

April 1, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Concerted Focus of the Profession of Medicine to Advance Quality and Efficiency in Healthcare

Dear President Obama:

As a profession, we remain committed to delivering high-quality care for patients while increasing efficiencies in health care. We are encouraged by the ongoing efforts of Congress and your Administration to address health care reform, and remain committed to working with you on promoting a sustainable, high-quality health care system. Building off of the attached February 24, 2009 letter, enclosed please find an Action Plan that outlines important steps the medical profession will undertake in the coming months to engage and support physicians in using patient-centered measures and health information technology that empowers them to provide high quality, cost effective care across the continuum of care. The below listed organization are dedicated to sustaining this Plan.

We seek to take national priorities and put them into practice. Our challenge and opportunity is to work collaboratively within the profession and with other stakeholders dedicated to improving quality. We believe that we are positioned to demonstrate results, and ask that you recognize and support this work within your ongoing discussions on health care reform at both the legislative and administrative levels. Moreover, we seek your support in obtaining the resources needed to undertake this Action Plan.

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Board of Family Medicine
American Board of Neurological Surgery
American Board of Surgery
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Association
American Medical Association – convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics

American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Rhinologic Society
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Council of Medical Specialty Societies
Heart Rhythm Society
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Medical Group Management Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Hospital Medicine
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Alaska State Medical Association
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Florida Medical Association
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana State Medical Association
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Louisiana State Medical Society
Maine Medical Association
Massachusetts Medical Society
Michigan State Medical Society
Minnesota Medical Association
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
North Carolina Medical Society

North Dakota Medical Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Association
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Rhode Island Medical Society
South Dakota State Medical Association
Tennessee Medical Association
Texas Medical Association
Utah Medical Association
Vermont Medical Society
Medical Society of Virginia
Washington State Medical Association
West Virginia State Medical Association
Wisconsin Medical Society
Wyoming Medical Society

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Max S. Baucus
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable David L. Camp
The Honorable Nathan Deal
The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Wally Herger, Jr.
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
The Honorable Frank J. Pallone, Jr.
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
The Honorable Fortney "Pete" Stark
The Honorable Henry A. Waxman

Concerted Focus of the Profession of Medicine to Advance Quality and Efficiency in Healthcare

Our collective goal is to engage and support physicians in using patient-centered measures and health information technology that empowers them to provide high quality, cost effective care across the continuum of care. Supporting physicians in the *implementation* of these tools will be central for success.

With our foundational pillars in place, we will focus our organizational resources to align our efforts, beginning with one topic from each of the NQF NPP areas of focus. For each specific topic, we will carry out a multi-faceted action plan toward *putting the priorities into practice*. The action plan will include these action steps:

- Increasing the rigor, relevance, and range of patient-centered measures.
- Expediting the use of these measures in medical education and board certification requirements.
- Providing data and education to physicians on both quality and costs of care.
- Facilitating the integration of measures into health information technology, including electronic health record systems (EHRS).
- Identifying and spreading successful implementation strategies and best practices.

We also are committed to setting aggregate targets for the profession and practicing transparency and accountability by reporting our findings broadly.

We will convene this summer (2009) to identify these first topics for this concerted effort and to establish a timeline for achieving each of the 5 action steps above for each topic. This critical endeavor—putting priorities into practice—will require additional resources to those we each will commit. We seek your support in obtaining the resources and in assuring our efforts are aligned with those of the Administration and Congress.

Pillars Supporting the Medical Profession's Efforts in Quality and Efficiency

Commitment to Education

Entities engaged in medical education adopt curricula that integrate content about quality and safety strategies and requirements to demonstrate competence in these areas

Commitment to Evidence-based Clinical Guidelines

National medical specialty societies develop evidence-based clinical guidelines that form the basis for patient-centered measures and are beginning to use data from innovative programs and registries to improve patient outcomes and appropriate resource use

Commitment to Measures that Matter

AMA-convened PCPI using broad stakeholder involvement develops next-generation patient-centered measures for topics with unexplained variation in quality and costs of care; facilitates their integration into EHRS and other information technologies; and advances implementation and improvement strategies

Commitment to Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification

ABMS-member boards and the American Board of Osteopathic Medicine advance maintenance of board certification requirements that include self-evaluation of the practice using measurements of quality and efficiency