

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 25, 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
 - Bloomberg: Drugmakers, HHS Square Off in Fight Over Low-Income Discounts - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RK9XVVDWRGG0>
 - USA Today: 'Pretty personal': How the politics of health care could affect the midterm elections and control of Congress - <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/politics/2022/10/25/insulin-drug-costs-healthcare-midterms-voters/8208856001/>
 - Stat News: Pharma companies are investing in online prescribing. Who's keeping watch? - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/25/pharma-online-telehealth-prescribing-regulation/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare workforce lost 333,942 providers in 2021 - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/healthcare-workforce-lost-333-942-providers-in-2021.html>
 - McKnights Senior Living: More than 53,000 nurse practitioners left the workforce in 2021, report finds - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/more-than-53000-nurse-practitioners-left-the-workforce-in-2021-report-finds/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Provider-supplied housing for nursing home staff catching on as retention tool - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/provider-supplied-housing-for-nursing-home-staff-catching-on-as-retention-tool/>
- 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
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation

- No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Hospital Association: Data Brief: Financial Challenges for Hospitals Persist Through 2022 - <https://www.aha.org/dataset/2022-10-24-data-brief-financial-challenges-hospitals-persist-through-2022>
 - American Hospital Association: AHA urges Congress to prioritize actions to address rising costs, workforce challenges - <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-10-24-aha-urges-congress-prioritize-actions-address-rising-costs-workforce-challenges>
 - Bloomberg: Hospital Trade Groups Want Medicare Program Extensions - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKBOIOT0AFB4>
 - MedCity News: 3 key reasons why Americans are under-utilizing primary care - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/3-key-reasons-why-americans-are-under-utilizing-primary-care/>
 - Inside Health Policy: Lawmakers Bolster Stakeholders' Press To Extend 5% APM Bonus - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/lawmakers-bolster-stakeholders%E2%80%99-press-extend-5-apm-bonus>
 - Inside Health Policy: Stakeholders Lay Out Year-End Priorities For Lawmakers As Election Nears - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/features/health-insider>
 - Modern Healthcare: Philanthropy growing in importance for nonprofit hospitals - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/nonprofit-hospitals-turning-donors-recession-looms>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Some State Surprise Billing Resolution Processes Favor Providers - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/some-state-surprise-billing-resolution-processes-favor-providers>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: Why the Future of Standalone Skilled Nursing Facilities Could Be Dim - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/why-the-future-of-standalone-skilled-nursing-facilities-could-be-dim>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: CMS Increases Oversight Policies for Low-Performing Nursing Homes - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/cms-increases-oversight-policies-for-low-performing-nursing-homes>
- Health equity-related items
 - Stat News (Opinion): Covid-19 is an inverse equity story, not a racial equity success story - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/25/covid-19-inverse-equity-story-not-racial-equity-success-story/>

- Inside Health Policy: FDA Homes In On Breakthrough Devices To Address Health Disparities - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/fda-homes-breakthrough-devices-address-health-disparities>
- PatientEngagementHIT: How Neighborhood Segregation Fuels Maternal Health Disparities - <https://patientengagementhit.com/news/how-neighborhood-segregation-fuels-maternal-health-disparities>
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items