

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: August 9, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

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

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Office of Senator Charles Schumer (Press Release): Just Back From DC, Schumer Outlines Historic Passage Of Inflation Reduction Act & Its Impact On Upstate New York; From Reducing Rx Costs For Over 3.7M NY-ers, Lowering Utility Bills, Closing Tax Loopholes For Big Corps, Fighting Climate Crisis, Creating New Jobs, Rebuilding American Manufacturing, & More -
[https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/just-back-from-dc-schumer-outlines-historic-passage-of-inflation-reduction-act-and-its-impact-on-upstate-new-york-from-reducing-rx-costs-for-over-37m-ny-ers-lowering-utility-bills-closing-tax-loopholes-for-big-corps-fighting-climate-crisis-creating-new-jobs-rebuilding-american-manufacturing more--](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/just-back-from-dc-schumer-outlines-historic-passage-of-inflation-reduction-act-and-its-impact-on-upstate-new-york-from-reducing-rx-costs-for-over-37m-ny-ers-lowering-utility-bills-closing-tax-loopholes-for-big-corps-fighting-climate-crisis-creating-new-jobs-rebuilding-american-manufacturing-more--)
 - Washington Post: Democrats' economic package, by the health-care numbers -
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/08/09/democrats-economic-package-by-health-care-numbers/>
 - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Employers Fear Deal Could Bump Drug Prices -
<https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGCG2KT1UM0Z>
 - Bloomberg: Hagglng With Pharma: Medicare Drug Price Negotiations Explained -
<https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGCD3GT0AFB5>
 - The Hill: Biden to tout bill's prescription drug prices, energy provisions in pitch to Americans, aide says -
<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/3592515-biden-to-tout-bills-prescription-drug-prices-energy-provisions-in-pitch-to-americans-aide-says/>
 - The Hill: GOP physicians in Congress: Drug price control in reconciliation bill will impact patient care -
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3592744-gop-physicians-in-congress-drug-price-control-in-reconciliation-bill-will-impact-patient-care/>

- Stat News: Here's who Democrats' drug pricing bill will actually help - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/09/democrats-drug-pricing-bill-will-help-medicare-patients/>
- Stat News: The Senate's drug pricing bill is an inevitable solution. It will still have plenty of unintended consequences - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/08/the-senates-drug-pricing-bill-is-an-inevitable-solution-it-will-still-have-plenty-of-unintended-consequences/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Skilled Nursing News: Nursing Home Leaders Not Likely to See Staffing Levels Recover Until 2026 - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/08/nursing-home-leaders-not-likely-to-see-staffing-levels-recover-until-2026/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=9f9929220d&mc_cid=9f9929220d&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Inside Health Policy: HHS Awards \$60 Million To Shore Up Rural Health Care Workforce - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hhs-awards-60-million-shore-rural-health-care-workforce>
 - McKights Senior Living: Grim long-term care forecast: 4 more years until workforce recovers if help doesn't arrive - <https://www.mckights.com/news/grim-long-term-care-forecast-4-more-years-until-workforce-recovers-if-help-doesnt-arrive/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Most nursing homes haven't filled COVID-19 staffing gaps - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/most-nursing-homes-haven-t-filled-covid-19-staffing-gaps.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Why Northwestern is reintroducing LPNs to inpatient care - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/why-northwestern-is-reintroducing-lpns-to-inpatient-care.html>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Medscape: Evidence Mounts for AI During Colonoscopy - <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/978814>
- 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
 - Office of Representative Terri Sewell (Press Release): Reps. Sewell, Smith Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Protect Access to Long Term Care Hospitals - <https://sewell.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ reps-sewell-smith-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-protect-access-long>
 - Bloomberg: HHS Allocates Almost \$60 Million to Advance Rural Health Care - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RGB2ZFT1UMOW>
 - MedCity News: Health insurance providers assisted growth in behavioral health access, AHIP survey shows - https://medcitynews.com/2022/08/health-insurance-providers-assisted-growth-in-behavioral-health-access-ahip-survey-shows/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=222240442&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9r1rZOXmtvqxkoj-VGagSZvnDgevRQVXIS7bRbicnvYCImpf4_EhOpvvGDwbl5qOOORMRfIX7J6qirmVi4063TXAr6Gw&utm_content=222240442&utm_source=hs_email
 - Inside Health Policy: Providers Ramp Up Lobbying To Avert 2023 Pay Cuts - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/providers-ramp-lobbying-avert-2023-pay-cuts>
 - Inside Health Policy: Stakeholders Celebrate Senate's Vote to Extend ACA Subsidies - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/stakeholders-celebrate-senate%E2%80%99s-vote-extend-aca-subsidies>
 - Healthcare Dive: Physician practices seek more time to comply with No Surprises rules - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/medical-group-management-association-physicians-more-time-comply-no-surprises-act/629055/>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: CMS Nixes MIPS Facility-Based Scoring for 2022 Performance Year - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/cms-nixes-mips-facility-based-scoring-for-2022-performance-year>

- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items
- Health equity-related items
 - Healthcare Dive: CMS moves toward guidance on health equity, climate change - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/final-rule-center-medicare-health-equity-climate-change/628791/>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Are Community Pharmacies Ideal for SDOH Screenings? - <https://patientengagementhit.com/news/are-community-pharmacies-ideal-for-sdoh-screenings>