

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 26, 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
  - Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (Press Release): During Q&A In Adel, Grassley Discusses His Bipartisan Efforts To Lower Prescription Drug Costs - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/during-qanda-in-adel-grassley-discusses-his-bipartisan-efforts-to-lower-prescription-drug-costs>
  - American Medical Association: How the 10 largest PBMs hold huge sway in health care marketplace - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/patient-support-advocacy/how-10-largest-pbms-hold-huge-sway-health-care-marketplace>
  - Newsweek (Opinion): A Trump Era Health Care Rule Is Breaking the Law — and Harming Patients - <https://www.newsweek.com/trump-era-health-care-rule-breaking-law-harming-patients-opinion-1754019>
  - Stat News (Opinion): After 30 years of 340B, it's time for data and an honest conversation - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/26/after-30-years-of-340b-time-for-data-honest-conversation/>
  - Stat News: Q&A: A health justice lawyer and new MacArthur 'genius' on pharma's patent games - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/26/q-a-macarthur-genius-priti-krishtel-pharma-patents/>
- Nurse staffing
  - Office of Senator Dick Durbin (Press Release): Durbin, Duckworth Announce \$1.48 Million For Nursing Education Programs In Illinois - <https://www.durbin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/durbin-duckworth-announce-148-million-for-nursing-education-programs-in-illinois>
  - Healthcare Dive: Hospitals pivot to new tactics as they try to recruit, retain staff - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/hospitals-hiring-events-nurses-retain-recruit-pandemic-providence/631043/>

- Skilled Nursing News: The Future of Labor Activism in Nursing Homes - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/the-future-of-labor-activism-in-nursing-homes/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6ebf8f0905&mc\\_cid=6ebf8f0905&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/the-future-of-labor-activism-in-nursing-homes/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6ebf8f0905&mc_cid=6ebf8f0905&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- Health Leaders: Want To Solve Your Workforce Shortages? Grow Your Own Staff - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/clinical-care/want-solve-your-workforce-shortages-grow-your-own-staff>
- McKnight's Senior Living: \$1.2 million investment into recruiting, training nurses called 'a good start' - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/1-2-million-investment-into-recruiting-training-nurses-called-a-good-start/>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - MedPage Today: New HRS Drug Cut Need for Renal Replacement Tx After Liver Transplant - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acg/101417>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Office of Representative Ted Lieu (Press Release): Rep Lieu Leads Bipartisan Letter Urging Better Medicare Reimbursement Rates For Heart Test - <https://lieu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-lieu-leads-bipartisan-letter-urging-better-medicare-reimbursement>
  - Health Affairs: Multi-Year Medicare Physician Fee Freeze Threatens Access: Pair Relief With Reforms - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/multi-year-medicare-physician-fee-freeze-threatens-access-pair-relief-reforms>

- Axios: Specialists seek a reprieve for 2023 Medicare payment cuts - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/26/specialists-seek-reprieve-medicare>
- MedCity News: Solving rural health is the key to a better healthcare system in the U.S. - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/solving-rural-health-is-the-key-to-a-better-healthcare-system-in-the-u-s/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hs\\_mi=231275462&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9kGE5SQtE11TKeatwcB3kzk5NM3sFYvS79R5-trk0BELkx4ZLo5ql1PiBT08pHmUJ8cwwG-jhIKtJPJWQaq8TtWq-icA&utm\\_content=231275462&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/solving-rural-health-is-the-key-to-a-better-healthcare-system-in-the-u-s/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hs_mi=231275462&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9kGE5SQtE11TKeatwcB3kzk5NM3sFYvS79R5-trk0BELkx4ZLo5ql1PiBT08pHmUJ8cwwG-jhIKtJPJWQaq8TtWq-icA&utm_content=231275462&utm_source=hs_email)
- Inside Health Policy: CMS: States Decide Whether To Restart Medicaid Premiums Post-PHE - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-states-decide-whether-restart-medicaid-premiums-post-phe>
- Inside Health Policy: CMS Updates QHP Applications; Holds Glitch Fix Forums - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-updates-qhp-applications-holds-glitch-fix-forums>
- Fierce Healthcare: Hospitals said they lost money on Medicare patients. Some made millions, a state report finds - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hospitals-said-they-lost-money-medicare-patients-some-made-millions-state-report-finds>
- Fierce Healthcare: Seeking new federal designation, AHA touts report on Metropolitan Anchor Hospitals' marginalized patients, financial challenges - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/seeking-new-federal-designation-aha-touts-report-metropolitan-anchor-hospitals>
- RevCycleIntelligence: FAH Urges Congress to Pass Legislation to Limit Medicare Payment Cuts - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/fah-urges-congress-to-pass-legislation-to-limit-medicare-payment-cuts>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Skilled Nursing News: OIG Launches Investigation into Skilled Nursing Residents With Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/oig-launches-investigation-into-skilled-nursing-residents-with-potentially-preventable-hospitalizations/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6ebf8f0905&mc\\_cid=6ebf8f0905&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/oig-launches-investigation-into-skilled-nursing-residents-with-potentially-preventable-hospitalizations/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6ebf8f0905&mc_cid=6ebf8f0905&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- Health equity-related items

- Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): Ahead of Open Enrollment, New HHS Report Shows Major Gains in Marketplace Enrollment Among Black and Latino Populations Last Year - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/10/25/ahead-of-open-enrollment-new-hhs-report-shows-major-gains-in-marketplace-enrollment-among-black-and-latino-populations-last-year.html>
- Bloomberg: Health Agency Seeks Feedback on Access to Care, Equity - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKBSM1T0AFB4>
- Hospital merger news
  - No new items
- ARPA-H news
  - Bloomberg: Biden's Biomedical Agency to Weigh Affordability, Director Says - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKBLX8T1UM0W>