

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 11, 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 Chuck Grassley (Press Release): Grassley Pushes To Hold Biden Administration Accountable On Measures To Improve Prescription Drug Price Transparency - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-pushes-to-hold-biden-administration-accountable-on-measures-to-improve-prescription-drug-price-transparency>
  - Washington Post: Democrats need to sell a health package that doesn't kick in right away - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/11/democrats-need-sell-health-package-that-doesnt-kick-right-away/>
  - Bloomberg: Drug Price Bill Shifts Dollars From Cancer Meds, Analysts Warn - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGEPD4DWX2PU>
  - Health Affairs: Understanding The Democrats' Drug Pricing Package - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/understanding-democrats-drug-pricing-package>
  - Reuters: Pelosi says U.S. House will pass Inflation Reduction Act on Friday - <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/pelosi-says-us-house-will-pass-inflation-reduction-act-friday-2022-08-10/>
- Nurse staffing
  - New York University: Nursing Home Staffing is Worse in Disadvantaged Communities - <https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2022/august/nursing-home-staffing-is-worse-in-disadvantaged-communities.html>
  - McKnight's Senior Living: The recruiting and retention strategy you're probably not using - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/columns/editors-columns/the-recruiting-and-retention-strategy-youre-probably-not-using/>

- McKnights Senior Living: Researcher: Target funding to address potentially harmful staffing disparities - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/researcher-use-micro-targeted-funding-to-address-potentially-harmful-staffing-disparities/>
- Becker's Hospital Review: 7 schools launching nursing programs - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/7-schools-launching-nursing-programs-2.html>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - CBS News: Experimental immunotherapy treatment changes lives for cancer patients in small trial - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rectal-cancer-treatment-trial-high-resolution-rate/>
- 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
  - Bloomberg: Extending Health Subsidies Averts Premium Hikes, Risks Inflation - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGERU1T0AFB4>
  - Politico: Health care providers are shouldering rising costs. That could change soon - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/08/10/health-care-inflation-low-change-00050883>
  - Kaiser Health News: No, the Senate-Passed Reconciliation Bill Won't Strip \$300 Billion From Medicare - <https://khn.org/news/article/senate-reconciliation-bill-300-billion-medicare-drug-price-negotiation-fact-check/>
  - Stat News: Federal judge dismisses doctor's case that argued surprise billing law was unconstitutional - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/11/surprise-billing-case-dismissed/>

- Becker's Hospital Review: 4 payer groups react to Senate passage of Inflation Reduction Act - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/4-payer-reactions-to-senate-passage-of-inflation-reduction-act.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Skilled Nursing News: The Devil's in the Data: Why SNFs May Be Facing an Information Crisis - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/the-devils-in-the-data-why-snfs-may-be-facing-an-information-crisis/>
  - Inside Health Policy: Nursing Homes Ask HHS To Extend PHE Beyond October - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/nursing-homes-ask-hhs-extend-phe-beyond-october>
- Health equity-related items
  - Bloomberg: HHS Debuts Environmental Justice Index to Measure Public Health - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGEVTFDWX2PS>
  - Fierce Healthcare: Hospitals serving the most Black patients see lower payments and profits, data show - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hospitals-serving-most-black-patients-see-lower-payments-profits-data-show>