

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sandy Levin  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2014

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin,

The National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC) shares your commitment to ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries receive the right care, in the right setting, at the right time. The Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014 will make important steps forward towards ensuring that patients discharged from a hospital receive the highest quality care in the post-acute care (PAC) setting that is most appropriate to meet their health care needs.

NTOCC is a non-profit organization of leading multidisciplinary health care organizations and stakeholders dedicated to providing solutions that improve the quality of health care through stronger collaboration between providers, patients, and family caregivers. The organization was formed in 2006 to raise awareness about the importance of transitions in improving health care quality, reducing medication errors, and enhancing clinical outcomes among health care professionals, government leaders, patients, and family caregivers.

As you are aware, patients face significant challenges when moving from one care setting to another within our fragmented health care system. Poor communication during transitions can lead to confusion about the patient's condition and appropriate care, duplicative tests, inconsistent patient monitoring, medication errors, and lack of follow through on referrals. Navigating these transitions can be even more difficult for individuals with serious illness, who may be too frail to communicate effectively for themselves and rely heavily on their care team and family caregivers. Furthermore, given the nature of their illness, patients may have multiple providers and move between different care settings more often, which puts these medically complex patients at higher risk for gaps in care due to improper communication between providers and other caregivers.

NTOCC believes that central to improving transitions to the post acute care setting is the standardization of patient assessment data. As you know, patient assessment data and tools

varies by PAC provider, which is oftentimes burdensome and confusing for providers and makes it difficult to compare the care that patients receive and their outcomes across care settings. NTOCC supports the development of a universal standardized patient assessment format that facilitates bi-directional communication and care coordination across care settings.

NTOCC supports provisions in the IMPACT Act to standardize data collection elements across the assessment tools and we hope that Congress, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the PAC community can continue to work towards a common assessment that will support both patients and health care providers during times of transition.

NTOCC appreciates the Committee's leadership in addressing challenges in the PAC delivery system and we look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. Please feel free to contact Lindsay Punzenberger, NTOCC's Policy Director, at 202-466-4721 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Cheri Lattimer  
Executive Director