American Society of Anesthesiologists

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January 31, 2011

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Office of Clinical Standards and Quality
Attention: Maria Ellis
7500 Security Boulevard
Mail Stop: South Building 3-02-01
Baltimore, MD 21244

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), an educational, research and scientific association representing over 45,000 members, is pleased to nominate Robert E. Kettler, M.D., for consideration as a voting member of the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC). ASA believes that Dr. Kettler possesses the crucial experience and expertise that MEDCAC seeks, including the examination of data on the effectiveness and appropriateness of services that are covered or are eligible for coverage.

Dr. Kettler's clinical interests are diverse and his contributions to the specialty broadbased. In addition to his service to ASA, Dr. Kettler has served as a member of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Management (ASRA) and the Anesthesia History Association. In addition, he has been an associate editor on the editorial board of Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine since 1997. Finally, Dr. Kettler has served as a representative to the Wisconsin Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) for more than ten years.

In regard to his service to ASA and its members, Dr. Kettler has served on the ASA Committee on Economics (COE) since 2011. COE is charged with reviewing and disseminating information regarding the economics of the practice of anesthesiology. COE also reviews private and governmental medical care payment and reimbursement plans and makes recommendations based on its findings.

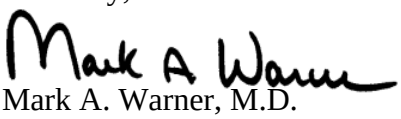
Dr. Kettler is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is also the attending anesthesiologist at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital, Zablocki VA Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Kettler completed his internship, anesthesia residency, and a fellowship in Pain Management and Regional Anesthesia at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Kettler has published and presented extensively on the topic of pain medicine. He has edited the Pain Clinic Manual and has presented on several issues including alternative pain management modalities, opioids in anesthesiology, and management of pain.

If selected to serve as a member of MEDCAC, Dr. Kettler is enthusiastically willing to serve and commit to the meetings required and has no conflict of interest that would preclude him from membership.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to submit the nomination of Dr. Robert E. Kettler for MEDCAC and hope that MEDCAC will seriously consider his appointment. Dr. Kettler is a recognized leader in the field of anesthesiology and pain management and provides a diverse and broad experience and expertise that would benefit the important mission of MEDCAC. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let the ASA know how it can assist.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Warner, M.D.
President
American Society of Anesthesiologists