



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53
Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair
2nd Exec. V-President
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832-6101

Bill Wetmore, Member
3rd Exec. V-President
2319 Alava Court
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Willie Haywood, Member
6th Dist. Rep., NVAC
17705 Garden Blvd.
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Jeff Sladek, Member
13th Dist. Rep., NVAC
VAMC 3601 S. 6th Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85723

August 30, 2011

Leslie Wiggins, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VA ICD-10 Project Initiative

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 2 C., of the Master Agreement the National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on the VA ICD-10 Project Initiative within the Department. Please provide the above named NVAC Mid-Term Bargaining Committee with all information and/or data related to the subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management Chief Negotiator in this receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The named NVAC bargaining committee may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions please call me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
NVAC Executive Committee

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

AUG 26 2011

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council AFGE
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Mr. Williams:

On January 16, 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services published ruling Final Rule, for all covered entities within the health care industry, updating the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 enacted as Public Law 104-191, by adopting new inpatient and outpatient ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets for encounter dates on, or after, October 1, 2013. The new code set replaces ICD-9-CM and requires significant changes in information technology systems, secondary data stores, reporting and analytics systems, problem lists, clinical reminders, encounter forms, screen displays, and printed documents.

The implementation of ICD-10 will impact VA staff at all levels of the organization. The magnitude of change for the VA, and healthcare industry at large, is beyond anything else VA's experienced affecting day to day responsibilities for approximately 80% of staff. As such, VA as an organization has a responsibility to provide to its users with awareness of the upcoming changes, necessary assessments to ensure staff are adequately prepared for training, provide necessary training and to ensure staff are competent in the use/application of ICD-10 code sets. This initiative requires a robust plan for the enterprise-wide implementation and training of technical and end-users.

If you wish to bargain or schedule a briefing on this matter, please contact Richard Watkins, no later than September 17, 2011. He can be reached at (513) 214-9806 or richard.watkins@va.gov. Questions regarding this initiative may be addressed to Shelly Weems, Health Information Management (HIM) Program Office. She can be reached at (205) 556-7098 or shelley.weems@va.gov.

Sincerely yours,

for Leslie B. Wiggins
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor-Management Relations

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AUG 29 2011

Nat'l VA Council
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee

Enclosure