

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 19, 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
  - CBS News: More than 1 million Americans ration their insulin as the drug's cost skyrockets - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/insulin-rationing-prices-diabetes-costs-study/>
  - MedCity News: Pharmacy benefit managers inflate drug prices and decrease competition while consumers pay the price. Does the FTC have the medicine to fix it? - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/pharmacy-benefit-managers-inflate-drug-prices-and-decrease-competition-while-consumers-pay-the-price-does-the-ftc-have-the-medicine-to-fix-it/>
- Nurse staffing
  - MedCity News: Housing strategies for providers to better accommodate traveling nurses - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/housing-strategies-for-providers-to-better-accommodate-traveling-nurses>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Viewpoint: Investments beyond travel staff needed to fix nursing shortage - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/viewpoint-investments-beyond-travel-staff-needed-to-fix-nursing-shortage.html>
  - McKights Senior Living: Study aims to blunt staff burnout, make emotional well-being essential for staff health, resident care, and employee retention - <https://www.mckights.com/news/study-aims-to-blunt-staff-burnout-make-emotional-well-being-essential-for-staff-health-resident-care-and-employee-retention/>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report

- No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - Inside Health Policy: Brooks LaSure Prioritizes MA Dental Benefits, Insulin Costs For 2023 - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/brooks-lasure-prioritizes-ma-dental-benefits-insulin-costs-2023>
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Politico: Health insurance prices set for takeoff - <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/future-pulse/2022/10/18/health-insurance-prices-set-for-takeoff-00062171>
  - Axios: Hill Dems frustrated with Biden inaction on “junk” health insurance - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/19/hill-dems-biden-inaction-junk-health-insurance>
  - Inside Health Policy: CMS: Special COVID Medicaid Group’s Coverage Ends With PHE - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-special-covid-medicaid-group%E2%80%99s-coverage-ends-phe>
  - Inside Health Policy: 2024 Exchange Reg Lands At White House Budget Office - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/2024-exchange-reg-lands-white-house-budget-office>
  - MedCity News: Healthcare still has a few years to go before price transparency data makes an impact, Turquoise Health CEO says - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/healthcare-still-has-a-few-years-to-go-before-price-transparency-data-makes-an-impact-turquoise-health-ceo-says>
  - Modern Healthcare: CT, MRI prices skewed by ‘flawed’ employer-backed insurance: study - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/flawed-employer-backed-insurance-skews-ct-mri-prices-study?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20221018&utm\\_content=article3-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/flawed-employer-backed-insurance-skews-ct-mri-prices-study?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221018&utm_content=article3-headline)
  - Fierce Healthcare: Kaufman Hall: Hospital volumes remain below 2019 levels as care shifts to outpatient settings -

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/kaufman-hall-hospital-volumes-remain-below-2019-levels-care-shifts-outpatient-settings>

- Fierce Healthcare: Hybrid payment model touted as lifeline for primary care physicians: study - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hybrid-payment-model-touted-lifeline-primary-care-physicians-need-be-thrown>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Skilled Nursing News: What Nursing Homes Should Consider As CMS's Requirements of Participation Deadline Nears - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/what-nursing-homes-should-consider-as-cmss-requirements-of-participation-deadline-nears/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=cb5616ae1c&mc\\_cid=cb5616ae1c&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/what-nursing-homes-should-consider-as-cmss-requirements-of-participation-deadline-nears/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cb5616ae1c&mc_cid=cb5616ae1c&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
  - Home Health Care News: Is CMS' Proposed Home Health Rate Cut Legal? Other Court Decisions Suggest No - <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/10/is-cms-proposed-home-health-rate-cut-legal-other-court-decisions-suggest-no/>
- Health equity-related items
  - NBC News: Babies born to Black mothers who use fertility treatments die at far higher rates than those born to white mothers - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/babies-black-mothers-die-higher-rates-white-mothers-rcna52722>
  - CNBC: People of color face higher risk of flu hospitalization as U.S. faces potentially severe season, CDC says - <https://www.cNBC.com/2022/10/18/people-of-color-face-higher-risk-of-flu-hospitalization-as-us-faces-severe-season.html>
- Hospital merger news
  - No new items
- ARPA-H news
  - Bloomberg: NIH to Fund High-Risk Research Alongside Biden's New Agency - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJYUWTDWX2PU>