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December 11, 2009

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Office of Clinical Standards and Quality

Via email: OCSQBox@cms.hhs.gov

Ladies and Gentlemen:

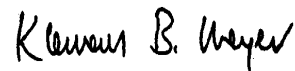
The Forum of ESRD Networks appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ESRD Network Assessment Report (in the attached, the "Redesign Report") dated October 15, 2009, and released on October 21, 2009; we wish to begin by expressing our thanks to CMS for extending the time allotted for response from three to eight weeks. In the attached document, we respond in detail to a number of points raised by the Report.

Since their inception, ESRD Networks have been active in creating educational materials, tools, and resources for ESRD patients and families. As such, we append to this letter a position paper which summarizes the many advantages of having Networks promote patient centeredness of ESRD services. Two attachments accompany the position paper: Attachment A: Overview of Pertinent Legislation and Regulations; and Attachment B: Summary of National and Network Patient Services Accomplishments. We also append to this letter, as Attachment C, a tabular summary of Network accomplishment highlights.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kristensen

Cynthia Kristensen, MD
President, Forum of ESRD Networks



Klemens Meyer, MD
President-Elect, Forum of ESRD Networks

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