



8515 GEORGIA AVENUE, SUITE 400  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910-3492  
301 628-5000 • FAX 301 628-5001  
[www.NursingWorld.org](http://www.NursingWorld.org)

KAREN A. DALEY, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN  
PRESIDENT

MARLA J. WESTON, PhD, RN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

To: CMS Publications Clearance  
From: American Nurses Association  
Subject: Medicare and Me 2012 Draft Edition  
Date: February 28, 2011

The American Nurses Association (ANA) welcomes the opportunity to offer comments on the draft edition of *Medicare and Me 2012*. The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses, the single largest group of health care professionals in the United States. We represent RNs in all roles and practice settings, through our state and constituent member nurses associations, and organizational affiliates. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and advocating before Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public. Our members include Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) such as Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

Millions of Medicare beneficiaries receive care from more than 90,000 APRNs who directly bill Medicare and thousands of others whose billing is submitted through their employer. In several sections of the handbook there is use of the term health care provider in addition to the use of the word doctor. ANA believes that language throughout the handbook should be provider neutral and the use of the term health care provider alone would meet that objective. As an alternative, the term health care provider should be used in conjunction with the word doctor every time it appears unless there is a statutory limitation, such as ordering home health, or scope of practice limitation such as performing surgery.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the content of the handbook. If we can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Louise Kaplan, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, ANA Department of Nursing Practice and Policy at [louise.kaplan@ana.org](mailto:louise.kaplan@ana.org) or 301-628-5044.