May 17: The Academy joined 37 national nursing organizations in sending letters of support to the House and Senate original cosponsors of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act (H.R. 2056/S.997). This legislation recognizes the nurses who served as members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II and...
provides them with honorable discharges, medal privileges, and veteran burial benefits. Read the letters here.

- May 3: The Academy and ANA coordinated communications in response to a Department of Health and Human Services final rule, "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority." Read more here.

---

**National Academy of Medicine**

- **Future of Nursing 2020-2030 Town Hall Meetings**
  - The Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 is holding three regional meetings to hear from the public. The committee is interested in hearing insights on how to advance the nursing profession to help the nation create a culture of health, reduce health disparities, and improve the health and well-being of the U.S. population in the 21st century. The first meeting is being held on June 7 in Chicago.

- **Report: The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth**
  - Published on May 16, 2019, this report calls for policies and practices to promote positive adolescent development and close the opportunity gap.

---

**Administration Activities**

**Off the President's Desk**

**Mental Health Awareness**

- **May 1: Proclamation on National Mental Health Awareness Month**
  - The President's proclamation outlines the Administration's commitment to facilitating research and education as well as dispelling stigma around mental illness.
  - The Administration has made mental and behavioral health a primary focus of its mental health efforts, particularly around opioid addiction and serious mental illness.
  - The Fiscal Year 2020 President's Budget requests maintained funding for the Community Mental Health services Block Grants, which provide money to every...
State for services to adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances.

**President's Surprise Billing Initiative**

- May 9: *Protect Patients and Their Families from Surprise Billing*
  - The President has worked to lift the burden of surprise billing by putting forward the following principles:
    - Patients receiving emergency care should not be forced to shoulder extra costs billed by a care provider but not covered by their insurer.
    - Patients receiving scheduled care should have information about whether providers are in or out of their network and what costs they may face.
    - Patients should not receive surprise bills from out-of-network providers they did not choose.
    - Federal healthcare expenditures should not increase.

**Around the Administration**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

- May 2: *Strategy to Foster Innovation for Transformative Medical Technologies*
  - CMS Administrator Seema Verma outlined the agency's comprehensive strategy to improve patients' access to emerging technologies. First, for issuing Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, CMS is moving to a process with quarterly opportunities to apply for drugs, and semi-annual opportunities to apply for devices. Second, for technologies with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Category III codes, CMS is clarifying the process by which Medicare contractors may use emerging technologies.

**Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)**

- Funding Opportunity: *Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (June 10 deadline)*
  - HRSA is providing a funding opportunity for a new Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) initiative called RCORP-Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion. HRSA plans to invest approximated $8 million in rural communities. A webinar was held on May 16 for applicants, a recording of which will be made available.

**From the Federal Register**

**Final Rules**

- **CMS, HHS:** *Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Regulation to Require Drug Pricing Transparency*
  - This rule will require direct-to-consumer television ads for prescription pharmaceuticals covered by Medicare or Medicaid to include the list price if that price is equal or greater than $35 for a month's supply or the usual course of therapy.

- **CMS, HHS:** *Medicaid Program; Reassignment of Medicaid Provider Claims*
This rule removes the regulatory text that allows a state to make Medicaid payments to third parties on behalf of an individual provider for benefits such as health insurance, skills training, and other benefits customary for employees.

**CMS, HHS: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2020**
- This final rule sets forth payment parameters and provisions related to the risk adjustment and risk adjustment data validation programs; cost-sharing parameters; and user fees for Federally-facilitated Exchanges (FFEs) and State-based Exchanges on the Federal Platform (SBE-FPs). It finalizes changes related to the duties and training requirements for the Navigator program and changes that will provide greater flexibility for direct enrollment entities. It finalizes a change intended to reduce the costs of prescription drugs. This final rule also includes changes to Exchange standards related to eligibility and enrollment.

**Proposed Rules**

- **CMS, HHS, Department of the Treasury: Request for Information Regarding State Relief and Empowerment Waivers**
  - This request for information seeks ideas for innovative programs and waiver concepts that states could consider in developing a 1332 waiver plan. The overarching goal of section 1332 waivers is to give all Americans the opportunity to gain high value and affordable health coverage regardless of income, geography, age, gender, or health status.
- **CMS, HHS: Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2020**
  - This proposed rule would update the payment rates used under the prospective payment system (PPS) for skilled nursing facilities for fiscal year 2020.

---

**Conessional Hearings**

*Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.*

**House Budget**

- May 15: Keeping Our Promise to America’s Seniors: Retirement Security in the 21st Century
- May 22: Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer Health Care System

**House Education & Labor**
- May 8: Markup: H.R. 2480, Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- May 15: Examining the Older Americans Act: Promoting Independence and Dignity for Older Americans

**House Energy & Commerce**

- April 30: Prescription Drug Coverage in the Medicare Program
- May 9: Lowering Prescription Drug Prices: Deconstructing the Drug Supply Chain
- May 21: Improving Drug Pricing Transparency and Lowering Prices for American Consumers

**House Oversight & Reform**

- April 30: Climate Change Part II: The Public Health Effects
- May 8: Veteran and Active-Duty Military Suicides
- May 9: The Trump Administration’s Response to the Drug Crisis, Part II
- May 16: HIV Prevention Drug: Billions in Corporate Profits after Millions in Taxpayer Investments

**House Veterans Affairs**

- April 29: Tragic Trends: Suicide Prevention Among Veterans
- May 2: Cultural Barriers Impacting Women Veterans’ Access to Healthcare
- May 21 (with Senate VA Committee): Military and Veteran Suicide: Understanding the Problem and Preparing for the Future
- May 22: MISSION Critical: Caring for Our Heroes

**House Ways & Means**

- May 15: The Economic and Health Consequences of Climate Change
- May 16: Overcoming Racial Disparities and Social Determinants in the Maternal Mortality Crisis
- May 21: Protecting Patients from Surprise Billing

**Senate Appropriations**

- April 30: Review of the FY 2020 and FY 2021 Budget Request for the VA
- May 1: Review of the FY 2020 Budget Request for the Indian Health Service

**Senate Finance**

- May 8: Medicare and Physician Payment Reform After Two Years: Examining MACRA Implementation and the Road Ahead

**Senate HELP**

- May 7: Implementing the 21st Century Cures Act: Making Electronic Information Available to Patients and Providers, Part II

**Senate Judiciary**

- May 7: Intellectual Property and the Price of Prescription Drugs: Balancing Innovation and Competition
- May 8: At the Breaking Point: The Humanitarian and Security Crisis at our Southern Border

**Special Committee on Aging**
• May 22: Aging and Disability in the 21st Century: How Technology Can Help Maintain Health and Quality of Life

Legislative Schedule

The House will be in a District Work Period from May 24-May 31.
The Senate will be in a District Work Period from May 27-May 31.