



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

June 21, 2011

Justine M. Carr, M.D.
Chairperson, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Rm. 2402
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Dear Dr. Carr:

Thank you for your letter regarding the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics' (NCVHS) recommendations on the selection of an entity to draft operating rules for certain standard transactions as specified by the Affordable Care Act.

The NCVHS' ongoing commitment to supporting the adoption of standards for administrative transactions continues to play an important role in improving the efficiency, cost savings and quality of our Nation's health care system. Your analysis of the operating rule candidate applications was thorough, and I fully appreciate the effort that went into this second exercise of review and evaluation for authoring entities for the next set of operating rules.

I want to assure you that the Department of Health and Human Services continues to value your recommendations as we prepare to write the regulations for the next set of operating rules. I continue to re-affirm my commitment to administrative simplification and improved use of electronic transactions, and will continue to seek NCVHS' input once the regulations are published and implementation planning begins.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius