



---

805 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 650 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-8700  
[www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org](http://www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org)

## **Former ICU Nurse Marilyn Tavenner Nominated for CMS Administrator**

Prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, CMS Administrator Dr. Donald Berwick announced that he would be stepping down this week, as many policy makers expected. You may recall that President Obama “recess appointed” Dr. Berwick to lead CMS in 2010, bypassing the typical Senate confirmation process. Dr. Berwick’s term would have expired on January 3rd, 2012, and while President Obama re-nominated him for the post earlier this year, there was little chance of the Senate moving forward with this nomination given almost unified opposition to his appointment by Senate Republicans.

President Obama has nominated CMS’ Principal Deputy Administrator Marylyn Tavenner as Berwick’s successor. Tavenner began her career as a nurse in Virginia and worked as an intensive care unit nurse in the 1980s, eventually rising to the hospital’s chief nursing officer and later to top hospital executive. In 2006, Tavenner was tapped by former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine to serve as the state’s Secretary for Health and Human Services. Tavenner joined the Obama administration in April 2010 as Berwick’s deputy principal administrator. Many expect that Tavenner will bring continuity to health reform implementation, as she has worked closely with Dr. Berwick on his priority initiatives, including a commitment to the “Triple Aim”—better care for individuals, better health for populations, and lower growth in expenditures.

For more information, please click [here](#).

***This Special Alert is an update from The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at [www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org](http://www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org).***