HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 1, 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
  - USA Today: Is prescription copay assistance contributing to rising drug prices? Why buyers should beware - [https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2022/11/01/prescription-copay-assistance-role-rising-drug-prices/10555488002/]
  - Modern Healthcare: Why health systems are turning to specialty pharmacies to boost performance - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/hospital-systems/specialty-pharmacies-health-systems-ohiohealth-ucconn-healthHealth%20systems%20such%20as%20OhioHealth%20and%20UC%20Health%20are%20turning%20to%20specialty%20pharmacies%20to%20boost%20revenue%20and%20create%20potential%20cost%20savings%20for%20patient%20and%20provider]
  - Becker’s Hospital Review: Study: Payers spend less on lobbying than pharma companies, providers - [https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/study-payers-spend-less-on-lobbying-than-pharma-companies-providers.html]

- Nurse staffing
  - McKnight’s Senior Living: Engagement is ‘secret sauce’ for recruiting, retaining workers - [https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/engagement-is-secret-sauce-for-recruiting-retaining-workers/]

- 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: Dialysis Centers to Get 3% Medicare Payment Increase in 2023 - https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKN1Y2Dwx2Pt

- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Bloomberg: Home Health Agencies to See Modest Medicare Pay Boost for 2023 - https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKKn0FGt0G1Kw

- Health equity-related items

- Hospital merger news

  - MedCity News: What’s behind the M&A spree in the hospice industry - https://medcitynews.com/2022/10/whats-behind-the-ma-spree-in-the-hospice-industry/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=232052985&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-921xHTRLIHHEVmLHG-D1BVRmxNZSUHNxHwQ6tcCcmNCGSjCYmFeYluW8oWZGxnxevWCypA8FU1poJF SuE8BrRFbMUqNQ&utm_content=232052985&utm_source=hs_email

- Telehealth news