

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: October 7, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Office of Senator James Lankford (Press Release): Lankford Wants to Roll Back Government Price Controls on Prescription Drugs - <https://www.lankford.senate.gov/news/press-releases/lankford-wants-to-roll-back-government-price-controls-on-prescription-drugs>
 - Bloomberg: Biden's HHS Readies for Medicare Drug Negotiations, New Rebates - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RJCJVGDX2PS>
 - The Hill (Opinion): People are underestimating the significance of drug pricing provisions in Inflation Reduction Act - <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3676791-people-are-underestimating-the-significance-of-drug-pricing-provisions-in-inflation-reduction-act/>
 - Axios: Becerra leaves door open to march-in rights to lower drug prices - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/07/becerra-drug-price-march-in-rights>
 - MedPage Today: HHS Outlines Timeline for Medicare Drug Benefits in the Inflation Reduction Act - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/medicare/101102>
 - Stat News: Drugmakers will be penalized if they hike prices on patients in private insurance market - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/06/drugmakers-will-be-penalized-if-they-hike-prices-on-patients-in-private-insurance-market/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: House lawmakers seek to limit CMS' drug coverage authority after Aduhelm decision - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/house-lawmakers-seek-limit-cms-drug-coverage-authority-after-aduhelm-decision>
- Nurse staffing
 - Office of Senator Susan Collins (Press Release): Senator Collins Discusses Efforts to Alleviate Nursing Shortage at Saint Joseph's College in Standish - <https://www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/senator-collins-discusses-efforts-to-alleviate-nursing-shortage-at-saint-josephs-college-in-standish>

- Washington Post (Opinion): Nursing happens outside the hospital, too -
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/10/06/nursing-happens-outside-hospital-too/>
- Stat News (Opinion): Certified nursing assistants do important work. They deserve to be paid a living wage for it -
<https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/07/value-the-work-of-certified-nursing-assistants/>
- Inside Health Policy: Nursing Home CNA Trainer Waiver Ends, CMS OKs States' Requests Instead - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/nursing-home-cna-training-waiver-ends-cms-oks-states%E2%80%99-requests-instead>
- Health Leaders: Temporary Nurse Aides Waiting To See If They Will Lose Their Job On Friday - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/temporary-nurse-aides-waiting-see-if-they-will-lose-their-job-friday>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare employment returns to February 2020 level; 60K jobs added -
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/healthcare-employment-returns-to-february-2020-level-60k-jobs-added.html>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - MedPage Today: Neoadjuvant CRT Tied to Survival Benefit in Older Rectal Cancer Patients -
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/hematologyoncology/coloncancer/101096>
 - Healio: Rural residents at higher risk for colon cancer surgery; post-op outcomes differ by race -
<https://www.healio.com/news/gastroenterology/20221006/rural-residents-at-higher-risk-for-colon-cancer-surgery-postop-outcomes-differ-by-race>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - Healio: COVID-19 vaccines 87% effective at preventing hospitalization in immunosuppressed patients -
<https://www.healio.com/news/rheumatology/20221006/covid19-vaccines-87-effective-at-preventing-hospitalization-in-immunosuppressed-patients>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items

- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Health Affairs: Federal Officials Solicit Comment On Advanced Explanation Of Benefits - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/aca-round-up-latest-uninsured-data-preventive-services-litigation-updates-and-more>
 - Axios: Hospitals still aren't complying with transparency rules - <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/06/hospitals-price-transparency-compliance>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Some hospitals 'flouting' price transparency requirements: report - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/some-hospitals-flouting-price-transparency-requirements-report.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 3 out of 4 Americans give healthcare affordability a D or F grade: Gallup Survey - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/3-out-of-4-americans-give-healthcare-affordability-a-d-or-f-grade-gallup-survey.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: SNF Operators Cautious Over CDC Mask Changes Amid Regulatory Whiplash, Fatigued Staff - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/snf-operators-cautious-over-cdc-mask-changes-amid-regulatory-whiplash-fatigued-staff/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2bcc95d1da&mc_cid=2bcc95d1da&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS to Nursing Home Providers: It's Time to 'Move Forward' As Covid Waivers Sunset - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/10/cms-to-nursing-home-providers-its-time-to-move-forward-as-covid-waivers-sunset/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2bcc95d1da&mc_cid=2bcc95d1da&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- Health equity-related items
 - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): HHS Takes Action to Break Language Barriers - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/10/06/hhs-takes-action-break-language-barriers.html>

- Hospital merger news
 - Modern Healthcare: Health Care Service Corp. completes acquisition of Trustmark Health Benefits - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/health-care-service-corp-acquires-trustmark-health-benefits?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-friday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221006&utm_content=article3-headline