

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 5, 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 Representative Elise Stefanik (Press Release): Stefanik Works to Drive Down Drug Costs, increase Seniors' Access to Healthcare - <https://stefanik.house.gov/press-releases?ID=0778C109-EC4C-415A-8182-754252CE85C0>
  - Inside Health Policy: FDA Launches Interchangeable Biosimilars, Rare Disease Pilot Programs - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/fda-launches-interchangeable-biosimilars-rare-disease-pilot-programs>
  - Healio: HHS: Specialty drug costs up more than \$300 billion since 2016 - <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20221004/hhs-specialty-drug-costs-up-more-than-300-billion-since-2016>
  - MedCity News: HHS: Prescription drug costs have skyrocketed in recent years - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/hhs-prescription-drug-costs-have-skyrocketed-in-recent-years/>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: HHS Must Restore Full Payment to 340B Hospitals Now, Judge Says - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/hhs-must-restore-full-payment-to-340b-hospitals-now-judge-says>
  - Drug Topics: Be Proactive Ahead of Upcoming DIR Fee Changes - <https://www.drugtopics.com/view/be-proactive-ahead-of-upcoming-dir-fee-changes>
- Nurse staffing
  - Bloomberg: Nursing Shortage Sparks Bidding War as Countries Vie for Talent - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-10-04/nursing-shortage-sparks-bidding-war-as-countries-vie-for-talent>
  - Politico: The answer to America's nursing shortage - <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/future-pulse/2022/10/04/ttkk-00060137>

- Axios: Caregiver shortage hits rural areas the hardest - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/04/mismatch-between-disabled-caregivers>
- Skilled Nursing News: As Labor Crisis Complicates Care Transitions, Hospitals Work To Alleviate SNF Referral Backlog - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/as-labor-crisis-complicates-care-transitions-hospitals-work-to-alleviate-snf-referral-backlog/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=73949be6da&mc\\_cid=73949be6da&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/as-labor-crisis-complicates-care-transitions-hospitals-work-to-alleviate-snf-referral-backlog/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=73949be6da&mc_cid=73949be6da&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- 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
  - American Dental Association: ADA, DQA comment on CMS proposed rule on Medicaid, CHIP Core Set - <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/october/ada-and-dqa-comment-on-cms-proposed-rule-on-medicaid-chip-core-set>
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - American Medical Association: Why AMA backs Texas doctors' lawsuit on No Surprises Act provision - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/patient-support-advocacy/why-ama-backs-texas-doctors-lawsuit-no-surprises-act>
  - Health Affairs: By Mission And Definition, Community Health Centers Already Perform Value-Based Care - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/mission-and-definition-community-health-centers-already-perform-value-based-care>
  - Inside Health Policy: CMS Faces New Pressure To Reject Co-Pay Accumulators - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-faces-new-pressure-reject-co-pay-accumulators>

- Inside Health Policy: BLS Data Should Not Be Used In Hospital Wage Index, AHA Tells MedPAC - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/bls-data-should-not-be-used-hospital-wage-index-aha-tells-medpac>
- MedCity News: Building on the groundwork laid by the No Surprises Act - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/building-on-the-groundwork-laid-by-the-no-surprises-act/>
- Fierce Healthcare: Consumers concerned about rising healthcare costs as open enrollment period draws near - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/consumers-concerned-about-rising-healthcare-costs-open-enrollment-period-draws-near>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Home Health Value Based Purchasing Model Slightly Improved Spending, Care - <https://healthpayerintelligence.com/news/home-health-value-based-purchasing-model-slightly-improved-spending-care>
- Health equity-related items
  - Inside Health Policy: HHS May Write Rule To Prevent Algorithmic Health Discrimination, Protect Consumers - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hhs-may-write-rule-prevent-algorithmic-health-discrimination-protect-consumers>
- Hospital merger news
  - No new items