

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, October 7, 2020

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

- President Trump has no public events scheduled

CONGRESS

- Senate returns Oct. 19; holds next pro forma session on Friday
- House next meets Friday at 10am

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: FDA Will Force Vaccine-Safety Disclosures If Makers Don't:** Meanwhile, a top Food and Drug Administration official warned vaccine makers that the agency could call upon rarely-used powers to disclose significant safety issues, after being asked about month-old investigation into an experimental Covid-19 shot from by AstraZeneca.
 - At an online event hosted by Johns Hopkins University and the University of Washington, FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director Peter Marks said he “would encourage any manufacturers of a vaccine, any sponsor of a vaccine to be as transparent as possible.” Marks emphasized that he was not talking specifically about any one company.
 - He followed up by invoking the potential use of what’s called a commissioner’s finding, a rarely used FDA power by which the agency can announce serious safety concerns on the way to potentially banning use of a product.
- **Bloomberg Government: Hospitals Get Short Time to Report Covid, Flu Data:** Some 6,200 U.S. hospitals will have 14 weeks beginning today to comply with federal Covid-19 data-reporting requirements or risk being excluded from the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
 - The aggressive timeline announced yesterday allows the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to notify noncompliant hospitals, inform them of their violations, work with them to correct the problems – and if after 14 weeks that doesn’t work: “Termination from Medicare and Medicaid is the only sanction at our disposal,” CMS Administrator Seema Verma said.
- **The Hill: Trump Says He Will Back Specific Relief Measures Hours After Halting Talks:** President Trump late Tuesday signaled he would support specific measures on stimulus checks, help for the airline industry and small business loans, hours after cutting off bipartisan talks for more coronavirus relief. “The House & Senate should

IMMEDIATELY Approve 25 Billion Dollars for Airline Payroll Support, & 135 Billion Dollars for Paycheck Protection Program for Small Business. Both of these will be fully paid for with unused funds from the Cares Act. Have this money. I will sign now!" Trump tweeted Tuesday, referring to the coronavirus stimulus package passed in March.

- **KHN: Refuge In The Storm? ACA's Role As Safety Net Is Tested By COVID Recession:** The Affordable Care Act, facing its first test during a deep recession, is providing a refuge for some – but by no means all – people who have lost health coverage as the economy has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic. New studies, from both federal and private research groups, generally indicate that when the country marked precipitous job losses from March to May – with more than 25 million people forced out of work – the loss of health insurance was less dramatic.