

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 22, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 8 a.m. Following leader remarks and per an earlier unanimous consent agreement, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Franklin R. Parker to be an assistant secretary of the Navy. At 8 a.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Parker nomination. Additional roll call votes are expected but not yet scheduled in relation to the fiscal 2023 omnibus appropriations bill (HR 2617).
 - Nominations:
 - Franklin R. Parker to be an assistant secretary of the Navy.
 - Bills:
 - HR 2617 — Legislative vehicle for fiscal 2023 omnibus appropriations
- The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 2617) to fully fund the federal government for FY 2023. The chamber may also consider a bill (HR 9640) that would require the Internal Revenue Service to examine presidential tax returns with a specific timeframe and report on its progress regarding examination and a bill (S 1942) that would create standards for the designation of National Heritage Areas.
 - Bills:
 - HR 2617 — Legislative vehicle for fiscal 2023 omnibus appropriations
 - HR 9640 — Presidential Tax Filing and Audit Transparency Act
 - S 1942 — National Heritage Area Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Bloomberg: Prescription Drug Cost Reporting: Insurer Requirements Explained - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RN975CDWLU68>
 - Inside Health Policy: Generic Drug Competition Measures Omitted From Year-End Bill - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/generic-drug-competition-measures-omitted-year-end-bill?utm_medium=mh
 - Law360: Amgen Fights HHS' Drug Discount Claims At DC Court - <https://www.law360.com/lifesciences/articles/1560209/amgen-fights-hhs-drug-discount-claims-at-dc-court>

- Becker's Hospital Review: The loopholes of the 340B program -
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/the-loopholes-of-the-340b-program.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - MedCity News: Why Providers Need to Stop Overlooking Burnout Among Clinical Support Staff -
https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/why-providers-need-to-stop-overlooking-burnout-among-clinical-support-staff/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=239027243&hsenc=p2ANqtz--yJD7zYuT6eqvcH8pjUHRHxmFOjtoZSixOizH8kLGU_mQo0_gSeZBNtmL1pqrK-G8Lz6tAgfATQdPbibqRHAvPKcm67Q&utm_content=239027243&utm_source=hs_email
 - Skilled Nursing News: SNF Workforce of the Future: Inside SNN's Coverage of an Evolving Labor Model -
https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/snf-workforce-of-the-future-inside-snns-coverage-of-an-evolving-labor-model/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=01f3eb695a&mc_cid=01f3eb695a&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Becker's Hospital Review: What 7 CNOs told Becker's about nurse well-being, retention this year -
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/what-7-cnos-told-beckers-about-nurse-well-being-retention-this-year.html>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - EurekAlert!: Drug discovery may boost liver transplant success -
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/975107>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Politico: The year-end spending bill is headed to the finish line -
<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/newsletter/2022/12/the-year-end-spending-bill-is-headed-to-the-finish-line-00075092>

- Healthcare Dive: Judge questions surprise billing ban implementation during court hearing - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/judge-questions-surprise-billing-ban-implementation/639206/>
- Health Leaders: Prior Auth Reform To Save Providers \$15B - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/prior-auth-reform-save-providers-15b>
- Becker's Hospital Review: 4 financial trends that will drive health system decisions in 2023: Deloitte - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/4-financial-trends-that-will-drive-health-system-decisions-in-2023-deloitte.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: 6 in 10 say more price transparency laws should be 'top priority' for Congress: poll - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/6-in-10-say-more-price-transparency-laws-should-be-top-priority-for-congress-poll.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare companies face wall of maturing debt amid cash shortage - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/healthcare-companies-face-wall-of-maturing-debt-amid-cash-shortage.html>
- RevCycleIntelligence: OIG Identifies Provider Noncompliance when Claiming Medicare Bad Debts - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/oig-identifies-provider-noncompliance-when-claiming-medicare-bad-debts>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - McKnight's Senior Living: Scheduling consistency could help improve resident care, study finds - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/scheduling-consistency-could-help-improve-resident-care-study-finds/>
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news
 - Healthcare Dive: The Advocate-Atrium merger closed without an antitrust challenge. What does that mean for competition in 2023? - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/advocate-atrium-merger-closes-antitrust-challenge-hospitals/638101/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Hospital consolidation continues: 12 M&As that grabbed headlines in 2022 - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital->

[transactions-and-valuation/hospital-consolidation-continues-12-m-as-that-grabbed-headlines-in-2022.html](https://www.healthcareval.com/transactions-and-valuation/hospital-consolidation-continues-12-m-as-that-grabbed-headlines-in-2022.html)

- Telehealth news
 - Healio: Youth mental telehealth costs skyrocket with increased demand - <https://www.healio.com/news/psychiatry/20221221/youth-mental-telehealth-costs-skyrocket-with-increased-demand>
 - Health Leaders: Omnibus Bill Would Extend Telehealth Waivers, Hospital At Home Program - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/innovation/omnibus-bill-would-extend-telehealth-waivers-hospital-home-program>
 - Chief Healthcare Executive: Telehealth finds receptive ear in Congress; \$1.7T spending bill includes 2-year extension - <https://www.chiefhealthcareexecutive.com/view/telehealth-finds-receptive-ear-in-congress-1-7t-spending-bill-includes-extension>
 - mHealthIntelligence: Telehealth Policies, Regulations Remain Inconsistent Across States - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/telehealth-policies-regulations-remain-inconsistent-across-states>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Bloomberg: Senate Adjourns For Evening, Schumer Says Omnibus Deal 'Close' - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RNA6CTDWRGG0>
- ALS news
 - ALS News Today: EpiSwitch Test May Help Classify ALS Patients: New Trial Data - <https://alsnewstoday.com/news/episwitch-test-may-help-classify-als-patients-new-trial-data/>