

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, November 30, 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 Donald Trump has no public events scheduled
 - 12:30pm: Trump has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence
- 2pm: Pence leads conference call with governors on Covid-19 response and recovery

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 3pm
- House is scheduled to hold its first votes of the week on Dec. 2

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Congress Returns to Confront Deadlines:** Congress faces a rapidly approaching deadline to pass a new round of funding for the U.S. government, with dimming odds both of confirming Judy Shelton to the Federal Reserve Board and hashing out another coronavirus relief package. Lawmakers have only a few weeks to wrap up work before the year-end holidays. That doesn't bode well for either a retry of a vote on Trump's nomination of his controversial economic adviser Shelton, or for breaking the months-long stalemate on a stimulus bill.
 - The Senate is set to return this afternoon, though McConnell hasn't outlined a full agenda of votes beyond confirming a roster of Trump nominees. He's also suspending the regular in-person lunch meetings of Republican senators because of the nationwide spike in coronavirus cases.
 - The House doesn't return for votes until Wednesday. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) told lawmakers to prepare to stay in Washington through the weekend as talks continue on government funding, coronavirus relief and the annual defense authorization. Those bills "will be considered by the House as soon as they are ready," he said in a notice to members.
- **FierceHealthcare: CMS Releases Proposed Regulations For 2022 ACA Insurance Exchange Issuers, Including Lower User Fees:** The Trump administration proposed lowering the user fee for Affordable Care Act insurers from 3% to 2.25% of the premium for the 2022 coverage year. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released late Wednesday the proposed Notice of Benefit Payment Parameters for the 2022 coverage year. The rule also proposes enabling states to partner with the private sector to create a website that competes with the state-run exchange website or HealthCare.gov.

- **Bloomberg Government: Three Added to Biden's Covid-19 Transition Team:** Joe Biden's transition team named three more experts to its Covid-19 Advisory Board, which is helping guide the president-elect to help fulfill the key campaign promise of a robust, national strategy against the resurgent virus. The new adds are Jane Hopkins, a nurse specializing in mental health who worked most recently in Washington state; Jill Jim, executive director of the Navajo Nation's Department of Health; and David Michaels, an epidemiologist at George Washington University who served in the Clinton and Obama administrations.
- **Bloomberg: Canada To Prevent Distribution Of Some Drugs Ahead Of U.S. Rule:** Canada has imposed measures to limit the distribution of some drugs, a move that's largely aimed at the U.S. The Canadian government is putting the new guidelines in place to protect its drug supply from bulk sales across the border that could worsen the current deficit, Health Minister Patty Hajdu said in a statement. Companies will now be required to provide information to assess existing or potential shortages, and within 24 hours in serious cases.
- **CNN: UK Health Service To Pilot Blood Test That May Detect 50 Types Of Cancer:** The UK's National Health Service (NHS) is to pilot a simple blood test that may detect more than 50 types of cancer and, it is hoped, could help thousands of people by allowing the disease to be treated more successfully at an earlier stage. The Galleri blood test, developed by Californian healthcare company Grail, will be piloted with 165,000 patients in what the NHS described as a "world-first deal" in a news release Friday.