AMA
AMERICAN
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

November 16, 2010

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
John M. Eisenberg Building
540 Gaither Road, Suite 2000
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Common Formats—Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including a Health Information Technology (HIT) Device

Dear Dr. Clancy:

The American Medical Association (AMA) appreciates the opportunity to submit general comments on the revised Common Formats—Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including an HIT Device. The AMA commends the AHRQ on these revisions, and in particular providing reporters to Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) the opportunity to focus on human factors and ergonomics when using the Common Formats to report a patient safety event associated with a Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including an HIT Device. The revised common format will assist efforts to establish the environmental context of safety events, errors, and near misses and enhance our understanding of technology's influence on workflow and events generated by technology, devices, and supply systems used at the point of care. The importance of gaining this knowledge cannot be understated as the health care system becomes more sophisticated and reliant on technology to enhance human performance.

The AMA is committed to providing feedback to AHRQ on a continuous basis to further enhance the Common Formats reporting forms. We also look forward to working with AHRQ on physician outreach and education initiatives and materials to maximize physician participation in patient safety event reporting.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA