

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-uconn-heathHealth%20systems%20such%20as%20OhioHealth%20and%20UConn%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
 - Health Leaders: Six Low-Cost 'Action Items' To Recruit And Retain Nurses - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/nursing/six-low-cost-action-items-recruit-and-retain-nurses>
 - 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>
 - Axios: ACA sign-ups begin with millions likely to duck big premium hikes - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/01/aca-sign-ups-begin-2022>
 - Kaiser Health News: Medicare Fines for High Hospital Readmissions Drop, but Nearly 2,300 Facilities Are Still Penalized - <https://khn.org/news/article/medicare-fines-hospital-readmissions-drop-covid/>
 - Inside Health Policy: ESRD Rule Finalizes 3.1% Pay Bump, 5% Wage Index Cap - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/esrd-rule-finalizes-31-pay-bump-5-wage-index-cap>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Medicare, Medicaid Payment Policies Inconsistent for Dual Eligibles - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/medicare-medicaid-payment-policies-inconsistent-for-dual-eligibles>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Bloomberg: Home Health Agencies to See Modest Medicare Pay Boost for 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKN0FGTOG1KW>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Increases PDGM Home Health Cuts, But Will Phase Them In - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-increases-pdgm-home-health-cuts-will-phase-them>
 - Inside Health Policy: Beneficiary Advocates: Broaden Nursing Home Enforcement Effort - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/beneficiary-advocates-broaden-nursing-home-enforcement-effort>
 - McKnights Senior Living: A call to action: Using CMP funds to reduce falls in nursing homes - <https://www.mcknights.com/marketplace/marketplace-experts/a-call-to-action-using-cmp-funds-to-reduce-falls-in-nursing-homes/>
- Health equity-related items

- Axios: Anesthesia use disparities could negatively affect Black maternal health, experts say - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/01/maternal-mortality-rate-black-women>
- 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-sprees-in-the-hospice-industry/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=232052985&hsenc=p2ANqtz-921xHTRLIHHEVmLHG-D1BVRmxNZSUHNxHwQ6tcCcmNCGSjCYmFeYluW8oWZGxnxevWCypA8FU1poJFSuE8BrRFbMUqNQ&utm_content=232052985&utm_source=hs_email
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Mandates Providers Collect Telehealth Usage In Home Health - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-mandates-providers-collect-telehealth-usage-home-health>