

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 15, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Sarah A. L. Merriam to be a U.S. circuit judge for the 2nd Circuit. At 11:30, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Merriam nomination. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of David P. Pekoske to be administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.
 - Nominations:
 - Sarah A. L. Merriam to be a U.S. circuit judge for the 2nd Circuit.
 - David P. Pekoske to be administrator of the Transportation Security Administration
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The House is expected to complete consideration of a bill (HR 2988) that would prohibit retaliation against employees who share information with Congress and a bill (HR 8326) that would modify requirements of the Census Bureau. The chamber is also expected to consider a bill (HR 302) that would bar the creation of newly created schedules within the excepted service.
 - Bills:
 - HR 8326 — Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act
 - HR 302 — Preventing a Patronage System (PPSA) Act
 - HR 2988 — Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - New York Times: F.D.A.'s Drug Industry Fees Fuel Concerns Over Influence - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/15/health/fda-drug-industry-fees.html>
 - Inside Health Policy: FDA Finalizes 'Right To Try' Annual Reporting Requirements - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/fda-finalizes-%E2%80%99right-try%E2%80%99-annual-reporting-requirements>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: 40% of Americans Blame Deductibles for High Out-of-Pocket Healthcare Costs - <https://healthpayerintelligence.com/news/40-of-americans-blame-deductibles-for-high-out-of-pocket-healthcare-costs>
- Nurse staffing

- Washington Post: Why thousands of nurses are protesting in Minnesota - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/interactive/2022/minnesota-nurses-strike-overworked/>
- Skilled Nursing News: A 'Painful Couple of Years' Ahead For Operators as Nurses Say Workforce Crisis Hasn't Improved - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/a-painful-couple-of-years-ahead-for-operators-as-nurses-say-workforce-crisis-hasnt-improved/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=e2f2f2d74a&mc_cid=e2f2f2d74a&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- McKnights Senior Living: New nursing home staffing headache? CMS and GAO agree new requirements needed for infection preventionists - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/new-nursing-home-staffing-headache-cms-and-gao-agree-minimum-training-requirements-needed-for-infection-preventionists/>
- McKnights Senior Living: Providers gain needed allies against automatic nurse-aide training lockouts - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/126223/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - MedPage Today: Potential Practice-Changer for Refractory Metastatic Colon Cancer - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/esmo/100710>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - Health Leaders: New Technology Keeps Donor Hearts Beating Longer During Transport - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/technology/new-technology-keeps-donor-hearts-beating-longer-during-transport>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - American Physical Therapy Association: Potential Fee Schedule Reprieve Introduced in U.S. House - <https://www.apta.org/news/2022/09/14/fee-schedule-legislation>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items

- Bloomberg: Biden Agencies Seek Input on Medical Benefit Statement Details - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI7YXDT1UM0W>
- Bloomberg: House Backs Bill to Speed Approvals by Private Medicare Plans - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI7P64DWRGG0>
- Modern Healthcare: HHS requests comments on explanation of benefits policy changes - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/hhs-requests-info-explanation-benefits-policy-changes?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220914&utm_content=article-2-headline
- Modern Healthcare: House passes Medicare Advantage prior authorization oversight bill - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/medicare-advantage-prior-authorization-bill-passes-house?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220914&utm_content=article-3-headline
- Becker's Hospital Review: AHA to Congress: Suspend Medicare sequester cuts - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/aha-to-congress-suspend-medicare-sequester-cuts.html>
- Fierce Healthcare: Hospitals to CMS: Outpatient payment rates for 2023 don't keep up with chaotic economy - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hospitals-cms-outpatient-payment-rates-2023-dont-keep-chaotic-economy>
- Fierce Healthcare: House bill aims to get rid of 2023 Medicare cuts to physicians - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/house-bill-aims-get-rid-2023-medicare-cuts-physicians>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Social Risk Adjustment Reduced HRRP Penalties for Safety-Net Hospitals - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/social-risk-adjustment-reduced-hrrp-penalties-for-safety-net-hospitals>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Bloomberg: Required Training Urged for Nursing Home Infection Specialists - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI7WQFDWLU68>
- Health equity-related items
 - Stat News: Medicare provides insufficient access to opioid addiction treatment, report finds - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/15/medicare-provides-insufficient-access-to-opioid-addiction-treatment-report-finds/>