

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 3, 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
  - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): New HHS Reports Illustrate Potential Positive Impact of Inflation Reduction Act on Prescription Drug Prices - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/09/30/new-hhs-reports-illustrate-potential-positive-impact-inflation-reduction-act-prescription-drug-prices.html>
  - AP News: NIH to fund unproven ALS drugs under patient-backed law - <https://apnews.com/article/health-business-drug-trials-congress-government-and-politics-905274f1b83c87d28771c9ddaefb5aa1>
  - The Hill: HHS: Price of more than 1,200 drugs outpaced inflation - <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/3669326-hhs-price-of-more-than-1200-drugs-outpaced-inflation/>
  - Axios: New ALS treatment sparks yet another drug pricing debate - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/03/als-treatment-fda-drug-prices>
  - Stat News: Many trials to confirm benefits of drugs granted accelerated approvals are running late - <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/10/03/fda-accelerated-approvals-makena-alzheimers-medicare-medicaid/>
- Nurse staffing
  - Inside Health Policy: MedPAC: SNF Minimum Staffing Ratio Would Likely Need Dollars - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/medpac-snf-minimum-staffing-ratio-would-likely-need-dollars>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - Cancer Network: FDA Approves Bevacizumab-adcd Biosimilar in 6 cancer types - <https://www.cancernetwork.com/view/fda-approves-bevacizumab-adcd-biosimilar-in-6-cancer-types>

- 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
  - Forbes: Big Health Insurers Will Expand Medicare Advantage To Hundreds Of New Counties For 2023 - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2022/10/01/big-health-insurers-will-expand-medicare-advantage-to-hundreds-of-new-counties-for-2023/?sh=507ee36870b7>
  - Fierce Healthcare: Congress passes short-term spending bill that extends 2 key rural hospital programs - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/congress-passes-short-term-spending-bill-extends-two-key-rural-hospital-programs>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Congressional Budget Office pitches healthcare price growth cap - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/congressional-budget-office-pitches-healthcare-price-growth-cap.html>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: 18 payers to join CMS value-based Medicare Advantage model for 2023 - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/18-payers-to-join-cms-value-based-medicare-advantage-model-for-2023.html>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: 4 Payers Share 2023 Medicare Open Enrollment Benefits, Inflation Drives Updates - <https://healthpayerintelligence.com/news/4-major-payers-share-medicare-benefits-for-2023-medicare-open-enrollment>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items
- Health equity-related items
  - NBC News: There's a big disparity in the number of Latino doctors and surgeons. Advocates are working to change that -

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/big-disparity-number-latino-doctors-surgeons-advocates-are-working-cha-rcna48778>

- Hospital merger news
  - Modern Healthcare: Insurer 'FOMO' driving healthcare bidding wars - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/cvs-humana-aim-rival-unitedhealth-bidding-wars?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20221002&utm\\_content=article1-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/cvs-humana-aim-rival-unitedhealth-bidding-wars?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221002&utm_content=article1-headline)