

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 6, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of John Z. Lee to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. At 5:30 p.m, the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the Lee nomination.
  - Nominations:
    - John Z. Lee to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.
- The House meets in a pro-forma session.

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Wall Street Journal: Biden's Climate-Bill Win Offers Fresh Chance to Woo Midterm Voters - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/bidens-climate-bill-win-offers-fresh-chance-to-woo-midterm-voters-11662370200>
  - USA Today: Patients seek relief from spiraling drug prices. Will the Inflation Reduction Act deliver? - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/09/06/inflation-reduction-act-targets-medicare-drug-prices-consumer-costs/7934099001/?gnt-cfr=1>
  - Managed Healthcare Executive: As Health Care Providers, Pharmacists Must Advocate for What They Need and What Patients Deserve - <https://www.drugtopics.com/view/as-health-care-providers-pharmacists-must-advocate-for-what-they-need-and-what-patients-deserve>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Where every insurance premium dollar goes - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/where-every-insurance-premium-dollar-goes.html>
- Nurse staffing
  - NBC News: Travel nurses' gold rush is over. Now, some are joining other nurses in leaving the profession altogether - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/travel-nurses-gold-rush-now-are-joining-nurses-leaving-profession-alto-rcna45363>

- Skilled Nursing News: Worst Might Be Over: Nursing Home Labor Improves With Strong August Job Growth - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/worst-might-be-over-nursing-home-labor-improves-with-strong-august-job-growth/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ee176ca03f&mc\\_cid=ee176ca03f&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/worst-might-be-over-nursing-home-labor-improves-with-strong-august-job-growth/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ee176ca03f&mc_cid=ee176ca03f&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- Modern Healthcare (Opinion): Caring for the nurses of tomorrow—and today - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion/caring-nurses-tomorrow-and-today>
- Modern Healthcare (Opinion): Primary care in crisis: a prescription for recovery and resilience - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion/primary-care-crisis-prescription-recovery-and-resilience>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - American Dental Association: ADA comments on CMS proposed rule to expand Medicare coverage of medically necessary conditions requiring dental services - <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/september/ada-comments-on-cms-proposed-rule-to-cover-medicare-medically-necessary-conditions-requiring-dental>
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Stat News: Doctors, seniors groups flag concerns with Medicare Advantage - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/06/doctors-seniors-groups-flag-concerns-with-medicare-advantage/>
  - Health Leaders: FAH Pushes Congress To Reauthorize Financial Assistance For Rural Hospitals - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/clinical-care/fah-pushes-congress-reauthorize-financial-assistance-rural-hospitals>

- Modern Healthcare: Physician compensation trends could face years of uncertainty - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/physician-compensation/physician-compensation-trends-could-face-years-uncertainty>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Practices see more patients, bill more after private equity acquisitions: study - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/practices-see-more-patients-bill-more-after-private-equity-acquisitions-study.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Medicare Advantage in the headlines: 7 recent developments - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/medicare-advantage-in-the-headlines-7-recent-developments.html>
- McKnights Senior Living: 'Death spiral' for SNFs as Medicare Advantage pay decreases - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/death-spiral-for-snfs-as-medicare-advantage-pay-decreases-leading-age-tells-cms/>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - McKnights Senior Living: Assisted living quality of care study raises concerns among industry experts - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/assisted-living-quality-of-care-study-raises-concern-among-industry-experts/>
- Health equity-related items
  - Axios: Some racial groups saw steeper life expectancy drops, CDC data shows - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/02/cdc-race-life-expectancy-drop>
  - Stat News: Open access to research can close gaps for people with disabilities - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/06/open-access-to-research-can-close-gaps-for-people-with-disabilities/>