

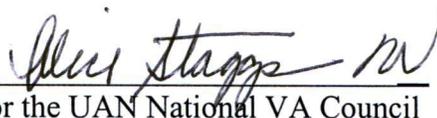
Memorandum of Understanding

The following constitutes an agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United American Nurses (UAN) National VA Council concerning "VHA Directive 2009-004, Use and Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Equipment (RME) In Veterans Health Administration Facilities."

1. The UAN Locals will have representation on the reusable medical equipment committee and provide input regarding the setup, selection, use, and reprocessing of RME used by RNs represented by UAN.
2. The parties agree that UAN RNs will be expected to follow locally established Standard Operating Procedures that are in alignment with the manufacturer's instructions for the use and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment. If management deviates from the manufacturer's instructions with equipment handled by UAN RNs, the UAN Local representative will be notified and may bargain consistent with 38 USC §7422 and consistent with the RNs duty as patient's advocate.
3. UAN RNs who use or reprocess reusable medical equipment will receive pertinent training on the required procedures on duty time. Should an RN be instructed to deviate from required procedures that the RN feels creates an unsafe condition, he/she may follow Article 35, Section 3, of the Master Contract which provides "... the RN will immediately notify the supervisor or other appropriate management official if the supervisor is not available. The supervisor or other appropriate management official will then determine whether or not the assignment should be carried out. If the supervisor or management official determines the assignment should be carried out, the RN will accept the assignment.
4. The appropriate management official shall provide a copy of this MOU to the Local Union President at their facility upon receipt of the MOU.



For the Department (VA)
1/19/10
Date



For the UAN National VA Council
1/24/2010
Date