September 4: The Academy submitted comments to the National Academy of Medicine’s (NAM) Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus regarding the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Children, Adolescents, and Families as well as the Emerging Infectious Diseases Expert Panels contributed to these comments. Read more.

DISTRICT DIGEST

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

- **Forum:** Sex Differences in Brain Disorders: Emerging Transcriptomic Evidence and Implications for Therapeutic Development—A Workshop
  On September 23, 2020, the Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders will host a virtual public workshop that will bring together experts and key stakeholders from academia, government, industry, and non-profit organizations to explore emerging evidence regarding differences in transcriptomic abnormalities that occur in the brains of men versus women with a variety of brain disorders including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, drug addiction, neurodegenerative conditions, and other brain disorders.

- **Webinar:** Conversations on COVID-19: Impacts on Communities of Color
  NASEM held a free webinar that included conversations with experts on a variety of topics related to minority health and COVID-19, as well as information and resources from the National Academies on topics related to health equity.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Commentary:** Educating Health Professions Educators to Address the "isms"
  The authors of this new NAM Perspectives commentary discuss how classrooms can become a “brave space” to have frank conversations about racism, sexism, homophobia, and the “isms” in all forms so that learners can identify their own inherent biases before they bring them into the clinic with patients.

- **Webinar:** Nursing’s Role in Health Equity, Public Health Emergencies, and COVID-19
  NAM hosted a free 90-minute webinar on nursing’s role in Health Equity, public health emergencies, and COVID-19. Representatives from the NAM study on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 shared
Federal Register

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **Proposed Rule:** Medicare Program; Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology (MCIT) and Definition of “Reasonable and Necessary”
  This proposed rule proposes a definition of the term “reasonable and necessary” to clarify coverage standards and proposing the Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology (MCIT) pathway to accelerate the coverage of new, innovative breakthrough devices to Medicare beneficiaries.

- **Final Rule:** Medicare Program: Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Final Policy Changes and Fiscal Year 2021 Rates; Quality Reporting and Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs Requirements for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals
  This is a final rule for acute care and long-term care hospitals that ensures access to potentially life-saving diagnostics and therapies by unleashing innovation in medical technology and removing barriers to competition.

Around the Administration

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- **Press Release:** Youth E-Cigarette Use is Down, but 3.6 Million Still Use E-Cigarettes
  The CDC in collaboration with various partners, released two papers today in Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) highlighting recent changes in U.S. e-cigarette use and sales.

  Please continue to check the website created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- **Announcement:** COVID-19/Emergency Preparedness Guide for Kinship Families and Grandfamilies
  The CDC in collaboration with various partners, released two papers today in Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) highlighting recent changes in U.S. e-cigarette use and sales.

  **News:** HHS Releases Rural Action Plan
  HHS released the Rural Action Plan, the first HHS-wide assessment of rural healthcare efforts in more than 18 years and the product of HHS's Rural Task Force, a group of experts and leaders across the department first put together by Secretary Azar in 2019.
Congressional 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 Veterans’ Affairs Committee

- September 16: Modernizing VA's Medical Supply Chain: Lessons Learned From the Pandemic

House Ways & Means Committee

- September 11: Consequences of Inaction on COVID Tax Legislation

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP)


Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee

- September 9: S.785: Leading the Way to Comprehensive Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention for Veterans