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American Nephrology Nurses' Association

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October 31, 2013

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Christine K. Cassel, MD
President and CEO
National Quality Forum
1030 15th Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

Dear. Dr. Cassel:

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) promotes excellence in and appreciation of nephrology nursing so we can make a positive difference for people with kidney disease. We are the only professional association that represents nurses who work in all areas of nephrology. ANNA has a membership of approximately 10,000 registered nurses that practice in all areas of nephrology, including hemodialysis, chronic kidney disease, peritoneal dialysis, acute care, and transplantation. Most of our members work in freestanding dialysis units, hospital outpatient units, and hospital inpatient dialysis units. ANNA appreciates the efforts of the Expert Panel convened by NQF to include the voice of nursing. As a new member of NQF, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to Measure 0255. ANNA supports the expert panel's recommendation that Measure 0255 be amended to include either serum or heparin plasma phosphorus testing. The terms heparinized plasma and serum are used interchangeably in the nephrology community. The evidence shows there is a minimal difference in the results between the two methods and therefore does not impact on patient care.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Gomez, MSN, MBA, RN, CNN
President