



March 17, 2017

Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Ms. Verma:

On behalf of the Nursing Community coalition, we would like to congratulate you on your confirmation as Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We look forward to working with you and your staff as you take the helm of an agency so vital to millions of Americans.

The Nursing Community includes 63 members that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities.

The coalition believes that prevention, wellness, treatment, and health promotion across the continuum—pillars of nursing care— create long-term savings to the healthcare system that translates to a healthier nation. We want to work with your agency to ensure federal policies recognize RNs and APRNs as leaders and partners in current and emerging models of care to increase affordability and quality for the patient. As new and innovative approaches continue to emerge, recognizing the role of RNs and APRNs is necessary to reduce rising costs and center care on the patient and their family. Moreover, federal policies that recognize the role of RNs and APRNs in reporting measures will not only ensure accurate, transparent and accountable data, but help usher in better patient outcomes.

We pledge to work with you as head of CMS to thoughtfully assess where change is needed and preserve critical advancements made in recent years to improve our healthcare system. The unique partnership the Nursing Community coalition has created with our members allows our national organizations to unite on shared agendas and to promote America's health through nursing care. If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.