

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 17, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- No votes are expected in the House.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Federal Trade Commission (Press Release): FTC to Ramp Up Enforcement Against Any Illegal Rebate Schemes, Bribes to Prescription Drug Middleman That Block Cheaper Drugs - <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2022/06/ftc-ramp-up-enforcement-against-illegal-rebate-schemes>
 - Wall Street Journal: Drug Pricing Debate in Washington Is a Headache for Pharma - https://www.wsj.com/articles/drug-pricing-debate-in-washington-is-a-headache-for-pharma-11655463602?mod=markets_lead_pos12
 - Stat News: Pharmalittle: FTC warns pharma and PBMs about rebate schemes - <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/06/17/covid19-vaccines-patents-wto-pbm-ftc/>
 - Stat News: Reformulating drugs helps profits more than patients - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/06/17/reformulating-drugs-helps-profits-more-than-patients/>
 - Politico: Back burner no more: Dems set Manchin talks on party-line bill to simmer - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/17/dems-manchin-schumer-00040321>
 - Kaiser Health News: A Proposal to Import Drugs from Other Countries Creates an Unusual Alliance in the Senate - <https://khn.org/news/article/drug-imports-canada-senate-sanders-paul-unusual-alliance/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: FTC puts PBMs ‘on notice’ with enforcement policy surrounding drug rebates - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/ftc-puts-pbms-notice-enforcement-policy-surrounding-drug-rebates>
 - Endpoints News: FTC targets insulin, threatening to go after PBM-pharma deals that steer into ‘commercial bribery’ - <https://endpts.com/ftc-targets-insulin-threatening-to-go-after-pbm-pharma-deals-that-steer-into-commercial-bribery/>
- Nurse staffing

- Skilled Nursing News: SNF Occupancy Recovery in 2021 Hampered by Staffing Shortages, Lingering Covid Effects -
<https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/06/snf-occupancy-recovery-in-2021-hampered-by-staffing-shortages-lingering-covid-effects/>
- Skilled Nursing News: Why Nursing Home Operators Need to Look Beyond Traditional Recruitment Tools to Move the Needle on Staffing -
<https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/06/why-nursing-home-operators-need-to-look-beyond-traditional-recruitment-tools-to-move-the-needle-on-staffing/>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Sanford to hire more than 700 foreign nurses by 2025 -
https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/sanford-to-hire-more-than-700-foreign-nurses-by-2025.html?utm_campaign=bhr&utm_source=website&utm_content=featured-articles
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - UPI: New approach allows kids to get kidney transplants without immune-suppressing drugs -
https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/06/17/children-kidney-transplant-advance/7651655393456/
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Axios: Hospitals' big Supreme Court win -
<https://www.axios.com/2022/06/16/hospitals-supreme-court-drug-payment>

- RevCycleIntelligence: Medicare, Beneficiaries Saw Higher Prices at Provider-Based Facilities - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/medicare-beneficiaries-saw-higher-prices-at-provider-based-facilities>
- Medical Economics: Changing APM payment strategy could improve provider participation, MedPAC says - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/changing-apm-payment-strategy-could-improve-provider-participation-medpac-says>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Health Leaders: Long-term Care Data Operative Adds HER Partner In Mission to Transform Nursing Home Care - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/long-term-care-data-operative-adds-ehr-partner-mission-transform-nursing-home-care>
 - Health Leaders: \$1M Grant Aims To Improve Nursing Home Quality - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/1m-grant-aims-improve-nursing-home-quality>