



AUG 15 2008

Mary Jane Koren, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair
Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing
Homes Campaign Steering Committee and
Assistant Vice President, Frail Elders Program
The Commonwealth Fund
One East 75th Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Koren:

We are very excited to learn about the progress that the coalition-based campaign for Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes has achieved since its inception in the fall of 2006 and that the Campaign will continue beyond the originally envisioned two year period to pursue excellence in the quality of life and quality of care for the nursing home population. The pursuit of excellence in quality of care is central to the Agency's mission, particularly for our priority populations, which include the nation's elderly and the disabled.

The Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) continues to strongly support the work of the Advancing Excellence Campaign. We developed a number of products which AHRQ believes can be useful in fostering improved nursing home quality. AHRQ subject matter experts will continue to participate in the various Campaign committees/workgroups and provide technical expertise on relevant topics. Our participation provides AHRQ staff with the opportunity to share the Federal perspective on quality of care issues and to acquaint others with the Agency's and the Department's goals while being informed of important issues in the marketplace.

We look forward to working with all of the partners in the Campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D.
Director