

Memorandum of Understanding

The following constitutes agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United American Nurses (UAN) National VA Council concerning "VHA Directive XXXX.0X Financial Relationships between VHA Health Care Professionals and Industry.

1. VA will ensure that training and education is available, includes examples, and has elements targeted to Registered Nurses. Training on government ethics and conflicts of interest is already available. The VA will make a concerted effort to publicize and encourage RNs to avail themselves of the training as soon as possible. VA will notify UAN when additional training is available regarding the Directive on Financial Relationships between VHA Health Care Professionals and Industry.
2. UAN RNs will be provided duty time to participate in facility training opportunities on Financial Relationships between VHA Health Care Professionals and Industry.
3. UAN and individual bargaining unit employees have the right to consult with Human Resources Management, the facility Ethics Consultation Service (part of the Integrated Ethics Program), or with Regional Counsel on the subject ad lib and be provided guidance concerning Financial Relationships between VHA Health Care Professionals and Industry.
4. Continuing Educational Units approved for Registered Nurses are not considered a gift for the purposes of this policy if they are consistent with government ethics rules and VA policy.
5. The appropriate management official shall provide a copy of this MOU to the Local Union President at their facility upon receipt of the MOU.

Bonnie M. Kerber
 For the Department (VHA)

6-12-09
 Date

[Signature]
 For the UAN National VA Council

6/15/09
 Date