

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 25, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House is not in session.

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Bloomberg: Drug Negotiations Will Drive Biosimilars as Patent Tactics Shift - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RH5ZZ5DWLU69>
  - Inside Health Policy: FDA Panel To Discuss Quality Rating System, KASA Expansion In November - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/fda-panel-discuss-quality-rating-system-kasa-expansion-november>
  - Managed Healthcare Executive: The 340B Program is at a Crossroads - <https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/the-340b-program-is-at-a-crossroads>
  - Lexology: Will the FTC resuscitate the Robinson Patman Act in an effort to bring down prescription drug prices? - <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=68feaa9a-59c8-40b0-9718-0da3fd2d2253>
- Nurse staffing
  - Skilled Nursing News: Psychologists, Social Workers In Short Supply As Demand For Behavioral Health Services in Nursing Homes Soar - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/psychologists-social-workers-in-short-supply-as-demand-for-behavioral-health-services-in-nursing-homes-soar/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=a40259540d&mc\\_cid=a40259540d&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/psychologists-social-workers-in-short-supply-as-demand-for-behavioral-health-services-in-nursing-homes-soar/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=a40259540d&mc_cid=a40259540d&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
  - McKnight's Senior Living: Lack of data makes it difficult to address workforce challenges: report - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/lack-of-data-makes-it-difficult-to-address-workforce-challenges-report/>
  - McKnight's Senior Living: Nursing homes can't compete if the data doesn't stack up, experts warn - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-homes-cant-competify-if-the-data-doesnt-stack-up-experts-warn/>

- Becker's Hospital Review: Labor turnover: 6 fast facts on which states have been hit the hardest - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/labor-turnover-6-fast-facts-on-which-states-have-been-hit-the-hardest.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
  - Axios: Health prices rising much faster in the private sector than Medicare - <https://www.axios.com/2022/08/25/health-prices-faster-private-sector-medicare>
  - Axios: Hospitals rebounding from pandemic press for more federal help - <https://www.axios.com/2022/08/25/hospitals-rebounding-from-pandemic-press-for-more-federal-help>
  - Kaiser Family Foundation: Medicare Advantage Is Close to Becoming the Predominant Way That Medicare Beneficiaries Get Their Health Coverage and Care - <https://www.kff.org/medicare/press-release/medicare-advantage-is-close-to-becoming-the-predominant-way-that-medicare-beneficiaries-get-their-health-coverage-and-care/>
  - Inside Health Policy: AHIP Finds 100% Of Plans Surveyed Offer Coverage For Behavioral Telehealth - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/ahip-finds-100-plans-surveyed-offer-coverage-behavioral-telehealth>
  - Modern Healthcare: New rural hospital model draws interest – and questions - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/new-rural-hospital-model-draws-interest-and-questions?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/new-rural-hospital-model-draws-interest-and-questions?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-)

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- Fierce Healthcare: Study: Costs to add substance abuse coverage to Medicare to only increase spending by nominal amount - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/study-costs-add-substance-abuse-coverage-medicare-only-increase-spending-nominal-amount>
- MedCity News: Government issues final rules to prevent surprise medical bills - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/government-issues-final-rules-to-prevent-surprise-medical-bills/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=223941536&hsenc=p2ANqtz-TMf3XM14d0Qn-BgB7OgEbyoyKclv92fZtvbSRIFH1HuSxK3Jx8-Qw5C4FaE50g5eyiQCttmRXqOYZMRfqskrT\\_2FF\\_A&utm\\_content=223941536&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/government-issues-final-rules-to-prevent-surprise-medical-bills/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=223941536&hsenc=p2ANqtz-TMf3XM14d0Qn-BgB7OgEbyoyKclv92fZtvbSRIFH1HuSxK3Jx8-Qw5C4FaE50g5eyiQCttmRXqOYZMRfqskrT_2FF_A&utm_content=223941536&utm_source=hs_email)
- RevCycleIntelligence: AHA Voices Concerns About Home Health Medicare Reimbursement Update - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/aha-voices-concerns-about-home-health-medicare-reimbursement-update>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items
- Health equity-related items
  - Becker's Hospital Review: National Committee for Quality Assurance taps Dr. Bryan O. Buckley as health equity initiatives director - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/health-equity/national-committee-for-quality-assurance-taps-dr-bryan-o-buckley-as-health-equity-initiatives-director.html>