

Memorandum of Understanding
National Association of Government Employees
Resident Assessment Instrument/Minimum Data Set (RAI/MDS)

The following constitutes an agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) regarding the Resident Assessment Instrument/Minimum Data Set (RAI/MDS) program at VHA facilities that have NAGE bargaining units:

1. Management will:
 - a. Identify specific bargaining unit employees impacted by the program.
 - b. Ensure that all employees will receive any training necessary to enable them to perform the required duties related to RAI/MDS.
 - c. Ensure that resource staff will be available on all shifts to provide assistance with implementation.
 - d. Ensure that local NAGE representatives will receive the same training. This training may be provided locally or remotely, depending on the availability of training sessions. The expense will be borne by the Department.
 - e. Complete a review of the duties and responsibilities of the MDS Coordinator position as appropriate. The review shall indicate whether additional positions are needed and what relief is required.
2. NAGE shall be allowed to participate on all RAI/MDS workgroups at the VISN and/or local level (where appropriate). The Department will inform the national NAGE of these workgroups and the progress of each.
3. The national NAGE office will receive written notification of changes in the RAI/MDS.
4. Local unions may negotiate on RAI/MDS so long as such negotiations do not conflict with the Master Agreement and this memorandum of understanding. Local management officials will meet their labor-management obligations prior to the complete implementation of RAI/MDS at local NAGE facilities.
5. The appropriate management official shall provide a copy of this MOU to the Local union officials at their facility upon receipt of this MOU.

Judy Galerno (TE) 3/23/01
Department of Veterans Affairs

Cher L. Rice 3/29/01
National Association of Government Employees