

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 1, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jerry W. Blackwell to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Minnesota. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motions to invoke cloture on Blackwell nomination and the nomination of Doris L. Pryor to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit. Additional votes are expected, but not yet scheduled.
 - Nominations:
 - Jerry W. Blackwell to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Minnesota.
 - Doris L. Pryor to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit.
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 3372) that would establish a grant program to create community reentry centers after individuals are released from prison and a bill (HR 6878) that would require appropriate services and programs are provided for incarcerated women in federal prison.
 - Bills:
 - HR 6878 — Protecting the Health and Wellness of Babies and Pregnant Women Act
 - HR 3372 — One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - American Hospital Association: HRSA Proposes Revised 340B Administrative Dispute Resolution Process - <https://www.aha.org/special-bulletin/2022-11-30-hrsa-proposes-revised-340b-administrative-dispute-resolution-process>
 - Bloomberg: Speeding Up FDA's Product Reviews: User Fee Changes Explained - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM7JMJDWX2PS>
 - Bloomberg: Drug Price Lawsuit Dropped Following HHS Plan for Review Boards - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM6LGYT0AFB5>

- Inside Health Policy: HHS Proposed Rule Touts Less ‘Trial-Like’ Process For 340B Disputes - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hhs-proposed-rule-touts-less-%E2%80%99trial-%E2%80%99-process-340b-disputes>
- Becker’s Hospital Review: HHS proposes 5 fixes to 340B dispute rules - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/hhs-proposes-5-fixes-to-340b-dispute-rules.html>
- Fierce Healthcare: New bill aims to reform CMS' drug coverage authority after controversial Aduhelm decision - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/new-bill-aims-reform-cms-drug-coverage-authority-after-controversial-aduhelm-decision>
- Nurse staffing
 - MedCity News: To Fix Burnout, Providers Must Think Beyond Monetary Rewards - https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/to-fix-burnout-providers-must-think-beyond-monetary-rewards/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=236230777&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-x58_ezT8azC_Cy1fLYTQA1mONUrPZxKOUqF9Fqk0rIci2bPQuV3lp2EOjMH7JzHMOeOZ2ddegtcVVQFbln6XHBPPnMQ&utm_content=236230777&utm_source=hs_email
 - Fierce Healthcare: October's labor woes drive higher costs, worsened margins for hospitals: Kaufman Hall - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/octobers-labor-woes-drive-higher-costs-fewer-discharges-worsened-margins-hospitals>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items

- Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen (Press Release): Van Hollen, Murphy Reintroduce Legislation To Protect Consumers From Medical Debt - <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/news/press-releases/van-hollen-murphy-reintroduce-legislation-to-protect-consumers-from-medical-debt>
- Kaiser Family Foundation: Potential Effects of the Proposed Medicaid Eligibility Rule for Newly Enrolled Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees - <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/potential-effects-of-the-proposed-medicaid-eligibility-rule-for-newly-enrolled-medicare-medicaid-enrollees/>
- Politico: With time running out, a deal on provider cuts remains elusive - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/11/with-time-running-out-a-deal-on-provider-cuts-remains-elusive-00071490?source=email>
- Axios: Hospital care at home faces possible sunset - <https://www.axios.com/2022/12/01/hospital-care-home-possible-sunset>
- Stat News (Opinion): The U.S. doesn't need a new 'essential hospital' designation - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/01/new-essential-hospital-designation-isnt-needed/>
- Inside Health Policy: White House Slams Thune For Advocating Medicare Cuts - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/white-house-slams-thune-advocating-medicare-cuts>
- Modern Healthcare: Hospitals expected to end year in the red, Kaufman Hall reports - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/hospitals-expected-end-2022-negative-margins?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221130&utm_content=article-3-headline
- Becker's Hospital Review: Texas Medical Association files 3rd lawsuit challenging No Surprises Act - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/texas-medical-association-files-3rd-lawsuit-challenging-no-surprises-act.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Rising utilization rates may spell trouble for payers - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/rising-utilization-rates-spell-trouble-for-payers.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: AHA urges Congress to act on PAYGO sequester cuts, prevent \$38B Medicare blow - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/aha-urges-congress-to-act-on-paygo-sequester-cuts-prevent-38b-medicare-blow.html>

- RevCycleIntelligence: Inflation Driving Financial Challenges for Consumers, Health Systems - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/inflation-driving-financial-challenges-for-consumers-health-systems>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: Biden Nursing Home Agenda Progresses as Industry Prepares for 2023 - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/biden-nursing-home-agenda-progresses-as-industry-prepares-for-2023/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=99eefb1ce5&mc_cid=99eefb1ce5&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- Health equity-related items
 - The Hill: Achieving health equity to end the HIV epidemic: An important step Congress can take - <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3756442-achieving-health-equity-to-end-the-hiv-epidemic-an-important-step-congress-can-take/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: Industry Voices—Ageism through the lens of healthcare disparities - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/industry-voices-ageism-through-lens-healthcare-disparities>
- Hospital merger news
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 10 hospital and health system merger and acquisition updates from November - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-transactions-and-valuation/10-hospital-and-health-system-merger-and-acquisition-updates-from-november.html>
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: AARP Lobbying For Telehealth Extension In Year-End Bill - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/aarp-lobbying-telehealth-extension-year-end-bill>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: 82% of Americans Want Telehealth Flexibilities Extended - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/82-of-americans-want-telehealth-flexibilities-extended>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Bloomberg: Mental Health Crisis Spurs Key Senators' Push for Year-End Bills - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM6GGDDWX2Q0>

- Bloomberg: White House Knocks Thune Bid to Tie Debt Limit, Entitlements - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM687JT0AFB4>
- Inside Health Policy: Friends Of Cancer Research, ACS CAN Urge Congress To Pass VALID - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/friends-cancer-research-acscan-urge-congress-pass-valid>
- ALS news
 - EurekaAlert!: With high costs and similar benefits, use of new neurology drugs is low - <https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/972625>