

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 19, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - The White House: State Fact Sheets: How the Inflation Reduction Act Lowers Health Care Costs Across America - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/18/state-fact-sheets-how-the-inflation-reduction-act-lowers-health-care-costs-across-america/>
 - NBC News: Frustrated pharmacists are opting out of the insurance system, saving some customers hundreds of dollars a month - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-care/frustrated-pharmacists-are-opting-insurance-system-saving-customers-hu-rcna36706>
 - Cornell University: Are Costly New Prescription Drugs Worth the Price? - <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/08/are-costly-new-prescription-drugs-worth-price>
 - Kaiser Family Foundation: How Will the Prescription Drug Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act Affect Medicare Beneficiaries? - <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/how-will-the-prescription-drug-provisions-in-the-inflation-reduction-act-affect-medicare-beneficiaries/>
 - Modern Healthcare: What the Inflation Reduction Act means for PBMs - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/what-inflation-reduction-act-means-pbms>
- Nurse staffing
 - Health Leaders: Nursing Home Staffing Struggles Add To Health Disparity In Disadvantaged Communities - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/nursing-home-staffing-struggles-add-health-disparity-disadvantaged-communities>
 - McKnight's Senior Living: How to face staffing challenges head on: report - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/how-to-face-staffing-challenges-head-on-report/>

- Becker's Hospital Review: Nearly half of healthcare workers 'at their breaking point,' survey finds - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/nearly-half-of-healthcare-workers-at-their-breaking-point-survey-finds.html>
- 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
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: Medicaid Proposal Would Require State Health Quality Reporting - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGTWMHDWRGG1>
 - Bloomberg: Arbitration Provisions for Surprise Bills Clear OMB Review - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGTG5TDWLU68>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS: Providers Need To Prepare For PHE End As Soon As Possible - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-providers-need-prepare-phe-end-soon-possible>
 - Modern Healthcare: Home health agencies make legal case against CMS' proposed cuts - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/policy/home-health-agencies-make-legal-case-against-cms-proposed-cuts>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: New CMS website assists with No Surprises Act resolution - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/new-cms-website-assists-with-no-surprises-act-resolution.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Inflation Reduction Act may help ease payers' Medicaid losses if public health emergency ends, Fitch says - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/policy-updates/inflation-reduction-act-may->

[help-ease-payers-medicaid-losses-if-public-health-emergency-ends-fitch-says.html](#)

- EurekaAlert!: Current insurer calculation of qualified payment amount for out-of-network (OON) care may violate No Surprises Act - <https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/962130>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS Outlines Plans to Evaluate Waivers, Flexibilities to Prepare SNFs for Post-PHE World - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/cms-outlines-plans-to-evaluate-waivers-flexibilities-to-prepare-snfs-for-post-phe-world/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=d82b3950d4&mc_cid=d82b3950d4&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Skilled Nursing News: How Patient-Centered Care Plays a Big Role in Burgeoning Nursing Home, Hospital Relationships - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/how-patient-centered-care-plays-a-big-role-in-burgeoning-nursing-home-hospital-relationships/>
 - Modern Healthcare: CMS proposes mandatory Medicaid, CHIP quality reporting - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/policy/cms-proposes-mandatory-medicaid-chip-quality-reporting?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-friday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220818&utm_content=article2-headline
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items