

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 8, 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
 - Washington Post: Over 1 million Americans with diabetes rationed insulin in past year - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2022/11/08/diabetes-insulin-rationing/>
 - Bloomberg: Drug Price Law to Demand Close FDA Coordination With Medicare - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKZQCETOAFB4>
 - Forbes: Even If GOP Wins Majorities In House And Senate, Inflation Reduction Act's Drug Pricing Provisions Won't Be Repealed Any Time Soon (Or Ever) - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/joshuacohen/2022/11/08/even-if-gop-wins-majorities-in-house-and-senate-inflation-reduction-acts-drug-pricing-provisions-wont-be-repealed-any-time-soon-or-ever/?sh=1273f6667c1b>
- Nurse staffing
 - Forbes: 90% Of Nurses In New Survey Say Patients Suffer Due To Staffing Shortages - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/debgordon/2022/11/08/90-of-nurses-in-new-survey-say-patients-suffer-due-to-staffing-shortages/?sh=1a2b144b7b9b>
 - EurekAlert!: Crowded emergency departments may affect patients throughout the hospital - <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/970460>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - The Hill: How a little box is preserving hearts and saving lives - <https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/medical-advances/3722097-how-a-little-box-is-preserving-hearts-and-saving-lives/>
 - Healio: High MELD score not linked to worse survival for living donor liver transplant recipients -

<https://www.healio.com/news/gastroenterology/20221107/high-meld-score-not-linked-to-worse-survival-for-living-donor-liver-transplant-recipients>

- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - American Dental Association (Press Release): CMS expands Medicare to cover medically necessary conditions requiring dental services - <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/november/cms-expands-medicare-to-cover-medically-necessary-conditions-requiring-dental-services>

- Physical rehabilitation
 - American Physical Therapy Association: Final 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: What You Need to Know, Part 2 - <https://www.apta.org/article/2022/11/07/2023-pfs-part-2>

- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: Hawaii Doctor Defeats Agency's Bid to Claw Back Medicaid Pay - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RKZFYDDWLU6A>

 - Axios: Medicare eyes changes to pay for specialty care - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/08/medicare-changes-pay-for-specialty-care>

 - Health Affairs: Medicare's Bundled Payments For Care Improvement Advanced Model: Impact On High-Risk Beneficiaries - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00138?journalCode=hlthaff>

 - Inside Health Policy: MedPAC Weighs Options For Standardizing MA Supplemental Benefits - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/medpac-weighs-options-standardizing-ma-supplemental-benefits>

 - Inside Health Policy: MedPAC Mulls Future Medicare Coverage Of Social Determinants - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/medpac-mulls-future-medicare-coverage-social-determinants>

 - Becker's Hospital Review: Medicare bundled payments did not negatively impact patient selection, outcomes, study finds - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/medicare-bundled-payments-did-not-negatively-impact-patient-selection-outcomes-study-finds.html>

 - Fierce Healthcare: CMMI aims to bolster primary, specialty care coordination via new payment models - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/cmmi-aims-bolster-primary-specialty-care-coordination-new-payment-models>

- RevCycleIntelligence: KFF: Varying Hospital Charity Care Policies Influence Spending - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/kff-varying-hospital-charity-care-policies-influence-spending>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items
- Health equity-related items
 - Inside Health Policy: Becerra: Regs Will Push Culturally, Linguistically Competent Health Care - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/becerra-regs-will-push-culturally-linguistically-competent-health-care>
 - MedCity News: Pandemic Planning Is Incomplete Without Health Equity at Its Core - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/health-equity-latino-health/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Medicaid, Medicare hospital funding not reaching marginalized communities, study finds - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/medicaid-medicare-hospital-funding-not-reaching-marginalized-communities-study-finds.html>
- Hospital merger news
 - Modern Healthcare: Health systems increasingly seek cross-market merger partners - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/cross-market-health-system-mergers-may-drive-higher-prices-study?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221107&utm_content=article-3-headline
 - Fierce Healthcare: Cross-market hospital consolidation is on the rise and understudied, researchers say - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/cross-market-hospital-consolidation-rise-and-understudied-researchers-say>
- Telehealth news
 - Health Affairs: Use Of And Willingness To Use Video Telehealth Through The COVID-19 Pandemic - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00118>
 - MedPage Today: Telehealth Training May Address Shortages for Pediatric Mental Health Services - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/neicongress/101618>

- Fierce Healthcare: Patients now more comfortable with telehealth thanks to pandemic-driven surge in virtual care: study - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/telehealth/rand-longitudinal-telehealth-survey-showed-through-covid-interest-tech-increased-use>