

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, July 20, 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

- Biden will host the Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the White House at 11:15 a.m.
- Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will hold a meeting with the Cabinet at 3:15 p.m. to mark six months in office.

### CONGRESS:

- The Senate is set to vote today on House-passed legislation to revamp the Crime Victims Fund.
- The House plans to consider legislation to boost the Federal Trade Commission's authority to seek restitution for defrauded consumers, along with a slate of broad, bipartisan measures.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Modern Healthcare: Biden To Crackdown On Hospital Price Transparency Violations:** The Biden administration wants to increase fines for hospitals that are not making clear, accessible pricing information available online, according to CMS' proposed outpatient pay rule on Monday. The agency has proposed increasing the minimum fine for violations of the hospital price transparency rule to \$300 per day for hospitals with 30 or fewer beds. Hospitals with more than 30 beds would have to pay \$10 per day for each bed up to \$5,500 daily. Hospitals could face annual fines of \$110,000 to more than \$2 million, depending on their size.
- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare Moves to Hike Payments, Penalties for Hospitals:** Medicare wants to pay acute care hospitals 2.3% – or nearly \$10.8 billion – more for outpatient services next year, the Biden administration announced yesterday. The proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services would also increase the penalty for hospitals that don't comply with the hospital price transparency final rule.
- **Bloomberg Government: Schumer Sets Deadline:** Schumer yesterday cemented plans for a cliff-hanger vote tomorrow on whether to begin debate on a \$579 billion infrastructure plan that does not yet exist. The move comes after negotiators failed through the weekend to reach a compromise on the bipartisan measure. Schumer's procedural maneuver puts pressure on the bipartisan group of 22 senators negotiating the package, but it also risks upending momentum behind a deal and handing him an embarrassing defeat.

- Republicans have insisted a deal probably can't be reached by tomorrow and a number have said they won't support starting debate without legislation in hand. "We need to see the bill before voting to go to it," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said. "I think that's pretty easily understood."
- Schumer said last night if there is a deal by the bipartisan group by Thursday, he will make that agreement the pending substitute for the legislation. If not, he said he'd prepare an amendment consisting of legislation already approved by Senate committees. Measures would include the Environment and Public Works' water infrastructure and highway bills; Commerce, Science, and Transportation's rail and safety bill; and the Energy and Natural Resource Committee's energy infrastructure bill.
- **Bloomberg Government: Advocates Push for Telehealth Access in Rule:** Medicare beneficiaries would see increased access to telehealth for mental health treatment under a Biden administration proposed rule, a positive step that advocates say is limited by a law requiring occasional in-person visits. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated rates of anxiety and depression, substance use, and suicidal thoughts, according to a 2020 study from the CDC.
- **Stat: Kadmon Wins Approval For Drug To Treat Chronic Graft-Versus-Host Disease:** Kadmon Pharmaceuticals won approval from the Food and Drug Administration on Friday to market a new treatment for chronic graft-versus-host disease – a debilitating immune condition that can affect as many as half of the blood cancer patients who undergo bone marrow transplants. The newly approved drug, called Rezurock, is Kadmon's first internally developed medicine to reach the market.
- **Bloomberg Government: Care Workforce:** The House Education and Labor subcommittees on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions; and Higher Education and Workforce Investment meet for a joint hearing on the direct care workforce.