

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 21, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the resolution of ratification for a treaty (TD 117-1) relating to an amendment dealing with the global reduction of hydrofluorocarbons, commonly referred to as the "Kigali Amendment," to the Montreal Protocol. An afternoon vote is expected on agreeing to the resolution of ratification for TD 117-1. Cloture votes are also possible in relation to a bill (S 4822) to expand campaign finance disclosure requirements, the nomination of Amanda Bennett to be chief executive officer of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, and the nomination of Arati Prabhakar to be director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
 - Treaties:
 - Treaty Doc 117-1 — Amendment to Montreal Protocol (“Kigali Amendment”).
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The House is expected to begin consideration of a bill to update the Electoral Count Act (HR 8873) and complete consideration of a bill (S 1098) that would allow borrowers to split federal student joint consolidation loans.
 - Bills:
 - HR 8873 — Presidential Election Reform Act
 - S 1098 — Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (Press Release): Grassley Presses Justice Dept., FTC On Need For Vigorous Antitrust Enforcement In Ag, Prescription Drug Industries At Oversight Hearing - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-presses-justice-dept-ftc-on-need-for-vigorous-antitrust-enforcement-in-ag-prescription-drug-industries-at-oversight-hearing>
 - Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (Press Release): House Democrats Put People Over Politics to Lower Costs, Create Better-Paying Jobs, and Build Safer Communities - <https://www.majorityleader.gov/content/house-democrats-put-people-over-politics-lower-costs-create-better-paying-jobs-and-build>

- Washington Post: Biden Hopes the Fed can tame inflation without triggering a recession. That won't be easy - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/09/21/biden-hopes-fed-can-tame-inflation-without-triggering-recession-that-wont-be-easy/>
- Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Califf Hopeful for FDA Deal as Lapse Looms - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIK2D4TOG1KY>
- Bloomberg: FDA User Fee Lapse Would 'Devastate' Public Health, Califf Says - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIIZIGT1UM0W>
- Bloomberg: New FTC Member Wants to Revive Price-Discrimination Law - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-20/new-ftc-member-wants-to-revive-law-against-price-discrimination?leadSource=verify%20wall>
- Bloomberg: Bipartisan Insulin Bill Delayed to After Midterms, Senator Says - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIIOLOT1UM0X>
- NBC News: The Inflation Reduction Act aims to lower drug costs — but here's how Big Pharma could get around it - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/inflation-reduction-act-aims-lower-drug-costs-s-big-pharma-get-rcna48341>
- Inside Health Policy: Burr Wants All User Fee Policy Riders Included In Omnibus Appropriations - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/burr-wants-all-user-fee-policy-riders-included-omnibus-appropriations>
- Nurse staffing
 - Health Leaders: The Way Forward: 'Staffing Is the Biggest Challenge' - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/clinical-care/way-forward-staffing-biggest-challenge>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - NBC News: Cancer death rates continue to fall, driven by new treatments and improved screening - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/cancer/cancer-death-rates-continue-fall-driven-new-treatments-improved-screen-rcna48647>
- 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
 - American Physical Therapy Association: APTA Advocacy Roundup: What's Been Passed by Congress, What's Still on the Table - <https://www.apta.org/article/2022/09/20/federal-advocacy-roundup>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: At Nine Months, No Surprises Act Can Barely Crawl - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/class-action/at-nine-months-no-surprises-act-can-barely-crawl>
 - Axios: Rural hospitals face funding cliff with \$600 million on the line - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/21/rural-hospitals-face-funding-cliff>
 - Healthcare Dive: Doctor, hospital lobbies move to dismiss lawsuit over surprise billing ban - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/doctor-hospital-dismiss-lawsuit-surprise-billing-ban/632275/>
 - Health Leaders: 62 Studies Don't Lie: Little Differentiation Between Medicare and MA - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/payer/62-studies-dont-lie-little-differentiation-between-medicare-and-ma>
 - MedCity News: Despite hurdles, healthcare transparency is still a noble goal — and one within our grasp - https://medcitynews.com/2022/09/despite-hurdles-healthcare-transparency-is-still-a-noble-goal-and-one-within-our-grasp/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=226759295&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--w5rE8reMOoC3q_wCSMAC8wrcinRgYoSA1YXBBiQJ9pvVLof2j2UMMAIwU7oQlvExtcFNeFBxlt41HL6rRjeDud0QOQ&utm_content=226759295&utm_source=hs_email
 - Inside Health Policy: AHA, AMA Move To Dismiss Surprise Billing Case, But Eye New Suit - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/aha-ama-move-dismiss-surprise-billing-case-eye-new-suit>
 - Inside Health Policy: McKinsey: Health Care Companies Must Transform To Avert Cost 'Storm' - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/mckinsey-health-care-companies-must-transform-avert-cost-%E2%80%98storm%E2%80%99>
 - Modern Healthcare: AHA, AMA drop surprise billing lawsuit, plan further legal action - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/legal/ama-aha-surprise-billing-lawsuit-dropped?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-

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- Fierce Healthcare: OIG: Medicare Part B overpaid critical access hospitals and docs for same services - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/oig-medicare-part-b-overpaid-critical-access-hospitals-and-docs-same-services>
- RevCycleIntelligence: New Paper Claims Hospital Prices Are “Bleeding Americans Dry” - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/new-paper-claims-hospital-prices-are-bleeding-americans-dry>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - McKnights Senior Living: HCBS providers face more serious challenges ahead than institutional providers: report - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/hcbs-providers-face-more-serious-challenges-ahead-than-institutional-providers-report/>
 - Hospice News: US Senate Takes Up Supporting Our Seniors Act - <https://hospicenews.com/2022/09/20/u-s-senate-takes-up-supporting-our-seniors-act/>
- Health equity-related items
 - The Hill (Opinion): Opportunities to advance malnutrition care and health equity - <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3652091-opportunities-to-advance-malnutrition-care-and-health-equity/>
 - Becker’s Hospital Review: Social determinants of health tied to disproportionate dementia rates among minority groups, study says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/health-equity/social-determinants-of-health-tied-to-disproportionate-dementia-rates-among-minority-groups-study-says.html>
- Hospital merger news
 - Washington Post: Biden’s Antitrust Chiefs Seek Funds for Ambitious Enforcement - https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/on-small-business/bidens-antitrust-chiefs-seek-funds-for-ambitious-enforcement/2022/09/20/4ac12d8a-393c-11ed-b8af-0a04e5dc3db6_story.html
 - Modern Healthcare: DOJ mulls appeal of UnitedHealth-Change Healthcare ruling - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/doj-evaluating-next-steps-blocking-unitedhealth-change-healthcare-merger?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-

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