



**American Hospital
Association**

Liberty Place, Suite 700
325 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2802
(202) 638-1100 Phone
www.aha.org

October 27, 2010

Peggy O'Kane
Bernard Rosof, M.D.
Co-chairs, National Priorities Partnership
c/o The National Quality Forum
601 13th Street NW, Suite 500 North
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Nomination for Membership on the Patient-Focused Coordinating Committee of the Measure Applications Partnership

Dear Peggy and Bernie:

On behalf of nearly 5,000 American hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 40,000 individual providers of health care, I write to you today to nominate the American Hospital Association (AHA) as an organizational member of the Patient-Focused Coordinating Committee of the *Measure Applications Partnership* (MAP). As the president and CEO of the AHA, I would be pleased to represent our diverse and active membership as the National Priorities Partnership seeks to build on its on-going work to advance quality and patient safety through measurement, public reporting and collaborative improvement activities.

Our members include health care providers along the care continuum – from short- and long-term acute care hospitals to rehabilitation facilities, from skilled nursing facilities to multi-campus health systems. Our member organizations are proud to employ approximately 200,000 physicians, as well as thousands of nurses and other caregivers, giving the AHA a well-rounded and informed perspective on the needs of health care delivery professionals and organizations.

The nation's hospital and health system leaders have long acknowledged that they can and should play a vital role in improving the health and health care of their communities. We know that we cannot create a patient-centered, highly coordinated and well-functioning health care delivery system on our own. Instead, we wish to continue to build on our long history of leadership, cooperation and innovation as a participant in the work of the MAP.

In 2003, the AHA, along with leaders of the Federation of American Hospitals and the American Association of Medical Colleges, hosted a meeting of some of the nation's most significant organizations in health care quality measurement and improvement, including the administrator of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the director of the Agency for



Peggy O’Kane and Bernard Rosof, M.D.

October 27, 2010

Page 2 of 2

Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the president of The Joint Commission, and the president of the National Quality Forum. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how to better harmonize the hospital quality measurement activities of all of these organizations so that the measurement activities had greater impact. This meeting led directly to the creation of the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA), which became a model for the work of other quality organizations and alliances. Today, we are still an integral part of the HQA and continue to work with the NQF and the Quality Alliance Steering Committee, and in other venues, to identify and implement quality measures that will encourage better performance from the health care delivery system.

I have had the privilege of chairing the HQA for the past four years and am proud of the progress that has been made both in sharing information with the public and in encouraging better care. *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* creates a new framework – the National Quality Strategy – for taking the work of the HQA and other organizations to a new level. We believe that hospitals need to be a part of that work, and as the organization that represents nearly all of the hospitals in the nation, the AHA would be pleased to participate in the work of the MAP.

As the chairman of the HQA and a partner on NQF’s National Priorities Partnership, I have worked hard to build coalitions that foster understanding and help reach consensus solutions among all stakeholders so that we all can meet today’s challenges and prepare for a rapidly changing health care environment. I hope to be able to continue that work through the MAP.

The long, demonstrated commitment of the AHA to improving patient safety and quality, and increasing accountability and transparency, coupled with my own personal qualifications and experiences, would serve the committee well as it discharges its mandate to set strategy for MAP, provide direction to the advisory work groups and ultimately to advise the Department of Health and Human Services.

I hope to have the opportunity to participate in the important work of the Patient-Focused Coordinating Committee for the *Measure Applications Partnership*, and have enclosed a copy of my curriculum vitae to provide additional information. If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me or Nancy Foster, AHA vice president, quality and patient safety, at (202) 626-2337.

Sincerely,

Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO

Enclosure