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
  

  o **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

  o **Cornell University**: Are Costly New Prescription Drugs Worth the Price? - https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/08/are-costly-new-prescription-drugs-worth-price


- Nurse staffing

  o **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


- 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
  - [Inside Health Policy](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-providers-need-to-prepare-for-phe-end-as-soon-as-possible): CMS: Providers Need To Prepare For PHE End As Soon As Possible
  - [Becker’s Hospital Review](https://www.beckerspayer.com/policy-updates/inflation-reduction-act-may-): Inflation Reduction Act may help ease payers’ Medicaid losses if public health emergency ends, Fitch says
- [Help Ease Payers Medicaid Losses If Public Health Emergency Ends, Fitch Says](https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/962130)

- **Nursing home quality initiative**

- **Health equity-related items**
  - No new items