HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 18, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

• The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
• The House meets in a pro-forma session.

Health policy update:

• Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Washington Post: PhRMA gives cash to Democrats, despite threats to hold the party ‘accountable’ - [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/10/18/marijuana-is-ballot-five-more-states-this-year/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/10/18/marijuana-is-ballot-five-more-states-this-year/)
  - MedCity News: In midterm speeches, President Biden focuses on Rx drug costs to cut inflation - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/in-midterm-speeches-president-biden-focuses-on-rx-drug-costs-to-cut-inflation/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hs_email&hsmi=2301561798&hsenc=p2ANqtz--GginHDyQpOlVq_zb4K29yqn2lqZRPSk9jX5O8hTovhq7Chc8dCmnZ88Abu5p_l0H6UR7s966DMHtw5ngqbiR0TmX5JA&utm_content=2301561798&utm_source=hs_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/in-midterm-speeches-president-biden-focuses-on-rx-drug-costs-to-cut-inflation/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hs_email&hsmi=2301561798&hsenc=p2ANqtz--GginHDyQpOlVq_zb4K29yqn2lqZRPSk9jX5O8hTovhq7Chc8dCmnZ88Abu5p_l0H6UR7s966DMHtw5ngqbiR0TmX5JA&utm_content=2301561798&utm_source=hs_email)

• Nurse staffing
- **Bloomberg (Opinion):** How to Fix the Nursing Shortage - [https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-10-18/the-us-needs-more-nurses-here-s-how-to-fix-the-shortage#xj4y7vzkg](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-10-18/the-us-needs-more-nurses-here-s-how-to-fix-the-shortage#xj4y7vzkg)


- **Colon cancer-related items**
  - **Cancer Network:** Investigating the Use of Circulating Tumor DNA in Early-Stage Colon Cancer - [https://www.cancernetwork.com/view/journal-investigating-the-use-of-circulating-tumor-dna-in-early-stage-colon-cancer](https://www.cancernetwork.com/view/journal-investigating-the-use-of-circulating-tumor-dna-in-early-stage-colon-cancer)

- **Organ donation and transplantation items**
  - **Still looking for House Oversight report**
  - **No new items**

- **Vison/dental care in Medicare-related items**
  - **Axios:** Why seniors are choosing Medicare Advantage over traditional Medicare - [https://www.axios.com/2022/10/17/medicare-advantage-versus-seniors-traditional-government-insurance](https://www.axios.com/2022/10/17/medicare-advantage-versus-seniors-traditional-government-insurance)

- **Physical rehabilitation**
  - **No new items**

- **Hospital and physician payment-related items**
  - **Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (Press Release):** Grassley Discusses Issues Facing Rural Health Care Providers During Waverly Visit -


- Health Affairs: A Tale Of Two Payment Reforms - https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/tale-two-payment-reforms


- Becker’s Hospital Review: Inflation is now showing up in healthcare after delay - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/payer/inflation-is-now-showing-up-in-healthcare-after-delay.html

- Nursing home quality initiative

  - McKnight's Senior Living (Opinion): CMS should bring its oversight hammer down...on states - https://www.mcknights.com/blogs/guest-columns/cms-should-bring-its-oversight-hammer-down-on-states/

- Health equity-related items
- **MedPage Today (Opinion):** Recognizing Intersectionality Can Heal America’s Health - [https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/101255](https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/101255)


- **Hospital merger news**