

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 30, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Bloomberg: Drug Makers' Group Seeks to Appeal Ruling Upholding Discount Law - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RNNUEDDWRGG2>
 - MedPage Today (Opinion): Annual Check-Up: Mark Cuban's Cost Plus Drugs - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/102439>
 - Inside Health Policy: PhRMA Says Data Show PBMs Drive Up Prices As It Readies Reform Push - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/phrma-says-data-show-pbms-drive-prices-it-readies-reform-push?utm_medium=mh
- Nurse staffing
 - CBS News: Recent nursing school graduates get stuck in limbo waiting for licenses in Illinois - <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/nursing-school-graduates-limbo-licenses-illinois/>
 - Business Insider: I'm a nurse tech and the 'triple-demic' is pushing me to the brink. We still don't have enough beds because of a surge after holiday gatherings - <https://www.businessinsider.com/rsv-covid-flu-outbreak-triple-demic-hospital-worker-overwhelmed-2022-12>
 - Modern Healthcare: Squeezed by temp nurse costs, hospital systems create their own staffing agencies - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/labor/hospital-systems-staffing-teams-shortages-nursing?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-friday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221229&utm_content=article5-headline
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Nurse Practitioners Have Lower Productivity than Physicians, Study Finds - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/nurse-practitioners-have-lower-productivity-than-physicians-study-finds>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report

- No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - CNBC: Some Medicare costs are heading higher in 2023, while others are going down. Here's what you need to know - <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/29/heres-what-to-know-about-your-2023-medicare-costs.html>
 - Stat News: Providers seeking resolution of billing disputes under the No Surprises Act cause a major backlog of cases - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/30/backlog-builds-under-no-surprises-act/>
 - Medical Economics: Top administrative challenges of 2023: Prior authorizations - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/top-administrative-challenges-of-2023-prior-authorizations>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items
- Health equity-related items
 - Vox (Opinion): The medical system has failed Black Americans for centuries. Could reparations be the answer? - <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/23529685/healthcare-reparations-slavery-equity>
- Hospital merger news
 - Politico: The FTC's newest commissioner speaks - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/12/30/ftc-commissioner-alvaro-bedoya-interview-00075146>

- Health Leaders: 4 Organizations Expanding Home Health Care Reach Through Mergers And Acquisitions, Partnerships - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/4-organizations-expanding-home-health-care-reach-through-mergers-and-acquisitions>
- Telehealth news
 - Washington Post: This doctor prescribes ketamine to thousands online. It's all legal - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/12/30/ketamine-telemedicine-covid-emergency/>
 - mHealthIntelligence: Patients Satisfied with SDOH Needs Addressed Via Telehealth - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/patients-satisfied-with-sdoh-needs-addressed-via-telehealth>
- ALS news
 - No new items
- Additional health policy legislative/regulatory items
 - Bloomberg: Biden HHS Proposes New Health-Worker Religious Conscience Rule - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RNOA0ST1UM0W>
 - Bloomberg: Addiction Treatment for Inmates Draws Biden Drug Focus for 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RNO3UJDWX2PS>