



April 7, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Partnership for Patients

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of our member hospitals and health systems, and the dedicated professionals who care for our patients, we commit our support to the Partnership for Patients.

The nation's hospitals are dedicated to providing safe, effective care to the communities they serve and work tirelessly to ensure patients get the right care at the right time and suffer no preventable harm during that care. Our goals are consistent with the goals of your Initiative.

Many of our member hospitals already are working to reduce hospital-acquired infections, such as central line blood stream infections, and preventable readmissions and are making great strides. Our associations have assisted them in these efforts by:

- Synthesizing the best available research on what should be done to improve care, and putting that information in the hands of key decision-makers inside hospitals.
- Educating hospital leaders on specific improvement strategies to reduce infections.
- Educating hospital leaders and their boards so that they can create a culture of safety.
- Partnering with other associations and groups to bring hospitals together in collaboratives aimed at reducing infections and preventing readmissions.

We will continue and strengthen these efforts. Furthermore, we will make sure our members know of the opportunities the administration is making available and to encourage them to take advantage of the assistance.

Hospitals' efforts can be greatly accelerated by the technical assistance you have pledged to provide, the effective measures and data you will make available to track progress, and by a unified focus on improving critical aspects of safety for hospitalized patients. In addition, we believe that changes in existing laws and regulations may be needed to enable substantive

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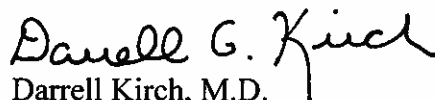
improvements in care, and we will provide information about these potential changes in law and regulation shortly.

In the meantime, we applaud you for bringing everyone – consumers, doctors, hospitals, federal and state regulators and other payers – together to make our health care system even better for all Americans.

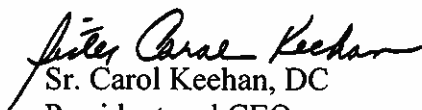
Sincerely,



Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO
American Hospital Association



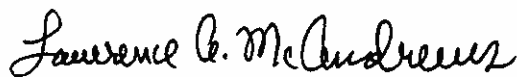
Darrell Kirch, M.D.
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