

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 16, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - American Hospital Association (Press Release): CMS issues proposed rule for 2024 Medicare Advantage, prescription drug plans -  
<https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-12-15-cms-issues-proposed-rule-2024-medicare-advantage-prescription-drug-plans>
  - New York Times: Can a Federally Funded 'Netflix Model' Fix the Broken Market for Antibiotics? -  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/16/health/congress-antibiotics-drug-resistance.html>
  - Health Affairs: Drug Pricing Reform In The Inflation Reduction Act: What Are The Implications? Part 2 -  
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/drug-pricing-reform-inflation-reduction-act-implications-part-2>
  - Stat News: Inflation caused another big drop in net drug prices, analysis finds -  
<https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/12/15/drug-prices-inflation-pharmaceuticals-wholesale-humira-hiv-cancer/>
  - MedCity News: 2023 Likely To Be a Crucial Year for Pharma—and Insurers -  
[https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/2023-cell-gene-therapy-drug-pricing-pharma-and-insurers/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmt=238227995&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8KJ3dpgQcdyA8Za1lL2ppYUE3YvkLT9cUGKRExAKL3Tf\\_inLOdmEXFIE4z7EBjy2hXTn2nbovxsEggl5bsaKo6Kxh8IQ&utm\\_content=238227995&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/2023-cell-gene-therapy-drug-pricing-pharma-and-insurers/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=238227995&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8KJ3dpgQcdyA8Za1lL2ppYUE3YvkLT9cUGKRExAKL3Tf_inLOdmEXFIE4z7EBjy2hXTn2nbovxsEggl5bsaKo6Kxh8IQ&utm_content=238227995&utm_source=hs_email)
  - Fierce Healthcare: Activist shareholders ask 9 big pharmas to consider whether 'excessive' patenting hurts access -  
<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/stakeholder-activist-group-asks-9-big-pharmas-consider-impact-excessive-patents-patients>
- Nurse staffing
  - Axios: Non-profit hospitals' staffing woes ease -  
<https://www.axios.com/2022/12/15/non-profit-hospitals-staffing-ease>

- Skilled Nursing News: \$11.3 Billion Needed to Meet Proposed Federal Minimum Staffing Mandate - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/11-3-billion-needed-to-meet-proposed-federal-minimum-staffing-mandate/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=32771ab353&mc\\_cid=32771ab353&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/11-3-billion-needed-to-meet-proposed-federal-minimum-staffing-mandate/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=32771ab353&mc_cid=32771ab353&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- McKnights Senior Living: Healthcare wage growth appears to be moderating, data show - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/healthcare-wage-growth-appears-to-be-moderating-data-show/>
- McKnights Senior Living: Potential staff mandate costs rocket upward when latest wages factored in - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/potential-staff-mandate-costs-rocket-upward-when-latest-wages-factored-in/>
- 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 Representative Gregory Murphy (Press Release): Murphy Pressures House Leadership for Bipartisan Solutions to Impending Medicare Payment Cuts to Physicians - <https://gregmurphy.house.gov/media/press-releases/murphy-pressures-house-leadership-bipartisan-solutions-impending-medicare>
  - MedCity News: Price Transparency Compliance Is a Very Different Story for Hospitals Vs. Payers - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/price-transparency-compliance-is-a-very-different-story-for-hospitals-vs-payers/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmt=238227995&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-xl5gdfZaNRqRfGu-fq-xnFKeEYhC75RgspGiBKJGasni4I9ABuINIDiSfhAKJqC3xY2v1xVj73y7BGvPVG6wuaCNfQ&utm\\_content=238227995&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/price-transparency-compliance-is-a-very-different-story-for-hospitals-vs-payers/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=238227995&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-xl5gdfZaNRqRfGu-fq-xnFKeEYhC75RgspGiBKJGasni4I9ABuINIDiSfhAKJqC3xY2v1xVj73y7BGvPVG6wuaCNfQ&utm_content=238227995&utm_source=hs_email)
  - Inside Health Policy: Aide: Ending Medicaid MOE -- Yielding \$10-20B In Offsets -- Resurfaces In Year-End Talks - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/aide->

[ending-medicaid-moe-yielding-10-20b-offsets-resurfaces-year-end-talks?utm\\_medium=mh](#)

- Healio: CMS introduces advanced payments to expand accountable care - <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20221215/cms-introduces-advanced-payments-to-expand-accountable-care>
- Fierce Healthcare: Rural hospital closures have spillover effects for other nearby facilities, researchers warn - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/rural-hospital-closures-have-spillover-effects-other-nearby-facilities-researchers-warn>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Bipartisan Bill Calls for Extended Value-Based Payment Incentives - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/bipartisan-bill-calls-for-extended-value-based-payment-incentives>
- Medical Xpress: Critical care medicine organizations urge House leadership to stop Medicare payment cuts - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-12-critical-medicine-urge-house-leadership.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - National Law Review: Increased Federal Attention to Skilled Nursing Facility Compliance and Quality Improvement Results in Modified Program Requirements - <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/increased-federal-attention-to-skilled-nursing-facility-compliance-and-quality>
  - Skilled Nursing News: GAO: Nursing Home COVID Outbreaks Averaged 4 Weeks, For-Profits Associated with Shorter Durations - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/gao-nursing-home-covid-outbreaks-averaged-4-weeks-for-profits-associated-with-shorter-durations/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=32771ab353&mc\\_cid=32771ab353&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/gao-nursing-home-covid-outbreaks-averaged-4-weeks-for-profits-associated-with-shorter-durations/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=32771ab353&mc_cid=32771ab353&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- Health equity-related items
  - Bloomberg: Maternal Health Woes Prompting States to Turn to Doula Care - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMZC3ZT0G1KW>
- Hospital merger news
  - Becker's Hospital Review: 11 called-off hospital deals - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-transactions-and-valuation/11-called-off-hospital-deals-december-2022.html>

- RevCycleIntelligence: Experts Predict Strong Merger and Acquisition Activity for 2023 - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/experts-predict-strong-merger-and-acquisition-activity-for-2023>
- Telehealth news
  - Healthcare Dive: Telehealth visits across most specialties don't require in-person follow-up, study finds - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/telehealth-visits-in-person-follow-up-specialty-epic/638797/>
  - Inside Health Policy: Ending Medicaid MOE Resurfaces In Year-End Talks, Offering Potential Telehealth Pay-For - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/ending-medicaid-moe-resurfaces-year-end-talks-offering-potential>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Lawmakers want to 'delink' telehealth coverage from the public health emergency - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/telehealth/lawmakers-want-to-delink-telehealth-coverage-from-the-public-health-emergency.html>
  - EurekAlert!: Clinicians reluctant in providing telehealth care to older adults, national survey finds - <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/974560>
- 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and lame-duck news
  - Bloomberg: BGOV Bill Summary: Stopgap Funding Through Dec. 23 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMVN14DWX2PT>
  - MedPage Today: House Subcommittee Report Details Pandemic Failures, Lessons Learned - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/102268>
- ALS news
  - No new items