

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 28, 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
  - GOP Committee on Ways and Means (Press Release): Brady Responds to White House Distortions on Dems' Medicare Cuts and GOP Tax Reform Successes - <https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/brady-responds-to-white-house-distortions-on-dems-medicare-cuts-and-gop-tax-reform-successes/>
  - Stat News: Drugmaker raises the price of an old chemo medicine tenfold amid persistent shortages - <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/10/27/cancer-shortages-fludarabine-leukemia-chemo-areva-hospitals-pharmacy/>
  - Inside Health Policy: Budget Hawk Suggests Drug Pricing Reforms Worth More Than \$200B - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/budget-hawk-suggests-drug-pricing-reforms-worth-more-200b>
- Nurse staffing
  - CNN: Staff shortages make patient surges harder for children's hospitals – and the situation won't get better soon - <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/28/health/staff-shortages-childrens-hospitals/index.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
  - Bloomberg: Medicare Mental Health Proposals Expand Aid for Substance Abuse - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKGGIKDWX2PU>
  - Newsweek: Healthcare and Inflation: Hospitals Are Starting To Feel the Squeeze - <https://www.newsweek.com/healthcare-inflation-hospitals-are-starting-feel-squeeze-1755163>
  - Stat News: Republican ideas to reform Medicare could rile health care industry - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/27/republican-ideas-to-reform-medicare-could-rile-health-care-industry/>
  - Axios: Hospitals urge Congress to delay Medicare cuts amid inflation and surging labor costs - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/28/hospitals-congress-medicare-cuts-inflation>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare operating costs rising almost everywhere, report says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/healthcare-operating-costs-rising-almost-everywhere-report-says.html>
  - Managed Healthcare Executive: Bundled Payment Program Cost CMS \$279 Million: JAMA Study - <https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/bundled-payment-program-cost-cms-279-million-jama-study>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Rapid Recovery Unlikely as Hospitals Face Worst Financial Year Yet - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/rapid-recovery-unlikely-as-hospitals-face-worst-financial-year-yet>
  
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items
  
- Health equity-related items
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Black/White Racial Health Disparities in COVID-19 Treatment Emerge - <https://patientengagementhit.com/news/black-white-racial-health-disparities-in-covid-19-treatment-emerge>
  
- Hospital merger news
  - No new items