

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, September 11, 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

- 7:30am: President Trump leaves White House for Shanksville, Pa.
- 9:30am: Trump arrives at the Flight 93 National Memorial
- 9:45am: Trump takes part in a Flight 93 observance
- 11:25am: Trump leaves Pa.
- 12:35pm: Trump arrives back at White House
- 3pm: Trump presents the Medal of Honor to Army Sergeant Major Thomas Payne

CONGRESS

- House meets at 1pm in a pro forma session
 - 8:46am: Speaker Nancy Pelosi, other lawmakers hold a moment of silence on the 19th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks
 - Senate out until Monday

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Stimulus Hopes Fade With GOP Bill Blocked:** Odds of another round of fiscal stimulus for the U.S. economy fell yesterday as senators departed Washington for the weekend following a partisan split over a scaled-down package offered by Senate Republicans. The Senate voted 52 to 47 to advance a bill introduced by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), shy of the 60 needed to bring it up. Democrats were united in blocking the legislation.
 - Estimated at roughly \$500 billion to \$700 billion, the bill was intended to target the most pressing areas for assistance – revived supplemental unemployment insurance benefits and extended aid for small businesses, in particular. It was a fraction of the \$2.2 trillion backed by Democrats and even below Republicans' previous \$1 trillion.
- **Bloomberg Government: NIH Targets Clots Tied to Covid:** U.S. researchers have begun two clinical trials examining the use of blood thinners to help coronavirus patients avoid clotting that's led to strokes, heart attacks, and organ failure. In one study, the National Institutes of Health will look at patients who are hospitalized, NIH chief Francis Collins said on a call with reporters. The second study will focus on people who haven't been hospitalized.
- **Bloomberg Government: New Coverage Plans Could Expand ACA:** Growing business interest in a new type of health-care arrangement could bolster enrollment in Obamacare,

lower costs, and ensure that some employees stay covered through the public health crisis, state exchange officials claim. Individual coverage health reimbursement arrangements (ICHRA) allow employers to reimburse their workers tax-free for individual health insurance that they purchase on the exchange.

- **The New York Times: Why Coronavirus Tests Come With Surprise Bills:** For months, Americans have been told not to worry about the costs of coronavirus tests, which are crucial to stopping the pandemic's spread. ... Patients, whether with or without insurance, are beginning to find holes in those new coverage programs. Nationwide, people have been hit with unexpected fees and denied claims related to coronavirus tests, according to dozens of bills that The New York Times has reviewed. Insurers have told these patients they could owe from a few dollars to thousands.
- **The Hill: Researchers Begin Clinical Trials Examining Blood Thinners As Coronavirus Treatment:** U.S. researchers are beginning two clinical trials examining the use of blood thinners to treat COVID-19, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced Thursday. One study will focus on people who were hospitalized for COVID-19 and the other will focus on those who were infected, but not hospitalized.
- **Bloomberg Government: IRS Asked to Extend Filing Deadline for Stimulus:** House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) is calling on the IRS to extend a deadline for filing taxes and immediately notify those that didn't pay taxes but are eligible for virus relief payments. "For months, the IRS has had all the information it needs to contact these individuals yet chose not to do so. Further delay is inexcusable," Neal wrote to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig.