

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 3, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at noon. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:30 p.m., when it will proceed to the consideration of the treaty (TD 117-3) admitting Finland and Sweden to NATO, with three hours of debate equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. The chamber will consider the Sullivan, R-Alaska, amendment no. 5192 and the Paul, R-Ky., amendment no. 5191 to the resolution of treaty ratification. At approximately 4:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to each amendment and on agreeing to the resolution of ratification.
  - Treaties:
    - Treaty Doc 117-3 — Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden.
- The House is not in session.

### Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
  - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Democrats' Insulin Push Faces Rule Hurdle - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RG1BBJDWX2PV>
  - Bloomberg: Democrats Try to Go Big on Insulin Changes for Drug-Pricing Bill - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RG07YGT0G1KW>
  - Forbes: Critics Decry Drug Pricing Provisions In Inflation Reduction Act, Say They Will Stifle Innovation - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/joshuacohen/2022/08/02/critics-decry-drug-pricing-provisions-in-inflation-reduction-act-say-they-will-stifle-innovation/?sh=21d78e66222d>
  - The Hill: Caps on prescription drug prices most popular element of reconciliation bill: poll - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3585990-caps-on-prescription-drug-prices-most-popular-element-of-reconciliation-bill-poll/>
  - The Hill: GOP targets Sinema while going all out to block Democratic bill - <https://thehill.com/policy/3585345-gop-targets-sinema-while-going-all-out-to-block-democratic-bill/>

- Politico: Dems ready to gamble their domestic agenda on Sinema - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/08/02/dems-sinema-manchin-bill-00049269>
- Axios: How companies are shaking up how we pay for old drugs - <https://www.axios.com/2022/08/03/how-companies-are-shaking-up-how-we-pay-for-old-drugs>
- Inside Health Policy: Schumer: Dems Plan To Cap Insulin Costs In Medicare, Commercial Markets - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/schumer-dems-plan-cap-insulin-costs-medicare-commercial-markets>
- Nurse staffing
  - American Nurses Foundation: New Survey Findings: Patients Lack Access to Appropriate Number of Nursing and Ancillary Staff - <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2022-news-releases/new-survey-findings--patients-lack-access-to-appropriate-number-of-nursing-and-ancillary-staff/>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Medical groups urge Congress to reauthorize program to improve physician workforce shortage - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-physician-relationships/medical-groups-urge-congress-to-reauthorize-program-to-improve-physician-workforce-shortage.html>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: The initiative that's bringing nurses back to the bedside at Jefferson Health - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/the-initiative-that-s-bringing-nurses-back-to-the-bedside-at-jefferson-health.html>
- STIs
  - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
  - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - Becker's Hospital Review: U.S. organ transplant network is outdated, insecure, report says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/healthcare-information-technology/u-s-organ-transplant-network-is-outdated-insecure-report-says.html>

- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - Healthcare IT News: AI-powered telehealth improves PT care at Essen Health Care - <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/ai-powered-telehealth-improves-pt-care-essen-health-care>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Inside Health Policy: Hassan To Admin: Expand Surprise Billing Ban To More Facilities - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hassan-admin-expand-surprise-billing-ban-more-facilities>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: CMS pay cuts will push physicians to employed models, Yale professor says - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/cms-pay-cuts-will-push-physicians-to-employed-models-yale-professor-says.html>
  - Healthcare Dive: Hospitals face sixth straight month of negative margins, report finds - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/hospitals-negative-margins-2022-Kaufman-Hall-report/628615/>
  - Healthcare Dive: Providers say inpatient pay adjustment for inflation not sufficient - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/inpatient-payment-rule-rate-adjustment-hospitals-inflation/628650/>
  - Fierce Healthcare: Patient safety advocate cheers CMS' reversal on quality reporting, but hospitals say the data are no good - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/patient-safety-advocate-cheers-cms-reversal-quality-reporting-hospitals-say-datas-no-good>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Skilled Nursing News: Omega CEO: Nursing Home Recovery Hinges on State Medicaid Boosts Being Extended, Made Permanent - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/omega-ceo-nursing-home-recovery-hinges-on-state-medicaid-boosts-being-extended-made-permanent/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ac65fcc0ae&mc\\_cid=ac65fcc0ae&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/omega-ceo-nursing-home-recovery-hinges-on-state-medicaid-boosts-being-extended-made-permanent/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ac65fcc0ae&mc_cid=ac65fcc0ae&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)