

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/>
 - Bloomberg: FDA's Fast Drug Approval Pathway Needs Revamp Soon, Calif Says - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJWTZFDWRGG0>
 - Newsweek (Opinion): Inflation Is High, Why Do Republicans Want You to Pay More for Medicine? - <https://www.newsweek.com/inflation-high-why-do-republicans-want-you-pay-more-medicine-opinion-1752451>
 - USA Today: More than 1.3M Americans ration life-saving insulin due to cost. That's 'very worrisome' to doctors - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/10/17/high-cost-insulin-prompts-1-3-million-americans-ration-drug/10498626002/>
 - Stat News: Despite its threats, PhRMA is still supporting Democrats who voted for Medicare negotiation - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/17/despite-threats-phrma-supporting-democrats-drug-pricing/>
 - 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&hsmi=230156179&hsenc=p2ANqtz--GginHDYQpOIVq_zb4K29yrn2lqZRPsk9jX5O8hTovhq7Chc8dCmnZ88Abu5p_l0H6UR7s966DMHtw5ngqbiR0TmX5JA&utm_content=230156179&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>
- CNN (Opinion): Opinion: How to fix American health care, according to 6 experts - <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/18/opinions/health-care-solutions-expert-roundup/index.html>
- Skilled Nursing News: Nursing Home Industry Recovery Requires More Pain and Innovation - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/nursing-home-industry-recovery-requires-more-pain-and-innovation/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=09bf62eb77&mc_cid=09bf62eb77&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- McKnight's Senior Living: Staffing shortages ease for SNFs, but they're not out of the woods yet - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/staffing-shortages-ease-for-snfs-but-theyre-not-out-of-the-woods-yet/>
- 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>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/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>
- 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 -

<https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-discusses-issues-facing-rural-health-care-providers-during-waverly-visit>

- American Medical Association: How the 2023 CPT code set will help cut administrative burdens - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/sustainability/how-2023-cpt-code-set-will-help-cut-administrative-burdens>
- Bloomberg: Growth of Private Medicare Plans Clouded by Payment Questions - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJY00MDWLU69>
- USA Today: Inflation is near a four-decade high. So why aren't health care costs significantly higher? - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/10/17/inflation-rising-faster-medical-costs/10471194002/>
- Health Affairs: A Tale Of Two Payment Reforms - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/tale-two-payment-reforms>
- Inside Health Policy: CBO, MedPAC Consider Docs' Pay And Low-Income Beneficiaries' Access - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cbo-medpac-consider-docs%E2%80%99-pay-and-low-income-beneficiaries%E2%80%99-access>
- Inside Health Policy: NAACOS Urges CMS To Delay Switch To Electronic Quality Measures - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/naacos-urges-cms-delay-switch-electronic-quality-measures>
- Modern Healthcare: Hospitals prepare for a cash-pay future - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/hospitals-prepare-cash-pay-future>
- Modern Healthcare: November and beyond: Industry stakeholders weigh in on their hopes for Congress - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/november-and-beyond-industry-stakeholders-weigh-their-hopes-congress>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Inflation is now showing up in healthcare after delay - <https://www.beckerspayer.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>
- Inside Health Policy: CMS Approves Another Social Determinants Of Health Waiver - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-approves-another-social-determinants-health-waiver>
- Hospital merger news
 - Fierce Healthcare: FTC urges New York to reject SUNY Upstate, Crouse Health System merger proposal - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/ftc-urges-new-york-reject-suny-upstate-crouse-health-systems-merger-proposal>