

June 13, 2018

Jay Bhatt, D.O.  
Sr. Vice President and Chief Medical Officer  
President, Health Research & Educational Trust  
American Hospital Association  
155 North Wacker Drive, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Dr. Bhatt:

The American Medical Association (AMA) is pleased to support the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) Network of Quality Improvement and Innovation Contractors (NQIIC). We are excited to work with HRET, SHAs, Quality Innovation Network/Quality Improvement Organizations, End Stage Renal Disease networks, and other Quality Improvement programs (QI) to broaden and consolidate QI efforts across settings, including clinical practices, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community coalitions. This cross-cutting approach will support us in addressing issues such as:

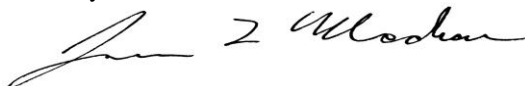
- Opioid abuse
- Behavioral health outcomes
- Workforce burden reduction
- Patient safety
- Clinician-focused technical assistance
- Chronic disease self-management
- Care transitions
- Post-acute and long-term care

We are also committed to working on rural health, vulnerable populations, and patient and family engagement as cross-cutting priorities in our work with HRET. Within the scheduling and budgeting constraints that exist, we are very pleased to contribute our expertise to the HRET NQIIC team to maximize the success of the project. The AMA has extensive resources related to chronic disease, the opioid epidemic, measuring clinician burnout, reducing administrative burdens in practice and other topics. AMA's Steps Forward platform of practice resources has been used to advance its work as a Support Alignment Network participant in the CMS Transforming Clinical Practice initiative. Should HRET become an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contractor, AMA would welcome the opportunity to participate and to make those resources available to new audiences.

We are confident that aligning our leadership and activities with the HRET NQIIC team will produce even more benefits for patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to reduce harm to all patients.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD