This Awareness Letter was designed for use by nephrologists to emphasize the relevance of early diagnosis and optimum management of chronic kidney disease (CKD) among present and potential referring physicians.

**Pointers for effective use of this tool:**

- This letter can be customized by adding your practice letterhead or clinic stamp. It may also be modified in other ways to suit your practice preferences and/or reflect your own style of language or communication as well as your particular practice environment. For example, the letter can be personalized by typing in the date and names of the addressee and sender. The MS-Word version of the letter (available on the enclosed CD or online at [www.renalmd.org/toolkit/index.cfm](http://www.renalmd.org/toolkit/index.cfm)) is most useful for this purpose.

- A copy of the Executive Summary of RPA Guidelines from the Physician Education Material may be attached to this letter for your referring physician.

This letter, the Referring Physician Faxback Form, and the CKD Post-Consult Letter are intended to be used in that sequence.
Dear [Insert Referring Physician Name],

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that 20 million people have chronic kidney disease (CKD). CKD is especially prevalent in patients with hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, in ethnic minorities, in the elderly, and in people who have relatives treated with dialysis. Current recommendations indicate that these patients need to be identified and managed aggressively to decrease progression of CKD. Achieving this goal is a challenge to all healthcare providers.

Currently, CKD is staged based on estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR) ranging from Stage 1 to 5. Each stage has unique issues that require attention. To help you detect these patients, the Renal Physicians Association (RPA) has developed tools including a CKD Identification and Action Plan Card and a GFR Calculator. These are available online as part of the RPA Advanced CKD Patient Management Toolkit at www.renalmd.org/toolkit/index.cfm.

By Stage 3, CKD patients have lost half of their kidney function and are at risk for complications and disease progression. We stand ready to help you manage these patients as their care becomes more complex, including the need to prevent or slow progression. Application of appropriate strategies has been shown to improve outcomes. To assist with this we can provide flow sheets, algorithms, and patient education material based on current guidelines. (Enclosure: Executive Summary of RPA Guideline #3)

We understand that your practice has unique needs, resources, and constraints. We will be pleased to consult periodically, co-manage, or assume comprehensive management of CKD depending upon your preference. If you have any questions or concerns, please share these with me. I would be happy to discuss them further with you at your convenience.

With best personal regards,