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**

- The president and first lady Jill Biden will visit the south Florida town where a condo tower collapsed, killing 11 people and leaving dozens more missing, the White House said. Rescue workers are still digging through the wreckage of Champlain Towers South, a multi-unit condo tower that collapsed last Thursday.

- Biden will receive a briefing at 10:05 a.m. from Incident Commander Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), local leaders, and first responders.

- The Bidens will meet at 12:30 p.m. with families and members of the community.

- Biden is scheduled to speak on the collapse at 3:50 p.m., and then will return to the White House.

**CONGRESS:**

- The House will vote today on Democrats’ transportation and water infrastructure package.

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

- **Bloomberg Government: Drug Pricing Group Targets Four Finance Panel Senators:** A consumer group that wants Congress to empower the government to negotiate the price of drugs will launch an ad campaign aimed at four key senators this week. Patients for Affordable Drugs Now, an advocacy group launched with the support of the Arnold Foundation, will start a six-figure ad campaign targeting four Senate Finance Committee Democrats: Michael Bennet (Colo.), Tom Carper (Del.), Bob Casey (Pa.) and Bob Menendez (N.J.).
  - Advocates for drug-price negotiation legislation are turning their attention to the Finance Committee, where Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) says he wants the federal government to be able to negotiate lower prices on some drugs. “Patients are depending on these senators to join with other supporters of meaningful reform,” David Mitchell, founder of Patients For Affordable Drugs Now, said in a statement.
  - Menendez voted against a measure to allow Medicare to negotiate with drugmakers brought before the Finance Committee in 2019. Carper said earlier this year he wants to revive a bipartisan drug pricing package from Wyden and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), which didn’t include negotiation language.
**Bloomberg Government: Organ Transplant Push Seen Endangered by Plan to Rein in Costs**: Prominent medical groups fear a federal push to increase organ transplants could face a significant slowdown under a proposed rule by the Biden administration that would reduce Medicare payment for certain costs related to the organ acquisition process.

- One payment revision in the proposed rule would save an estimated $4.1 billion over 10 years and help cut wasteful and duplicative program spending—sometimes for organs not used by Medicare beneficiaries. Transplant hospitals, doctors, and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) say the proposals would hurt the acquisition of organs from deceased donors—and access to those organs—while increasing the number of patients who die while awaiting a transplant.

**National Academies of Sciences: Exploring the State of the Science of Solid Organ Transplantation and Disability**: Transplantation of a solid organ, such as a kidney, heart, or liver, is a lifesaving procedure and is sometimes the only viable treatment for patients experiencing end-stage organ failure as a result of illness or injury. A growing prevalence of solid organ diseases in the United States is contributing to more people needing a transplant and longer wait times on the national transplant waiting list. While transplantation can lengthen a person's life, the road to recovery is difficult and complex. Transplant recipients commonly experience considerable impairments related to health factors, medication side effects, organ rejection, or other setbacks that can cause functional limitations. A spectrum of services and supports can be beneficial to patient functioning and quality of life, but patient access is variable due to individual, system, and social factors.

**Modern Healthcare: Hospitals At Odds Over CMS Plans For New GME Slots**: Hospitals are at odds over how CMS should distribute an additional 1,000 graduate medical education slots, according to comments on the agency's proposed inpatient prospective payment system rule. After 25 years of inaction, Congress finally increased the number of Medicare-supported GME slots to address the nation's growing doctor shortage in its December spending bill. The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates the U.S. will need 37,800 to 124,000 more physicians by 2034 to keep up with demand, so the additional capacity is necessary given how long it takes to train doctors.

**Axios: Walmart Rolls Out Cash-Pay Novo Nordisk Insulin**: Walmart is now selling rapid-acting insulins, made by drug manufacturer Novo Nordisk, for cash prices of $73 per vial and $86 for a box of five pre-filled syringes. Walmart is attempting to retain and attract more diabetes patients to its stores by offering a more modern insulin at a lower cash price. Novo Nordisk is trying to keep its insulin market share. But this deal doesn't ensure an affordable price for patients and the broader public.

**Stat: Gene Therapy To Aid Recovery After A Heart Attack Passes A Key Test**: By delivering a viral payload of gene silencers directly to the heart, scientists have developed a new strategy for regenerating cardiac muscle after damage from a heart attack. Described in a paper published Wednesday in Science Translational Medicine, the approach led to new cell growth and improved heart function in pigs. The findings, though preliminary, indicate it's possible to prod cardiac muscle cells into regenerating, at least long enough to stave off some of the worst after-effects of a heart attack. If the gene therapy bears out as safe and effective in further testing, it might someday be used to address the root cause of heart failure — one of the leading causes of death in the U.S.