

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 30, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate meets in a pro-forma session.
- The House reconvenes at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 6833) that would make further appropriations for FY 2023 and a bill (HR 8987) that would authorize the Justice Department to issue lump-sum "catch-up" payments to 9/11 survivors, spouses and dependents.
  - Bills:
    - HR 6833 — Fiscal 2023 Short-Term and Supplemental Appropriations
    - HR 8987 — Fairness for 9/11 Families Act

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Department of Health and Human Services (Press Release): Biden-Harris Administration Announces Lower Premiums for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans in 2023 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/09/29/biden-harris-administration-announces-lower-premiums-for-medicare-advantage-and-prescription-drug-plans-in-2023.html>
  - Ways and Means Republicans (Press Release): Fact Check: Dems' Drug Pricing Scheme Means Higher Prices and Fewer Cures - <https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/fact-check-dems-drug-pricing-scheme-means-higher-prices-and-fewer-cures-2/>
  - Bloomberg: Commercial Insurer Price Cap Urged by CBO to Lower Health Costs - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIZO7LDWLU68>
  - Bloomberg: Medicare Private Plan Coverage Rates to Decline in 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIZLQPT1UM0W>
  - Modern Healthcare: HHS must stop 340B cuts through 2022, judge rules - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/legal/hhs-must-stop-340b-cuts-through-2022-judge-rules?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-friday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220929&utm\\_content=article1-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/legal/hhs-must-stop-340b-cuts-through-2022-judge-rules?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-friday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220929&utm_content=article1-headline)
- Nurse staffing

- Skilled Nursing News: ‘Powerful Data’ Could Inform CMS’ Nursing Home Minimum Staffing Standards - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/powerful-data-could-inform-cms-nursing-home-minimum-staffing-standards/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=815b124ed4&mc\\_cid=815b124ed4&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/powerful-data-could-inform-cms-nursing-home-minimum-staffing-standards/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=815b124ed4&mc_cid=815b124ed4&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- Modern Healthcare: Amid staffing crises, keeping employees engaged is crucial - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/labor/company-culture-healthcare-labor-shortage>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - New York Times: A Devious Cellular Trick Cancers Can Use to Escape Your Immune System - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/29/health/cancer-hiding-cells.html>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - Medical Xpress: This company is bioengineering pig kidneys and livers for possible transplant into humans - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-09-company-bioengineering-pig-kidneys-livers.html>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Bloomberg: Medicare Private Plan Coverage Rates to Decline in 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIZLQPT1UM0W>
  - MedPage Today: Doc Groups Ask Congress to Extend Payment Bonus for Alternative Payment Models - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/practicemanagement/reimbursement/100976>
  - Health Leaders: Medicare Payment Cuts Could Lead To Fewer Beneficiaries Served - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/medicare-payment-cuts-could-lead-fewer-beneficiaries-served>

- Inside Health Policy: CMS: MA Premiums Set To Drop 8% in 2023, Plan Finder Won't Show \$35 Insulin - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-ma-premiums-set-drop-8-2023-plan-finder-won%E2%80%99t-show-35-insulin>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items
- Health equity-related items
  - No new items
- Hospital merger news
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Most Nonprofit Hospitals Updated Charity Care Policies During Pandemic - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/most-nonprofit-hospitals-updated-charity-care-policies-during-pandemic>