

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, September 21, 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 leaves White House for Ohio
- 5pm: Trump speaks in Dayton, OH
- 7pm: Trump campaign rally in Swanton, OH
- 8:25pm: Trump departs Ohio for Washington
- 10pm: Trump arrives at White House

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 3pm; considers nomination of Edward Meyers to be judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- House meets at noon; no votes expected until Tuesday
 - The chamber aims to vote this week on a short-term spending bill to keep the govt open after the fiscal year ends Sept. 30
 - A bill, not yet released, would extend current levels of spending for agencies through Dec. 11
- 1pm: House Committee on Rules formulates rules on stopgap, H.R. 4447, a clean energy package; and bills related to China's treatment of Uighur Muslims

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Organ Donors Could Recoup Child-Care Expenses:** Organ donors will be able to recover lost wages, child-care costs, and many other expenses incurred after undergoing the surgical procedure under an HHS regulatory change that seeks to remove barriers to donation. The final rule issued on Friday aims to curb the number of Americans who die waiting for a new organ by reducing the financial disincentives to donating. The regulation carries out part of Trump's executive order to reboot Medicare's approach to kidney care, in an effort to ease one of the biggest domestic drains on taxpayers.
- **CIDRAP: Study Warns Of Pairing Azithromycin With Drugs That Affect Heart Rhythm:** A large new study of patients who received either azithromycin or amoxicillin found no increased risk of cardiac events associated with azithromycin, except among patients also taking medications that affect the electrical impulses of the heart, researchers reported this week in JAMA Network Open.
- **Bloomberg Government: Medicaid Nonemergency Transport:** State Medicaid programs

would be required to cover nonemergency transportation for medically necessary services under H.R. 3935. The Energy and Commerce Committee amended and approved the bill by voice vote on July 15.

- **Stat: Promising Results For Trodelvy, A Drug Just Acquired By Gilead:** When Gilead Sciences announced its \$21 billion acquisition of Immunomedics one week ago, Gilead executives said that clinical data on Immunomedics' cancer drug Trodelvy – shared confidentially during negotiations – justified the high cost of the deal. On Saturday, data from Trodelvy studies in bladder cancer and triple-negative breast cancer were presented publicly for the first time at the annual meeting of the European Society for Medical Oncology. The results were better than expected, which may boost Trodelvy's chances of growing into a multi-billion dollar drug and in, turn, ease investor concerns about Gilead's acquisition.
- **Bloomberg Government: Counterfeit Medical Devices:** The Food and Drug Administration would be permitted to destroy imported counterfeit medical devices under H.R. 5663, an expansion of its authority over counterfeit drugs that are refused admission into the U.S. The Energy and Commerce Committee approved the bill by voice vote on July 15.
- **Bloomberg Government: The Fate of Obamacare:** The Trump administration is asking the court to declare the Affordable Care Act invalid and wipe out its protections for people with pre-existing conditions. The court is scheduled to hear arguments on Nov. 10, a week after the election, and probably will rule in the first half of 2021. With Ginsburg on the court, the law's supporters held a strong, perhaps even unbeatable, hand. She was one of five justices, including Chief Justice John Roberts, who remained on the court after voting in 2012 to uphold the core of the law in a case that raised similar issues.
 - "I think you have to say that Affordable Care Act is in a more tenuous position today than it was on Friday morning," said Nicholas Bagley, a health-care law professor at the University of Michigan Law School. "And you can hold that thought and still think that the likeliest outcome is that this very silly lawsuit will be turned away."
- **Bloomberg Government: Drug Manufacturing Centers of Excellence:** The Food and Drug Administration would solicit applications from higher education institutions to be designated as a "National Center of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing" under H.R. 4866. The bill would authorize \$80 million for grants or contracts with the centers for the period from fiscal 2021 through 2025. The Energy and Commerce Committee approved the bill by voice vote on July 15.