

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Thursday, November 5, 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 scheduled public events
- Vice President Mike Pence has no public events

CONGRESS

- House, Senate out

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Election Win Hinges on Seven Critical States:** The contest now depends on the outcomes of a handful of states, each with varying rules on counting votes and contesting results -- complicating the final stretch to declaring a winner. Wisconsin is heading for a recount, while six other states have yet to be called by at least some major networks -- Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Nevada and Arizona.
 - Nevada offers Biden his tightest path to the presidency. Its six Electoral College votes would give him precisely the number he needs, assuming other states' unofficial tallies hold up. By last night, he held a slim 7,600-vote lead over Trump there.
 - Nevada won't provide any new unofficial election results from its major urban areas until roughly noon or later EST, based on announcements from the secretary of state's office and county officials. So far, Biden leads the state by fewer than 8,000 votes in returns that represent all in-person votes on Election Day and early voting as well as most mail-in ballots received before Nov. 3. Remaining ballots include all other mail-in and provisional ballots cast by same-day registered voters.
- **Bloomberg Government: Fiscal Fights:** The next president will begin the year facing not only a pandemic, a weak economy, and a projected \$1.8 trillion federal deficit, but also a divided Congress where lawmakers have wildly different views about the fiscal outlook.
 - Democrats had planned to use the budget reconciliation process to pass coronavirus relief and health care measures in the Senate with a simple majority. That is all but off the table.
 - Whether Biden or Trump is president, the 117th Congress will feature either serious attempts at bipartisanship or gridlock. If bipartisanship is possible, lawmakers may aim to pass a coronavirus stimulus measure and an omnibus appropriations package in the winter lame duck session, before the start of the new Congress.
 - Beyond the immediate, Washington faces a tense debate over the fiscal outlook that could divide lawmakers for years. The federal government recorded a \$3.1 trillion deficit in fiscal 2020, a measure projected to total \$1.8 trillion in fiscal 2021, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

- **The New York Times: U.S. Records 100,000 Cases In A Day For The First Time:** Five states – Maine, Minnesota, Indiana, Nebraska and Colorado – set single-day case records. Cases were also mounting in the Mountain West and even in the Northeast, which over the summer seemed to be getting the virus under control. North and South Dakota and Wisconsin have led the country for weeks in the number of new cases relative to their population. But other states have seen steep recent increases in the last 14 days.
- **FierceHealthcare: California Dialysis Measure Fails, Mixed Results For Tobacco Taxes In State-Level Ballot Measures:** California voters resoundingly rejected a measure to require dialysis clinics to have an on-site physician as patients are treated. The ballot measure lost with 64% voting against it with nearly 70% of the votes being tallied. The rejection was a major win for provider groups that have been fighting the measure, which would have required clinics in the state to report data on any dialysis-related infections and get consent from the state health department before closing.
- **Modern Healthcare: HHS Proposes Rule To Review And Eliminate Old Regulations:** The Trump administration wants HHS to check its regulations every 10 years to see if they're still needed, according to a proposed rule on Wednesday. Rules would expire 10 years after HHS issues them if the agency doesn't assess and, if necessary, review a rule "in a timely manner," HHS said in a statement. The agency would carry out more detailed reviews of regulations that have significant economic effects on many small entities.
- **Stat: Americans Are Spending More On Specialty Drugs, Despite Payer Rebates:** Between 2010 and 2017, Americans nearly doubled their spending on pricey specialty medicines that they purchased at pharmacies or by mail. And this was after accounting for rebates paid by drug makers to health plans, according to a new analysis in Health Affairs.