

May 19, 2000

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle, Administrator
Health Care Financing Administration
314G Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Ms. DeParle:

The undersigned surgical and medical associations are writing you to express our profound concern at your March 8 announcement that your agency intends to implement by June its December 1997 proposal to eliminate its long-standing requirement that nonphysician anesthesia personnel be supervised by either the operating practitioner or an anesthesiologist.

We support the position of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation that such a step should be considered only after the development and review of current scientific outcomes data. As we understand HCFA's position, you regard such an analysis as unnecessary. We believe Medicare beneficiaries deserve better, and for that reason, we support the principles of the Safe Seniors Assurance Study Act of 1999 (S. 818/H.R. 632) that would mandate such a study prior to action by HCFA.

We hope you will reconsider implementation of the proposed rule, and undertake an outcome study.

Sincerely,

Alaska State Medical Association

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery Foundation

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Academy of Sleep Medicine

American Association for Thoracic Surgery

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Medical Association
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Roentgen Ray Society
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons
American Society of General Surgeons
American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Urological Association
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association

Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Florida Medical Association
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana State Medical Association
International College of Surgeons-United States Section
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Kentucky Medical Association
Louisiana State Medical Society
Maine Medical Association
Massachusetts Medical Society
MedChi-The Maryland State Medical Society
Medical Association of Georgia
Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of New Jersey
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Medical Society of the State of New York
Medical Society of Virginia
Michigan State Medical Society

Minnesota Medical Association
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
New Mexico Medical Society
North Carolina Medical Society
North Dakota Medical Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Society
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Puerto Rico Medical Association
Rhode Island Medical Society
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
South Carolina Medical Association
South Dakota State Medical Association
State Medical Society of Wisconsin
Tennessee Medical Association
Texas Medical Association

Utah Medical Association

Vermont Medical Society

Virgin Islands Medical Society

Washington State Medical Association

West Virginia State Medical Association

Wyoming Medical Society