HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 4, 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

- Nurse staffing
- **Becker’s Hospital Review:** Nursing home groups request public health emergency extension - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/nursing-home-groups-request-public-health-emergency-extension.html

- **Organ donation and transplantation items**
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - No new items

- **Vison/dental care in Medicare-related items**
  - **Medicare Rights Center:** Biden-Harris Administration Broadens Medicare Coverage of Medically Necessary Dental Care - https://www.medicarerights.org/medicare-watch/2022/11/03/biden-harris-administration-broaden-medicare-coverage-of-medically-necessary-dental-care

- **Physical rehabilitation**
  - No new items

- **Hospital and physician payment-related items**
  - **Medical Economics:** Lawmakers urge extension of incentives for joining APMs - https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/lawmakers-urge-extension-of-incentives-for-joining-apms
  - **Becker’s Hospital Review:** CMS’ 3.8% pay bump for hospital outpatient services is 'insufficient' given cost pressures, AHA says - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/cms-3-8-pay-bump-for-hospital-outpatient-services-is-insufficient-given-cost-pressures-aha-says.html
  - **Becker’s Hospital Review:** Half of hospitals spend 1.4% or less of operating expenses on charity care - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/half-of-hospitals-spend-1-4-or-less-of-operating-expenses-on-charity-care.html
- Becker’s Hospital Review: Health systems suffer while payer profits soar - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/health-systems-suffer-while-payer PROFITS soaring.html


- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items

- Health equity-related items
  - Health Affairs: Integrating Medicare and Medicaid Data to Improve Care Quality and Advance Health Equity Among Dual-Eligible Beneficiaries - https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hpb20221011.325614/

- Hospital merger news
  - Chief Healthcare Executive: Carle Health reaches deal with UnityPoint Health to take over 3 hospitals - https://www.chiefhealthcareexecutive.com/view/carle-health-reaches-deal-to-acquire-3-hospitals-from-unitypoint-health

- Telehealth news