

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 17, 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
 - Bloomberg: Biotech 'New Era' in Store if Patient Revamp Overcomes Opposition - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJW5MYTOG1KW>
 - Bloomberg: Biden Calls on HHS to Test Cheaper Drug Payment Models - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJR6IVDWX2PU>
 - Bloomberg (Opinion): Scapegoating Patents Won't Lower Drug Prices - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/scapegoating-patents-wont-lower-drug-prices>
 - The Hill: Democrats try to break through on drug pricing message - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3688900-democrats-try-to-break-through-on-drug-pricing-message/>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Might Let Seniors Who Take Insulin Switch Plans Midyear - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-might-let-seniors-who-take-insulin-switch-plans-midyear>
 - Inside Health Policy: Lawyers: Drug, Device Makers Should Prepare For End Of COVID PHE - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/lawyers-drug-device-makers-should-prepare-end-covid-phe>
 - Fierce Healthcare: New Biden order wants CMMI to test payment models that tackle drug prices - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/new-biden-order-wants-cmmi-test-payment-models-tackle-high-drug-prices>
- Nurse staffing
 - Skilled Nursing News: 3 Key Operational Benefits Gained From Staffing Technology - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/3-key-operational-benefits-gained-from-staffing-technology/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=0d4d5354d2&mc_cid=0d4d5354d2&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3

- Home Health Care News: How Technology Is Changing Recruiting, Retention In Home-Based Care - <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/10/how-technology-is-changing-recruiting-retention-in-home-based-care/>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Contract Labor is Here to Stay: Three Strategies for Long-Term Success - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/contract-labor-is-here-to-stay-three-strategies-for-long-term-success.html>
- McKights Senior Living: Danger lurks amid private equity investment, influence on staffing agencies: report - <https://www.mckights.com/news/danger-lurks-amid-private-equity-investment-influence-on-staffing-agencies-report/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - EurekAlert! Study identifies new gene that drives colon cancer - <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/967942>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - Kaiser Health News: After Congress Fails to Add Dental Coverage, Medicare Weighs Limited Benefit Expansion - <https://khn.org/news/article/congress-dental-coverage-medicare-weighs-limited-benefit-expansion/>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Medical Association: Single source of pay becoming less common for physicians - <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/research/single-source-pay-becoming-less-common-physicians>
 - Bloomberg: Medicare Secondary Payers Draft Proposal Withdrawn - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJR1W1DWX2PS>
 - Health Affairs: Using The Medicare Shared Savings Program To Innovate Primary Care Payment - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/using-medicare-shared-savings-program-innovate-primary-care-payment>

- Inside Health Policy: CMS Extends Bundled Pay Demo Two Years To Test Model Tweaks - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-extends-bundled-pay-demo-two-years-test-model-tweaks>
- Inside Health Policy: OMB Takes Up CMS' MA, Exchange, Medicare Prior Authorization Reg - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/omb-takes-cms%E2%80%99-ma-exchange-medicaid-prior-authorization-reg>
- Modern Healthcare: Independent physicians struggle as hospitals get larger and larger - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/health-systems-independent-doctors-costs?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221016&utm_content=article6-headline
- RevCycleIntelligence: Are Readmission Rates The Best Measure of Hospital Quality? - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/are-readmission-rates-the-best-measure-of-hospital-quality>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - McKnights Senior Living: 'We will not go back' to early pandemic restriction, CMS leader says - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/we-will-not-go-back-to-early-pandemic-restriction-cms-leader-says/>
- Health equity-related items
 - MedCity News: Why care at home belongs in health equity strategies - https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/why-care-at-home-belongs-in-health-equity-strategies/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=229984364&hsenc=p2ANqtz-EDM75oqyXCKyyAjYuuq4zsjXBF7zOzFOq7zAgjyrMwpA9L7khcNcjlV - 4Sipi_uZ0ACxmSWMH-cYASIJ3DiVFHWeeA&utm_content=229984364&utm_source=hs_email
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Retail Health Clinics Are Key on the Path to Health Equity - <https://patientengagementhit.com/features/retail-health-clinics-are-key-on-the-path-to-health-equity>
- Hospital merger news
 - Bloomberg: FTC Opposes SUNY Hospital Merger Antitrust Shield Certificate - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJRGBBDWRGG1>
 - Modern Healthcare: Illinois special board cancels meeting on Advocate Aurora-Atrium deal - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/advocate-aurora-atrium-merger-illinois-board-meeting-canceled?utm_source=modern-healthcare-

[am&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221016&utm_content=article1-headline](#)

- Chief Healthcare Executive: Hospital mergers and acquisitions may be picking up - <https://www.chiefhealthcareexecutive.com/view/hospital-mergers-and-acquisitions-may-be-picking-up>

- ARPA-H news
 - Bloomberg: Research Money Bonanza Spurs Contest to Host New Federal Agency - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJW54JT1UM0W>