

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, June 10, 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 meets with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Cornwall today ahead of the G-7 Summit.

### CONGRESS:

- The Senate will consider the nominations of Zahid N. Quraishi to be district judge for New Jersey and Ketanji Brown Jackson to be a circuit court judge for the District of Columbia.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee plans to mark up a measure that would reinstate an Obama-era rule limiting methane emissions from oil and gas drilling.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **AP: US Deaths From Heart Disease And Diabetes Climbed Amid COVID:** The U.S. saw remarkable increases in the death rates for heart disease, diabetes and some other common killers in 2020, and experts believe a big reason may be that many people with dangerous symptoms made the lethal mistake of staying away from the hospital for fear of catching the coronavirus. The death rates – posted online this week by federal health authorities – add to the growing body of evidence that the number of lives lost directly or indirectly to the coronavirus in the U.S. is far greater than the officially reported COVID-19 death toll of nearly 600,000 in 2020-21.
- **Bloomberg Government: FDA Budget:** The Senate Appropriations Agriculture-FDA Subcommittee holds a hearing on the fiscal 2022 budget for the Food and Drug Administration. Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock will testify.
- **Bloomberg Government: HHS Budget:** The Senate Finance Committee holds a hearing on the fiscal 2022 budget for the Health and Human Services Department. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra will testify.
- **Bloomberg Government: Surprise Medical Billing Regulation Under Review:** The first rule implementing a 2020 law limiting medical bills in emergencies and in other situations beyond patients' control is under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget. How the Biden administration interprets the No Surprises Act, passed as part of appropriations legislation late in 2020, will likely be crucial to controlling costs of medical bills. The law takes effect in 2022.

- **KHN: Can A Subscription Model Fix Primary Care In The US?:** In April, San Francisco-based primary care company One Medical revealed an eye-popping compensation package for its chief executive and chairman, Amir Dan Rubin. His \$199 million payday, particularly noteworthy at a company that has yet to turn a profit, made Rubin the second-highest-paid CEO in the United States last year — but only on paper. About \$197.5 million of his pay is in stock options. For Rubin to get all that cash, the stock of One Medical, traded as 1Life Healthcare, must rise sharply over the next seven years, to nearly triple its current price.
- **Modern Healthcare: Medicare, Blue Cross Push Incentives To Spur Vaccination Rates:** Medicare on Wednesday promised providers new incentives for vaccinating homebound beneficiaries. The move comes as part of a broader effort to increase access to vaccines prior to President Joe Biden's July 4 goal of having 70% of the population at least partially vaccinated. While Medicare previously paid \$40 per at-home vaccination, CMS will now pay \$75 per dose.
- **Bloomberg Government: Walsh Says OSHA Covid-19 Rule Coming:** OSHA's emergency rule to protect workers from Covid-19 will be released today, Labor Secretary Marty Walsh told the House Education and Labor Committee yesterday. The emergency temporary standards will focus on the health-care industry, Walsh said. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will issue guidance for other sectors, he added.
- **Modern Healthcare: Healthcare Costs Projected To Increase 6.5% In 2022:** Healthcare costs are projected to increase 6.5% in 2022 as sicker patients seek care after putting it off during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report. Annual cost growth hovered between 5.5% and 6% from 2017 to 2020, following a steady decline from 2007's 11.9% mark, according to PricewaterhouseCooper's Health Research Institute. Deferred or forgone care, growing mental health issues, preparations for the next pandemic and investments in digital tools are expected to increase costs in 2022, researchers said.