AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

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April 30, 2009

Executive Subcommittee
National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Alliance for Nursing Informatics Written Testimony about Meaningful Use

Electronically via: Alliance for Nursing Informatics Submission on April 30, 2009 to marietta.squire@cdc.hhs.gov

Dear Executive Subcommittee Members:

The American Nurses Association (ANA), the full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million Registered Nurses through its constituent member associations and organizational affiliates, contributed to the development of the Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) written testimony related to "meaningful use" of health information technology and fully supports the ANI recommendations provided to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics to:

- Include patient-centered documentation from all disciplines within the definition of "meaningful use"; initially focusing on patient summary data at transitions of care
- Collect standardized clinical performance measures as a byproduct of care delivery and clinician documentation
- Submit quality measures to the Department of Health and Human Services using processes and infrastructure defined by HITSP; initially focusing on a subset of existing NQF-endorsed measures, and including nursing sensitive measures
- Use existing initiatives such as HITSP and IHE to guide standards use within all systems that record, transmit, collect, and share information for care delivery
- Expand the definition of "meaningful use" to encompass support of all healthcare provider practices, including those of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses

The ANA has invested significant resources over many years to enable the most effective and meaningful use of health information technology solutions, including standards and standardized terminologies, to assist in the provision and evaluation of safe and effective quality nursing and healthcare services. The ANA continues its efforts in this arena.

The ANA looks forward to furthering collaborative activities with the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and other federal, state, and public-private entities to improve the quality of health care provided to all in America through meaningful use of health information technologies. If you have questions, or if the American Nurses Association can be of additional assistance, please feel free to contact Dr. Carol J. Bickford, Senior Policy Fellow, by phone (301-628-5060) or e-mail at carol.bickford@ana.org.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Executive Officer