

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 22, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - The Center For Biosimilars: Senator Introduces Bill to Rid Switching Study Requirements for Interchangeability - <https://www.centerforbiosimilars.com/view/senator-introduces-bill-to-rid-switching-study-requirements-for-interchangeability>
 - Reuters: Generic drugmakers Teva and Sandoz make major push to biosimilars - <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/generic-drugmakers-teva-sandoz-make-major-push-biosimilars-2022-11-22/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Inflation Reduction Act will restrict oncology drug development, Bristol-Myers Squibb CEO says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/inflation-reduction-act-will-restrict-oncology-drug-development-bristol-myers-squibb-ceo-says.html>
 - Fierce Healthcare: 4 ways Medicaid could manage high-price drugs - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/how-medicaid-can-avoid-covering-high-priced-drugs-unproven-efficacy>
- Nurse staffing
 - Newsweek: The Great Resignation Hits Healthcare: Actions To Take - <https://www.newsweek.com/great-resignation-hits-healthcare-actions-take-1761064>
 - Axios: NC nurses are burning out an 'unsustainable' rate, survey shows - <https://www.axios.com/local/raleigh/2022/11/22/north-carolina-nurses-burnt-out-survey>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Is LTC fighting a nursing quantity problem or a quality problem? - <https://www.mcknights.com/resources/newsmakers-podcasts/is-ltc-fighting-a-nursing-quantity-problem-or-a-quality-problem/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items

- Still looking for House Oversight report
- RevCycleIntelligence: Researchers Leverage AI to Support Kidney Transplant Process - <https://healthitanalytics.com/news/researchers-leverage-ai-to-support-kidney-transplant-process>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - American Physical Therapy Association (Press Release): Fee Schedule Cuts: A Call to Action from APTA President Roger Herr, PT MPA - <https://www.apta.org/article/2022/11/21/call-to-action-from-apta-president>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - MedCity News: No Surprises Act Leads to Thousands More Disputes and Delays than Gov't Expected - https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/no-surprises-act-leads-to-thousands-more-disputes-and-delays-than-govt-expected/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=234956394&hsenc=p2ANqtz--2X4D-L_D5yY9xtA1Yd6TWKdtICX7jZTmcMOE3bidAsGoTckSvllvWrrB0JhQKbpSLzCS7Uv0l6KU0OroaqXEaxDHhw&utm_content=234956394&utm_source=hs_email
 - MedCity News: Why Value-based Care Needs To Be the Standard for Behavioral Health - https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/why-value-based-care-needs-to-be-the-standard-for-behavioral-health/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=234956394&hsenc=p2ANqtz--MPe2LUqGdJ-X2LS0SpE2PeGMj0U3Fj3_cTqg7KHH8ra9D1EGOocj7QMN0BT0cF7QwWZV3ZVxF0tR3efiVZBXNkCk1eA&utm_content=234956394&utm_source=hs_email
 - Healio: AAOS issues letter to Congress on scheduled 2023 Medicare physician payment cuts - <https://www.healio.com/news/orthopedics/20221121/aaos-issues-letter-to-congress-on-scheduled-2023-medicare-physician-payment-cuts>
 - Inside Health Policy: PAYGO, Physician Fee Relief Expected, But Year-End Bill Still In Flux - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/paygo-physician-fee-relief-expected-year-end-bill-still-flux>
 - Modern Healthcare: Health systems see increasing claim denials as payer 'delay tactic' - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/insurance-claim-denial-rates-rising-health-systems-struggle?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am

[tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221121&utm_content=article-1-headline](#)

- Modern Healthcare: Health systems bet on hospital-at-home - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/technology/hospital-home-expansion-ignites-quality-concerns>
- Becker's Hospital Review: The future of hospital-at-home amid Medicaid uncertainty - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/innovation/the-future-of-hospital-at-home-amid-medicaid-uncertainty.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (Press Release): HHS Watchdog Explores Widespread Use Of Psychotropic Drugs In Nursing Homes - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/hhs-watchdog-explores-widespread-use-of-psychotropic-drugs-in-nursing-homes>
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news
 - Bloomberg: US to Appeal Loss in UnitedHealth-Change Merger Challenge - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLKDIXT0AFB4>
 - Fierce Healthcare: Wisconsin's Bellin Health, Gundersen Health System to close 11-hospital merger Nov. 30 - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/wisconsins-bellin-health-gundersen-health-system-close-11-hospital-merger-nov-30>
- Telehealth news
 - Bloomberg: Telehealth Scores States' Backing Despite Concerns on Abuses - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLQVO6T0G1KW>
 - Stat News: 'Digital health is late to the party': Can telehealth help hospitals mitigate their carbon footprints? - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/11/22/telehealth-hospitals-carbon-emissions-climate/>
 - Healio: Telehealth postop visits beneficial for surgeons, patients - <https://www.healio.com/news/ophthalmology/20221121/telehealth-postop-visits-beneficial-for-surgeons-patients>

- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Inside Health Policy: CBO Estimates W&M Mental Health Provisions Cost \$1.8 Billion - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cbo-estimates-wm-mental-health-provisions-cost-18-billion>

- ALS news
 - ALS News Today (Press Release): Support Urged for 'Justice for ALS Veterans Act' Sitting in US Congress - <https://alsnewstoday.com/news/support-urged-justice-for-als-veterans-act-sitting-congress/>