

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 19, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Martin J. Gruenberg to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. One roll call vote is expected at 5:30 p.m. Action is possible with respect to omnibus fiscal 2023 funding.
 - Nominations:
 - Martin J. Gruenberg to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
- The House is not in session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Axios: Antibiotic, drug shortages highlight America's supply chain problems — again - <https://www.axios.com/2022/12/19/antibiotic-drug-shortages-highlight-americas-supply-chain-problems-again>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Prime Therapeutics joins other PBMs in adding Humira biosimilars - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/policy-updates/prime-therapeutics-joins-other-pbms-in-adding-humira-biosimilars.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - Washington Post: Why parents are struggling to get hospital beds for kids with flu and RSV - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/12/17/pediatric-bed-shortage-tripledemic-rsv-flu-covid/>
 - Bloomberg: Hospitals Pressured on Covid Shots as Nursing Homes Fear Surge - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RN4VO4T0AFB4>
 - McKnights Senior Living: How bad are the huge pay gaps between agency and full-time staff nurses? This bad - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/how-bad-are-the-huge-pay-gaps-between-agency-and-full-time-staff-nurses-this-bad/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items

- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - Stat News (Opinion): Lawmakers should act on the evidence and expand access to dental therapists - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/19/congress-biden-administration-expand-access-dental-therapists/>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Health Affairs: Provider Groups Each Bring Third Lawsuit Challenging No Surprises Act - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/provider-groups-each-bring-third-lawsuit-challenging-no-surprises-act>
 - MedPage Today (Opinion): A Rough Road Ahead for Healthcare Providers - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/102286>
 - Healthcare Dive: Texas Medical Association heads to court again in second challenge to surprise billing ban - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/texas-medical-association-court-hearing-surprise-billing/637825/>
 - MedCity News (Opinion): Americans Are Confused With Their Medical Bills. Here's How the Healthcare Industry Can Help - https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/americans-are-confused-with-their-medical-bills-heres-how-the-healthcare-industry-can-help/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=238515797&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9pixCgSdQ-RAYOkI5fd15PI91foj8PSZyL1sipNZAzKpzmwSvV7vt40jKzr3yvnEIHMg-bl3rpSEFjjTEjhWMbYlgcxw&utm_content=238515797&utm_source=hs_email
 - Inside Health Policy: Provider Group Presses Congress To Keep Oral-Only Drugs Out Of ESRD Pay - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/provider-group-presses-congress-keep-oral-only-drugs-out-esrd-pay?utm_medium=mh
 - Becker's Hospital Review: New payer price transparency rules take effect Jan. 1 - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/policy-updates/new-payer-price-transparency-rules-take-effect-jan-1.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS Seeks to Stop Diversion of Some Medicare Advantage Patients from SNFs to Home Health - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/cms-seeks-to-stop-diversion-of-some->

[medicare-advantage-patients-from-snfs-to-home-health/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=d2e5bf7d98&mc_cid=d2e5bf7d98&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://www.snn-health.com/medicare-advantage-patients-from-snfs-to-home-health/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=d2e5bf7d98&mc_cid=d2e5bf7d98&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)

- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items
- Telehealth news
 - American Medical Association: 7 telehealth trends that physicians should know - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/7-telehealth-trends-physicians-should-know>
 - mHealthIntelligence: Telehealth Remains Key Modality for Behavioral Healthcare Delivery - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/telehealth-remains-key-modality-for-behavioral-healthcare-delivery>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - The Hill: Divided Congress may drive Biden to the power of the pen - <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/3778499-divided-congress-may-drive-biden-to-the-power-of-the-pen/>
- ALS news
 - No new items