

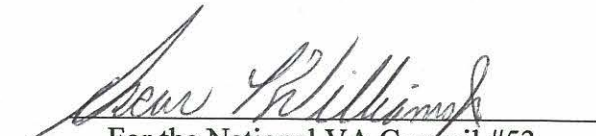
Memorandum of Understanding

The following constitution and agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the American Federation of Government Employees AFI-CIO, National Veterans Affairs Council #53 (NVAC) concerning "VHA Safe Patient Handling Program."

1. Local AFGE Health and Safety Representative/Officers shall be afforded the opportunity to provide input into any general safety issues, including electric, fire safety or asbestos concerns that may be identified during patient handling safety equipment selection and installation.
2. Bargaining unit employees assigned as facility Safe Patient Handling champions will be afforded appropriate dedicated time to carry out the identified duties of the champion.
3. The Local AFGE Health and Safety Representative shall be afforded the opportunity to provide input into equipment selection through, whatever process the facility identifies for equipment procurement (e.g. accident review board, VISN-level committee, or public fair), Where such selection involves on-site review, the Local AFGE Health and Safety Representative shall be offered the opportunity to participate in such review.
4. Bargaining unit employees shall receive proper training in the use of patient handling safety equipment purchased for their duty station prior to their usage of the equipment.
5. Facility management shall consider infection control issues when making determinations, on the slings to purchase.
6. The appropriate management official shall provide the local Union president a copy of this MOU upon receipt.


For the Department (VA)

11/7/08
Date


For the National VA Council #53

11-07-08
Date