

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, September 23,
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

- 11am: Trump delivers remarks in honor of Bay of Pigs Veterans
- 3pm: Trump participates in a discussion with State Attorneys General on protecting consumers from Social Media abuses

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am, first votes expected 1pm
 - Set to begin consideration of H.R. 4447, Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act
- Senate meets at 10am

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Prior Approval for Medicare Non-Emergency Ambulances:** Medicare patients in all states who take ambulances to routine non-emergency appointments – usually dialysis – will need prior authorization for those rides on most occasions. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced yesterday the expansion of an ambulance transport payment mechanism that’s been tested in eight states and the District of Columbia for several years. It’s expected to save taxpayers money without compromising patient care.
- **Bloomberg Government: Lawmakers Seek \$3 Billion for NSF:** Reps. David McKinley (R-W.Va.) and G.K Butterfield (D-N.C.) urged colleagues in a letter yesterday to support providing the National Science Foundation \$3 billion in emergency aid. The organization conducts research, including for Covid-19. “While our nation’s scientists and research institutions have risen to the challenge of the pandemic, they are facing enormous strains to their operations and infrastructure,” the lawmakers wrote.
- **Bloomberg Government: Global Health Security:** The Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council to facilitate and review the federal response to global infectious disease threats would be codified by H.R. 2166. It was established in a 2016 executive order signed by former President Barack Obama. The measure also would direct the president to appoint a coordinator to lead U.S. strategy on global health emergencies. The House Foreign Affairs Committee amended and approved the bill by voice vote on March 4.
- **Bloomberg Government: Stockpile Adds \$65 Million in Drugs:** Fresenius Kabi and Baxter Healthcare will supply almost \$65 million in medicines to the national medical stockpile to treat patients with Covid-19 and prepare for future health emergencies. The

Strategic National Stockpile is buying the pharmaceuticals as part of a plan to restructure and resupply, known as “SNS 2.0,” so that there are enough in the case of future Covid-19 flare-ups.

- **Bloomberg Government: Panel to Probe Drug Prices:** House Oversight Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) announced two days of hearings on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 with pharmaceutical executives to examine “some of the costliest drugs” in the U.S., according to a statement. The chief executives from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Teva Pharmaceuticals, as well as Celgene’s former CEO, will testify on Sept. 30. Amgen, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and Novartis executives will appear Oct. 1.
- **Stat: Novartis Sells Bonds Tied To Expanding Access To Drugs In Poor Countries:** In a first-of-its-kind move by a large drug maker, Novartis (NVS) raised approximately \$2.1 billion last week by selling bonds that are tied directly to its progress in making medicines accessible in certain low- and middle-income countries. Specifically, the stated goal is to expand the number of patients who receive its brand-name medicines by at least 200% by 2025, as well as programs that market medicines to combat leprosy, malaria, Chagas, and sickle cell disease by at least 50% over the same period. If the company fails to meet those expanded access goals, however, investors will receive higher interest payments.