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 Biden plans to deliver remarks on the pipeline attack from the White House today at 11:50 a.m.
- Biden plans to meet at the White House at 1:30 p.m. with Republican senators Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), John Barrasso (Wyo.), Roy Blunt (Mo.), Pat Toomey (Pa.), Mike Crapo (Idaho) and Roger Wicker (Miss.) to discuss his infrastructure proposal.
  - Vice President Kamala Harris, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg will join the meeting, according to the White House schedule.

**CONGRESS:**

- The House is scheduled to consider legislation that would subject private debt collectors to additional restrictions when collecting money from medical patients, small businesses, private student loan borrowers, homeowners, service members, and other consumers.
  - The House Oversight and Reform Committee plans to consider legislation to revamp the U.S. Postal Service.

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

- **Modern Healthcare: Mayo Clinic, Kaiser Permanente Invest $100 Million In Hospital-At-Home Model:** Mayo Clinic and Kaiser Permanente invested $100 million in Medically Home as they map out a national blueprint for complex in-home care, the organizations announced Thursday. The hospital-at-home model can treat routine infections to chronic diseases, including emergency care, cancer, acute COVID-19 cases, infusions, lab and imaging tests, rehabilitation, behavioral health and transfusions. Nurses, physician assistants and community paramedics will deliver in-person care with the help of a 24/7 command center staffed by clinicians and an integrated care team.

- **Bloomberg Government: Appropriators Draw Thousands of Earmark Requests:** Among the thousands of earmark requests sent to House appropriators are various legislative priorities long left on the backburner after a decade-long ban on earmarks. More than 300 House members took advantage of Democrats’ decision to allow local project funding proposals for fiscal 2022, sending 2,887 requests totaling nearly $5.9 billion, according to a list released by the House Appropriations Committee. Requests from 221 Democrats totaled $3.3 billion, while 106 Republicans asked for a combined $2.6 billion in earmarked funds, though those figures include some duplicates.
  - The requested total is less than the amount of money House appropriators are willing to set aside for earmarks. Appropriators set a limit of 1% of discretionary spending, which will likely be about $15 billion for fiscal 2022 for the House and Senate combined.
**Modern Healthcare: HHS Considering Extending Provider Relief Fund Deadline, Secretary Tells Congress:** HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Wednesday said the agency is considering extending the deadline that providers have to spend relief funds by but did not provide a timeline of when more aid might be delivered. Provider Relief Funds must be spent by June 30 or returned to the federal government but the American Hospital Association (AHA) and some lawmakers have called on HHS to extend that deadline through at least the end of the year.

**The New York Times: C.D.C. Advisers Endorse Pfizer Vaccine For Children Ages 12 To 15:** Vaccinations of adolescents have already begun in a few states, like Maine. Others plan to offer the vaccine as early as Thursday. There are nearly 17 million 12- to 15-year-olds in the United States, accounting for 5.3 percent of the population. Nearly all states now have a supply of vaccine doses that could be quickly redirected to adolescents. The dose used to immunize adults is also safe and effective for these adolescents, clinical trials have shown.

**Bloomberg Government: Trio of Biden Labor Agency Nominees Advance:** Three of Biden’s labor and employment nominees—including picks for top attorney at the National Labor Relations Board and U.S. Labor Department—can be considered by the full Senate following votes by the chamber’s labor panel yesterday, the committee said. The name that drew the most disagreement, Jennifer Abruzzo for NLRB general counsel, will be eligible for a vote by the chamber after an 11-11 draw in committee that broke down along party lines.

**Bloomberg: J&J Vaccine Leads To 28 Cases Of Blood Clots After 8.7 Million Doses:** Twenty eight people developed blood clots with low platelets after receiving Johnson & Johnson’s Covid-19 vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The 28 cases were identified out of 8.7 million doses of J&J’s vaccine administered in the U.S., the CDC said in a presentation posted online Wednesday ahead of a meeting of the agency’s immunization advisory committee. The panel will review the new data on the condition, called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome.

**CIDRAP: Study: 80% Of Hospital COVID-19 Patients Have Neurologic Complications:** Eight of 10 hospitalized COVID-19 patients developed neurologic complications and were six times more likely than their peers to die, according to early results from a global study published yesterday in JAMA Network Open. Many of the conditions were mild to moderate, but half of the patients had altered brain function or structure, and almost one in five were in a coma.

**Stat: Measuring Blood Sugar In Real Time Is A Game Changer For Patients:** Kylene Redmond and Deb Foerster both are converts to their continuous glucose monitors, quarter-size devices that measure their blood sugar in real time so they can adjust their diet, their activity, and the medications they take to manage their diabetes. The automated sensors give both women feedback they can use to better control their disease and manage their daily lives, they said Wednesday at the STAT Health Tech Summit, making the devices a bellwether for other wearables beyond diabetes that are gaining traction in both consumer and clinical markets.

**Roll Call: Democrats Unveil Bill To Expand Immigrant Health Care Access:** A group of Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday are introducing legislation that would make health care coverage more accessible to immigrants, citing the ongoing pandemic and its impact on immigrant frontline workers. The bill would lift a current five-year waiting period legal
immigrants must undergo before enrolling in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. It also would expand access to various types of health coverage for undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children and protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The measure also would remove restrictions to prevent undocumented immigrants from purchasing health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

- **Bloomberg Government: Bill to Restore FDA Diagnostic Oversight on Horizon:**
  Lawmakers plan to reintroduce a bill in the coming weeks that would restore some of the FDA’s powers to oversee lab-developed diagnostic tests, which the Trump administration stripped last summer. Reps. Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) are tweaking a measure introduced last year called the VALID Act, a House aide said.

- **Modern Healthcare: Hospitals In Non-Expansion States Sue HHS For DSH Payments:**
  Hospitals in states that did not expand Medicaid are suing HHS, arguing that they unfairly receive lower Medicare disproportionate share hospital payments because the agency does not consider some patients eligible for Medicaid in non-expansion states. In their complaint, 32 hospitals that include Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Regional One Health, and Houston Methodist Hospital, allege HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is discriminating against states that did not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.