



December 15, 2010

Ms. Linda Magno
Director of Medicare Programs and Demonstrations Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21244-1850

Ms. Juliana Tiongson
Lead Analyst, Community-Based Care Transitions Program
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Magno and Ms. Tiongson:

The National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC) and its multidisciplinary team of leading health care experts and stakeholders are dedicated to improving the quality of care transitions. NTOCC's mission is 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.

NTOCC enthusiastically supports Section 3026 of the Affordable Care Act —the Community-Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP)— that will distribute \$500 million to test models for improving care transitions for high-risk Medicare beneficiaries. As you are aware, patients — particularly the elderly and individuals with chronic or serious illnesses— face significant challenges when moving from one care setting to another within our fragmented health care system. Poor communication during these transitions may create serious concerns regarding patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. As policymakers strive to improve health care quality and reduce hospital readmissions, it is essential that the improvement of care transitions is made a top priority.

As you move forward in implementing CCTP, we encourage you to use NTOCC and our members as a resource. Our diverse group of health care experts has developed a number of tools and resources for professionals and policymakers to ensure safe transitions of care. These include resources to: help patients and family caregivers navigate transitions; assist health care professionals in implementing and evaluating effective transitions of care plans; and aid policymakers in assessing and measuring transitions of care outcomes.

In January of 2011, NTOCC will release a *Compendium of Evidence-Based Care Transition Interventions* which will provide a user-friendly centralized resource for providers to have access to all currently available evidence-based interventions and tools. A companion resource to the compendium will be available which will highlight essential care transition interventions identified from a cross-walk of the various models of care.

We invite and encourage you to share the *Compendium of Evidence-Based Care Transition Interventions* and the rest of NTOCC tools and resources with potential applicants. We believe hospitals and community-based organizations will find NTOCC to be a valuable resource as they move forward in designing and implementing care transition strategies. NTOCC's tools and resources can be found at www.ntocc.org and are described in more detail in the document attached to this letter.

NTOCC looks forward to continued engagement with CMS on the CCTP program and other initiatives to improve care transitions. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally at 501-673-1144 or clattimer@acminet.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheri Lattimer".

Cheri Lattimer, Executive Director