

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 2, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at noon. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Elizabeth Wilson Hanes to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 2:15 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Hanes nomination. Additional roll call votes are possible.
 - Nominations:
 - Elizabeth Wilson Hanes to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.
- The House meets in a pro forma session.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Washington Post: Biden's big win came from embracing a long policymaking tradition - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2022/08/02/bidens-big-win-came-embracing-long-policymaking-tradition/>
 - Bloomberg: Prognosis: Democrats Try 'Tax the Rich' Approach on Drug Prices - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFZGW2T1UM0Z>
 - The Hill: Democratic anxiety grows over Sinema's silence - <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3583461-democratic-anxiety-grows-over-sinemas-silence/>
 - CQ News: Democrats tweak drug pricing, submit insulin text for Senate Bill - <https://plus.cq.com/doc/news-7541027?6>
 - Healthline: How the New Drug Pricing Bill Could Affect You - <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-the-new-drug-pricing-bill-could-affect-you>
 - RealClearPolicy: The Law is Clear: There's No Legal Authority to Control Prices Via Bayh-Dole - https://www.realclearpolicy.com/articles/2022/08/02/the_law_is_clear_theres_no_legal_authority_to_control_prices_via_bayh-dole_845601.html

- Medical Economics: Internists, AAFP endorse health provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/internists-endorse-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>
- Nurse staffing
 - McKnights Senior Living: Stop-gap licensing waivers offer promise for nurse staffing crisis - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/stop-gap-licensing-waivers-offer-promise-for-nurse-staffing-crisis/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Many nursing home providers using sign-on bonuses to attract, retain workers - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/many-nursing-home-providers-using-sign-on-bonuses-to-attract-retain-workers/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Nursing home staff turnover up 25 percent from last year: survey - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/nursing-home-staff-turnover-up-25-percent-from-last-year-survey/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: What long COVID-19 means for the US labor shortage - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/what-long-covid-19-means-for-the-us-labor-shortage.html>
 - Advisory Board: Is the travel nursing market finally cooling down? - <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2022/08/01/travel-nursing>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - American Medical Association: Lawsuit could stop 150 million from getting free preventive care - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/patient-support-advocacy/lawsuit-could-stop-150-million-getting-free-preventive>
 - Washington University in St. Louis: Pairing imaging, AI may improve colon cancer screening, diagnosis - <https://source.wustl.edu/2022/08/pairing-imaging-ai-may-improve-colon-cancer-screening-diagnosis/>
 - Cure Today: FDA Lifts Hold on Novel CAR-T Cell Therapy for Colorectal Cancer - <https://www.curetoday.com/view/fda-lifts-hold-on-novel-car-t-cell-therapy-for-colorectal-cancer>

- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - Washington Post: Organ transplant system faces security concerns - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/02/cyber-ambassador-could-soon-take-world-challenges/>

- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items

- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items

- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: Tensions Between Employers, Hospitals Up With Transparency Push - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFZEPTOG1KW>
 - Bloomberg: CMS Issues Guidance on New Medicaid Home Benefit for Children - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFY8D3DWRGG0>
 - Stat News: Wall Street's love affair with insurers, hospitals pressure Medicare, and swimming in a risk pool - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/01/wall-street-insurers-risk-pool/>
 - Inside Health Policy: Dems Tee Up Reconciliation Package For Senate Vote, Providers Seek Medicare Pay Changes - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/features/health-insider>
 - Inside Health Policy: Supporters Hold Out Hope For Medicaid Gap Fix In Reconciliation - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/supporters-hold-out-hope-medicare-gap-fix-reconciliation>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Ups Fiscal 2023 Hospital Inpatient Pay, No Retrospective Review - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-ups-fiscal-2023-hospital-inpatient-pay-no-retrospective-review>
 - Modern Healthcare: Inpatient hospitals get 4.3% Medicare reimbursement bump - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/payment/inpatient-hospitals-get-43-medicare-reimbursement-bump?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220801&utm_content=article_1-headline

- MedCity News: Coverage delays exacerbate inequity for Medicare beneficiaries - https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/coverage-delays-exacerbate-inequity-for-medicare-beneficiaries/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=221543485&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_-77SykPLC3a8Yx8MqChMDbsf1UjwyRchXg-1gZSin33yQz_Vwl35Cv2sE6t9UnNXBuDdZ45H3cdoDEb-IP2tlcGKiQ&utm_content=221543485&utm_source=hs_email
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: Why CMS's Final Payment Rule Meets Nursing Home Providers 'More Than Halfway' - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/why-cms-final-payment-rule-meets-nursing-home-providers-more-than-halfway/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7ade7b0ade&mc_cid=7ade7b0ade&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Fierce Healthcare: CMS finalizes rule to boost nursing home pay rates by \$904M in fiscal 2023 - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/cms-finalizes-rule-boost-nursing-home-pay-rates-904m-fiscal-2023>
 - Healthcare Finance: Skilled nursing facility final payment rates updated to reflect impact of COVID-19 - <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/skilled-nursing-facility-final-payment-rates-updated-reflect-impact-covid-19>