April 6, 2009

Dear Ms. Casey and Ms. Carnahan:

I am pleased to advise you that the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association’s (ANNA) Board of Directors enthusiastically endorses the CKD Improvement Project under the direction of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO). ANNA is the largest professional nephrology organization in the world, representing over 12,000 nephrology nurses who care for individuals with chronic kidney disease. Our members are employed in various nephrology settings ranging from acute to chronic care. We have members in all fifty states, Puerto Rico and throughout the world.

ANNA is excited that QIOs, under the direction of CMS are focusing on the early detection of CKD to slow its further progression and to improve clinical care for all kidney patients. Targeting primary care as one means of early detection is so important. ANNA looks forward to working with CMS on this project.

ANNA is encouraging our members to participate with the QIOs in improving the quality of health care for patients with chronic kidney disease. Currently our members in Montana are actively participating in the pilot program taking place in that state through the QIO. We will continue to collaborate with CMS on this project by communicating information about this pilot project to our membership and encourage their participation through our web site, our electronic newsletter, and our printed ANNA Update newsletter. We are also willing to promote our collaboration with CMS on this project at our conferences this coming year.

ANNA is pleased to work with CMS on the CKD Improvement Project and looks forward to participating on conference calls, meetings and other areas as needed. Please feel free to contact me or Mike Cunningham, ANNA’s Executive Director, for any assistance.

Sincerely,

Sue Cary, MN, RN, NP, CNN
ANNA National President
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