RPA Survey to Determine Future Nephrology Reimbursement

In an effort to make certain that reimbursement for services provided by nephrologists remains at levels sufficient to ensure the viability of the specialty, the Renal Physicians Association will be conducting roundtable discussions with nephrologists and practice managers at seven geographically diverse sites nationwide to gather data on the physician work provided by nephrologists to their monthly dialysis patients. This data will be collected via a survey format, compiled into a specialty-wide report, and may be submitted to the American Medical Association’s (AMA) Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) for the valuation of the monthly capitated payment (MCP) for dialysis services. RPA CPT Editorial Panel Advisor Richard Hamburger, M.D., and former RPA RUC Advisor Emil Paganini, M.D, will facilitate the discussion.

If you wish to help direct the future of nephrology payment, you should plan to participate in one of these meetings to provide your input.

The discussion groups will meet in the following cities on the dates indicated:

- **Saturday, September 30, 2006**  Chicago
- **Wednesday, October 25, 2006**  Seattle
- **Thursday, October 26, 2006**  Los Angeles
- **Saturday, November 4, 2006**  Philadelphia
- **Thursday, November 9, 2006**  Denver
- **Friday, November 10, 2006**  Dallas
- **Friday, December 8, 2006**  Atlanta

All of these meetings will be held from 10:00am to 3:00pm local time, with morning refreshments and lunch provided. Accompanying this notice is a registration form, which includes a brief set of questions on the characteristics of the participants’ practice. Prior to each regional meeting, participants will be provided with comprehensive background materials that will inform the survey process. Unfortunately, RPA cannot reimburse participants for their travel costs. However, we believe that your participation in this process will have significant returns for nephrology practice in the long run. Drs.
Paganini and Hamburger will provide a summary of the results of these roundtable sessions at the RPA March 2007 Annual Meeting in Baltimore. One participant from each regional meeting will be randomly selected to receive a free annual meeting registration to show our appreciation for your contribution to this effort.

It is vitally important to the future of nephrology as a specialty that the RPA RUC survey process be as complete and accurate as possible, and the participation of nephrologists at the regional level is a critical link in that process. For more information on this process, please contact Rob Blaser, RPA’s Director of Public Policy, at 301-468-3515 or by email at rblaser@renalmd.org, or Holly Owens, RPA’s Public Policy Project Coordinator, at 301-468-3515, or by email at howens@renalmd.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert Provenzano, M.D.

President