

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 17, 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
 - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): Statements by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on President Biden Signing Inflation Reduction Act into Law - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/08/16/statements-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-cms-administrator-chiquita-brooks-lasure-on-president-biden-signing-inflation-reduction-act-into-law.html>
 - New York Times: Biden Signs Climate, Health Bill Into Law as Other Economic Goals Remain - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/us/politics/biden-climate-health-bill.html>
 - Washington Post: Biden signs sweeping bill to tackle climate change, lower health-care costs - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/16/biden-inflation-reduction-act-signing/>
 - Bloomberg: What's in Big Biden Bill? Health, Climate Goals Become Law - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGPTH4TP3SHS>
 - The Hill: Health Care — Landmark drug pricing legislation signed into law - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/overnights/3604516-health-care-landmark-drug-pricing-legislation-signed-into-law/>
 - The Hill: Caps on prescription drug price hikes most popular aspect of Inflation Reduction Act: poll - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3604946-caps-on-prescription-drug-price-hikes-most-popular-aspect-of-inflation-reduction-act-poll/>
 - Inside Health Policy: Biden Signs IRA — WH Touts Victory Over Pharma, Win In Lowering ACA Premiums - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/biden-signs-ira-%E2%80%94-wh-touts-victory-over-pharma-win-lowering-aca-premiums>
- Nurse staffing

- Fierce Healthcare: Chartis: Rural hospitals losing ‘arms race’ for nurses amid major staffing crunch - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/chartis-rural-hospitals-losing-arms-race-nurses-amid-major-staffing-crunch>
- McKnight's Senior Living: With pay up, skilled nursing leaders want more staff next: 2022 McKnight's Mood of the Market - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/with-pay-up-skilled-nursing-leaders-want-more-staff-next-2022-mcknights-mood-of-the-market/>
- McKnight's Senior Living: New nurse agency rules pay-reporting, ease job changes - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/new-nurse-agency-rules-include-pay-reporting-ease-job-changes/>
- McKnight's Senior Living: Now that the picture's clear, more transparency, please - <https://www.mcknights.com/daily-editors-notes/now-that-the-pictures-clear-more-transparency-please/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - New York Times: F.D.A. Clears Path for Hearing Aids to Be Sold Over the Counter - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/health/fda-hearing-aids.html>
 - Bloomberg: Broader Medicare Dental Coverage Gets Push From Biden Team - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGR67UDWLU69>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - EurekaAlert!: UC startup aims to reinvent physical therapy - <https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/961994>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Axios: Congress isn't done with messy health care fights - <https://www.axios.com/2022/08/17/congress-isnt-done-with-messy-health-care-fights>

- Modern Healthcare: Hospitals squeezed, insurers boosted as utilization lags - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/healthcare-utilization-lag-dings-hospitals-boosts-insurers?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220816&utm_content=article2-headline
- Fierce Healthcare: New survey assesses the biggest hurdles, goals for health plans amid a rapidly changing landscape - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/payers-struggle-manage-costs-efficiencies-healthedge-survey-finds>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Will Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Changes Drive Value-Based Care? - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/features/will-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-changes-drive-value-based-care>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Rising out-of-pocket costs has 'dramatic effects' on hospital's revenue cycle performance - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/rising-out-of-pocket-costs-has-dramatic-effects-on-hospital-s-revenue-cycle-performance.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Fierce Healthcare: Home health providers decry 'disheartening' proposed 4% cut for 2023 - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/home-health-providers-decry-disheartening-proposed-4-cut-2023>
- Health equity-related items
 - National Institutes of Health: Item of Interest: NIH to establish Maternal Health Research Centers for Excellence - <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/newsroom/news/081622-IMPROVE-CoE>