



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20201

NOV 17 2015

Walter Suarez, M.D., M.P.H.
Chairperson
National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Room 2419
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Dear Dr. Suarez:

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary Burwell submitting the recommendations of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) on the financial services industry and Section 1179 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The Secretary has asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

I greatly appreciate the work of NCVHS to undertake hearings in order to gather information on the interpretation and implementation of HIPAA §1179. Your recommendations will be shared and carefully considered within the Department.

Please accept my personal thanks to you and the members of the Committee for your continued efforts to improve health data, statistics, and health information policy

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Mary K. Wakefield
Acting Deputy Secretary