

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 16, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House convened at 9am. No votes are expected.

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Washington Post (Opinion): HHS should investigate drug middlemen - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/09/15/hhs-should-investigate-drug-middlemen/>
  - Bloomberg: Tying FDA Fees to Stopgap Bill Seen as Missed Chance for Change - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIAQ6MDWLU6B>
  - Reuters: Consumer group says drugmaker abuse U.S. patent system to keep prices high - <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/consumer-group-says-drugmakers-abuse-us-patent-system-keep-prices-high-2022-09-16/>
- Nurse staffing
  - Washington Post: Nurses Shouldn't Be Treated Like Your Mother - [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/nurses-shouldnt-be-treated-like-your-mother/2022/09/16/842d76b8-35af-11ed-a0d6-415299bfebd5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/nurses-shouldnt-be-treated-like-your-mother/2022/09/16/842d76b8-35af-11ed-a0d6-415299bfebd5_story.html)
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Nurse deficit could reach 2.1 million by 2025, study finds - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/nurse-deficit-could-reach-2-1-million-by-2025-study-finds.html>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: 4 schools launching nursing programs - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/4-schools-launching-nursing-programs.html>
  - McKnights Senior Living: Senate considers push to free immigrants' path to long-term care jobs, ease staffing crisis - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/senate-considers-push-to-free-immigrants-path-to-long-term-care-jobs-ease-staffing-crisis/>
- Colon cancer-related items

- Healio: Short-course neoadjuvant immunotherapy confers high response rates in colon cancer subset - <https://www.healio.com/news/hematology-oncology/20220915/shortcourse-neoadjuvant-immunotherapy-confers-high-response-rates-in-colon-cancer-subset>
- 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
  - Bloomberg: Hospitals Cite Financial Challenges, Seek Help From Lawmakers - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI9I51DWLU68>
  - Bloomberg: US Hospitals to Face 'Heart-Wrenching' Decisions as Losses Mount - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI99KIDWX2PS>
  - Inside Health Policy: Stakeholders Urge CMS to Reform MA Transparency, Oversight - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/stakeholders-urge-cms-reform-ma-transparency-oversight>
  - Inside Health Policy: MA Stakeholders Call For Electronic Prior Auth, CMS Oversight - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/ma-stakeholders-call-electronic-prior-auth-cms-oversight>
  - Inside Health Policy: Admin Issues RFI On Key Surprise Billing Data Transfer Provisions - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/admin-issues-rfi-key-surprise-billing-data-transfer-provisions>
  - Modern Healthcare: One in four hospitals won't be charged readmissions penalties - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/safety-quality/hospital-readmissions-penalties-2023-medicare-medicaid>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Payers negotiate lower prices for exchange plans than commercial groups, study finds - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/payers->

[negotiate-lower-prices-for-exchange-plans-than-commercial-groups-study-finds.html](#)

- Fierce Healthcare: 'Unsustainable' losses are forcing hospitals to make 'heart-wrenching' cuts and closures, leaders warn - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/unsustainable-losses-are-forcing-hospitals-make-heart-wrenching-cuts-and-closures-leaders>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - McKnight's Senior Living: Nursing homes would report medical director data to CMS under new bill - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/nursing-homes-would-report-medical-director-data-to-cms-under-new-bill/>
- Health equity-related items
  - House Ways & Means Committee (Report): Health Care And The Climate Crisis: Preparing America's Health Care Infrastructure - <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/health-care-and-climate-crisis-preparing-americas-health-care-infrastructure>
  - House Ways & Means Committee (Press Release): Following Request For Information, New Ways And Means Report Examines The U.S. Health System's Role In The Climate Crisis - <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/following-request-information-new-ways-and-means-report-examines-us>
  - Modern Healthcare: Healthcare climate change report illustrates industry on defense - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/healthcare-industry-defense-climate-crisis-report>