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## A.M. Vitals: Pfizer Likely to Spin Off, Not Sell, Animal-Health Business

**Choosing a Spinoff:** Pfizer is more likely to spin off its animal health division than to sell it, [the WSJ reports](#), citing people familiar with the matter. The pharma company is still likely to entertain offers for the business, which could be worth as much as \$15 billion, but tax and antitrust considerations make it unlikely it will opt for a sale and will instead prepare to spin it off, the paper says.

**Preemptive Strike:** An Institute of Medicine report on the medical-device approval pathway known as 510K isn't due out until tomorrow, but already industry supporters are gearing up to challenge the report and the panel that authored it, [the New York Times reports](#). The Washington Legal Foundation, for example, claims the panel is biased because it lacks representation from industry, investors and patients. A spokesman for the National Academy of Sciences, IOM's parent organization, tells the paper people aren't allowed on the panel if they have clear biases or a conflict of interest.

**Stem-Cell Ruling:** A federal judge yesterday threw out a suit challenging the Obama administration's stance on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, [the WSJ reports](#). Both the judge and, earlier, [an appeals court](#), ruled that the NIH had reasonably concluded government funding for this form of research isn't prohibited by a 1996 law that bars using federal funds for research in which an embryo is destroyed.

**Appealing:** The Thomas More Law Center has appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn the health-care overhaul law signed into law last year, the [Kaiser Health News Capsules Blog reports](#). A federal appeals-court panel of three judges, two appointed by Republican presidents, [ruled against Thomas More](#) in late June, saying the law is constitutional.

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