

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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

- 9:10am: VP Harris swears in William Burns as CIA director
- 1pm President Biden departs White House for Columbus, Ohio to promote the coronavirus stimulus package, highlight Affordable Care Act anniversary
 - Press Sec. Jen Psaki holds gaggle on Air Force One
- 2:35pm: Biden arrives in Ohio
- 4:10pm: Biden tours James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute
- 4:50pm: Biden delivers remarks at hospital to commemorate the anniversary of the Affordable Care Act being signed into law
- 5:25pm: Harris to swear in Marty Walsh as labor secretary
- 6:05pm: Biden departs Ohio en route Washington
- 7:40pm: Biden arrives at White House
- Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff travels to Nebraska to visit hospital, thank frontline workers and meet health professionals to discuss how stimulus will lower health costs, expand access to coverage

CONGRESS

- U.S. House meets at 11am
- U.S. Senate convenes at 10am
 - Senate resumes consideration of nomination of Shalanda Young to be deputy director of Office of Management and Budget

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Murthy Nomination:** The Senate this afternoon is slated to vote on whether to invoke cloture on the nomination of Vivek H. Murthy to be surgeon general of the Public Health Service. If cloture is invoked on Murthy, under regular order a final confirmation vote for Murthy is expected two hours later, or at approximately 5:40 p.m.
- **KHN: Democrats Eye Medicare Negotiations To Lower Drug Prices:** Democrats, newly in control of Congress and the White House, are united behind an idea that Republican lawmakers and major drugmakers fiercely oppose: empowering the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate the prices of brand-name drugs covered by Medicare. But they do not have enough votes without Republican support in the Senate for the legislation they hope will lower the price consumers pay for prescription drugs. That raises the possibility that Democrats will use a legislative tactic called reconciliation, as they did to pass President Joe Biden's covid relief package, or even eliminate the Senate filibuster to keep their promise to voters.

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Team Eyes Economic Plan With Health Programs:** The White House is considering as much as \$3 trillion worth of measures to include in the long-term economic program that will follow the \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill signed earlier this month, according to three people familiar with the deliberations. The proposal will be presented to Biden this week, one person said, asking not to be named as the discussions are private. The proposal includes health-care initiatives, one said. Another said there will be money for child care and elder care.
- **KHN: Under New Cost-Cutting Medicare Rule, Same Surgery, Same Place, Different Bill:** A cost-saving change in Medicare launched in the final days of the Trump administration will cut payments to hospitals for some surgical procedures while potentially raising costs and confusion for patients. For years, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services classified 1,740 surgeries and other services so risky for older adults that Medicare would pay for them only when they were admitted to the hospital as inpatients. Under the new rule, the agency is beginning to phase out that requirement and, on Jan. 1, 266 shoulder, spine and other musculoskeletal surgeries were crossed off what's called the "inpatient-only list." By the end of 2023, the list – which includes a variety of complicated procedures including brain and heart operations – is scheduled to be gone.
- **The Washington Post: The Big Number: Eating Breakfast Before 8:30 A.M. May Reduce Diabetes Risk:** Eating breakfast earlier in the day – specifically, starting before 8:30 a.m. – appears to lower the risk for developing Type 2 diabetes, according to a report presented recently at the Endocrine Society's annual meeting. Looking at eight years of national data on 10,575 adults, researchers found that people who began eating earlier than 8:30 a.m. tended to have lower blood sugar levels and less insulin resistance than people whose daily food intake started later.
- **Bloomberg Government: Medical Research Gets Lift with NIH Alum:** Fighting undue foreign influence and other legal issues related to medical research could gain more traction under the Biden administration with the appointment of a veteran NIH attorney to a high post in the health department's legal team. The Department of Health and Human Services announced a series of administration posts yesterday, including Barbara McGarey as deputy general counsel.