

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 15, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 11 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 2:15 p.m. the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Antongiorgi-Jordan nomination.
 - Nominations:
 - Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan to be U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to take final votes on several bills under suspension of the rules.
 - Bills:
 - S 3369 — Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act
 - S 4359 — Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act
 - HR 5721 — VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research (VIPER) Act
 - HR 7299 — A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.
 - HR 7277 — Improving Oversight of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act
 - HR 2250 — Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act
 - HR 3630 — Lymphedema Treatment Act
 - HR 4275 — Ensuring Phone and Internet Access for SNAP Recipients Act
 - HR 6290 — Manufacturing.gov Act
 - HR 5502 — A bill to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third-party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third-party sellers.
 - S 533 — Guidance Clarity Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items

- Axios: Get ready for a drug importation revival - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/15/congress-drug-importation-revival>
- Kaiser Health News: Medicare Plan Finder Likely Won't Note New \$35 Cap on Out-of-Pocket Insulin Costs - <https://khn.org/news/article/medicare-plan-finder-insulin-costs/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Washington Post: Decades of neglect in nursing homes spur Biden plan for staff mandates - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/11/15/nursing-home-staff-neglect/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Five-Star shifts have added pressure to staffing urgency — it's time for a new approach - <https://www.mcknights.com/marketplace/marketplace-experts/five-star-shifts-have-added-pressure-to-staffing-urgency-its-time-for-a-new-approach/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - CBS News: Investigation finds failures in organ transplant system: "17 to 20 people a day die on the wait list" - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/organ-transplant-system-failures-donors-opo-patients-die-waitlist/>
 - Medical Xpress: Bias against older organ donors may be leading to smaller organ supply for transplants - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-11-bias-older-donors-smaller-transplants.html>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - American Dental Association: ADA supports eliminating waiting, lockout periods for dental care in CHIP - <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/november/ada-supports-eliminating-waiting-and-lockout-periods-for-dental-care-in-chip>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Medical Association: Bipartisan support in Congress for extending 5% APM incentives - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/payment-delivery-models/bipartisan-support-congress-extending-5-apm-incentives>

- Bloomberg: Biden Extends Covid Public Health Emergency While States Move On - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLCUB9DWX2PW>
- The Hill (Opinion): Medicare cuts to physicians threaten patient access and physicians' stability - <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3734847-medicare-cuts-to-physicians-threaten-patient-access-and-physicians-stability/>
- Inside Health Policy: Dems Eye Medicaid Priorities For Year-End Package; Offset Plan Unclear - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/dems-eye-medicaid-priorities-year-end-package-offset-plan-unclear>
- Fierce Healthcare: Hospital groups tell lawmakers looming Medicare cuts 'not sustainable' as officials come back - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hospital-groups-tell-lawmakers-looming-medicare-cuts-not-sustainable-officials-come-back>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Unpacking the No Surprises Act, Its Impact on Emergency Medicine - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/unpacking-the-no-surprises-act-its-impact-on-emergency-medicine>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: What the Eventual End of the Public Health Emergency Will Mean For Nursing Home Operators - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/what-the-eventual-end-of-the-public-health-emergency-will-mean-for-nursing-home-operators/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2f547f0164&mc_cid=2f547f0164&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Skilled Nursing News: More Than 2,400 Nursing Homes Reach Top US News Ratings - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/more-than-2400-nursing-homes-reach-top-us-news-ratings/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2f547f0164&mc_cid=2f547f0164&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Home Health Care News: CMS Care Compare To Offer More New Information On Home Health-Physician Relationships - <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/11/cms-care-compare-to-offer-more-new-information-on-home-health-physician-relationships/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: More states moving to add extra layers of nursing home scrutiny - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/more-states-moving-to-add-extra-layers-of-nursing-home-scrutiny/>

- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news
 - Modern Healthcare: Advocate Aurora-Atrium deal advances after key Illinois decision - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/advocate-aurora-atrimum-merger-approved-illinois-board?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221114&utm_content=article-3-headline
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: AMA Seeks Permanent Telehealth Reform; Digital Equity, Interoperability - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/ama-seeks-permanent-telehealth-reform-digital-equity-interoperability>
 - MedCity News: 3 Tensions to Telehealth and How We Can Resolve Them - https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/3-tensions-to-telehealth-and-how-we-can-resolve-them/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=233947009&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9i9xfCIOx9b6Keydsnuk4S2zuhKHxDI5BqP7vXW6ztla4w_har9NO6o3OPWzJFzxsYbYQeELcMS6zG8-xO1uKd9pyvA&utm_content=233947009&utm_source=hs_email
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Washington Post: With election unsettled, Congress braces for new spending showdowns - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2022/11/14/congress-lame-duck-spending-debt/>
 - Bloomberg: Senate Health Panel to Focus on Pandemic Prep Under Democrats - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLCCAvt1UM1M>
 - Bloomberg: Schumer Says Congress Should Deal With Debt Ceiling This Year - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLCRZST0G1KW>
- ARPA-H news
 - Inside Health Policy: Researchers Eye ARPA-H To Fund, Advance Human Phenome Project - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/researchers-eye-arpa-h-fund-advance-human-phenome-project>

