

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 10, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House is not in session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - U.S. Senate Committee On Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (Press Release): Murray Slams GOP Bill to Undo Drug Price Negotiation, Let Costs Continue to Skyrocket, and Protect Pharmaceutical Company Profits - <https://www.help.senate.gov/chair/newsroom/press/murray-slams-gop-bill-to-undo-drug-price-negotiation-let-costs-continue-to-skyrocket-and-protect-pharmaceutical-company-profits>
 - Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (Press Release): Grassley Urges FTC To Complete Its Investigation Into Pharmacy Benefit Managers To Shine Light On Drug Pricing Practices - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-urges-ftc-to-complete-its-investigation-into-pharmacy-benefit-managers-to-shine-light-on-drug-pricing-practices>
 - Forbes: Mental Health Drug Usage Rose in 2021, But Not All Pharmacy Costs Did, New Report Shows - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/debgordon/2022/10/09/mental-health-drug-usage-rose-in-2021-but-not-all-pharmacy-costs-did-new-report-shows/?sh=4dc1a6606c20>
 - The Hill: Health Care — GOP Targets Democratic drug pricing law - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/overnights/3678682-health-care-gop-targets-democratic-drug-pricing-law/>
 - MSNBC: On prescription drug costs, Rubio makes a risky election year bet - <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/prescription-drug-costs-rubio-makes-risky-election-year-bet-rcna51436>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS: Drug Inflation Rebates Based On Price Hikes In Commercial, Medicare Markets - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-drug-inflation-rebates-based-price-hikes-commercial-medicare-markets>
- Nurse staffing

- Skilled Nursing News: SNF Operators in Favor of Staffing Standards But Not Without Funding, Role Expansion - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/snf-operators-in-favor-of-staffing-standards-but-not-without-funding-role-expansion/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=604f7f44b4&mc_cid=604f7f44b4&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- McKnights Senior Living: Nursing homes face 'sustainability' challenge after sector loses 7% of nursing hours, despite doubled agency use - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-homes-face-sustainability-challenge-after-sector-loses-7-of-nursing-hours-despite-doubled-agency-use/>
- McKnights Senior Living: As 'unprecedented' crisis continues, workforce issues top 5 priorities for NCAL, executive director says - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/as-unprecedented-crisis-continues-workforce-issues-top-5-priorities-for-n-cal-executive-director-says/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Bloomberg: Screening Procedure Fails to Prevent Colon Cancer Deaths in Large Study - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-10-09/colonoscopy-screening-exams-fail-to-prevent-cancer-deaths-in-large-study>
 - CNN: New study questions the effectiveness of colonoscopies - <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/09/health/colonoscopy-cancer-death-study/index.html>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - CNN: Medicare considers expanding dental benefits for certain medical conditions - <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/10/health/medicare-dental-coverage-khn-partner/index.html>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items

- Healthcare Dive: Hospitals are hiding prices from patients, advocacy report says - <https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/Patient-Rights-Advocate-price-transparency-HCA-Ascension/633666/>
- Healthcare Dive: Fewer MA plans with Part D earn 4 stars in latest CMS tally - <https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/Medicare-Advantage-Part-D-star-ratings-decline-2023-cms/633671/>
- Becker's Hospital Review: At least half of healthcare administrative spending is wasteful, report says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/at-least-half-of-healthcare-administrative-spending-is-wasteful-report-says.html>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Most Healthcare Consumers Do Not Research Pricing Options in Advance - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/most-healthcare-consumers-do-not-research-pricing-options-in-advance>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - McKnights Senior Living: Bill would use CMS's Five-Star system to punish consistently 1-star nursing homes - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/bill-would-use-cms-five-star-system-to-punish-consistently-1-star-nursing-homes/>
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items