

# DMAA

Disease Management Association of America

June 13, 2003

Chairman William M. Thomas  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the Disease Management Association of America (DMAA), we are pleased to announce our strong support for your pending Medicare reform legislation, the Medicare Modernization & Prescription Drug Act of 2003. This bill contains some of the strongest, pro-beneficiary provisions, especially in terms of chronic care management, that Congress has considered in many years.

As the nation's population ages, the number of chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries is expected to grow dramatically. Currently, Medicare beneficiaries with certain chronic diseases account for a disproportionate share of Medicare expenditures - approximately 20 percent of the nation's Medicare population account for nearly 80 percent of the total costs.

Typically, beneficiaries with the major chronic conditions, e.g., asthma, diabetes, congestive heart failure, etc., receive fragmented care from multiple health providers at multiple health care facilities. And the disjointed nature of health care is confusing for beneficiaries and their families, increasing the risk of hospitalization and disability.

In the private sector, health care organizations such as managed care organizations, disease management organizations and academic medical centers have developed a wide array of disease management and coordinated care programs that combine adherence to evidence-based medical practices with better coordination of care across health care providers and settings.

The clinical guidelines that are the foundation of these programs have been developed by respected national and international academic and professional organizations and their efficacy in improving quality and reducing utilization has been repeatedly validated in peer-reviewed, randomized control studies published in the most respected medical journals.

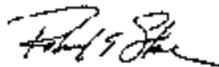
By applying these guidelines to populations of patients with chronic conditions and their comorbidities, disease management and coordinated care programs have been shown to reduce complications, slow disease progression, keep patients healthy, and significantly reduce overall health care costs.

For these reasons, DMAA is pleased to support your efforts and to work for the package's enactment.

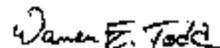
Sincerely,



Christobel Selecky  
Chair, Governmental Affairs  
& Health Policy Committee



Bob Stone  
President



Warren Todd  
Executive Director