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PS Form 384	<b>19,</b> July 2013	usps.c	OM Deli	very Notice/Reminder/Receipt

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We will redeliver OR you or your agent can pick up your mail at the Post Office. (Bring this form and proper ID. If your agent will pick up, sign below in item 2, and enter agent's name here):								
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Mailed June 10, 2015

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS** DEPARTMENT OF

SOUTHERN ARIZONA (O ~ 00) VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TUCSON, AZ 85723

OFFICIAL BUSINESS PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

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The 11 page "Request for Information" financial report form is also dated June 3, 2015.

In Reply Refer To: 678/0-002A

Anthony Miner OConnell
439 South Vista Del Rio Green Valley, AZ 85614

Dear Mr. OConnell,

This letter is in response to your questions sent by email from May 17-23, 2015. I asked Ms. Sally Petty, Chief, Community Clinics Care Line, to research your questions and address your concerns.

"Please explain the VA letter of 3/31/15, where, again, my medicine is withheld and I am made to appear responsible. The justification in the letter is that I don't have a telephone, as if the telephone were the only means of communicating."

To protect our Veterans from potential problems related to warfarin therapy, the SAVAHCS does not dispense warfarin to Veterans who are not currently enrolled in the SAVAHCS anti-coagulation clinic. Your medical records indicate you are receiving anti-coagulation therapy management and medication from the Prescott VA, and not currently registered with the SAVAHCS anti-coagulation clinic. It is not considered safe to have more than one provider managing the warfarin therapy or for more than one facility to provide the warfarin medication. Since you are receiving warfarin from Prescott VA, and there was no interruption in warfarin management or medication, the SAVAHCS prescription was discontinued. If you wish to transfer this care to the SAVAHCS, we will need to ensure you are receiving appropriate care with the established procedures and protocols set to keep you safe.

Regarding the comment related to you not having a telephone, it was only meant to convey why you were receiving the discontinuation letter instead of the clinic reaching out to you in person to inform you of the decision not to fill the warfarin prescription. While we are unable to communicate your private medical information through your personal email, postal mail and secure messaging are both acceptable methods of communication.

"Is it your position that the telephone is the only acceptable means of communication? Do you not accept postal mail, email, and the VA's secure messaging, as acceptable means of communication? If so, why?"

Postal mail and secure messaging are appropriate methods of communication with your Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) members. Email is not an acceptable method of communication as it is not secure and therefore puts your personal health information at risk of access by unauthorized individuals.

"Does the 3/31/15 blood test show that I have Lupus? Please give a "yes" or a "no". "
No, your blood tests do not show a definitive diagnosis of Lupus. Dr. Cannella has referred you to Cardiology and Rheumatology for further evaluation of your current condition. You had an appointment with the SAVAHCS Rheumatology Clinic on June 1, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. You also have appointment scheduled with the SAVAHCS Cardiology in the Medical Subspecialty Clinic on June 4, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

## "Why can't I see Dermatologist? I have a personal and family history of melanoma. Both of the appointments I made to see Dermatologist J. Pidkowic were cancelled by nurse Kathryn Kerr. I was told that after arriving for my appointments."

Your last appointment with Dermatology was July 25, 2014, with Dr. Pidkowicz. During that appointment Dr. Pidkowicz shared that in the future, since your melanoma finding was over ten years ago, your primary care provider would do your full skin evaluations (FSE). If your primary care provider sees any concerning lesions, you will be referred back to the Dermatology Clinic. During your May 12, 2015 appointment with Dr. Nicholas Cannella, no new skin lesions were noted in your medical record. If you discover new lesions that concern you, please make an appointment with your primary care provider.

## "Why do you refuse to remove my Power of Attorney and Living Will from the VA records and make it appear as my fault? What is your intent?"

The SAVAHCS has no record of a current Power of Attorney or Living Will. You do have an Advanced Directive on file at the Prescott VA, which was initiated and signed by you in 2009. If you want this Advanced Directive removed from your records, please contact the Release of Information Office by mail at Prescott VA, 500 North Highway 89, Prescott, AZ 86313, Attention ROI office. Your letter should state that your request the Advanced Directives be removed from your VA records. If you wish to have a Power of Attorney and Living Will at SAVAHCS, please come into the Release of Information Office at the Tucson VA and the staff there will review the documents with you. If you have questions, please make an appointment with Ms. Donna Dunklin, the Green Valley CBOC social worker, and she can assist you in completing these documents to ensure your preferences are clearly stated.

## "Was Dr. Kathleen Gibson ever my PCP (Primary Care Provider)? Because I could never get a "yes" or a "no" from Dr. Gibson I removed my telephone to try to channel her communications to a method that would leave a paper trail."

Based on review of your SAVAHCS medical records, Dr. Kathleen Gibson was your assigned primary care provider in 2004. You had one face-to-face appointment with her on May 12, 2004. According to your medical records, Sept 18, 2012, was the next primary care appointment, which took place at the Green Valley CBOC with NP Randi Schmeling. At that time you enrolled at that clinic and have received ongoing care at the Green Valley CBOC.

For future concerns, please contact your PACT team directly via secure messaging or postal mail. Effective June 15, 2015, your PACT Team will consist of Dr. Susan Morris, MD, Kathy Kerr, RN, Marci Johnson, LPN, and Michael Bernard, Medical Support Assistant. Secure messaging with your PACT team is the best method to access the current status of your health care. Please discontinue email contact with me, as email is not a private, secure method of communication. If you have future concerns which your care team is unable to address, please contact Ms. Petty at (520) 629-1867 or mail her direct at SAVAHCS, 0-002A, 3601 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85723.

Sincerely,

nathan H. Gardner, MRA, FACHE

Director, Southern Arizona
VA Health Care System