

HEALTH CARE POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 15, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the veterans' toxic exposure benefits bill (HR 3967). At 11:45, the Senate will vote on the following: adoption of the Tester, D-Mont., substitute amendment no. 5051 to HR 3967 and agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on HR 3967. At 5:15 p.m., the Senate will vote on the following: agreeing to a Paul, R-Ky., motion to proceed to a budget resolution (S Con Res 41) and confirmation of the nomination of Alan M. Leventhal to be U.S. ambassador to Denmark.
 - Bills:
 - HR 3967 — Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (Honoring our PACT) Act.
 - S Con Res 41 — A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2023 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2024 through 2032.
 - Nominations:
 - Alan M. Leventhal to be U.S. ambassador to Denmark.
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 2543) that would provide support for minority-owned financial institutions, strengthen enforcement of fair lending laws, and require banks to report on their diversity practices.
 - Bills:
 - HR 2543 — Federal Reserve Racial and Economic Equity Act.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Axios: Health care consumers feeling economic sting - <https://www.axios.com/2022/06/15/health-care-consumers-feeling-the-economic-sting>
 - The Hill: Two-thirds of older Americans see health care costs as a financial burden: survey - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3524218-two-thirds-of-older-americans-see-health-care-costs-as-a-financial-burden-survey/>
 - Modern Healthcare: Federal PBM probe culminates decades of M&A - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/federal-pbm-probe-culminates-decades-ma>

- MedPageToday: Doctor's Orders: An Rx to Curb Rising Drug Costs - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/99232>
- Nurse staffing
 - USA Today: 'Something has to change': Health care workers who cared for us during COVID are burning out - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2022/06/14/covid-health-care-workers-surgeon-general/7585553001/>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - The Hill: Lawmakers seek bipartisan path for improving kidney disease care - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3523496-lawmakers-seek-bipartisan-path-for-improving-kidney-disease-care/>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - AMA: AHA Urges Congress to Act Now to Prevent Additional Medicare Sequester Cuts to Hospitals - <https://www.aha.org/lettercomment/2022-06-14-aha-urges-congress-act-now-prevent-additional-medicare-sequester-cuts>
 - Bloomberg: Backlash Over Coverage Denials Stings Private Medicare Plans - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/backlash-over-coverage-denials-stings-private-medicare-plans>

- Healio: AMA seeks to expand telehealth, reform payment system and prior authorization - <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20220614/ama-seeks-to-expand-telehealth-reform-payment-system-and-prior-authorization>
- Modern Healthcare: Survey shows 13% of Medicare Advantage enrollees had a claim or pre-authorization request denied - <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/survey-shows-13-medicare-advantage-enrollees-had-claim-or-pre-authorization-request-denied>
- Becker's Hospital Review: AHA urges CMS not to cut nursing home Medicare payments - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/aha-urges-cms-not-to-cut-nursing-home-medicare-payments.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Bloomberg: Nursing Homes Blast Plans for Medicare Pay Cut, Staffing Mandate - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/nursing-homes-blast-plans-for-medicare-pay-cut-staffing-mandate>
 - NC Health News: National report raises overarching questions on U.S. nursing home care - <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2022/06/15/national-report-raises-overarching-questions-on-u-s-nursing-home-care/>
 - McKights Long-Term Care News: AMA gets behind push for public list of nursing home medical directors - <https://www.mckights.com/news/clinical-news/ama-gets-behind-push-for-public-list-of-nursing-home-medical-directors/>
 - McKights Senior Living: \$1.2 million nursing home quality initiative to be spearheaded by LeadingAge - <https://www.mckightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/1-2-million-nursing-home-quality-initiative-to-be-spearheaded-by-leadingage/>