

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JULY 8, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House is not in session.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Office of Senator Maggie Hassan (Press Release): Following Bipartisan Push from Senator Hassan, Federal Agencies Take Action to Lower Prescription Drug Costs - <https://www.hassan.senate.gov/news/press-releases/following-bipartisan-push-from-senator-hassan-federal-agencies-take-action-to-lower-prescription-drug-costs>
 - New York Times: Democrats Propose Raising Taxes on Some High Earners To Bolster Medicare - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/07/us/politics/medicare-solvency-taxes.html>
 - Washington Post: Manchin, other Senate Democrats reach agreement on key part of retooled economic package - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/07/07/biden-presidential-medal-freedom/>
 - Wall Street Journal (Opinion): Drugmakers Aren't Driving Inflation - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/drugmakers-driving-inflation-perscription-price-control-congress-insulin-11657225910>
 - The Hill: Newsom announces California will produce its own 'low cost' insulin - <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/3549527-newsom-announces-california-will-produce-its-own-low-cost-insulin/>
 - The Hill: GOP senators call for hearings on bipartisan insulin cost bill - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3548810-gop-senators-call-for-hearings-on-bipartisan-insulin-cost-bill/>
 - The Hill (Opinion): Price controls on prescriptions mean fewer jobs, not lower inflation - <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/3548891-price-controls-on-prescriptions-mean-fewer-jobs-not-lower-inflation/>
 - Bloomberg: Chronically Ill Patients Want Voice in FTC Pharmacy Agent Probe - https://www.bloomberglaw.com/bloomberglawnews/pharma-and-life-sciences/X9B7U2H8000000?bna_news_filter=pharma-and-life-sciences#jcite

- Inside Health Policy: Senate Dems Aim To Extend Medicare Trust Fund’s Solvency By Closing Tax Loophole - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/senate-dems-aim-extend-medicare-trust-fund%E2%80%99s-solvency-closing-tax-loophole>
- Inside Health Policy: Part D Catastrophic Caps Would Start Before Presidential Election - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/part-d-catastrophic-caps-would-start-presidential-election>
- Stat News: Drug companies will have to start refunding Medicare for certain drugs that get thrown out - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/07/07/drug-companies-will-have-to-start-refunding-medicare-for-certain-drugs-that-get-thrown-out/>
- Becker’s Hospital Review: Senate Democrats advance plan to give Medicare drug price negotiation powers: 6 notes - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/policy-updates/senate-democrats-advance-plan-to-give-medicare-drug-price-negotiation-powers-6-notes.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS Issues Guidance on Five-Star Staffing Measures - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/cms-issues-guidance-on-five-star-staffing-measures/>
 - Skilled Nursing News: Why Infection Prevention and Control is More Than a Part-Time Job For Nursing Homes - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/why-infection-prevention-and-control-is-more-than-a-part-time-job-for-nursing-homes/>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - NBC: First man to receive transplanted pig heart died of heart failure, not rejection, encouraging doctors - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/heart-health/first-man-receive-transplanted-pig-heart-died-heart-failure-not-reject-rcna37078>

- Nature World News: 'Transplanted Organoids' Hold Promising Developments in Treating Many Organ Diseases: New Study - <https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/51793/20220708/transplanted-organoids-hold-promising-developments-treating-many-organ-diseases-new.htm>
- Vison/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Inside Health Policy: Ending 'Silver Loading' To Extend ARPA Subsidies Could Hike Premiums, Experts Warn - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/ending-%E2%80%98silver-loading%E2%80%99-extend-arpa-subsidies-could-hike-premiums-experts-warn>
 - Inside Health Policy: AMA Vows To Go To Congress After CMS Proposes TO Cut Doc Pay In 2023 - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/ama-vows-go-congress-after-cms-proposes-cut-doc-pay-2023>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Proposes To Boost ACOs With Advanced Pay, Benchmark Changes - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-proposes-boost-acos-advanced-pay-benchmark-changes>
 - Modern Healthcare: CMS proposes major changes to Shared Savings Program - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/medicare/cms-proposes-major-changes-shared-savings-program?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-friday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220707&utm_content=article1-headline
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Providers Face Cuts in Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/providers-face-cuts-in-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-proposed-rule>
 - Physician's Weekly: Feds Want a Policy That Advocates Say Would Let Hospitals Off the Hook for Covid-Era Lapses - <https://www.physiciansweekly.com/feds-want-a-policy-that-advocates-say-would-let-hospitals-off-the-hook-for-covid-era-lapses/>
- Nursing home quality initiative

- McKnights Senior Living: Bonuses, 5.49% salary jump part of soaring costs for CCRC nurse leaders: report - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/bonuses-5-49-salary-jump-part-of-soaring-costs-for-ccrcs-report/>
- McKnights Senior Living: Nursing homes become 'high-risk,' owners to be fingerprinted under new doc pay rule proposal - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-homes-become-high-risk-owners-to-be-fingerprinted-under-proposal/>