

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 16, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House is not in session.

### Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
  - The White House: By The Numbers: The Inflation Reduction Act - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/15/by-the-numbers-the-inflation-reduction-act/>
  - Wall Street Journal: Joe Biden to Sign Bill Aimed at Lowering Drug Costs, Boosting Renewable Energy - [https://www.wsj.com/articles/joe-biden-to-sign-bill-aimed-at-lowering-drug-costs-boosting-renewable-energy-11660642202?mod=hp\\_lead\\_pos12](https://www.wsj.com/articles/joe-biden-to-sign-bill-aimed-at-lowering-drug-costs-boosting-renewable-energy-11660642202?mod=hp_lead_pos12)
  - Washington Post: Medicare chief vows to implement drug pricing reforms on time - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/16/medicare-chief-vows-implement-drug-pricing-reforms-time/>
  - Washington Post: Biden to sign sweeping bill to tackle climate change, lower health-care costs - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/16/biden-inflation-reduction-act-signing/>
  - Bloomberg: Biden to Sign Massive Climate and Health Care Legislation - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGPBDPTP3SHS>
  - Fox News: Pharmaceutical industry under fire for releasing new medications at record-high prices this year - <https://www.foxnews.com/us/pharmaceutical-industry-under-fire-releasing-new-medications-record-high-prices-year>
  - The Hill: Health Care — Biden set to mark drug pricing milestone - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/overnights/3603292-health-care-biden-set-to-mark-drug-pricing-milestone/>
  - Stat News: Unpacking the drug pricing policies that Congress just approved - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/16/unpacking-drug-pricing-reforms/>

- MedCity News: House decision on drug price negotiations may have little impact on drug industry, some say - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/house-decision-on-drug-price-negotiations-may-have-little-impact-on-drug-industry-some-say/>
- Nurse staffing
  - American Medical Association: Responding to the shortages that are driving up doctor burnout - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/physician-health/responding-shortages-are-driving-doctor-burnout>
  - Skilled Nursing News: Why The Caregiver Definition Must Be Expanded For Nursing Homes to Overcome Labor Crunch - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/why-the-caregiver-definition-must-be-expanded-for-nursing-homes-to-overcome-labor-crunch/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=5825085c94&mc\\_cid=5825085c94&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/why-the-caregiver-definition-must-be-expanded-for-nursing-homes-to-overcome-labor-crunch/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5825085c94&mc_cid=5825085c94&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Aligning Care Coordination Work Amid Healthcare Workforce Shortage - <https://patientengagementhit.com/features/aligning-care-coordination-work-amid-healthcare-workforce-shortage>
  - Consumer Health News: U.S. Nursing Homes Are Understaffed, But Minority Communities Have It Worse - <https://consumer.healthday.com/8-15-u-s-nursing-homes-are-understaffed-but-minority-communities-have-it-worst-2657847790.html>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - Technology Networks: Trial Shows Cancer Drug Reduces Colon Polyps Caused By Genetic Condition - <https://www.technologynetworks.com/tn/news/trial-shows-cancer-drug-reduces-polyps-in-patients-with-genetic-bowel-cancer-risk-364743>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - EurekAlert!: The COVID-19 pandemic's effect on solid organ transplantation - <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/961856>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation

- MedCity News: The role of digital physical therapy in modernizing MSK treatment - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/the-role-of-digital-physical-therapy-in-modernizing-msk-treatment/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=222937996&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-uCMYArc1kd5qtYo9l1bz4rtv6Ky03ie7iZxJGgGhLjvY5g2NFYOpfN7wnkUI7JAF9wf27vM3zDtNwBL\\_vYs2XKSvN4w&utm\\_content=222937996&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/the-role-of-digital-physical-therapy-in-modernizing-msk-treatment/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=222937996&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-uCMYArc1kd5qtYo9l1bz4rtv6Ky03ie7iZxJGgGhLjvY5g2NFYOpfN7wnkUI7JAF9wf27vM3zDtNwBL_vYs2XKSvN4w&utm_content=222937996&utm_source=hs_email)
- Parkinson's New Today: Exercise Eases Motor Symptoms in Parkinson's Early-to-mid Stages - <https://parkinsonsnewstoday.com/news/long-term-exercise-motor-symptoms-mild-moderate-parkinsons/>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - American Hospital Association: Rising patient acuity driving up hospital costs as payments fall - <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-08-15-report-rising-patient-acuity-driving-hospital-costs-payments-fall>
  - Inside Health Policy: Biden To Sign IRA As QHP Applications Due, COVID-19 PHE Expected To Go Into January - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/features/health-insider>
  - Inside Health Policy: PHE Likely To Be Extended Again Along With Telehealth Waivers - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/phe-likely-be-extended-again-along-telehealth-waivers>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items
- Health equity-related items
  - American Journal of Managed Care: Taking Action to Address Health Equity in Oncology - <https://www.ajmc.com/view/taking-action-to-address-health-equity-in-oncology>
  - MedPage Today: HHS Proposes Wide-Ranging Rule Barring Discrimination in Healthcare - [https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/healthpolicy/100226?xid=nl\\_mpt\\_DHE\\_2022-08-15&eun=g2129323d0r&utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Headlines%20Evening%202022-08-15&utm\\_term=NL\\_Daily\\_DHE\\_dual-gmail-definition](https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/healthpolicy/100226?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2022-08-15&eun=g2129323d0r&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20Headlines%20Evening%202022-08-15&utm_term=NL_Daily_DHE_dual-gmail-definition)

- Becker's Hospital Review: 6 leaders on health equity priorities for the rest of 2022 - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/health-equity/6-leaders-on-health-equity-priorities-for-the-rest-of-2022.html>