

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 4, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at noon. Following leader remarks, the Senate will begin consideration of a joint resolution (S J Res 55) providing for congressional disapproval of the April 2020 Council on Environmental Quality rule related to National Environmental Policy Act implementation. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate will vote on passage of the joint resolution and on confirmation of the nomination of Roopali H. Desai to be U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. Additional roll call votes are possible.
 - Nominations:
 - Roopali H. Desai to be U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit.
 - Bills:
 - S J Res 55 — A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Council on Environmental Quality relating to 'National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions.'
- The House is not in session.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Office of Senator Sherrod Brown (Press Release): Senate On Verge Of Historic Progress On Brown Plans To Lower Prescription Drug Costs For Older Ohioans - <https://www.brown.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/sherrod-brown-senate-verge-historic-progress-brown-plans-lower-prescription-drug-costs-older-ohioans>
 - New York Times: With Climate Deal in Sight, Democrats Turn Hopes on Sinema - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/03/us/politics/sinema-climate-deal-manchin.html>
 - Wall Street Journal (Opinion): SchumerCare and Cancer Patients - https://www.wsj.com/articles/schumercare-and-cancer-patients-joe-manchin-chuck-schumer-drug-pricing-deal-richard-gonzalez-abbvie-11659464967?mod=hp_opin_pos_3#cxrecs_s
 - Bloomberg: Manchin-Schumer Bill Gets CBO Nod for \$102 Billion Deficit Cut - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RG1YZQDWLU68>

- Forbes: U.S. Prescription Drug Market Lacks Certain Competitive Features: Case Of Biosimilars - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/joshuacohen/2022/08/03/us-prescription-drug-market-lacks-certain-competitive-features-case-of-biosimilars/?sh=3986462867d1>
- Forbes: U.S. Prescription Drug Pricing Doesn't Favor The Patient: Case Of Sub-Optimal Market For Cancer Pharmaceuticals - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/joshuacohen/2022/08/03/us-prescription-drug-pricing-is-rigged-against-the-patient-case-of-sub-optimal-market-for-cancer-pharmaceuticals/?sh=18fc98da4679>
- Politico: Electric cars, drug costs and more: 5 battles Democrats could lose on their marquee bill - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/08/03/democrat-party-line-bill-changes-00049626>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Federal drug-pricing bill has a 'major flaw,' APCI says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/federal-drug-pricing-bill-has-a-major-flaw-apci-says.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - Bloomberg: New York Debuts \$1.3 Billion Health-Care Worker Retention Bonus - https://www.bloomberglaw.com/bloomberglawnews/daily-labor-report/XCLU0TB4000000?bna_news_filter=daily-labor-report#jcite
 - USA Today: 'Permanent shock' to nursing homes? Facilities fail to replace workers who quit after COVID outbreaks - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2022/08/04/nursing-home-jobs-workers-quit-pay-covid-outbreaks/10219487002/>
 - Skilled Nursing News: The Workforce Linchpin: Nursing Home LPN Role Weaves Together Resident Knowledge, Clinical Expertise - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/the-workforce-linchpin-nursing-home-lpn-role-weaves-together-resident-knowledge-clinical-expertise/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8b77b366b5&mc_cid=8b77b366b5&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Skilled Nursing News: Staffing Woes, Rising Costs Continue to Force Nursing Homes Nationwide to Shutter - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/staffing-woes-rising-costs-continue-to-force-nursing-homes-nationwide-to-shutter/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8b77b366b5&mc_cid=8b77b366b5&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3

- McKnights Senior Living: Staffing shortages forcing closures...why does the government turn a blind eye? - <https://www.mcknights.com/blogs/guest-columns/staffing-shortages-forcing-closures-why-does-the-government-turn-a-blind-eye/>
- STIs
 - Axios: Alternate monkeypox treatment caught in regulatory delays - <https://www.axios.com/2022/08/04/alternate-monkeypox-treatment-caught-in-regulatory-delays>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - Washington Post: 70 deaths, many wasted organs are blamed on transplant system errors - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/08/03/transplant-deaths-mistakes-senate-finance/>
 - Bloomberg: Senators Decry 'Incompetence' in US Organ Transplant System - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RG280YT1UM14>
 - Bloomberg: Pig Organs Revived Hour After Death in Scientific Advance - https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-03/organs-revived-from-dead-pigs-offers-transplantation-promise-scientists-say?utm_source=google&utm_medium=bd&cmpId=google
 - The Hill: Senate review blames deaths, illnesses on mistakes in organ transplant screening - <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3586785-senate-review-blames-deaths-illnesses-on-mistakes-in-organ-transplant-screening/>
 - MedPage Today: Low MELD Score No Barrier to Long Survival After Living-Donor Transplant - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/gastroenterology/livertransplantation/100036>
 - EurekaAlert!: What a formula change may mean for Black patients in need of a kidney transplant - <https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/960763>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items

- Becker's Hospital Review: Dental therapy in underserved communities requires more funding: report - <https://www.beckersdental.com/clinical-leadership-infection-control/39055-dental-therapy-in-underserved-communities-requires-more-funding-report.html>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - American Physical Therapy Association: The Proposed 2023 Fee Schedule: 4 Things to Know - <https://www.apta.org/article/2022/08/03/2023-fee-schedule-opportunities>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Medical Association: As Congress breaks, doctors must take up message on Medicare pay - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/congress-breaks-doctors-must-take-message-medicare-pay>
 - Inside Health Policy: Biden Touts All-Time-Low Uninsured, Calls For ACA Credit Extension - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/biden-touts-all-time-low-uninsured-calls-aca-credit-extension>
 - Inside Health Policy: MGMA Adds To Press For Surprise Billing Enforcement Delay - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/mgma-adds-press-surprise-billing-enforcement-delay>
 - Inside Health Policy: Exchange Heads: If Reconciliation Passes In 2 Weeks, Premiums Will Include ARP Credits - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/exchange-heads-if-reconciliation-passes-2-weeks-premiums-will-include-arp-credits>
 - Health Leaders: 5 Objectives From The CMS RFI To Better Medicare Advantage - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/payer/5-objectives-cms-rfi-better-medicare-advantage>
 - Health Leaders: Hospital Groups Urge HHS To Renew PHE, Regulatory Waivers - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/hospital-groups-urge-hhs-renew-phe-regulatory-waivers>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items