December 1, 2011

Marilyn B. Tavenner, BSN, MHA
Principal Deputy Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Tavenner,

On behalf of the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA)—a professional nursing organization of more than 10,000 registered nurses practicing in nephrology—I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Your appointment is well-deserved, and ANNA commends you for your outstanding work in the healthcare field, particularly as a registered nurse. We look forward to working with you in your new role at CMS.

ANNA members are intimately involved in the supervision and delivery of care to adults and children with kidney disease. Our members work in a variety of settings, including dialysis facilities, transplant centers, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) clinics, acute care, ambulatory clinics, and long-term care. ANNA’s mission is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney disease through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence. ANNA strongly supports the mission of CMS to ensure effective, up-to-date healthcare coverage and promote quality care for our nation’s citizens.

ANNA maintains a particular interest in the Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and Quality Improvement Program (QIP). ANNA is working with our partners in the kidney community on the implementation of these new systems and their impact on nephrology nurses’ ability to continue to provide ongoing quality care—as well as access to care. Our primary concern, as always, is providing the highest quality care for patients. We look forward to working with you and would very much enjoy serving as a resource as you begin your tenure as CMS Administrator.

Again, our congratulations on your nomination; we are excited about what this means for CMS and the country as a whole. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if ANNA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Rowena Elliott, PhD, RN, CNN, BC, CNE
President