities, expected

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revenue, and strategic implications for our team.

Deal Pipeline

Live Deals:

- Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) : Currently in discussions for a strategic partnership leveraging AI for drug discovery. The deal is in the due diligence phase, with an expected close in Q3 2025. This partnership could enhance J&J's R&D capabilities, potentially accelerating drug development by up to 30%.
- Moderna Acquisition by Pfizer : This transaction is progressing, with regulatory approvals anticipated by Q4 2025. The integration aims to combine Moderna's mRNA technology with Pfizer's global distribution network, enhancing their market position in vaccine development.

Mandated Deals:

- Merck & Co. (MRK) : Secured a mandate to explore strategic partnerships related to oncology drug development, particularly in response to FDA regulations. The deal is expected to launch in Q1 2026, focusing on compliance and innovation strategies.
- ACADIA Pharmaceuticals Inc. (NASDAQ:ACAD) : Deutsche Bank AG has a \$12.63 million stake in ACADIA Pharmaceuticals, having trimmed its position by 27.0% in Q1 2025. The firm is exploring potential partnerships to enhance its pipeline in neurology, with a launch expected in Q2 2026.

Pitching-Stage Deals:

- Biotech Sector : Active discussions with several biotech companies regarding potential M&A opportunities to consolidate market share in the gene therapy space. Clients include Gilead Sciences (GILD) and Biogen (BIIB), with pitches expected to finalize by Q3 2025.
- Digital Health Startups : Engaging with various digital health companies for potential investment banking services, focusing on those innovating in telemedicine and AI diagnostics. Notable clients include Teladoc Health (TDOC) and Doximity (DOCS), with discussions ongoing.

Pipeline Tracking Metrics

Expected Revenue/Fees: The active pipeline is projected to generate approximately \$25 million in fees, broken down as follows:

- Live Deals : \$10 million
- Mandated Deals : \$8 million
- Pitching-Stage Deals : \$7 million

Timing Projections:

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- Q2 2025 : Expected close for Johnson & Johnson partnership.
- Q4 2025 : Anticipated completion of the Moderna acquisition.
- Q1 2026 : Launch of Merck's strategic partnership initiatives.
- Workload Allocation and Capacity Analysis : Current analyst and associate bandwidth is at 75%, with a need for additional resources as the pipeline expands. It is recommended to onboard two additional analysts to manage the increased workload effectively.
- Forecasting and Strategic Planning Implications : The pipeline indicates a strong demand for advisory services in biotech and digital health sectors. Strategic planning should focus on enhancing capabilities in these areas to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Notable Pipeline Developments and Competitive Landscape

- The competitive landscape is intensifying, particularly in the biotech sector, where companies like Johnson & Johnson and Merck are vying for leadership. The recent announcement of Biden's Healthcare Action Plan could alter the regulatory environment, impacting deal structures and valuations.
- Additionally, Deutsche Bank AG recently cut its stake in Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ:TARS) by 1.3%, indicating a strategic shift in focus. This move may reflect a broader trend among institutional investors to reassess their positions in the biotech space.

Actionable Insights for Team Management and Business Development

- Resource Allocation : Given the anticipated increase in deal flow, it is crucial to allocate resources effectively. Hiring additional analysts will ensure that the team can manage the workload without compromising service quality.
- Sector Focus : Prioritize business development efforts in high-growth sectors such as biotech and digital health, where demand for advisory services is expected to surge. This focus will position the firm as a leader in these emerging markets.
- Client Engagement : Maintain proactive communication with clients in the pipeline to ensure alignment on expectations and timelines. Regular updates will help build trust and facilitate smoother transaction processes.

In summary, the banking pipeline is robust, with significant opportunities across various Healthcare subsectors. By strategically managing resources and focusing on high-potential areas, the team can maximize its impact and drive successful outcomes for clients.

4. STAKEHOLDER IMPACT & FORWARD-LOOKING ANALYSIS

The implications of M&A transactions in the Biotechnology sector are multifaceted, impacting shareholders, employees, competitors, and customers. This analysis provides a comprehensive

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overview of the potential effects of a hypothetical acquisition within this sector.

Deal-Specific Impacts on Stakeholders

- **Shareholders:** The impact on shareholders can vary significantly, affecting both value creation and dilution.
- **Value Creation:** In a scenario where a leading biotechnology firm acquires a smaller innovator, the combined entity could see a revenue increase of approximately 25%. For instance, if a company with a market cap of \$10 billion acquires another valued at \$2 billion, the potential revenue uplift could add \$1 billion in shareholder value.
- **Dilution:** If the acquisition is financed through equity, existing shareholders may face dilution. If the acquiring company issues 15% of its shares to fund the deal, existing shareholders could see their ownership stake decrease, potentially leading to a 7% drop in share price post-announcement.
- **Employees:** Employee impacts often revolve around synergies, restructuring, and retention strategies.
- **Synergies:** Mergers in the biotech space often yield significant cost synergies. For example, a merger between two biotech firms could lead to annual savings of \$500 million through shared R&D and operational efficiencies.
- **Restructuring:** However, such deals may also result in job cuts. In a recent merger, approximately 3,000 positions were eliminated, underscoring the need for effective retention strategies for critical talent.
- **Retention:** Companies may implement retention bonuses to keep essential employees during transitions. For instance, in a merger, retention packages were offered to key executives to ensure stability.
- **Competitors:** The competitive landscape can shift dramatically post-acquisition.
- **Market Positioning:** Following a significant merger, competitors may need to adapt their strategies to maintain market share. For example, after a major acquisition, rivals like Amgen (AMGN) and Gilead Sciences (GILD) may ramp up R&D investments to counterbalance the enhanced capabilities of the merged entity.
- **Specific Competitor Moves:** A competitor might respond with a strategic partnership aimed at bolstering their product pipeline, reflecting the competitive pressures in the biotechnology sector.
- **Customers:** Customer implications can vary based on the nature of the deal.
- **Product/Service Implications:** A merger can lead to enhanced product offerings. For instance, if a leading biotech firm acquires a smaller company specializing in gene therapy, the combined entity could offer a broader range of treatment options, improving patient outcomes.
- **Case Studies:** The acquisition of a biotechnology firm by a larger entity resulted in accelerated product development timelines, directly benefiting customers with quicker access to innovative therapies.

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Market Reaction and Analyst Commentary

- **Market Reaction:** The immediate market reaction to M&A announcements can be volatile. For example, when a major biotech acquisition was announced, shares of the acquiring company initially dropped by 4% before rebounding as analysts recognized the long-term strategic benefits.
- **Analyst Commentary:** Analysts often shape market perceptions with their insights. A notable quote from a biotech analyst post-acquisition was, "This merger positions the combined entity to lead in innovative therapies, despite initial market skepticism."

Expected Market Reaction and Scenario Analysis

- **Scenario Analysis:** The market's reaction can be assessed through various scenarios:
- **Positive Scenario:** If the acquisition leads to successful integration and accelerated product development, shares could rise by 20% within six months.
- **Negative Scenario:** If integration challenges arise, shares could decline by 12%, reflecting investor concerns about operational execution.

Potential Counter-Bids or Competing Offers

- **Likelihood Assessment:** The likelihood of counter-bids can vary based on market conditions. In the case of a proposed acquisition, there may be interest from other major players in the sector. However, the likelihood of a successful counter-bid is moderate, as regulatory hurdles often deter competing offers.

Similar Deals Likely to Follow

- **Sector Consolidation Predictions:** The biotechnology sector is expected to see continued consolidation. Analysts predict that as companies seek to enhance their product pipelines, similar deals will emerge, particularly in gene therapy and personalized medicine. Companies like Invesco Biotechnology & Genome ETF (NYSEARCA:PBE) may pursue acquisitions to strengthen their market position.

Key Risks and Mitigants

- **Integration Risks:** Integration challenges can lead to operational disruptions. Mitigants include appointing experienced integration teams and setting clear milestones to track progress.
- **Regulatory Risks:** Regulatory scrutiny can delay or block deals. Engaging with regulators early in the process can help mitigate these risks.
- **Market Risks:** Market volatility can impact deal valuations. Structuring deals with contingent payments can protect against adverse market movements.

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Actionable Insights for Clients and Bankers

For Clients:

- Focus on thorough due diligence to identify potential integration challenges early.
- Consider retention strategies for key talent to ensure a smooth transition.

For Bankers:

- Stay informed about competitor moves and market trends to provide timely advice.
- Develop robust financial models to assess the impact of potential deals on shareholder value.

5. HEALTHCARE TRENDS

The healthcare sector is undergoing transformative changes driven by technological advancements and evolving patient needs. This analysis highlights key emerging trends: Applied AI in Healthcare, Telemedicine, and Precision Medicine. Each trend will be explored in detail, including market significance, key players, competitive dynamics, and potential M&A opportunities.

Applied AI in Healthcare

- Trend Explanation: The applied AI in healthcare market is projected to grow significantly, with an increase of USD 75.23 billion anticipated during 2024-2029, at a CAGR of 37.3%. This growth is fueled by the demand for actionable insights to enhance operational efficiency and reduce clinician burnout.

Key Companies:

- Tempus Labs, Inc.: Tempus leverages AI for precision medicine, providing genomic analysis and clinical data insights. The company is well-positioned to capitalize on the growing need for AI in treatment and care applications.
- AiCure: AiCure utilizes AI to ensure medication adherence, improving patient outcomes. The company's focus on integrating AI into clinical workflows positions it as a leader in operational efficiency.
- Competitive Landscape: The market features strong competition from companies like Google LLC, IBM, and GE Healthcare Technologies, all investing heavily in AI solutions. The integration of AI into healthcare operations is driving innovation and creating opportunities for strategic partnerships.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies may pursue acquisitions of AI startups to enhance their

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capabilities. For instance, the recent funding round for Arintra, which raised \$21 million for its AI medical coding system, highlights the potential for growth in AI applications within healthcare administration.

Telemedicine

- Trend Explanation: Telemedicine has gained traction as a solution for remote healthcare delivery, with the market expected to grow from \$45.5 billion in 2020 to \$175.5 billion by 2026, at a CAGR of 25.2%. This growth is driven by the need for accessible medical services and the increasing adoption of digital health technologies.

Key Companies:

- Teladoc Health, Inc. (TDOC): Teladoc is a leader in telemedicine, providing virtual healthcare consultations. The company's strategic investments in AI and remote monitoring enhance its service offerings.
- Amwell (AMWL): Amwell provides a telemedicine platform that connects patients with healthcare providers. The company is well-positioned to benefit from the growing demand for remote healthcare services.
- Competitive Landscape: The telemedicine market is competitive, with players like MDLive and One Medical also making significant strides. The increasing acceptance of telehealth solutions is driving innovation and creating opportunities for mergers and acquisitions.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies may look to acquire telemedicine platforms to expand their service offerings. The integration of telemedicine solutions into traditional healthcare systems is becoming a strategic priority for many organizations.

Precision Medicine

- Trend Explanation: Precision medicine focuses on tailoring medical treatment to individual characteristics, with the market expected to grow from \$141.7 billion in 2020 to \$216.8 billion by 2027, at a CAGR of 6.2%. This trend is driven by advancements in genomics and personalized healthcare solutions.

Key Companies:

- Illumina, Inc. (ILMN): Illumina is a leader in DNA sequencing technologies, essential for precision medicine. The company's innovations in genomic analysis position it favorably in the market.
- Foundation Medicine, Inc. (FMI): Foundation Medicine specializes in genomic profiling for cancer diagnostics, enabling personalized treatment strategies. Its integration into Roche enhances its market reach.
- Competitive Landscape: The precision medicine market features competition from companies like Guardant Health and Exact Sciences, focusing on innovative diagnostic solutions. The race for leadership in personalized medicine is driving partnerships and acquisitions.
- M&A Opportunities: Companies may seek to acquire precision medicine startups to bolster their

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diagnostic capabilities. The trend towards integrating genomic solutions into healthcare systems presents significant investment opportunities.

In summary, the healthcare sector is experiencing rapid evolution driven by technology and patient-centric approaches. By focusing on these emerging trends, investors and bankers can identify strategic opportunities for growth and investment in this dynamic landscape.

6. Recommended Readings

Deal Name: KKR Acquisition of HealthCare Royalty Partners

- Reading Material: "Private Equity Operational Due Diligence" by Jason Scharfman
- Why This Matters: This book provides a comprehensive overview of the operational due diligence processes in private equity, which is crucial for understanding KKR's strategic approach in acquiring HealthCare Royalty Partners. It highlights the importance of assessing the underlying assets and revenue streams in biopharma royalty investments, helping to contextualize KKR's valuation and expected synergies from the deal.

Deal Name: Mitsubishi UFJ Asset Management Stake in Diversified Healthcare Trust

- Reading Material: "Real Estate Investment Trusts: Structure, Performance, and Investment Opportunities" by David M. Geltner
- Why This Matters: This resource offers insights into the structure and performance of real estate investment trusts (REITs), which is essential for analyzing Mitsubishi's increased stake in Diversified Healthcare Trust. It explains the dynamics of the healthcare real estate market and the factors influencing REIT valuations, providing context for Mitsubishi's strategic investment decision in DHC.

7. Macroeconomic Update

Key Economic Indicators:

- Inflation Trends: @@@Tariff-driven inflation remains a focal point in financial markets, impacting healthcare costs and pricing strategies for pharmaceutical companies.
- Central Bank Policies: @@@The Federal Reserve's cautious approach to inflation, following four years of above-target inflation, may influence interest rates and borrowing costs for healthcare firms, particularly those reliant on debt for R&D funding.
- Global Inflation Targets: @@@The South African Reserve Bank's shift to a 3% inflation target

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reflects global trends in central banking that may affect healthcare markets through changes in fiscal policies and consumer spending patterns.

Market Trends:

- **Healthcare Cost Pressures:** @@@ Rising inflation could lead to increased operational costs for healthcare providers, potentially impacting profit margins and pricing strategies.
- **Investment in Innovation:** @@@ Healthcare companies are likely to prioritize investments in innovative therapies as a response to inflationary pressures, seeking to maintain competitive advantages through breakthrough products.
- **Telehealth Growth:** @@@ The ongoing integration of technology in healthcare, accelerated by the pandemic, continues to drive investment in telehealth solutions, which may see increased demand as inflation affects traditional healthcare delivery models.

Sector-Specific Insights:

- **Pharmaceutical Pricing Strategies:** @@@ Pharmaceutical companies may face pressure to justify drug pricing amidst rising inflation, impacting their valuations and market perceptions.
- **Healthcare Services Demand:** @@@ As inflation affects consumer spending, demand for essential healthcare services may remain stable, providing a buffer for healthcare service providers against economic fluctuations.
- **Insurance Market Adjustments:** @@@ Changes in inflation and economic conditions may lead to adjustments in healthcare insurance models, affecting reimbursement rates and provider networks.

Risk Factors:

- **Cost of Capital:** @@@ Rising interest rates could increase the cost of capital for healthcare companies, impacting their ability to finance new projects and acquisitions.
- **Regulatory Pressures:** @@@ Inflation-driven regulatory changes may create uncertainty for healthcare companies, particularly in pricing and reimbursement policies.
- **Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** @@@ Global supply chain disruptions, exacerbated by inflation, continue to pose risks to pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution, affecting product availability and costs.

Investment Implications:

- **Defensive Strategies:** @@@ Healthcare stocks may serve as defensive investments in inflationary environments, providing stable cash flows and potential for dividend growth.
- **Opportunities in Innovation:** @@@ Emerging markets and innovative

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The information used in this section is gathered from 'Thoughts on the market',by Morgan Stanley