

January 22, 2009

Anne Deutsch, RN, PhD, CRRN
Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
345 E. Superior Street
Chicago, IL 60611-4496

Dear Dr. Deutsch:

I am pleased to write a letter to support your Field Initiated Proposal titled “Development of Quality Measures for Medical Rehabilitation Programs.” The project addresses an important issue facing persons served by rehabilitation programs – the absence of standardized quality measures that foster high-quality inpatient rehabilitation care.

AOTA would be happy to participate in the project by publicizing your efforts and sharing information about the project with members through a variety of means, including an association publication, the annual meeting, the association web site and listserv communications.

I understand that the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and its members would have the opportunity to participate in several of the project’s tasks, including:

1. Identifying candidate quality measures for rehabilitation programs,
2. Reviewing the feasibility and utility of candidate quality measures using National Quality Forum measure evaluation criteria,
3. Reviewing and testing CARE Tool modules to implement quality measures,
4. Disseminating the quality measures and the CARE Tool modules

AOTA is the national professional association that represents the interests and concerns of 140,000 occupational therapy practitioners and students of occupational therapy. AOTA’s mission is to advance the quality, availability, use, and support of occupational therapy through standard-setting, advocacy, education, and research on behalf of its members and the public.

AOTA’s members have a long-standing interest in promoting high-quality care that results in optimizing the functional recovery of individuals following a significant illness or injury and supporting the individual’s return to the community. AOTA has worked closely with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association’s Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (AMA PCPI) to assign appropriate measures for reporting by occupational therapists.

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I hope that I have conveyed my enthusiasm for this project, the importance of your work, and the ways in which AOTA can help you achieve your goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christina Metzler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Christina Metzler
Chief Public Affairs Officer