

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 30, 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 Representative Val Demings (Press Release): Rep. Demings Releases New Reports Showing Household Savings From Inflation Reduction Act - <https://demings.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-demings-releases-new-reports-showing-household-savings-inflation-reduction>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Average cost of prescription refill appointments by state: Report - <https://www.beckersasc.com/supply-chain/average-cost-of-prescription-refills-by-state-report.html>
 - RealClearPolicy: Pharmacy Middlemen Deserve Reformers' Attention - https://www.realclearpolicy.com/articles/2022/08/30/pharmacy_middleman_deserve_reformers_attention_850670.html
- Nurse staffing
 - Bloomberg: Nursing Homes Win Fresh Reprieve From Training Requirement - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RHF9BXT1UMOX>
 - Skilled Nursing News: Providers Push Back on CMS's Move to Zero in on Nursing Roles in Minimum Staffing Study - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/providers-push-back-on-cmss-move-to-zero-in-on-nursing-roles-in-minimum-staffing-study/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3a728c1782&mc_cid=3a728c1782&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Skilled Nursing News: Nursing Homes Could Have More Time to Certify TNAs Ahead of Looming Deadline - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/nursing-homes-could-have-more-time-to-certify-tnas-ahead-of-looming-deadline/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3efd5e5478&mc_cid=3efd5e5478&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- Colon cancer-related items

- Medical Xpress: Genetic discovery could improve treatment of colorectal cancer - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-08-genetic-discovery-treatment-colorectal-cancer.html>
- 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
 - American Medical Association: What Biden's student-loan plan means for resident physicians - <https://www.ama-assn.org/medical-residents/medical-residency-personal-finance/what-biden-s-student-loan-plan-means-resident>
 - Modern Healthcare: 'Not so optimistic:' Surprise billing arbitrations cause frustration - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/payment/no-surprises-act-arbitrations-leading-confusion?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220829&utm_content=article-3-headline
 - Fierce Healthcare: Higher Medicare Advantage rate didn't always lead to better quality, RAND study finds - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/rand-higher-medicare-advantage-rates-didnt-always-lead-better-quality>
 - Fierce Healthcare: July's hospital margins were among the worst of the pandemic, Kaufman Hall says - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/julys-hospital-margins-were-among-worst-pandemic-kaufman-hall-says>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Value-based contracts are 'small fraction' of total healthcare revenues, report finds - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/value-based-contracts-are-small-fraction-of-total-healthcare-revenues-report-finds.html>

- RevCycleIntelligence: Large Dialysis Facilities Bumped Prices for Major Medicare Advantage Plans - <https://healthpayerintelligence.com/news/large-dialysis-facilities-bumped-prices-for-major-medicare-advantage-plans>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - RealClearHealth: Congressional Action Urgently Needed to Preserve Seniors' Access to Home Health - https://www.realclearhealth.com/articles/2022/08/29/congressional_action_urgently_needed_to_preserve_seniors_access_to_home_health_111398.html
- Health equity-related items
 - MedCity News: Reducing care disparities in orthopedics - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/reducing-care-disparities-in-orthopedics/>