

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, August 5, 2020

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

- 3pm: President Trump meets with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey in Oval Office

### CONGRESS

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer to meet Trump Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin, as well as Postmaster General Louis DeJoy on U.S. Postal Service funding needs
- Senate meets at 10am; no votes scheduled
- Senate Judiciary Committee holds hearing on “Crossfire Hurricane” investigation

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Ambulance Companies Seek \$3 Billion in Relief:** Ambulance companies want the Health and Human Services Department to send some of the \$60 billion it's left in help for health-care providers to their industry. The American Ambulance Association, which represents the ambulance industry, has been lobbying on the issue all year, federal disclosures show, as Americans delay care and avoid going to hospitals.
- **NPR: Nursing Home Residents Moved Out To Make Way For COVID-19 Patients:** In some nursing homes, 100% of the residents are positive for the coronavirus. That's by design. These facilities have volunteered to devote part or all of their buildings exclusively to treating COVID-19 patients, who bring in more government money. But to make room for them, the original residents can be forced out of the places they've called home. Ruby Hamilton was one of them. She was in her 90s by the time she needed full-time nursing care. Being an independent woman, she chose the nursing home she wanted: Westpark in Indianapolis. Her daughter, Carolyn Oliver, says Hamilton was happy there for five years.
- **Bloomberg Government: Hospitals Buying Cheaper Drugs See Further Cuts:** Hospitals would see even smaller reimbursements for medications bought at a discount next year than in previous years under a Medicare proposal that would hit facilities serving lower-income patients hardest. The U.S. government yesterday suggested a 6% cut to how much it pays certain hospitals for drugs the hospital originally bought at a steep discount, a program known as 340B.

- **CMS lets payers temporarily reduce 2020 premiums:** CMS said Aug. 4 that it will allow health insurers to temporarily lower premiums for members in the individual and small group markets to help Americans who are facing financial hardship amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The Wall Street Journal: Convalescent Plasma Reduced Death Rate Among Covid-19 Patients, Study Data Signals:** Hospitalized Covid-19 patients who received transfusions of blood plasma rich with antibodies from recovered patients reduced their mortality rate by about 50%, according to researchers running a large national study. The researchers presented their data analysis Saturday in a webinar for physicians interested in learning about so-called convalescent plasma, with data slides that were reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The researchers said they saw signs that the treatment might be working in patients who received high levels of antibodies in plasma early in the course of their illness. They based their conclusions on an analysis of about 3,000 patients.