

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 20, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House is not in session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Wall Street Journal: Drugmakers Look to Limit Medicare's New Power to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/drugmakers-look-to-limit-medicare-new-power-to-negotiate-lower-drug-prices-11666258202>
 - Forbes: Drugs Should Be Priced Based On One Factor — Value - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnlamattina/2022/10/20/drugs-should-be-priced-based-on-one-factor--value/?sh=141b97763ab6>
 - Stat News (Opinion): How states can act to limit drug price increases, saving employers and workers billions - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/20/beyond-medicare-penalty-states-limit-drug-price-increases/>
 - Stat News: Pharma tries to blunt Medicare power to negotiate prices - <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/10/20/covid19-vaccines-cholera-fda-medicare-cvs-novavax/>
 - The Hill: Democrats lean in on prescription drug reform on campaign trail - <https://thehill.com/reliable-voters/3685361-democrats-lean-in-on-prescription-drug-reform-on-campaign-trail/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: Plan sponsors' satisfaction with PBMs is declining, a new survey shows. Here's why - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/plan-sponsors-satisfaction-pbms-declining-new-survey-shows-heres-why>
- Nurse staffing
 - Forbes: Nurses Are The Crux In Fixing Our Healthcare System - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/10/20/nurses-are-the-crux-in-fixing-our-healthcare-system/?sh=634e97296b73>
 - Healthcare Dive: Hospital volumes under pressure as labor crisis persists, Kaufman Hall says - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/kaufman-hall-hospital-volumes-under-pressure-labor-crisis/634465/>

- Modern Healthcare: National Academy of Medicine publishes call-to-action for workforce well-being - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/national-academy-medicine-issues-report-health-worker-burnout?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221019&utm_content=article-2-headline
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Today: Why do colon cancer tumors grow so fast? Study identifies new gene that may play a role - <https://www.today.com/health/colon-cancer-grow-fast-study-points-new-ways-lower-risk-rcna53027>
 - Healio: Emergency presentation of colorectal cancer linked to higher mortality risk - <https://www.healio.com/news/hematology-oncology/20221020/emergency-presentation-of-colorectal-cancer-linked-to-higher-mortality-risk>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Health Affairs: Performance Results Of The Medicare Shared Savings Program In 2021: Continued Uncertainty With Positive Movement - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/performance-results-medicare-shared-savings-program-2021-continued-uncertainty-positive>
 - Health Leaders: New Price Transparency Report Shines Light On Growing Adoption Of The Regulation - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/new-price-transparency-report-shines-light-growing-adoption-regulation>
 - Health Leaders: Full 2023 CPT Code Set Released, Updates Aimed At Reducing Administrative Burdens - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue->

[cycle/full-2023-cpt-code-set-released-updates-aimed-reducing-administrative-burdens](#)

- Medical Economics: Addressing needs in rural primary care now: How and why government entities can do more - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/addressing-needs-in-rural-primary-care-now-how-and-why-government-entities-can-do-more>
- Becker's Hospital Review: How lawmakers can boost nonprofit hospital accountability - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/how-lawmakers-can-boost-nonprofit-hospital-accountability.html>
- Fierce Healthcare: Demand for primary care projected to slow as Amazon, Walmart pose a growing threat: report - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/demand-primary-care-projected-slow-amazon-walmart-pose-growing-threat-report>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items
- Health equity-related items
 - Stat News: Racial disparities in neonatal mortality even wider with tools like IVF, study finds - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/19/racial-disparities-neonatal-mortality-wider-with-ivf/>
 - Axios: Cardiac care is affected by provider racism, study finds - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/19/cardiac-care-provider-racism-study>
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items