American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, May 5, 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**

- President Biden will speak today at 2 p.m. from the White House on his administration’s work to implement the $1.9 trillion economic relief package signed into law in March.

**CONGRESS:**

- The House and Senate have no floor work scheduled this week, but the House will be conducting committee work.

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

- **Bloomberg: Two Pandemics Clash As Doctors Find That Covid Spurs Diabetes:** When Ziyad Al-Aly’s research team told him how often diabetes appeared to strike Covid-19 survivors, he thought the data must be wrong, so he asked his five colleagues to crunch the numbers again. Weeks later, they returned the same findings after sifting through millions of patient records. By then Al-Aly had also gone digging into the scientific literature and was starting to come to terms with an alarming reality: Covid-19 isn’t just deadlier for people with diabetes, it’s also triggering the metabolic disease in many who didn’t previously have it.

- **KHN: Hit By Higher Prices For Gear, Doctors And Dentists Want Insurers To Pay:** Treating patients has become more expensive during the pandemic, and doctors and dentists don’t want to be on the hook for all the new costs. For instance, the box of 100 gloves that cost $2.39 in February 2020 costs $30 now, said Dr. Judee Tippett-Whyte, president of the California Dental Association, who has a private dental practice in Stockton.

- **AP: Biden Aims To Vaccinate 70% Of American Adults By July 4:** President Joe Biden set a new vaccination goal to deliver at least one shot to 70% of adult Americans by July Fourth as he tackles the vexing problem of winning over the “doubters” and those unmotivated to get inoculated. Demand for vaccines has dropped off markedly nationwide, with some states leaving more than half their available doses unordered. Aiming to make it easier to get shots, Biden on Tuesday called for states to make vaccines available on a walk-in basis and he will direct many pharmacies to do likewise. His administration for the first time also is moving to shift doses from states with weaker demand to areas with stronger interest in the shots.

- **The Washington Post: Organ Collection Agencies Told To Improve Performance Or Face Tighter Rules:** Lawmakers on Tuesday grilled leaders of the groups that collect organs for transplant, warning that they might seek tighter regulations if the organizations do not increase the number of kidneys, hearts, lungs and other organs they procure and
reduce racial disparities among donors and recipients. Before a congressional hearing on the industry even began, six of the 57 groups — known as organ procurement organizations, or OPOs — announced that they were withdrawing from their own trade group, the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations. In a news release, they cited AOPO’s “lobbying against lifesaving reforms” being implemented by the federal government, and said they wanted to provide clearer information on waste and mismanagement in their ranks.

- **Bloomberg Government: Groups Cry Foul Over Medicare Quality Reporting Requirements**: Accountable care organizations will say they’ll face higher administrative costs and lower participation in value-based care initiatives unless the Biden administration revises and delays new reporting requirements that change the way they’re evaluated on quality. The groups of doctors and hospitals that provide coordinated care for beneficiaries in traditional Medicare, ACOs are a major component of Medicare’s move from a fee-for-service payment model to value-based care, in which provider reimbursement is based on patient outcomes and cost efficiency rather than the volume of services provided.