

## 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
  - House Committee on Oversight and Reform (Press Release): Chairwoman Maloney Releases New Data Analysis Showing How the Inflation Reduction Act Will Make Prescription Drugs and Health Insurance More Affordable for Millions of Americans - <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/chairwoman-maloney-releases-new-data-analysis-showing-how-the-inflation>
  - Office of Senator Bill Cassidy (Press Release): Cassidy Discusses Healthcare Policy with Doctors in Shreveport - <https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cassidy-discusses-healthcare-policy-with-doctors-in-shreveport>
  - Wall Street Journal (Opinion): The Inflation Reduction Act Is Already Killing Potential Cures - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-inflation-reduction-act-killing-potential-cures-pharmaceutical-companies-treatment-patients-drugs-prescriptions-ira-manufacturers-11667508291>
  - Axios: Biden administration approves increase to safety-net drug payments - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/02/cms-medicare-discount-drug-payment>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: CMS sets court-ordered 340B drug payments, but leaves back payment issues unresolved - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/cms-sets-court-ordered-340b-drug-payments-but-leaves-back-payment-issues-unresolved.html>
  - Fierce Healthcare: To bolster IRA, lawmakers call for new action to scrutinize cancer drug launch prices - <https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/fix-ira-loop-hole-lawmaker-calls-new-action-scrutinize-cancer-drugs-launch-prices>
- Nurse staffing
  - Health Leaders: CMS' Temporary Nurse Aide Waiver Has Expired: What Happens Now - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/cms-temporary-nurse-aide-waiver-has-expired-what-happens-now>

- 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
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - Medicare Rights Center: Biden-Harris Administration Broadens Medicare Coverage of Medically Necessary Dental Care - <https://www.medicarights.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
  - American Medical Association: Senators sound alarm on need to stop Medicare physician pay cuts - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/senators-sound-alarm-need-stop-medicare-physician-pay-cuts>
  - 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: 'The house always wins': Insurers' record profits clash with hospitals' hardship - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/the-house-always-wins-health-systems-face-worst-finances-in-decades-as-payers-rake-in-record-profits.html>

- Becker's Hospital Review: Health systems suffer while payer profits soar - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/health-systems-suffer-while-payer-profits-soar.html>
- RevCycleIntelligence: CMS Settles on Physician Fee Schedule Conversion Factor Cut of \$1.55 - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/cms-settles-on-physician-fee-schedule-conversion-factor-cut-of-1.55>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Bipartisan Letter Requests Extended Value-Based Payment Incentives - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/bipartisan-letter-requests-extended-value-based-payment-incentives>
- Fierce Healthcare: Doctor groups turn up heat on Congress to halt 2023 pay cuts after final CMS rule - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/doctor-groups-turn-heat-congress-halt-2023-pay-cuts-after-final-cms-rule>
- 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/doi/10.1377/hpb20221011.325614/>
  - MedCity News: Homecare & Health Equity: The Rx for Reaching Underserved Populations - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/homecare-health-equity-the-rx-for-reaching-underserved-populations/>
- 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>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: 12 hospital and health system mergers and acquisitions updates from October - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-transactions-and-valuation/12-hospital-and-health-system-mergers-and-acquisitions-updates-from-october.html>
- Telehealth news

- The Hill: Congressional report finds health care sector 'uniquely vulnerable' to cyber attacks - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3718243-congressional-report-finds-health-care-sector-uniquely-vulnerable-to-cyber-attacks/>
- mHealth Intelligence: Telehealth Patient Satisfaction On Par with In-Person Care During Pandemic - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/telehealth-patient-satisfaction-on-par-with-in-person-care-during-pandemic>