

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, August 12, 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 is scheduled at 11:15 a.m. to deliver remarks from the White House on the effect of his economic agenda on drug prices. He's set to depart the White House for Delaware shortly after noon.

### CONGRESS:

- Out of Session

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: HHS Revokes Medicaid Work Requirements in Three More States:** The Department of Health and Human Services continued to unwind Trump-era policy priorities in the Medicaid program, rolling back work requirements in three more states—Ohio, South Carolina, and Utah—and asking for additional public comments on a demonstration project in Tennessee.
- **AP: Study: Extra COVID Shot Helps Protect Transplant Patients:** A third dose of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine substantially improved protection for organ transplant recipients whose weak immune systems don't always rev up enough with the standard two shots, Canadian researchers reported Wednesday. The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, was small but it's the most rigorous type of third-dose testing so far for this vulnerable group.
- **Bloomberg Government: Chamber Sues HHS Over Insurance Transparency:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sued HHS and other federal agencies to halt their implementation of a new insurance price transparency provision finalized in the waning days of Trump's administration. The HHS and others exceeded their authority by adopting a provision that would cost hundreds of millions of dollars each year, the group told the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.
- **Modern Healthcare: CVS Health Launches Virtual Primary Care For Aetna Members:** Aetna will begin providing virtual primary care to some policyholders, parent company CVS Health announced Tuesday. The new service, Aetna Virtual Primary Care, is available under self-funded employer plans and provides eligible members with remote and in-person healthcare. "Aetna Virtual Primary Care gives our members the power of choice and convenience, making

it easier for people to get and stay healthy, even when balancing the demands of work and life," Aetna President Dan Finke said in a news release.

- **Modern Healthcare: Demographics Impact Survival Rate For Liver Transplant Patients:** Black patients have lower liver transplant survival rates than white or Hispanic patients, and researchers are concerned that the survival rate disparity between these groups has only widened over time. On average between 2002 and 2018, Black patients had a 15% higher chance of dying after a liver transplant than white or Hispanic patients, according to a study by Keck Medicine of USC. While researchers assumed outcomes for Black liver transplant recipients would improve in the years following a 2002 landmark study detailing the disparity, Brian Lee, a study author and liver transplant specialist with Keck Medicine, said he was surprised to find that the opposite was true