



QMS goes to Capitol Hill May 5-6, 2010

QMS had two productive days on Capitol Hill during the NRAA Spring Meeting, May 5-6, 2010. John Sargent, President, Mike Davis, COO, and Paul Benson, Director of Business Development, were able to set up eleven meetings with congressional representatives. QMS' goal was to inform the representatives about the current issues surrounding CMS and the CROWNWeb project. We also strongly urged the representatives to contact senior members of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS to rapidly implement electronic batch submission of data into the CMS database by the non-LDOs instead of the currently mandated process of manual entry.

Prior to arriving on Capitol Hill, QMS prepared packets for the representatives containing correspondence between John Sargent and Barry Straube, M.D., CMS chief medical officer and director of the Agency's Office of Clinical Standards & Quality, concerning the issue of electronic batch submission and general background material on dialysis. A cover letter for the packet summarized our main goal, and the requested action item of moving CMS to allow for electronic batch submission of data.



Pictured left to right: Paul Benson, Mike Davis, John Sargent

Specific meetings were held with the staffs of, Senators Boxer, Feinstein, Warner and Webb; Speaker Pelosi; and Congress(wo)men Miller, Cantor, Lee, McNerney, Woolsey, and Garamendi. All of the meetings turned out to be very successful. The legislative assistants seemed very receptive of our points and a majority of them came to the conclusion of allowing electronic batch submission before this point had even been reached. The majority of the assistants promised there would be some sort of action taken following our meeting.

QMS is now in the process of following up with the individuals we met with. Overall, the meetings were very successful. A full review of our meetings will be discussed at our upcoming Users' Meeting, August 19-20, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV. We encourage everyone to attend!

Sincerley,

QMS