HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 15, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks and per a unanimous consent agreement, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Musetta Tia Johnson to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. At noon, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Johnson nomination. Additional votes are expected.
  - Nominations:
    - Musetta Tia Johnson to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.
- The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 1948) that would remove certain restrictions on VA clinicians' ability to negotiate collective bargaining agreements.
  - HR 1948 — VA Employee Fairness Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - RealClearHealth: Five Reasons for Congress to Protect the 340B Program - [https://www.realclearhealth.com/articles/2022/12/14/five_reasons_for_congress_to_protect_the_340b_program_111439.html](https://www.realclearhealth.com/articles/2022/12/14/five_reasons_for_congress_to_protect_the_340b_program_111439.html)

- **Managed Healthcare Executive**: Beyond the Big Three PBMs - [https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/beyond-the-big-three-pbms](https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/beyond-the-big-three-pbms)

- **Becker’s Hospital Review**: How Medicare drug pricing changes could affect commercial plans: 3 things to know - [https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/how-medicare-drug-pricing-changes-could-affect-commercial-plans-3-things-to-know.html](https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/how-medicare-drug-pricing-changes-could-affect-commercial-plans-3-things-to-know.html)

- Nurse staffing


  - **Skilled Nursing News**: ‘Proof is There’: Successful Skilled Nursing Staffing Initiatives By the Numbers - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/proof-is-there-successful-skilled-nursing-staffing-initiatives-by-the-numbers/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=449adb2bb0&mc_cid=449adb2bb0&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/proof-is-there-successful-skilled-nursing-staffing-initiatives-by-the-numbers/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=449adb2bb0&mc_cid=449adb2bb0&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)


- Organ donation and transplantation items

  - Still looking for House Oversight report

  - No new items
• Vison/dental care in Medicare-related items
  o No new items

• Physical rehabilitation
  o No new items

• Hospital and physician payment-related items
  o Axios: Out-of-pocket health costs spiked in 2021 -
    https://www.axios.com/2022/12/15/health-spending-2021-insurance-cms
  
  o Healthcare Dive: CMS estimates 41.5M people affected by innovation center
    models since late 2020 - https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/CMS-
    innovation-models-congress-report/638631/
  
  o Inside Health Policy: CMS Issues Second Set Of Prior Auth Reforms In New
    Proposed Rule - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-issues-second-
    set-prior-auth-reforms-new-proposed-rule?utm_medium=mh
  
  o Medical Economics: Bill introduced to avoid 5% cuts to APM incentives for value-
    based care - https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/bill-introduced-to-avoid-
    5-cuts-to-apm-incentives-for-value-based-care
  
  o Becker’s Hospital Review: Healthcare prices drop for 5th month straight: 5 things
    to know - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/healthcare-prices-
    drop-for-5th-month-straight-5-things-to-know.html
  
  o Becker’s Hospital Review: Senators introduce legislation to extend incentive
    payments: 4 things to know - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/senators-
    introduce-legislation-to-exmtend-incentive-payments-4-things-to-know.html
  
  o Modern Healthcare: Healthcare spending growth slowed in 2021 as COVID
    funding waned - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/healthcare-
    spending-growth-slowed-2021-covid-funding?utm_source=modern-healthcare-
    am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221214&utm_content=article
    1-headline
  
  o Fierce Healthcare: Last-minute Senate bill seeks to extend value-based care doc
    bonus for another 2 years - https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/last-
    minute-senate-bill-seeks-extend-value-based-care-doc-bonus-another-two-years

- Nursing home quality initiative


  - **Skilled Nursing News:** Spending on Nursing Care Facility, CCRC Services Dropped 8% Nationally in 2021 - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/spending-on-nursing-care-facility-ccrc-services-dropped-8-nationally-in-2021/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=sn newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=449adb2bb0&mc_cid=449adb2bb0&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/spending-on-nursing-care-facility-ccrc-services-dropped-8-nationally-in-2021/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=sn newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=449adb2bb0&mc_cid=449adb2bb0&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)

- Health equity-related items

  - **MedCity News:** Health Equity and the Push to Value-Based Care - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/health-equity-and-the-push-to-value-based-care/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hsmi=238065985&_hsenc=p2ANqtz__D87IRh9YzHoSDEdz6b_Omt8gCWm65LPNh8YqNrDGN_7qHMjpf_55sXrjSgBMFLZmGiWHc6fGgAr1fZHbVifQ1WRpu6g&utm_content=238065985&utm_source=hs_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/health-equity-and-the-push-to-value-based-care/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hsmi=238065985&_hsenc=p2ANqtz__D87IRh9YzHoSDEdz6b_Omt8gCWm65LPNh8YqNrDGN_7qHMjpf_55sXrjSgBMFLZmGiWHc6fGgAr1fZHbVifQ1WRpu6g&utm_content=238065985&utm_source=hs_email)


- Hospital merger news

  - **No new items**

- Telehealth news


• 118th Congress and lame-duck news

• ALS news
  o Biopharma Dive: For ALS patients, doctors, a new medicine reignites concerns about healthcare access - https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/als-relyvrio-amylyx-drug-access-insurance/638668/