



Renal Physicians Association
1700 Rockville Pike
Suite 220
Rockville, MD 20852

May 28, 2008

Amit Sharma, M.D.
Boise Kidney and Hypertension Institute
3525 E. Louise Dr., Suite 100
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Dr. Sharma:

It is with distinct pleasure that we announce that your site has been selected as one of ten sites to participate in the *Comprehensive Implementation of the Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Guideline Utilizing the Advanced CKD Patient Management Toolkit* project. This Ten-Site Implementation Project is a joint effort between the Renal Physicians Association (RPA) and the Duke Center for Clinical Health Policy Research (CCHPR) to address an issue of increasing concern to nephrologists who are seeing greater numbers of individuals with Stage 3-4 CKD. RPA has contracted with Duke CCHPR to provide technical support for this project. With your help, we will further contribute to the chronic kidney disease field by advancing knowledge in this important area of quality improvement. A grant to offset costs associated with this project has been provided by Ortho Biotech.

The Advanced CKD Patient Management Toolkit has already been pilot tested and implemented in two medium-sized nephrology clinics. This pilot implementation resulted in increased conformance to the Advanced CKD Guideline recommendations and provided valuable insights regarding the toolkit and the implementation process. Implementation of the toolkit was shown to be practically feasible and to improve care for patients with advanced CKD. Over the next 18 months, the Ten-Site Implementation Project will implement the toolkit in ten nephrology sites throughout the United States and evaluate the results.

Specific aims of the project include:

- 1) Evaluate the utility of the Advanced CKD Patient Management Toolkit in implementing the Advanced CKD Guideline in various nephrology practice settings, including those with and without electronic medical records;
- 2) Assess care patterns, practices, and variation; adequacy of advanced CKD management; targets of intervention; and changes in processes required to improve care;
- 3) Evaluate the impact of the implementation exercise on improved conformance to guideline recommendations using a case-control design.



In order to participate in this project, your site must complete, sign, and return to RPA the Nephrology Practice Site Agreement (see separate attachment), which delineates the responsibilities of the site for the duration of the project. Please mail the original, signed Agreement to Amy Beckrich at RPA (1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 220, Rockville, MD 20852) by June 10.

If you have any questions, please contact either Amy Beckrich, Project Manager at RPA (Phone: 301.468.3515; Email: abeckrich@renalmd.org), or Jameta Barlow, Project Manager at Duke CCHPR (Phone: 919.286.3399 ext. 242; Email: jameta.barlow@duke.edu).

We look forward to collaborating with you on this project as we work together to contribute to the field of chronic kidney disease and clinical practice quality improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Singer".

Dale Singer, MHA
Executive Director
Renal Physicians Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Matchar".

David Matchar, MD, FACP, FAHA
Director
Duke Center for Clinical Health Policy Research

Enclosure: 1

CC: Kirsten Vanderhal