

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 26, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate is not in session.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Wall Street Journal: Recession Fears Save Pharma From Drug-Pricing Concerns - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/recession-fears-save-pharma-from-drug-pricing-concerns-11664124785>
 - Forbes: The Middlemen Mentality Is Killing American Medicine - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertpearl/2022/09/26/the-middleman-mentality-is-killing-american-medicine/?sh=41695cae4dab>
 - MSNBC: The GOP is afraid to talk about health care, with one exception - <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/gop-afraid-talk-health-care-one-exception-rcna49384>
 - Axios: Multimillion-dollar gene therapies offer hope and huge cost concerns - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/26/gene-therapies-drug-prices-cures>
- Nurse staffing
 - Washington Post: Seniors are stuck home alone as health aides flee for higher-paying jobs - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/09/25/seniors-home-health-care/>
 - McKnight's Senior Living: 'Critical Access' nursing homes could be game changer: Focused Post-Acute Partners' Mark McKenzie - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/critical-access-nursing-homes-could-be-game-changer-focused-post-acute-partners-mark-mckenzie/>
 - 19th News: The 19th Explains: Why the nursing shortage isn't going away anytime soon - <https://19thnews.org/2022/09/19th-explains-nursing-shortage/>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items

- Still looking for House Oversight report
- EurekaAlert!: Living donor transplantation offers a safe alternative for liver transplant patients - <https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/965672>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: House Republicans Playing ‘Small Ball’ on Health Care Next Year - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIO89PT1UM0W>
 - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: GOP Touts Health-Care Plans if House Flips - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RITAWTDWX2PS>
 - Bloomberg: Medicaid Funding Rules for States Get Fresh Look From HHS - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIOO21DWLU68>
 - Stat News: Health insurers are painting a misleading picture of Medicare Advantage savings, experts say - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/26/medicare-advantage-report-misleading-experts-say/>
 - Inside Health Policy: AHA, AMA Back Texas Docs’ New Suit Over Final Surprise Billing Rule - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/aha-ama-back-texas-docs%E2%80%99-new-suit-over-final-surprise-billing-rule>
 - Modern Healthcare: Cash on hand at not-for-profit health systems posing challenges - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/not-profit-health-systems-navigate-lower-cash-reserves-moodys-kaufman-hall?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220925&utm_content=article3-headline
 - Becker’s Hospital Review: CMS changes successfully reduced outpatient overpayments, OIG audit finds - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/cms-changes-successfully-reduced-outpatient-overpayments-oig-audit-finds.html>

- Becker's Hospital Review: AMA, AHA, state medical groups sue feds — again — over surprise-billing rule - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/ama-aha-state-medical-groups-sue-feds-again-over-surprise-billing-rule.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: LeadingAge CEO: Congress Put Spotlight on Broken Nursing Home System, Now Time for Action - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/leadingage-ceo-congress-put-spotlight-on-broken-nursing-home-system-now-time-for-action/>
 - Skilled Nursing News: CDC: Some Nursing Homes Can End Indoor Mask Requirements - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/cdc-some-nursing-homes-can-end-indoor-mask-requirements/>
- Health equity-related items
 - MedCity News: Racial disparities in maternal health complications grew amid Covid-19, BCBS report finds - https://medcitynews.com/2022/09/racial-disparities-in-maternal-health-complications-grew-amid-covid-19-bcbs-report-finds/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=227256573&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-ySBLydRXYmULlIsz3Qaj9_g62Q0qM6WA1hIzDq1f6cxmcFFc0SnQSpMLITOD2iHSRmUvmA5YSD5oSbcleHYSbq5m-Og&utm_content=227256573&utm_source=hs_email
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items