

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Office of Burden Reduction & Health Informatics

January 21, 2021

Nick Coussoule
Chair, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782-2002

Dear Mr. Coussoule:

I am writing in response to Dr. Stead's October 14, 2020 letter to Secretary Azar. Dr. Stead wished to follow up on the December 2019 recommendations for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to take actions that could improve the adoption of standards under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). I appreciate the acknowledgment of the recent reorganization within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

HHS values the crucial role the NCVHS plays in facilitating administrative efficiency across the healthcare industry. We remain committed to working with the Committee to ensure HIPAA covered entities are able to meet evolving business needs, while reducing industry burden and promoting innovation.

The work within the new CMS Office of Burden Reduction and Health Informatics (OBRHI) is targeted on reducing unnecessary burden, increasing efficiencies, continuing administrative simplification, and increasing the use of health informatics. This work evidences our mission of reducing regulatory and administrative burden on the health care industry. I believe that soon you will see the results of this action.

HHS appreciates the thoughtful recommendations from the NCVHS. Moreover, we value your dedication to improving the adoption and implementation of HIPAA administrative simplification provisions. We look forward to your continued counsel.

Sincerely,

Mary Greene, M.D.

Mary G. Greene, M.D., Director
Office of Burden Reduction and Healthcare Informatics