



FEB 16 2012

Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MPH
Milwaukee County EMS
Medical College of Wisconsin
9200 West Wisconsin Avenue
FMLH East
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Dear Dr. Pirrallo:

Thank you for your letter offering your expertise in "field EMS" to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). My colleagues at CMS and I share your goal of reducing health care costs and improving the fiscal solvency of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

As you may know, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Care Innovation Challenge, administered by the Innovation Center, will make up to \$1 billion in funding available for compelling new models of care delivery and payment that have the potential to deliver better health, better health care, and lower costs through improved quality for Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP enrollees.

The deadline to submit proposals for the HHS Health Care Innovation Challenge was Friday, January 27, 2012. We are very pleased with the high volume of applications, which indicates widespread interest in this program. Starting next week, our panels of reviewers will evaluate the proposals based on the November 14, 2011 Funding Opportunity Announcement. We anticipate announcing awards in early spring 2012. At this time, we are not seeking additional reviewers, but we are pleased to know your organizations are prepared to work with us should we need the benefit of your experience in "field EMS." Be assured we will keep your offer in mind as we continue the work of the Innovation Center.

We appreciate your support for improvements in health care delivery and payment and your interest in the HHS Health Care Innovation Challenge. Please share this response to the cosignors of your letter.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Gilfillan, M.D.
Director
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation