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Kuebler Appointed to Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Kim K. Kuebler, MN, RN, ANP-CS, an adult nurse practitioner in private practice and consultation in Atlanta, GA, has been appointed to the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The DHHS secretary originally chartered MCAC on November 24, 1998.

MCAC consists of an interdisciplinary membership that advises CMS on whether adequate evidence exists to determine if specific medical equipment and services are reasonable and necessary under current Medicare law. The four-year appointment is guided by the *Health Care Financing Administration Ethics Handbook*, DHHS, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the U.S. Government's Executive Branch, Office of Ethics.

Kuebler recently received the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State of Excellence Award for Excellence of Care and Outstanding Contribution in Practice for her leadership in palliative care and a state demonstration project on advanced disease management in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Health, Department of Aging and Community.

Wright Named to Citizens' Health Care Working Group



ONS member Christine L. Wright, RN, MPA, is among 14 individuals appointed by U.S. Comptroller General David M. Walker to the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, the first step in a two-year

process to hold a national dialogue on issues related to healthcare services, delivery, and cost. By law, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will serve as the 15th member of the Working Group. Wright is the director of Cancer Services and Radiation Oncology at Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD. She also serves as the ONS state health policy liaison for South Dakota.

"I am truly honored that I was chosen to conduct this important work that will influence and shape the future of health care," said Wright. "ONS has contributed to my knowledge base by not only allowing me to serve as a state health policy liaison but also providing educational scholarships for me to attend the Nurse in Washington Internship program and the ONS Leadership Development Institute."

Congress created the working group to hold hearings and community meetings across the country on healthcare coverage and costs and to issue a "Health Report to the American People." Within two years from these appointments, the working group must submit recommendations to Congress and the President.

The members, chosen from among more than 530 applicants, represent many regions of the country and a broad range of healthcare perspectives, including consumers, providers, employers, and workers. The statute required that the appointments include people with personal experience or expertise in paying for benefits and issues of access to care.

"This distinguished and diverse group of Americans has accepted a call to address a challenge of great importance to all Americans: how to make quality health care more accessible and affordable to every man, woman, and child in an economically rational and fiscally responsible manner," Walker said. "We are extremely grateful for their willingness to serve."

For more information about the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, visit www.gao.gov.

Brown Receives Inaugural Minerva Award for Devotion to Service



ONS honorary member Helene G. Brown, PhD, recently was acknowledged for her dedication to furthering positive change and building outreach programs that have made a difference in the

lives of thousands of Californians. First Lady of California Maria Shriver named Brown and three other California women as the inaugural recipients of the first annual Minerva Awards, which are named after the Roman goddess who is featured on the state's seal. According to legend, with her helmet, Minerva is a tireless warrior; without it, she is the goddess of peace. She is symbolic of the multiple roles that women play in the lives of families and communities.

"These remarkable women are fearless in their quest to make a better life, a better community, and a better world for all of us," said Shriver. "Like Minerva, they are warriors on the frontlines of humanity—inspiring and motivating the next generation of women to build on the strong foundation they started."

Bravo! Job Well Done! Pat Yourself on the Back!

Have you been awarded recently for your dedication and commitment to oncology nursing? Have you been appointed to a new leadership position at your institution? Are you helping to coordinate an event that is particularly relevant to oncology nurses? If so, the *Oncology Nursing Forum (ONF)* wants to share these and other achievements with its readers.

ONF accepts news of member accomplishments for "People and Events." Submissions should include a recent photo and be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®, via phone (773-350-2234), fax (773-583-3477), or e-mail (pjassak@aol.com).

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