

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 2, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider a bill (HR 8876) that would reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program.
  - Bills:
    - HR 8876 — The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Wall Street Journal (Opinion): A False Alarm on Medicare Part D Shortfalls - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/medicare-prescription-drugs-benefits-part-d-plan-revenue-inflation-reduction-11669849800>
  - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Insulin Price Cap Prospects Wane in Senate - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM9GMOT1UM0W>
  - Bloomberg: Insulin Price Cap Chances Wane in Senate as Year-End Approaches - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM8B30DWLU68>
  - Inside Health Policy: Hern Rallies To Keep Collins' Insulin Bill Out Of Year-End Package - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hern-rallies-keep-collins%E2%80%99-insulin-bill-out-year-end-package>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: 6 policy changes in 2023 payers should know - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/6-policy-changes-in-2023-payers-should-know.html>
- Nurse staffing
  - USA Today: Many nursing homes are poorly staffed. How do they get away with it? - <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2022/12/01/skilled-nursing-facilities-staffing-problems-biden-reforms/8318780001/>
  - MedPage Today: Healthcare's Unspoken Sick-Day Rules Unchanged by the Pandemic - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/features/102006>

- Skilled Nursing News: USA Today Report Blasts Nursing Home Staffing Patterns, Enforcement — Industry Leaders Push Back -  
<https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/usa-today-report-blasts-nursing-home-staffing-patterns-enforcement-industry-leaders-push-back/>
- Skilled Nursing News: Inside the Trends Driving Skilled Nursing Bed Reductions in 2022 and Beyond -  
<https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/inside-the-trends-driving-skilled-nursing-bed-reductions-in-2022-and-beyond/>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare adds 45K jobs in November; 2022 growth strong compared to 2021 -  
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/healthcare-adds-45k-jobs-in-november-2022-growth-strong-compared-to-2021.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Labor shortages and expenses remain 'formidable challenge' well into 2023, Fitch says -  
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/labor-shortages-and-expenses-remain-formidable-challenge-well-into-2023-fitch-says.html>
- McKnights Senior Living: Provider advocates slam 'unfair' media take down of nursing home staffing compliance -  
<https://www.mcknights.com/news/provider-advocates-slam-unfair-media-take-down-of-nursing-home-staffing-compliance/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - No new items
- Vison/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - American Hospital Association (Press Release): AHA urges MedPAC to recommend adjusting FY 2024 market basket update -  
<https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-12-01-aha-urges-medpac-recommend-adjusting-fy-2024-market-basket-update>

- Politico: GOP Doctors Caucus asks Republican committee leaders to act on Medicare cuts - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/gop-doctors-caucus-asks-committee-leaders-to-act-on-medicare-cuts-00071725>
- Health Affairs: Value-Based Payment As A Tool To Address Excess US Health Spending - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20221014.526546/>
- Health Leaders: S&P Slaps ‘Negative’ View On Not-For-Profit Health Sector - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/finance/sp-slaps-negative-view-not-profit-health-sector>
- Inside Health Policy: CMS RFI Seeks Input On Potential Changes TO EHBs - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-rfi-seeks-input-potential-changes-ehbs>
- Becker’s Hospital Review: Highs of 4.3% to lows of -3.5%: How hospital margins dipped over 12 months - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/highs-of-4-3-to-lows-of-3-5-how-hospital-margins-dipped-over-12-months.html>
- Fierce Healthcare: Senators to Medicare Advantage plans: Get your provider directories in order - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/senators-medicare-advantage-plans-get-your-provider-directories-order>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Skilled Nursing News: CMS Data Shows Upswing in Hospital Discharges to SNFs Reversed in May 2022 - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/cms-data-shows-upswing-in-hospital-discharges-to-snfs-reversed-in-may-2022/>
- Health equity-related items
  - No new items
- Hospital merger news
  - No new items
- Telehealth news
  - Politico: Oversight panel says agencies could do more to prevent telehealth fraud - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/oversight-panel-says-agencies-could-do-more-to-prevent-telehealth-fraud-00071628>
  - MedCity News: AHIP: Americans Want Congress To Make Telehealth Capabilities Permanent - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/ahip-americans-want-congress->

[to-make-telehealth-capabilities-permanent/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmt=236379208&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_ZKjLF8pBYg7MgWWhoXJDGrEuKq3zVjyr-mHSlpVekTI\\_Vp4nvWkGR8ijF0tQG7T91Y74UXcCNUCv0YVVviLns86X2ow&utm\\_content=236379208&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/dems-treat-telehealth-hdhp-coverage-gop-%E2%80%98ask%E2%80%99-year-end-talks)

- Inside Health Policy: Dems Treat Telehealth HDHP Coverage As GOP ‘Ask’ In Year-End Talks - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/dems-treat-telehealth-hdhp-coverage-gop-%E2%80%98ask%E2%80%99-year-end-talks>
- 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and lame-duck news
  - U.S. Senate Committee on Finance (Press Release): Wyden, Crapo, Bennet, Burr Release Mental Health Parity Discussion Draft - <https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/wyden-crapo-bennet-burr-release-mental-health-parity-discussion-draft>
  - Politico: Bipartisan pandemic preparedness bill runs into end-of-year buzz saw - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/bipartisan-pandemic-preparedness-bill-runs-into-end-of-year-buzzsaw-00071703>
- ALS news
  - ALS News Today: Implantable Device That Stimulates Muscles Prevents Atrophy in Mice - <https://alsnewstoday.com/news/application-seen-als-device-that-prevents-muscle-wasting-mice/>