



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

March 12, 2019

William W. Stead, MD
Chairperson, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Dear Dr. Stead:

Thank you for your letters to Mr. Alex Azar, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), regarding the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics' (NCVHS) findings and recommendations to reform the national standards process for the health care industry, revise criteria for adoption and dissemination of health terminology and vocabulary standards, and simplify adoption of updates to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Your letters were forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a response.

HHS and CDC appreciate the NCVHS's efforts to improve administrative efficiency and reduce provider and regulatory burden, ensure consistency in terminology, and enable smooth transitions to new ICDs. The Department and the agency are reviewing the issues and recommendations presented in your letters.

The NCVHS's ongoing work and its support of the development and adoption of standards play an important role in the efficiency and quality of our health care system. The Committee's findings provide valuable information for the Department and the agency to consider regarding the transaction standards and operating rules, health terminology and vocabulary standards, and regulatory simplification of ICDs.

Again, thank you for your letters. HHS and CDC are committed to working with industry partners and stakeholders to achieve greater efficiencies in administrative processes. We value your observations and recommendations as we continue our efforts to improve the lives of all Americans.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director, CDC