



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

Affiliated with the AFL - CIO

Mid-Term Bargaining Committee

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July 12, 2011

Leslie Wiggins, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Subject: Lynch Syndrome Testing Survey in VISN 22

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

The National VA Council #53 is approving the Lynch Syndrome Testing Survey in VISN 22 within the Department. Please provide the NVAC with a copy of the results once completed. Please call me at (217) 554-4866 if you have any questions.

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
Vera Logan, 12th District Representative, NVAC
Sylma Vargas, LR Consultant VHA Workforce Management & Consulting Office

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready

Williams, Oscar L Jr.

From: Vargas, Sylma
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 9:35 PM
To: Williams, Oscar L Jr.
Subject: Lynch Syndrome testing in VISN22 research study
Attachments: LS info sheet stamped.pdf

Dear Oscar:

Thank you for taking time today to discuss this matter with me. This serves as notification of a survey to be conducted at the San Diego VAMC and Southern Nevada Healthcare System facilities. Participation of bargaining unit employees in the survey is voluntary and responses confidential, in accordance with Article 49, Section 8 of the 2011 AFGE Master Agreement. We anticipate the participation of approximately three bargaining unit employees in each facility.

The survey consists of a 30 minute interview, during duty time, to assess barriers and facilitators to Lynch Syndrome testing in VISN 22. Interviews focus on how Lynch syndrome genetic testing is currently done and how testing *could* be done. Findings will prepare for the VA national roll-out. We expect to conduct interviews through the end of 2011.

The attachment contains additional information and response to frequently asked questions.

Your support in this project is greatly appreciated. Please contact Angela Cohen if you have any questions regarding the survey.

Angela Cohen, MPH, CHES
Project Director, Lynch Syndrome Testing in VISN 22
Center of Excellence for the Study of Healthcare Provider Behavior
818/891-7711 x7560

For any other question, please contact me .

Thank you,

Sylma Vargas Ibarra
LR Consultant
VHA Workforce Management and Consulting Office
BB: 305-606-4340

**Information Sheet for
Assessing the Barriers and Facilitators to Implementation of Lynch Syndrome Testing in VISN 22**

What is the purpose of the research?

Lynch syndrome is the most common hereditary colon cancer syndrome known. This 12-month health services research study will assess barriers and facilitators to implementation of screening for Lynch syndrome in VISN 22. National roll-out of Lynch syndrome screening of all newly diagnosed colorectal cancer cases is planned.

Who is sponsoring this research?

This project is sponsored by VA QUERI (Quality Enhancement Research Initiative).

What are the risks and benefits of my participation?

There are no foreseeable risks and you may not directly benefit from this study. Your input may inform an implementation plan for Lynch syndrome screening.

What is the nature of my participation?

Your participation will involve a one-time 30-60 minute interview related to implementation of Lynch syndrome screening at your facility. If clarification is needed, you may be contacted once more.

Your responses will be kept confidential and secure. You may stop the interview at any time, and you may choose not to have the interview recorded. You may also be asked to provide supporting documents (e.g., policy and procedures) related to genetic testing.

The study team plans to interview 55 VA personnel in VISN 22. The interviews will be transcribed, de-identified, and analyzed in aggregate.

Is my participation voluntary?

Your participation is completely voluntary and you may stop at any time or decline to answer any question. Refusal to participate will not affect performance evaluations, promotions or any other interactions you have with VA. You may decline to participate without others knowing your decision. You are encouraged to ask questions at any time.

You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate in this study: (1) by agreeing to an interview appointment at a date and time convenient for you, and (2) by responding to the interview questions.

How will my privacy and confidentiality of my information be protected?

The study team will not report any information that would allow identification of any individual participating. For accuracy, your permission is requested to record the interview. If you agree, your interview will be transcribed. Audio recordings are uploaded onto a secure VA computer server behind a firewall. Audio data are de-identified and the files maintained until VA regulations allow it to be destroyed in accordance with the record control schedule.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the study?

If you have any questions about the study or your participation, please contact:
Cynthia Gammage, Field Coordinator at (818) 891-7711 x7237 or cynthia.gammage@va.gov
Angela Cohen, Project Director at (818) 891-7711 x7560 or angela.cohen2@va.gov
Maren Scheuner, Principal Investigator at (818) 891-7711 x7235 or maren.scheuner@va.gov

For questions about your rights as a study participant or complaints about this study, contact the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development at the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System (GLAHS), 11301 Wilshire Blvd, Mail Code 151, and Los Angeles, CA 90073. The telephone number is 310-268-4437.

APPROVED

APR 25 2011