

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 16, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 1:45 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to proceed to the Respect for Marriage Act (HR 8404). At 3:15 The Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill.
 - Bills:
 - HR 8404 — Respect for Marriage Act

- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (S 4524) that would prohibit nondisclosure and non-disparagement agreements involving sexual assault or harassment from being enforced in federal or state courts. The chamber will also take final votes on several bills under suspension of the rules.
 - Bills:
 - S 4524 — Speak Out Act
 - 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
 - Office of Representative Brett Guthrie (Press Release): Guthrie, Eshoo, Griffith, Peters, Burgess, Matsui Introduce Bill To Help Patients More Quickly Access FDA-Approved Medical Innovation - <https://guthrie.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=387833>
 - Alliance for Aging Research: Proposed 'Flat Copayment Policy' Will Save Medicare Part D Beneficiaries Money at the Pharmacy Counter - <https://www.agingresearch.org/news/proposed-flat-copayment-policy-will-save-medicare-part-d-beneficiaries-money-at-the-pharmacy-counter/>
 - Politico: Wyden eyes ways to cut consumer health costs in 2023 - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/11/sen-wyden-eyes-ways-to-cut-consumer-health-costs-in-2023-00067075?source=email>
 - Fierce Healthcare: AHA: Drugmaker 340B restrictions are harming safety net hospitals financially - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/aha-drug-maker-340b-restrictions-are-harming-safety-net-hospitals-financially>
- Nurse staffing
 - CBS News: Nurse shortage leads to burnout, low morale. What can be done? - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nurse-shortage-labor-shortage-travel-nurse-solutions/>
 - Home Health Care News: Why Making Nurses Part Of Decision-Making Processes Could Help Fill Workforce Gaps - <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/11/why-making-nurses-part-of-decision-making-processes-could-help-fill-workforce-gaps/>
 - McKnight's Senior Living: Legislation to address nursing home workforce shortages finds new supporter - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/legislation-to-address-nursing-home-workforce-shortages-finds-new-supporter/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items

- American Dental Association: CMS establishes new payment code for dental surgeries performed in hospital ORs - <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/november/cms-establishes-new-payment-code-for-dental-surgeries-performed-in-hospital-ors>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Axios: Hospitals seek more aid to house patients they can't discharge - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/16/hospitals-seek-more-aid-to-house-patients-they-cant-discharge>
 - Healthcare Dive: Medical group asks Congress to offset Medicare payment cuts - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/MGMA-Medicare-payment-cuts-Congress/636553/>
 - Medical Economics: Explaining the impending Medicare payment cuts - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/explaining-the-impending-medicare-payment-cuts>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Physician cuts will create 'immediate financial instability': 4 thoughts on physician pay - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/physician-cuts-will-create-immediate-financial-instability-4-thoughts-on-physician-pay.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 3 factors boosting physicians' willingness to adopt value-based care - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/3-factors-boosting-physicians-willingness-to-adopt-value-based-care.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: AMA calls for federally maintained Medicare Advantage provider directory - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/ama-calls-for-federally-maintained-medicare-advantage-provider-directory.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Why payers are holding back on dual special needs plans - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/why-payers-are-holding-back-on-dual-special-needs-plans-2.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: Why Nursing Home Primary Care and Risk-Based Strategies Must Go Hand in Hand - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/why-nursing-home-primary-care-and-risk-based-strategies-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

- Health equity-related items
 - Becker's Hospital Review: CMS wants to improve health equity data: 4 things to know - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/cms-wants-to-improve-health-equity-data-4-things-to-know.html>
- Hospital merger news
 - Axios: Health care headwinds chill PE-led dealmaking - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/15/health-care-headwinds-chill-pe-led-dealmaking>
 - Modern Healthcare: Sanford, Fairview agree to \$14B merger - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/sanford-health-fairview-health-merge-14b-deal>
- Telehealth news
 - No new items
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Bloomberg: Maternal Health Backers Seek to Add Bill to Year-End Package - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLETFRDWX2PS>
 - The Hill (Opinion): How the 'red ripple' could impact health policy in 2023 and beyond - <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/3734558-how-the-red-ripple-could-impact-health-policy-in-2023-and-beyond/>