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WORLD'S LEADING KIDNEY ORGANIZATION JOINS CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE CARE FOR PATIENTS

Choosing Wisely™ campaign helps identify tests or procedures that may be reduced or eliminated to improve patient care

- *The Congressional Budget office estimates 30% of care in America goes to unnecessary tests and procedures*
- *ASN advances patient care for the nearly 30 million Americans who have kidney disease, and strongly supports ABIM's efforts to promote the best choices in treating patients*

[Washington, DC] – The American Society of Nephrology (ASN), the world's leading kidney organization, joins the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation, eight other leading national medical specialty societies and *Consumer Reports* in the *Choosing Wisely* campaign. This campaign will help physicians, patients and other health care professionals address overuse of health care resources in the United States.

The campaign supports ABIM Foundation's goal of improving health care outcomes and avoiding unnecessary and even harmful interventions in order to improve patient care and reduce the rapidly-expanding costs of the health care system. If current trends remain unchanged, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services project U.S. health care spending will reach \$4.3 trillion (19.3 percent of the nation's gross domestic product) by 2019.

As part of the campaign, ASN has convened a group of experts to develop a list of tests or procedures that kidney patients and physicians should question and discuss. These lists will be released in April 2012 and will spark discussion about the need – or lack thereof – for many frequently ordered tests or treatments in America.

"ASN looks forward to working with the ABIM Foundation and other leading societies to improve care for patients through the Choosing Wisely Campaign," states ASN President Ronald J. Falk, MD, FASN. "ASN's unwavering dedication to this important effort reflects the society's obligation to improve the lives of the nearly 30 million Americans with kidney disease," he adds. "The campaign also reflects my personal commitment that ASN and its nearly 14,000 members provide high-quality, patient-centered care."

Through its Quality and Patient Safety Task Force, ASN is developing tools to help kidney care professionals address potential patient safety issues and work with Medicare to identify appropriate quality measures for dialysis patients. ASN regularly advocates for improved care for patients, better health for populations, and lower healthcare costs,

Joining ASN and ABIM Foundation in *Choosing Wisely* are:

- American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Radiology

- American Gastroenterological Association
- American Society of Clinical Oncology
- American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
- *Consumer Reports*

Choosing Wisely is part of a multi-year effort led by the ABIM Foundation to support and engage physicians in being better stewards of finite health care resources. Participating specialty societies will work with the ABIM Foundation to share the lists with their members and convene discussions about the physician's role in making wise choices.

To learn more about *Choosing Wisely*, visit www.ChoosingWisely.org.

About ASN

Founded in 1966, and with more than 13,500 members, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) leads the fight against kidney disease by educating health professionals, sharing new knowledge, advancing research, and advocating the highest quality care for patients.

About the ABIM Foundation

The mission of the ABIM Foundation is to advance medical professionalism to improve the health care system. We achieve this by collaborating with physicians and physician leaders, medical trainees, health care delivery systems, payers, policy makers, consumer organizations and patients to foster a shared understanding of professionalism and how they can adopt the tenets of professionalism in practice. To learn more about the ABIM Foundation, visit www.abimfoundation.org, connect with us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).