

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 24, 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
 - Reuters: U.S. is talking to companies about drug price negotiations - <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/reuters-events-us-is-talking-companies-about-drug-price-negotiations-2022-10-21/>
 - Stat News: How one pharma insider sees the drug pricing reform law: the impact will 'vary by product and by company' - <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/10/20/medicare-drugs-medicine-biosmilars-cancer/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): HHS Invests \$13 Million to Grow and Strengthen the Nursing Workforce - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/10/21/hhs-invests-13-million-grow-and-strengthen-nursing-workforce.html>
 - USA Today (Opinion): Nurses are stressed out and burned out — putting your health at risk - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2022/10/24/america-nurse-shortage-gets-worse/10540952002/?gnt-cfr=1>
 - Inside Health Policy: White House, HHS, DOL Announce Millions In Nursing Workforce Grants - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/white-house-hhs-dol-announce-millions-nursing-workforce-grants>
 - Inside Health Policy: Aging Services Coalition Seeks Immigration Reform To Bolster Workforce - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/aging-services-coalition-seeks-immigration-reform-bolster-workforce>
 - McKnight's Senior Living: HHS: \$13 million investment in nurse education is 'key pillar' to improving SNFs - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/hhs-13-million-investment-in-nurse-education-is-key-pillar-to-improving-snfs/>

- McKnights Senior Living: 'Staffing and labor challenges do persist,' provider survey finds - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/staffing-and-labor-challenges-do-persist-provider-survey-finds/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Washington Post: Better Cancer Screenings Are Coming. Can We Afford Them? - https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/better-cancer-screenings-are-coming-can-we-afford-them/2022/10/24/35359cd6-5394-11ed-ac8b-08bbfab1c5a5_story.html
- 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
 - New York Times (Opinion): How Private Insurers Exploit Medicare - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/23/opinion/letters/private-insurers-medicare.html>
 - Politico: Hospitals' Lame-Duck List - <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-pulse/2022/10/24/the-epidemics-we-were-spared-00063084>
 - Stat News: This summer's Covid surge was bad for hospital profits - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/21/this-summers-covid-surge-was-bad-for-hospital-profits/>
 - Health Leaders: Major Associations Rally In Support Of TMA's Newest Surprise Billing Lawsuit - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/major-associations-rally-support-tmas-newest-surprise-billing-lawsuit>
 - Inside Health Policy: Provider Groups Back Texas Docs In Case Over Surprise Billing Reg - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/provider-groups-back-texas-docs-case-over-surprise-billing-reg>

- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS to ‘Crack Down’ on Troubled Nursing Homes Through Special Focus Facility Program Changes - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/cms-to-crack-down-on-troubled-nursing-homes-through-special-focus-facility-program-changes/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7ac37ed44a&mc_cid=7ac37ed44a&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Inside Health Policy: WH Hikes Enforcement, Penalties For Poorly Performing Nursing Homes - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/wh-hikes-enforcement-penalties-poorly-performing-nursing-homes>
 - Inside Health Policy: Argentum: OIG Uncovering PRF Miscalculations Are Just The Beginning - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/argentum-oig-uncovering-prf-miscalculations-are-just-beginning>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Senate leader who instigated SFF crackdown wants even tougher measures — and more funding — for nursing homes - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/senate-leader-who-instigated-sff-crackdown-wants-even-tougher-measures-and-more-funding-for-nursing-homes/>
- Health equity-related items
 - Healthcare Dive: Hospital efforts to tackle social determinants of health stall, data shows - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/social-determinants-hospitals-JAMA-rural-critical-access/634747/>
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items