

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 5, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Frances Kay Behm to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. At 5:30, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Doris L. Pryor to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit.
 - Nominations:
 - Doris L. Pryor to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit.
 - Frances Kay Behm to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.
- The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.
 - Bills:
 - S 198 — Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act
 - S 4052 — Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act
 - HR 1193 — Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act
 - HR 3462 — SBA Cyber Awareness Act
 - HR 8844 — STEP Improvement Act
 - S 1687 — Small Business Cyber Training Act
 - S 1617 — Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act
 - S 3875 — Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act
 - S 3499 — A bill to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.
 - S 4235 — A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions.
 - S 2796 — Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act
 - S 4834 — Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats (PROTECT) to Our Children Act
 - HR 5796 — Patents for Humanity Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items

- Axios: Cassidy's gene therapy payment solutions -
<https://www.axios.com/pro/health-care-policy/2022/12/05/cassidy-gene-therapies-congress-drug-prices>
- American Journal of Managed Care: US Biosimilars Substantially More Expensive Than Those in Germany, Switzerland -
<https://www.ajmc.com/view/us-biosimilars-substantially-more-expensive-than-those-in-germany-switzerland>
- Inside Health Policy: FDA To Focus On EUA Transitions, Drug Shortages Before COVID PHE Ends -
<https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/fda-focus-eua-transitions-drug-shortages-covid-phe-ends>
- Nurse staffing
 - MedCity News: UnitedHealth, American Nurses Foundation Launch Program for Nurse Burnout -
https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/unitedhealth-american-nurses-foundation-launch-program-for-nurse-burnout/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=236624272&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9yEZ4bzA-r7EWKtsYH5RQsTUVwf8guLcm6ZsUg1lcFwcecgM71cgd6bcSmpQJZmt8yQ4l0qfp a2Xg6k148eZ2gXTifcA&utm_content=236624272&utm_source=hs_email
 - Skilled Nursing News: Nursing Care Facilities Add 2,800 Workers Amid 'Growing But Slowing' Labor Market -
https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/nursing-care-facilities-add-2800-workers-amid-growing-but-slowing-labor-market/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=39efe04346&mc_cid=39efe04346&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- 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

- Kaiser Family Foundation: Operating Margins Among the Largest For-Profit Health Systems Have Exceeded 2019 Levels for the Majority of the COVID-19 Pandemic - <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/the-largest-for-profit-health-systems-have-exceeded-their-2019-financial-performance-for-the-majority-of-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Wall Street Journal: Billions in Covid Aid Went to Hospitals That Didn't Need It - https://www.wsj.com/articles/billions-in-covid-aid-went-to-hospitals-that-didnt-need-it-11670164570?mod=hp_lead_pos9
- Bloomberg: Enforcement Discretion for No Surprises Act Provision Extended - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMAA8OT1UMOW>
- Stat News: Medical malpractice lawsuits, delayed by the pandemic, are hitting hospitals harder than expected - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/05/medical-malpractice-hospitals-covid-pandemic-insurance/>
- Inside Health Policy: OMB Clears Prior Auth Rule That Could Cut MA Prior Auth Bill's Cost - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/omb-clears-prior-auth-rule-could-cut-ma-prior-auth-bill%E2%80%99s-cost>
- Inside Health Policy: HHS Extends Enforcement Discretion For Good Faith Billing Estimates - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hhs-extends-enforcement-discretion-good-faith-billing-estimates>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Value-Based Payment Models May Help Curb High Healthcare Spending - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/value-based-payment-models-may-help-curb-high-healthcare-spending>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Kaiser Health News: Assisted Living Facilities Pressed to Address Growing Needs of Older, Sicker Residents - <https://khn.org/news/article/assisted-living-facilities-pressed-to-address-growing-needs-of-older-sicker-residents/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Nursing home quality coalition makes first recommendations - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-home-quality-coalition-makes-first-recommendations/>
- Health equity-related items
 - MedCity News: Bridging Cultural Gaps to Improve Health Equity - https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/bridging-cultural-gaps-to-improve-health-equity/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=236624272&hsenc=p2ANqtz--

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- Hospital merger news
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Atrium Joins Advocate Aurora in Hospital Mega-Merger Deal - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/atrium-joins-advocate-aurora-in-hospital-mega-merger-deal>

- Telehealth news
 - Bloomberg: Federal Agencies Pushed to Do More to Combat Telehealth Fraud - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMA3JST1UMOW>
 - Health Affairs: Audio-Only Telemedicine In Primary Care: Embraced In The NHS, Second Rate In The US - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/audio-only-telemedicine-primary-care-embraced-nhs-second-rate-us>
 - Inside Health Policy: Hospital At Home Telehealth Waiver Expected In Year-End Package - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/hospital-home-telehealth-waiver-expected-year-end-package>

- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Forbes: 3 Beneficial Healthcare Laws The 118th Congress Could (Actually) Pass - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertpearl/2022/12/05/3-beneficial-healthcare-laws-the-118th-congress-could-actually-pass/?sh=5a0b564d23b7>
 - Politico: Lawmakers' omnibus hopes for mental health policies - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/newsletter/2022/12/lawmakers-omnibus-hopes-for-mental-health-policies-00072130>
 - Axios: Year-end package could increase access to addiction treatment - <https://www.axios.com/2022/12/02/year-end-package-addiction-treatment>
 - Health Leaders: Payer-Negotiated Prices At Hospitals Higher For Insured Patients For Same Services - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/payer/payer-negotiated-prices-hospitals-higher-insured-patients-same-services>
 - Inside Health Policy: IDSA Willing To Compromise To Get Pandemic Bill Passed By Year's End - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/idsa-willing-compromise-get-pandemic-bill-passed-year%E2%80%99s-end>

- ALS news

- ALS News Today: FightMND Supports ALS Research on Inflammasome Blocker RRx-001 - <https://alsnewstoday.com/news/fightmnd-supports-als-research-inflammasome-blocker-rrx-001/>