

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Weekly Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Congressional Schedule

House:

- Convened Monday at 2 p.m. and will consider nine bills under suspension of the rules.
- **Week Ahead:** On Tuesday, the House will recess no later than 5:30 p.m. and will reconvene at approximately 8:35 p.m. for a joint session of Congress to receive the President's State of the Union address. Wednesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. with votes expected no later than 3 p.m., as Republicans convene in Baltimore, Md., from January 13-15 for their 2016 issues retreat.

Senate:

- Convened Monday at 2 p.m. and is expected to hold a vote on the nomination of Luis Felipe Restrepo to be a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. The chamber is set to take a cloture vote on a bill (S. 2232) related to auditing the Federal Reserve.

Legislative Updates

- **Senate Finance Committee Seeking Input on Chronic Care Options Policy Paper.** Comments due January 26, 2016:
<http://www.aha.org/content/15/chroniccaregroup.pdf>
- **Dr. Robert Califf Approved by Senate HELP Committee.** The Senate HELP Committee approved Dr. Califf's nomination to lead the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Jan. 12 during an executive session. The Califf nomination now goes to the full Senate for consideration. See the following link for the full story:
<http://www.statnews.com/2016/01/12/califf-senate-vote-fda/>

Regulatory Updates

- **The White House will release its fiscal 2017 budget request on February 9, 2016.**

- **ESRD QIP: Payment Year 2019 Final Rule Call on Jan. 19, 2 - 3:30 PM ET – Register Now:** MLN Connects will offer a conference call to discuss the implementation of the final rule that operationalizes the ESRD QIP for Payment Year 2019. To register, please see the following link: <http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies/register/4957e5d0-5cab-4c09-a2f7-3496835b52c7>
- **Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) Public Meeting (January 2016).** MedPAC will meet January 14-15, 2016 and plans to discuss payment adequacy and payment updates for health care providers, including dialysis facilities. To view the complete agenda, please visit: <http://medpac.gov/-public-meetings-/meetingdetails/january-2016-public-meeting>
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Delaying the Release of the Access to Care Study Methodology:** For a brief synopsis on the delayed release of the study, please see the following link: <http://esrdnet11.org/news/2016/01/4567>
- **Proposed North Carolina Bill Could Make Blue Cross Accept Third-Party Payments for Dialysis:** A North Carolina law looks to reverse a recent reversal in payment for dialysis treatment. The North Carolina law aims to combat a recent federal regulation that allows insurance companies to stop accepting third-party payments for dialysis treatment. For more on the North Carolina law, please see the following link: <http://wncn.com/2015/12/21/proposed-nc-bill-could-make-blue-cross-accept-third-party-payments-for-dialysis/>

Articles of Interest

- **Dr. Franklin Maddux, Chief Medical Officer of Fresenius Medical Care North America, Takes Helm As New Chair of Kidney Care Partners:** “Kidney Care Partners (KCP) formally announced today Dr. Franklin Maddux’s two-year tenure as the newly elected Chair of KCP – the nation’s leading kidney care coalition composed of patients, caregivers, providers, researchers and manufacturers – effective January 1, 2016. Dr. Maddux currently serves as Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President for Clinical and Scientific Affairs of Fresenius Medical Care North America. In taking the KCP helm, Dr. Maddux underscored his desire to sustain quality improvements and protect access to care with an emphasis on improved care coordination and choice for individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and chronic kidney disease (CKD), as proposed in the bipartisan Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2015.” For the full press release, please see the following link: <http://kidneycarepartners.com/press/dr-franklin-maddux-chief-medical-officer-of-fresenius-medical-care-north-america-takes-helm-as-new-chair-of-kidney-care-partners/>
- **ANNA Member Donates Kidney to Patient:** “ANNA member Joanne Smith donated a kidney to one of her dialysis patients this summer. Terry Sukeena, a patient at the Fresenius Medical Clinic in Newark, DE, where Joanne is a nurse, was on dialysis and the transplant waiting list for 6 years. Joanne, a member of ANNA’s First State Chapter in Delaware, thought she could do more than just provide nursing support to her patients and began the process to donate a kidney. She learned she was healthy enough to donate and a match for Sukeena. On August 11, 2015, Joanne donated her kidney; the

surgery was successful and she was back at work within weeks. ANNA is proud of Joanne and all of our dedicated nephrology nurses!" Please see the following link for an additional story on Joanne: <http://6abc.com/health/del-nurse-gives-man-life-back-with-kidney-transplant-/1142684/>

- **MedPAC: Options to Factor Socioeconomics in Star Ratings Not Good Enough.** <http://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/medpac-cms-options-factor-socioeconomics-star-ratings-not-good-enough>
- **CMS Launches Infection Control Pilot Program.** Due in part to recent experiences with the Ebola outbreak, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will fund a pilot program through CMS to improve infection control in nursing homes. See the following link for more: <http://www.mcknights.com/news/cms-launches-infection-control-pilot-program/article/462943/>
- **The popularity of walk-in health clinics is growing as an option for patients, but in many states, legislatures have passed few laws to regulate these clinics despite an early push from doctors and medical organizations.** That push for regulations has declined as more people have used the clinics. With a few exceptions, the clinics are largely unregulated, like typical doctor's offices. Please see the following link for more: http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/01/05/states-let-commercial-walk-in-health-clinics-grow-unregulated?utm_campaign=2016-01-05%20Stateline%20Daily%20&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&utm_source=

Other

- The NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program application cycle will open soon! Here are some tips to help you prepare now:

Gather Your Loan Information

- If you have Federal loans, make sure that you have your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID available or create a FSA ID. An FSA ID is comprised of a username and password and can be used to login to certain FSA websites, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This information will allow you to electronically import your Federal loan information for your NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program Application.
- If you have private loans, please contact your lender(s) directly to receive your account statement or disbursement report, which includes your name, original loan amount, current loan balance, and interest rate.

Update Your Application Portal Account Password

- If you previously applied to the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program, you will be required to update your existing application portal account password to meet new security requirements established by the Department of Health and Human Services in November 2015. Now passwords need to be reset every 60 days and will

- expire if not changed within that window. All existing portal accounts will require an updated password regardless of the last time the password was changed.
- If you do not have an application portal account, you can create one when the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program Application cycle opens.
 - Please visit the NURSE Corps webpage for additional information about the Loan Repayment Program.
http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/index.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Events

- On January 12-13, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting by web conference of the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice to form the basis for its mandated 14th Annual Report to the HHS Secretary and Congress.

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RSVP: <http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/bhpradvisory/nacnep/index.html>