

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 23, 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
 - Office of Senator Maggie Hassan (Press Release): NH Delegation Touts Key Health Care Investments from the Inflation Reduction Act Coming to NH - <https://www.hassan.senate.gov/news/press-releases/nh-delegation-touts-key-health-care-investments-from-the-inflation-reduction-act-coming-to-nh>
 - Washington Post: Assessing Ron Klain's viral claim about Biden's achievements - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/23/assessing-ron-klains-viral-claim-about-bidens-achievements/>
 - Bloomberg: Wyden Seeks Info on Questionable Medicare Marketing Activity - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RH2932DWLU68>
 - Time: From Meat to Insulin, How the Middlemen Economy Makes Everything More Expensive - <https://time.com/6207701/us-economy-middlemen-prices/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): CMS Encourages States to Use Medicaid Payments to Nursing Homes to Drive Better Health Outcomes for Residents, Improve Staffing - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/08/22/cms-encourages-states-to-use-medicaid-payments-to-nursing-homes-to-drive-better-health-outcomes-for-residents-improve-staffing.html>
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS: Medicaid Funding a 'Key Lever' to Improving Nursing Home Quality, Staffing - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/cms-medicaid-funding-a-key-lever-to-improving-nursing-home-quality-staffing/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=a1cc82dbc1&mc_cid=a1cc82dbc1&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Inside Health Policy: Stakeholders Clash Over Minimum Staffing Levels For Nursing Homes - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/stakeholders-clash-over-minimum-staffing-levels-nursing-homes>

- McKnights Senior Living: CMS outlines 4-pronged minimum staffing study - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/cms-outlines-4-pronged-minimum-staffing-study/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Data-Driven Initiative to Support Genomics-Based Cancer Diagnostics - <https://healthanalytics.com/news/data-driven-initiative-to-support-genomics-based-cancer-diagnostics>
- 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: Surprise Billing Arbitration Rule Risks Higher Health Premiums - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/surprise-billing-arbitration-rule-risks-higher-health-premiums>
 - Health Affairs: New No Surprises Act Guidance Builds On Recent Final Rule - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/new-no-surprises-act-guidance-builds-recent-final-rule>
 - Healthcare Dive: Federal regulators nix contested language in surprise billing final rule - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/federal-regulators-nix-contested-language-surprise-billing-final-rule/630145/>
 - Health Leaders: CMS Fact Sheets Summarize Status Of Medicare COVID-19 Waivers - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/cms-fact-sheets-summarize-status-medicare-covid-19-waivers>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 3 obstacles to making healthcare delivery more consumer-friendly - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/3-obstacles-to-making-healthcare-delivery-more-consumer-friendly.html>

- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Bloomberg: State Medicaid Programs Pushed on Nursing Home Quality, Safety - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RH0YPODWLU68>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Feds' antipsychotics program fails to reduce prescriptions in assisted living - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/feds-antipsychotics-program-fails-to-reduce-prescriptions-in-assisted-living/>
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items