HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 21, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

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

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Axios: The next step in Biden’s effort to lower drug prices - https://www.axios.com/2022/10/21/bidens-effort-lower-drug-prices
  - MedCity News: States should be allowed to regulate PBMs according to 35 state AGs advocating in Oklahoma case - https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/statesshould-be-allowed-to-regulate-pbms-according-to-35-state-ags-advocating-in-oklahoma-case/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9MNz_Ns2RJlbYdehOpoJihNsKbGPz5zezWjcXPwz-IDrvzWvBk5b9OJZBDAsbeNmkzhv5qPMpcz7InOTI8VK1-kHtQ&utm_content=230661360&utm_source=hs_email

- Nurse staffing


- Colon cancer-related items
  - No new items

- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - [MedPage Today: Older, Sicker Patients Benefit From ECMO Bridge to Lung Transplant](https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/chest/101325)

- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items

- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items

- Hospital and physician payment-related items

  - Forbes: Hospital Productivity Growth Is Flatlining But More Competition Would Revive it - [https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2022/10/20/hospital-productivity-growth-is-flatlining-but-more-competition-would-revive-it/?sh=5d8c4c8d6b2c](https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2022/10/20/hospital-productivity-growth-is-flatlining-but-more-competition-would-revive-it/?sh=5d8c4c8d6b2c)

- **Health Affairs**: Payment Policy And The Challenges Of Medicare And Medicaid Integration For Dual-Eligible Beneficiaries - [https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hpb20220923.93608/full/](https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hpb20220923.93608/full/)

- **Stat News**: Medicare is going to cap patients’ spending on drugs. But there’s no such limit for hospital or doctor bills - [https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/21/medicare-will-cap-patients-drug-spending-no-limit-for-hospital-doctor-bills/](https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/21/medicare-will-cap-patients-drug-spending-no-limit-for-hospital-doctor-bills/)

- **MedCity News**: Geisinger CEO: Price variability won’t be solved unless payers & providers get on the same page - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/geisinger-ceo-price-variability-wont-be-solved-unless-payers-providers-get-on-the-same-page/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsml=230661360&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--JbY4FH67UAUItw ssAijaFbHKyrOtLalQUPLXZsyFQ6RceXrUdp3inIspeTz0VEvNtxazq5YaH8rRMBmJrtOFJDQ&utm_content=230661360&utm_source=hs_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/geisinger-ceo-price-variability-wont-be-solved-unless-payers-providers-get-on-the-same-page/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsml=230661360&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--JbY4FH67UAUItw ssAijaFbHKyrOtLalQUPLXZsyFQ6RceXrUdp3inIspeTz0VEvNtxazq5YaH8rRMBmJrtOFJDQ&utm_content=230661360&utm_source=hs_email)

- Nursing home quality initiative

  - **MedCity News (Opinion)**: Stop cuts to Medicare and preserve access to home health services - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/stop-cuts-to-medicare-and-preserve-access-to-home-health-services/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsml=230661360&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--kqRUyojgDVaxXJd2F-wjbv1P_3r7YfYPlC30qChvwa4km9SvbzIIq7u7WP_FZoLeCkb7ar8e9iXAZut2dBgQ&utm_content=230661360&utm_source=hs_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/stop-cuts-to-medicare-and-preserve-access-to-home-health-services/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsml=230661360&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--kqRUyojgDVaxXJd2F-wjbv1P_3r7YfYPlC30qChvwa4km9SvbzIIq7u7WP_FZoLeCkb7ar8e9iXAZut2dBgQ&utm_content=230661360&utm_source=hs_email)


- Health equity-related items

  - **Bloomberg**: FDA to Focus on Equity in Breakthrough Medical Device Reviews - [https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RK2FQQT0AFB4](https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RK2FQQT0AFB4)

- Hospital merger news

  - **Fierce Healthcare**: The FTC and DOJ have vowed to scrutinize private equity deals. Here's what it means for healthcare -
https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/regulatory/ftc-doj-promise-heavier-scrutiny-pe-deals-healthcare