The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

**Schedules: White House and Congress**

**WHITE HOUSE**

- Biden will participate virtually at 9 a.m. in the annual U.S.-ASEAN Summit, and plans to discuss the Covid-19, climate issues, economic growth, and other topics.

- Biden will campaign with Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe in Arlington, Va., at 7:50 p.m.

**CONGRESS:**

- The House will weigh legislation reauthorizing domestic violence prevention and services grants.

- The Senate continues work on Biden’s judicial nominees.

**Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News**

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Agenda Deal Picks Up Speed:** Senate Democrats moved closer to an agreement on Biden’s economic agenda yesterday, but some House lawmakers raised doubts about the terms of the deal being discussed and whether differences could be resolved in the next few days. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), who has been pushing to shrink the size of the sweeping social-spending package, expressed optimism Democrats could have a deal this week, the best recent sign for Biden’s domestic agenda after months of intra-party wrangling over tax and spending increases.
  - House Democrats were far more skeptical, with Budget Chair John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) saying numerous parts of the plan were still being negotiated, indicating talks could extend beyond this week. “I wouldn’t bet my grandson on that,” Yarmuth said when asked if he thought the new framework could be completed before Biden leaves for European summits later this week.

- **Bloomberg Government: Drugmakers Undercut Rivals With New Patent Tactic:** Pharmaceutical companies are turning to a fast-moving but rarely used patent office process to undercut their competitors’ intellectual property. Drugmakers, in a slow but steady trend, are considering post-grant reviews, a Patent and Trademark Office trial proceeding where a wide array of challenges can be brought against rivals’ drug patents. The number of post-grant reviews challenging standard drug and biologic patents rose from just one in 2014 to 10 in the first half of 2021.
• **Bloomberg Government: Health Care Bills**: The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee scheduled a hearing today to examine legislation to support patients, caregivers, and providers.

• **Bloomberg Government: Democrats Mull Dropping Expanded Medicare, Medicaid**: Two significant elements of Democrats’ ambitious health agenda, expanding Medicare and Medicaid, face an uphill battle after Manchin signaled his opposition. Manchin said he doesn’t want to expand Medicare benefits without first protecting the rest of the program from insolvency later this decade. He also rebuffed legislation to extend coverage to millions of Americans in states that have refused to expand their Medicaid programs.

• **Modern Healthcare: Federal Court Rules Against Nursing Homes In COVID-19 Cases**: A ruling by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week against two nursing homes in New Jersey is the first step in determining how COVID-19 cases will be handled by courts, lawyers say. In the ruling, the Philadelphia-based 3rd Circuit determined that negligence and wrongful death cases like those alleged against the Andover Subacute & Rehabilitation I & II nursing homes should be handled by the states and are not covered by the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, known as the PREP Act, which offers immunity to liability for COVID-19 countermeasures.

• **CIDRAP: US Hospitals Took Huge, Unequal Financial Hit During COVID, Studies Show**: Three new studies describe how the COVID-19 pandemic cratered the finances of many US hospitals, one finding that most federal relief funds went to the already best-resourced facilities and the other two showing the devastating monetary effects of delaying or canceling surgeries. In a study published late last week in JAMA Health Forum, RAND Corp. researchers traced High-Impact Distribution Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to 952 hospitals. Data, which were taken from hospital cost reports in the Healthcare Cost Report Information System, were analyzed from December 2020 through June 2021.

• **Bloomberg Government: NIH Program Aims for Cheaper At-Home Covid-19 Tests**: The cost of rapid at-home Covid-19 tests could potentially come down under a $70 million expansion to an NIH Shark Tank-like program on testing, U.S. health officials said. The National Institutes of Health is setting up a new program called the Independent Test Assessment Program (ITAP) that will spot tests they think have the best potential and give them the testing tools developers need to ensure they’re providing the best submissions possible to the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services announced yesterday.