

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 2, 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
 - The Center for Biosimilars: AAM Report: Biosimilars, Generics Generated Billions of Dollars in Savings in 2021 - <https://www.centerforbiosimilars.com/view/aam-report-biosimilars-generics-generated-billions-of-dollars-in-savings-in-2021>
 - MedCity News: Why are Healthcare Costs So High? Blame the Middlemen - https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/cvs-pharmacy-cigna-unitedhealth-pharmacy-benefit-manager-drug-prices/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=232216230&hsenc=p2ANqtz-ourANeN05WQU7kQcMSSabYvuRu4SbvrQ-tth_9F2dG_KEp0Nf14ld7pUzflnA3iiG-Vr_FQ7kr38xkHExdpLvRTBvrg&utm_content=232216230&utm_source=hs_email
 - Inside Health Policy: Medicare Cuts Pay 3.09% For Non-Drug Outpatient Services To Cover 340B Costs - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/medicare-cuts-pay-309-non-drug-outpatient-services-cover-340b-costs>
- Nurse staffing
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 'Our March 2020': Capacity crisis, labor shortages collide at children's hospitals - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/our-march-2020-capacity-crisis-labor-shortages-collide-at-children-s-hospitals.html>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - American Heart Association: Hearts from COVID-19-positive donors appear safe for transplant - <https://www.heart.org/en/news/2022/11/01/hearts-from-covid-19-positive-donors-appear-safe-for-transplant>

- Health Leaders: AdventHealth Criticizes Organ Transplant System - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/clinical-care/adventhealth-criticizes-organ-transplant-system>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - Skilled Nursing News: How Therapy Providers Can Drive SNF Upside and Optimize Reimbursement - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/how-therapy-providers-can-drive-snf-upside-and-optimize-reimbursement/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b08238c2e9&mc_cid=b08238c2e9&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Surging Hospital Prices Put Firms on Edge - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKPTZFT0G1L1>
 - Bloomberg: Hospitals, Surgery Centers Get Payment Bump Under Medicare Plan - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKOV4KDWLU68>
 - Bloomberg: Doctors Face Nearly 4.5% Cut in Medicare Reimbursements in 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKOUG6T0G1KX>
 - Axios: The next health care wars are about costs - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/02/health-care-costs-congress-insurance-politics>
 - Inside Health Policy: Hospital Outpatient Services Get 3.8% Bump; AHA Says It's Not Enough - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hospital-outpatient-services-get-38-bump-aha-says-it%E2%80%99s-not-enough>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Increases 2023 Cuts In Final Physician Fee Rule - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-increases-2023-cuts-final-physician-fee-rule>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Finalizes Medicare Behavioral Health Reimbursement Reforms - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/cms-finalizes-medicare-behavioral-health-reimbursement-reforms>

- Modern Healthcare: CMS makes big changes to Medicare Shared Savings Program - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/medicare/cms-updates-medicare-shared-savings-program-encourage-acos>
- Modern Healthcare: Hospital outpatient providers to see \$6.5B Medicare pay bump - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/policy/hospital-outpatient-providers-see-65b-medicare-pay-bump?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221101&utm_content=article3-headline
- Modern Healthcare: Insurer price transparency effort hamstrung by flawed data - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/insurer-price-transparency-data-vex-developers?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221101&utm_content=article2-headline
- Modern Healthcare: Health insurance markets lack competition, AMA reports - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/health-insurance-markets-lack-competition-ama-reports?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221101&utm_content=article5-headline
- RevCycleIntelligence: OPPI, ASC Final Rule Boosts Medicare Reimbursement by 3.8% - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/oppi-asc-final-rule-boosts-medicare-reimbursement-by-3.8>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - McKnights Senior Living: CMS promises ‘critical’ look at nursing home ownership data - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/cms-promises-critical-look-at-nursing-home-ownership-data/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Tweaks to assisted living regs highlighted in state programs that link housing and LTSS - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/tweaks-to-assisted-living-regs-highlighted-in-state-programs-that-link-housing-and-ltss/>
- Health equity-related items
 - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): HHS Continues Biden-Harris Administration Progress in Promoting Health Equity in Rural Care Access Through Outpatient Hospital and Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/11/01/hhs-continues-biden-harris-administration-progress-in-promoting-health-equity-in-rural-care-access.html>

- Kaiser Family Foundation: Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health: Current Status and Efforts to Address Them - <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-maternal-and-infant-health-current-status-and-efforts-to-address-them/>
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Creates Patchwork Of Telehealth Coverage In 2023 PFS - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/cms-creates-patchwork-telehealth-coverage-2023-pfs>