BIDEN ADMINISTRATION RENEWS NATIONAL EMERGENCY

The Biden administration extended the national emergency beyond March 1st — though it didn’t give an end date — letting Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra continue pandemic-related Medicare and Medicaid coverage flexibilities that hospitals have been pushing to keep.

The Biden administration’s announcement comes shortly after the administration quietly let the 60-day notice period for ending the separate public health emergency (PHE) pass, leading some stakeholders to predict the PHE declaration likely won’t end until July. Several COVID-19 flexibilities are tied to the PHE, including telehealth waivers.

The American Hospital Association asked the Biden administration in January to extend both the national emergency declaration and the public health emergency declaration to ensure that Medicare and Medicaid coverage flexibilities for the COVID-19 emergency continue.