March 4, 2014

On behalf of the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA), we are pleased to offer support of the KDIGO Controversies Conference on Iron Management in Chronic Kidney Disease. 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. Established as a nonprofit organization in 1969, ANNA has a membership of approximately 10,000 registered nurses in almost 100 local chapters across the United States. Members 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 develops and updates standards of clinical practice, educates practitioners, stimulates and supports research, disseminates knowledge and new ideas, promotes interdisciplinary communication and cooperation, and monitors and addresses issues encompassing the breadth of practice of nephrology nursing.

ANNA supports KDIGO’s goal for further research and evaluation of Iron management of the CKD patient. We propose discussion on the current state of knowledge related to iron metabolism and the mechanisms underlying its pathophysiology in CKD for all CGA stages not just patients on renal replacement therapy.

There continues to be insufficient evidence to recommend routine administration of IV iron if serum ferritin is greater than 500 ng/mL and the physician should be making decisions based on patient clinical status. We agree there does continue to be a concern surrounding the quantity of iron considered safe for patients and the levels of ferritin at which iron administration should be discontinued.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the guidelines.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Gomez, MBA, MSN, RN, CNN
ANNA President 2013-14