

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION and
HEALTH FORUM LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

PATIENTRIGHTSADVOCATE.ORG, INC.

Defendant.

Case No.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs American Hospital Association (AHA) and Health Forum LLC hereby file this Complaint against Defendant PatientRightsAdvocate.org, Inc. (PRA), and allege based on personal knowledge as to their own conduct and acts and events taking place in their presence, and on information and belief as to all other conduct, acts, and events, as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. The AHA's mission is to advance the health of all individuals and communities. As part of that mission, over the last 50 years the AHA has created and continually updated a detailed taxonomy of unified billing codes and a standard billing form to use them (today, the "UB-04" codes and Form). These resources streamline the process by which hospitals and other providers can submit requests for and receive payments from public and private payers. The unified billing codes and UB-04 Form have become widely adopted in America's healthcare-payment system, enabling holistic and reliable billing and claims processes that allow providers and payers to communicate more clearly and efficiently. Without them, the basic "plumbing" of our healthcare system would not work as effectively.

2. The AHA has devoted countless hours and significant resources every year to making creative judgments about how relevant healthcare data should be best arranged, selected, and analyzed—to prevent fractured, inefficient, and duplicative billing processes. The UB-04 codes and Form are the products of this decades-long creative enterprise. The AHA exercises judgment year-round in considering whether to add, remove, or adjust codes in light of developments in the dynamic healthcare sector. The copyright laws exist to encourage precisely this kind of “creative endeavor.” *Am. Dental Ass’n v. Delta Dental Plans Ass’n*, 126 F.3d 977, 979 (7th Cir. 1997).

3. The UB-04 codes and Form are a social good—a common vocabulary that enhances clarity and lowers transaction costs for medical providers and payers, and in turn decreases overall healthcare costs. For years, many private and public payers across the healthcare landscape have recognized the utility of the many creative choices embodied in the UB-04 codes and regular updates—and have chosen to adopt the AHA’s expression of these codes as a valuable tool in collecting and organizing healthcare payment data. This coding system, managed voluntarily by the AHA, unifies a once-balkanized healthcare-payment landscape.

4. Delivering this social good is not free. Continually evaluating whether and how to revise the codes requires creativity and judgment. That effort and ingenuity are the result of the AHA’s substantial, ongoing investment of both time and resources, including the extensive efforts of AHA employees who oversee the process of updating and improving the codes. If the AHA could not prevent unauthorized dissemination, its ability and incentive to continue updating and improving its content would be severely undermined. *E.g., Practice Management Information Corp. v. Am. Medical Ass’n*, 121 F.3d 516, 519 (9th Cir. 1997) (“Non-profit organizations that develop these model codes and standards warn they will be unable to continue to do so if the codes and standards enter the public domain when adopted by a public agency.”).

5. The AHA carefully balances its mission to serve the cause of public health with its need to secure the resources to support this work by making the expression of these creative choices available to the public for a reasonable cost. Specifically, the AHA publishes the UB-04 codes and Form—together with extensive explanatory and instructional content—in annually updated versions of its *Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (UB-04 Manual)*, in which the AHA has federally registered copyrights. And through its wholly owned subsidiary, Plaintiff Health Forum LLC, the AHA sells licenses to annual versions of the *UB-04 Manual*. By accepting those licenses, purchasers expressly agree not to distribute any part of the *UB-04 Manual* to third parties and not to challenge the AHA’s intellectual-property rights in it. The AHA also separately licenses the UB-04 codes to third-party software developers for a fraction of the per-user cost of the complete *UB-04 Manual*; these developers then create and market applications that enable end-users to make use of the AHA’s content. Through these arrangements, the AHA makes the benefits of the *UB-04 Manual*, Form, and codes widely available while preserving its ability to be compensated for its ongoing investment of time, resources, and dedicated employee efforts.

6. Defendant PRA, however, has expressly announced its intention to nullify the AHA’s intellectual-property rights by making the *UB-04 Manual*, including all of the codes and accompanying explanatory material, freely available to the world. On November 13, 2025, PRA’s counsel informed the AHA by letter that PRA had “purchased access to” the *UB-04 Manual* “and plans to make the *Manual* freely available online to the public at large.” Ex. 4, at 1. PRA demanded that the AHA promptly forswear enforcing its legal rights against PRA for posting the entire *UB-04 Manual* online for anyone to download. *Id.* PRA threatened that, unless the AHA swiftly accedes, PRA will “consider litigation.” *Id.* at 3.

7. The AHA accordingly brings this action to prevent PRA’s unlawful publication, distribution, or other exploitation of the *UB-04 Manual* and to make clear the AHA’s legal rights against such abuse. On information and belief, Plaintiffs anticipate that discovery will show that PRA has already taken steps to reproduce the *UB-04 Manual* or to create a derivative work in violation of the exclusive rights created by the U.S. Copyright Act. But PRA’s planned publication of the entire *UB-04 Manual* online would be a far more flagrant violation of both federal copyright law and PRA’s own contractual commitments in the license agreement it executed when it purchased a copy.

8. First, PRA’s misappropriation and planned publication of the *UB-04 Manual* online is a textbook infringement of the AHA’s exclusive rights under federal copyright law to reproduce, distribute, and display its work and to make derivative works. 17 U.S.C. § 106. The AHA undisputedly owns the copyrights to annual editions of the *UB-04 Manual*, which is a privately authored work developed, refined, and kept current through the AHA’s creative efforts and at its expense. The *UB-04 Manual*’s dynamic content—published and registered anew on an annual basis—reflects the creativity of AHA employees, who exercise judgment in considering requests to update codes and adapt their content to the ever-changing needs in the healthcare sector. And it is difficult to posit a more clear-cut violation of the Copyright Act than making a copyrighted work freely available to anyone in the world.

9. PRA’s only proffered justification for eviscerating the AHA’s exclusive rights under copyright law is its demand letter’s legally erroneous assertion that the *UB-04 Manual* somehow lost all copyright protection because some legal authorities refer to or require resort to its content. Ex. 4, at 2. That contention contravenes Supreme Court precedent and first principles of copyright law. And any such argument would be off-limits to PRA in any event because PRA has

accepted the terms of a license agreement that requires recipients to agree *not* to “challenge” the AHA’s or Health Forum’s “proprietary rights and ownership of” the *UB-04 Manual*, including “copyrights.” Ex. 3, § 4. PRA’s theories of copyright law are untenable, but they are also beside the point because PRA has agreed not to raise them in any challenge to the AHA’s copyrights.

10. Second, PRA’s threatened conduct would violate its contractual commitments in the license agreement twice over. In purchasing the *UB-04 Manual*, PRA agreed that it would *not* share the *UB-04 Manual* with others, Ex. 3, § 1, or “disclose to * * * or allow any third party to have access” the *UB-04 Manual* or its contents, *id.* § 4. PRA’s planned publication would be a brazen breach of that contractual pledge. And bringing “litigation” to contest the AHA’s “copyright notice” and to seek judicial invalidation of the AHA’s rights (Ex. 4, at 2-3), as PRA has threatened to do, would breach PRA’s promise not to “challenge” the AHA’s intellectual property in the *UB-04 Manual*, Ex. 3, § 4.

11. The AHA and Health Forum therefore bring this lawsuit to protect the AHA’s valuable intellectual property by enforcing the AHA’s rights under federal copyright law and its contract, and by holding PRA to the bargain that it struck in buying the *UB-04 Manual*. This Court should permanently enjoin PRA from facilitating a massive theft of the AHA’s copyrighted content by disclosing all or part of the *UB-04 Manual* to any third parties. The Court also should declare that any publication would violate both the Copyright Act and the license agreement. And the Court should declare that PRA has expressly waived any challenge to the *UB-04 Manual*’s copyright protection and cannot attack the AHA’s intellectual-property rights in litigation, which it contractually promised not to commence.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff AHA is an Illinois non-profit corporation with its principal place of business at 155 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois, 60606.

13. Plaintiff Health Forum LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the AHA and is an Illinois limited-liability company with its principal place of business at 155 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois, 60606.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant PRA is incorporated under Massachusetts law and has publicly represented its principal place of business variously as 1188 Centre Street, Newton, Massachusetts, 02459, and as 360 S. Rosemary Avenue, Suite 1410, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33401.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) over Plaintiffs' claim arising under federal copyright law.

16. In addition, this Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) over Plaintiffs' state-law breach-of-contract claims, which are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy and derive from the same common nucleus of operative facts.

17. This Court also has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) over all claims because the parties' citizenship is completely diverse and because PRA's threat to publish the *UB-04 Manual* and to contest the *UB-04 Manual*'s copyright protection puts more than \$75,000 in controversy.

18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over PRA because, among other reasons, PRA agreed by contract that “[a]ll disputes arising out of” its license to use the *UB-04 Manual* “shall

be exclusively brought in the state and federal courts in and near Chicago, Illinois” and “irrevocably submit[ted] to the personal jurisdiction of such courts,” Ex. 3, § 7; and because PRA’s threatened copyright infringement would foreseeably cause harm to the AHA and Health Forum in Chicago. PRA also has purposefully availed itself of the benefit of conducting, soliciting, and transacting business in the State of Illinois by, for example, creating and publishing an annual “Hospital Price Transparency Report” report for Illinois that purports to track more than 60 hospitals within the State (including 18 in Chicago)—which PRA promotes to residents within this District through an interactive website that PRA intends to use to engage with residents in this District.

19. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400 because PRA may be found in this District; because this Court has personal jurisdiction over PRA; and because Plaintiffs’ claims arose, in substantial part, in this District. Among other things, PRA may be “found” in this District, *id.* § 1400(a), because it consented to personal jurisdiction through a forum-selection provision, and PRA expressly aimed its action at this District, where the AHA prepares the *UB-04 Manual*, where the AHA through Forum Health LLC licenses access to the *UB-04 Manual*, and where the AHA has suffered and will continue to suffer harm from PRA’s unlawful acts.

FACTS

A. The AHA And The *UB-04 Manual*

20. Founded in 1898, the AHA represents more than 5,000 hospitals, healthcare systems, and other healthcare organizations, and has more than 42,000 individual members.

21. The AHA’s mission is to advance the health of all individuals and communities. The AHA does this through advocacy, education, research, and setting standards to promote quality, affordable, and accessible care for everyone.

22. The AHA provides education for healthcare leaders and is a source of information on healthcare issues and trends.

23. Together with its educational leadership, the AHA is a vital standards-setting body for healthcare providers nationwide. The AHA spent years developing a single, standard billing document—the UB-04 Form—which hospitals, other healthcare providers, payers, and clearing-houses use nationwide to process healthcare reimbursement claims.

24. The AHA spends considerable time producing and publishing annual editions of the *UB-04 Manual*, which contains up-to-date codes and instructions for completing the UB-04 Form.

25. The AHA’s UB-04 Form identifies a core set of data about services provided to a patient in a hospital or other healthcare facility, the clinical basis for treatment, related events surrounding the patient’s care, and other information needed by third-party payers. Each of these data elements is assigned a numbered field on the UB-04 Form.

26. The AHA has developed 14 sets of codes that can be used to complete those fields on the UB-04 Form. These codes represent important information about the claim, such as the type of facility in which treatment was provided, the patient’s condition, the patient’s discharge status, the diagnosis and procedures performed, and any specific accommodation, ancillary service, or special billing calculations or arrangements.

27. Before the AHA began its standardization efforts in the 1970s, each payer across the country typically used its own unique code set and required unique billing information and forms. This chaotic mix of practices resulted in extensive payment delays, duplicative work, and inefficiencies for providers, payers, and patients.

28. In 1975, the AHA created the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) to begin the years-long process of creating one standardized data set and billing form that could be used nationwide by hospitals, other healthcare providers, and payers to process healthcare claims.

29. The AHA has maintained responsibility for leading, managing, and funding the NUBC since the committee's inception. The AHA is the NUBC's secretariat, and AHA employees serve permanently as the NUBC's Chair and Secretary, who together oversee and orchestrate the NUBC's review of proposed changes to the *UB-04 Manual* and the form, codes, and data set.

30. Other members of the NUBC are volunteers. These members include providers, payers, health IT vendors, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, and other representatives who can offer input on proposed changes to the AHA's codes. In joining the NUBC, each member expressly disclaims ownership of any proprietary right in the AHA's codes and acknowledges that the AHA alone holds such proprietary rights, including the copyrights.

31. The AHA spent seven years and invested considerable effort and resources in creating a standard billing form and supporting materials, culminating in the UB-82 Form and data set in 1982.

32. The federal government long ago recognized the value of streamlining hospital administration costs and convened an industry Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI). Published in 1992, WEDI's recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services noted that:

existing standards setting groups, such as the National Uniform Billing Committee * * * , have achieved some measure of uniformity and, in doing so, reduced the cost and burden associated with claims submission and processing. The National Uniform Billing Committee maintains a data specifications manual that attempts to define the data elements used to complete the uniform hospital billing form used by all hospital payors and providers. Thus, in attempting to achieve greater uniformity, caution needs to be exercised to avoid disrupting the limited uniformity that has been achieved to date.

33. In line with these recommendations, Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which required the Secretary to establish uniform standards for health transactions. Pub. L. No. 104-191, § 262(a), 110 Stat. 2024 (42 U.S.C. § 1320d-2). The Secretary endorsed the AHA’s Uniform Billing Form content, noting that uniform adoption by payers and providers “will improve the Medicare and Medicaid programs and other Federal health programs and private health programs, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the health care industry in general, by simplifying the administration of the system and enabling the efficient electronic transmission of certain health information.” 65 Fed. Reg. 50,312, 50,312 (Aug. 17, 2000). Regulations later issued under HIPAA require claims submitted electronically to use a particular electronic-data-interchange standard that is in turn based on that content. *See, e.g.*, 45 C.F.R. § 1652.1102.

34. The AHA responded to changes in the provider and payer community landscapes by updating the UB-82 Form and supporting materials with superseding versions. The AHA later offered a redesigned UB-92 Form and published an updated *UB-92 Manual*. But with increasing use, the AHA recognized the need for even more significant updates and led a four-year study that involved numerous public surveys and discussions at various NUBC meetings. Based on this input, the AHA overhauled the UB-92 codes and published the first version of the *UB-04 Manual* (the 2007 Edition) in 2006.

35. The AHA has since continually updated and refined the *UB-04 Manual* with year-round revisions. The AHA monitors the ever-evolving healthcare marketplace for important new health-policy developments and real-time changes to the healthcare landscape. The AHA then produces and proposes needed changes to the *UB-04 Manual* to ensure that UB-04 content addresses current healthcare needs.

36. When providers and payers (public and private alike) or other stakeholders request changes to the *UB-04 Manual*, the AHA reviews the request, conducts appropriate research, and determines whether a proposed change warrants presentation to the NUBC's members. The AHA schedules the meetings at which the NUBC's members, including the AHA itself, review proposed changes. The AHA typically provides the NUBC's members with relevant background information on the proposed change and, either before or after consideration by the NUBC, frequently drafts specific language for code updates. The AHA also creates or edits proposed descriptions and other written material that accompanies new or adjusted codes in the *UB-04 Manual*. The AHA staff performing these functions are supported by the *UB-04 Manual*'s sales and work out of the AHA's Chicago office.

37. After the NUBC approves changes to the *UB-04 Manual*, AHA employees arrange the new or revised codes and accompanying written material. AHA employees select where and how within the *UB-04 Manual* new content should be presented (taking account, for example, of the similarity of adjacent codes or relation to other subject matter). The AHA then promulgates updates, which are provided to licensees throughout the year and included in the next annual edition of the *UB-04 Manual*.

38. The AHA's active monitoring and real-time adjustments require creativity and judgment in responding to breaking, on-the-ground developments in the realities of providing healthcare. For example:

a. Hospitals and payers adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways; hospitals provided care in locations outside their facility (e.g., parking lots), and payers waived various limitations on payment. Then-prevailing pre-pandemic billing codes did not adequately capture the changes in how hospitals were providing care and how payers

had adjusted coverage requirements. The AHA responded by adjusting its codes to capture changes in the reimbursement process.

b. Following a national cyberattack in February 2024 that delayed hospitals' billing submissions, the AHA developed code adjustments to allow delayed submission of billing for care. The AHA led this coding response to the largest healthcare data breach in American history. It monitored the evolving situation, drafted edits to the *UB-04 Manual*, steered the NUBC's review of those changes, and released the update to licensees of the *UB-04 Manual*.

39. Like the federal government, state governments have recognized the UB-04 Form and codes as a useful, uniform standard for billing. State governments—in their role as payers—have long elected to rely on the uniform coding system set forth in the *UB-04 Manual*.

40. Based on the AHA's ongoing work and coordination to ensure that the codes meet payer needs, nearly all current healthcare payers—private healthcare insurers, federal payers like Medicare, state governments, etc.—use the UB-04 Form in their healthcare-billing requirements.

41. Every year since 2006, the AHA has published a new edition of the *UB-04 Manual* that incorporates all changes and updates to the data specifications and the codes that have been adopted in the preceding year.

42. The AHA's *UB-04 Manual* also provides detailed instructions for completing each numbered field on the UB-04 Form, including comprehensive explanations of the 14 sets of codes and frequently asked questions with answers. That written material is necessary to understand and complete code entry into the UB-04 Form properly and requires striking a balance between precision and ease of use.

43. The AHA owns valid copyrights to the original and successive editions of the *UB-04 Manual* and its content that it has issued since 2006. Most recently, the AHA secured a Certificate of Copyright Registration (No. TX 9-525-886) from the Register of Copyrights for the 2026 Edition of the *UB-04 Manual*, effective June 30, 2025. A true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The AHA filed its copyright application within three months of the first publication of the 2026 Edition of the *UB-04 Manual*. AHA's copyrights in all prior editions are also covered by, and enforceable based on, valid registrations. True and correct copies of the available registration certificates for prior versions of the *UB-04 Manual* are attached hereto as Exhibit 2. (The 2008 and 2009 Editions—published in 2007 and 2008, respectively—are encompassed by and enforceable under AHA's registrations of later editions that encompass original material in the 2008 and 2009 Editions. *See, e.g., Enterprise Management, Inc. v. Construx Software Builders, Inc.*, 73 F.4th 1048, 1057 (9th Cir. 2023) (“All circuits that have addressed this issue agree with th[e] conclusion” that, “when a derivative work includes copyrightable elements of the unregistered original work, the owner’s registration of the derivative work also registers the included elements of the original work.” (collecting cases)); *Joint Comm’n on Accreditation of Healthcare Orgs. v. Fortis Business Media, LLC*, 2017 WL 3895593, at *3-*4 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 6, 2017).)

44. The AHA makes the *UB-04 Manual* available for purchase on its website through its digital-publishing software. Purchasers of the *UB-04 Manual* designate the number of users for whom they are purchasing, and the price increases stepwise with the number of users. For example, the 2026 *UB-04 Manual* costs \$182 for a license for one user, \$592 for 2-5 users, \$1,131 for 6-10 users, \$2,262 for 11-20 users, \$3,446 for 21-32 users, and \$4,523 for 33-50 users. For multi-user licenses above 50 users, the AHA works directly with the purchaser on licensing terms tailored to their proposed uses.

45. The AHA also licenses the UB-04 codes and other content to third-party entities that develop software programs that enable (a) hospitals and providers to submit claims on the UB-04 Form and (b) insurers to adjudicate claims and process payments back to hospitals and providers. Third-party entities may offer software adapted to a hospital's electronic-record system or its billing system for efficient use of the codes. These third-party entities set their own prices for the software that uses these codes, but the AHA itself charges these third-party entities less than 10% of the per-user cost of a license for *UB-04 Manual* for each user of such software programs.

46. Anyone who is required to submit reimbursement claims on a UB-04 Form may access the codes by purchasing a license to the *UB-04 Manual* or software developed by the AHA's licensees.

B. The *UB-04 Manual's* License Agreement

47. The AHA licenses access to and use of the *UB-04 Manual* through its wholly owned subsidiary, Health Forum, LLC.

48. When purchasing a license for one to 50 users, all purchasers go through the same purchase process on the AHA's website.

49. Each such purchaser must consent to an end-user license agreement to obtain access to the *UB-04 Manual* from the AHA. A true and correct copy of the license agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. The license agreement is between the purchaser "and/or the organization on behalf of which an individual is making purchase" and "Health Forum, LLC, an American Hospital Association company." Ex. 3, at 1.

50. The license agreement expressly provides that licensees may not "share, broadcast, distribute, sell, lease, loan, transfer, reverse engineer, disassemble, modify, create derivative works of or translate the Content"—defined as the "products, data and other material" purchased in the

UB-04 Manual, “including all updates thereto”—“and may not use the Content in any service bureau or other commercial activity for use by third parties.” Ex. 3, § 1.

51. The license agreement further provides that the user shall keep the “Content confidential, disclose the Content only to those of Your employees that have a need to know such information, and shall not disclose the Content to any third party or allow any third party to have access to the Content.” Ex. 3, § 4.

52. The license agreement also requires that the user “acknowledge and agree” that “all Content is the proprietary and confidential information of Licensor and its licensors,” *i.e.*, the AHA and Health Forum; “that Licensor and its licensors own all copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets and other proprietary rights in and to the Content”; and that the user “will not challenge Licensor’s and its licensors’ proprietary rights in and ownership of the Content.” Ex. 3, § 4.

53. The AHA’s website discloses the license agreement in the pre-purchase description of the *UB-04 Manual*. The description states that “[t]he online acceptance of a User License Agreement is required prior to completing the order transaction.”

54. If a purchaser proceeds to click “add to cart” after being informed of the license agreement’s existence, the screen displays a pop-up window containing the license agreement. The website permits the purchaser to scroll through the terms. The website also offers the purchaser the options to “agree,” “cancel” the purchase, or “print” the license agreement. The purchaser may not buy the *UB-04 Manual* without first clicking that the purchaser “agree[s].”

55. The AHA similarly requires all purchasers of a license to use the *UB-04 Manual* for more than 50 users or a license for the codes (*e.g.*, for software) to agree not to disclose the licensed content to third parties or to challenge the AHA’s proprietary rights, including the AHA’s copyrights.

C. PRA’s Threats To Infringe The AHA’s Copyright And Breach The License

56. PRA claims to support “systemwide healthcare *price* transparency”—a goal that many stakeholders in the healthcare landscape support. The AHA, for example, recently noted in comments submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that “[h]ospitals and health systems are dedicated to improving price transparency and look forward to working together with the Administration on this important goal.” American Hospital Association, *AHA Comments on CMS Request for Information on Hospital Price Transparency Accuracy and Completeness* (July 21, 2025), <https://www.aha.org/lettercomment/2025-07-22-aha-comments-cms-rfi-hospital-price-transparency-accuracy-and-completeness>.

57. PRA, however, has recently purported to pursue its mission in a perplexing way: by making freely available online the entirety of the AHA’s copyrighted *UB-04 Manual*. That work has, at best, a tangential relationship to transparency of healthcare *prices*. Rather, the *UB-04 Manual* provides a more efficient and nearly universal vocabulary for submitting and processing claims using thousands of codes to communicate various attributes of patients and medical services rendered on claims for payment. Prices are set by *payers and/or providers*. The *UB-04 Manual*’s codes merely enable a reader to translate what a claim for payment says about services already rendered. But they tell consumers nothing about the prices that payers and providers chose to charge for those past services or what they would charge today.

58. Nevertheless, PRA has set its sights on rendering valueless the AHA’s intellectual-property rights in the *UB-04 Manual*. In a letter to the AHA dated November 13, 2025, PRA (through counsel) made clear its intent to publish the *UB-04 Manual* for the world. The letter states that PRA “has purchased access to the *Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual* and plans to make the *Manual* freely available online to the public at large,” supposedly to allow “patients,

plan sponsors, and auditors to understand hospital billing.” A true and correct copy of PRA’s November 13, 2025, letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

59. The AHA’s sales records do not reflect that PRA has purchased a license for the *UB-04 Manual* in its own name. However, the AHA’s records do reflect that an associate attorney at PRA’s law firm in connection with this matter (Consovoy McCarthy PLLC) purchased a copy of the *UB-04 Manual* in July 2025 using a personal Gmail address. On information and belief, and based on PRA’s representation that PRA itself “purchased access to the *Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual*,” Ex. 4, at 1, Plaintiffs anticipate that discovery will show that this Consovoy McCarthy PLLC associate purchased the *UB-04 Manual* on behalf of PRA and did so using his Gmail address to obscure the true purchaser until PRA sent its November 13, 2025, demand letter.

60. Through whatever PRA officer, employee, or agent PRA purchased a license to access the *UB-04 Manual*, PRA necessarily agreed to the license agreement and thus became bound to its requirements that licensees not disclose the *UB-04 Manual*’s content to third parties or contest the AHA’s proprietary rights in it. On information and belief, and based on PRA’s representation that it “purchased access to the *Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual*,” that officer, employee, or agent had actual and apparent authority to bind PRA to the terms of the license agreement when that individual selected the options to “agree” to the license agreement rather than “cancel” the purchase and in fact obtained a copy of the *UB-04 Manual* for PRA’s benefit. Any purchase by such person would bind PRA to the license agreement as the principal and/or as the downstream user of the *UB-04 Manual*.

61. In support of its threat to publish *UB-04 Manual* online, PRA asserted “that the Manual is not a copyrightable work because it has been incorporated by reference into legally binding regulations.” Ex. 4, at 2.

62. PRA’s account gets the true dynamic backward. The *UB-04 Manual* itself is not the law and does not purport to have the force of law in the way PRA asserts. And no government actor is its author. Instead, government actors—most often in their capacity as payers—have followed private payers’ lead by aligning their activities with industry standards and by directing their claims personnel to request reimbursement claims that use the *UB-04 Manual*. Private, mostly non-profit actors came together to address a common inefficiency with benefits for all participants, especially for patients. Years later, federal and state governments embraced those private standards to “avoid disrupting the limited uniformity that ha[d] been achieved to date.” ¶ 32, *supra*. Those governments’ recognition of the AHA’s sector leadership is a testament to the value of the AHA’s work, which is protected by federal copyright law to ensure that the AHA is appropriately compensated for its contributions and encouraged to keep updating and producing a common coding language and accompanying written material that serves as a social good for public and private medical providers and payers.

63. PRA also asserted that “the fair use doctrine permits PRA to make the *Manual* available to the general public,” reiterating the same flawed premise that the federal and state government’s use of the *UB-04 Manual* for reimbursement activities transforms the *UB-04 Manual* into “‘the law.’” Ex. 4, at 2 (citation omitted). Its rhetoric cannot mask that, at bottom, PRA is threatening to promote and facilitate worldwide piracy of the full *UB-04 Manual*. That use is as far from “fair” as an infringing use can be.

64. PRA's demand letter admits to having "purchased access to the *Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual*," Ex. 4, at 1, but fails to acknowledge PRA's contractual obligations under the license agreement not to disclose the *UB-04 Manual*'s content to third parties and not to challenge copyright protection for the *UB-04 Manual*.

65. PRA concluded with a threat that, unless the AHA "confirm[s] by December 15, 2025 that it will take no legal action against PRA for making the *Manual* available online," "PRA will consider litigation to confirm PRA's legal rights regarding this matter." Ex. 4, at 3.

COUNT I
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501)

66. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

67. The AHA owns registered copyrights for the *UB-04 Manual*, including the 2026 Edition. *See* Exs. 1, 2.

68. The *UB-04 Manual* contains material that is wholly copyrightable subject matter under federal law.

69. Content in the *UB-04 Manual* is original and includes a high degree of creativity.

70. AHA employees direct the content of the *UB-04 Manual*. The AHA established the NUBC, the AHA is the NUBC's secretariat, and AHA employees permanently serve as the NUBC's Chair and Secretary. Acting in their capacity as AHA employees, the NUBC Chair and Secretary exercise creativity and judgment in adjusting codes to express concepts in the dynamic healthcare sector and preparing written materials to explain how to use and interpret the codes in preparing and interpreting claims for payment. The volunteer members of the NUBC who participate in the process of contributing to the *UB-04 Manual* do so at the express direction and control

of the AHA’s representatives on the committee, subject to a written understanding that the AHA does and will own the copyright in each successive version of the *UB-04 Manual*.

71. Notwithstanding the AHA’s ownership of the original content in the *UB-04 Manual*, PRA gained access to the *UB-04 Manual* by purchasing a copy of the 2026 Edition and has now threatened to display the *UB-04 Manual* on a public website without the AHA’s consent.

72. On information and belief, Plaintiffs anticipate that discovery will reveal that PRA or agents acting at its direction made one or more unauthorized copies of the *UB-04 Manual*—in preparation for its planned posting of the *UB-04 Manual* or in preparation for potential litigation— infringing the AHA’s exclusive right to reproduce the *UB-04 Manual* under 17 U.S.C. § 106(1).

73. PRA also has threatened to infringe the AHA’s copyright in the *UB-04 Manual* by displaying the work in whole or in part on a website, in violation of the AHA’s exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, display, and make derivative works of the *UB-04 Manual* under 17 U.S.C. § 106(1), (2), (3), and (5).

74. PRA’s display and distribution of the *UB-04 Manual* would cause significant harm to the potential market for, and value of, the *UB-04 Manual*. If potential licensees and other members of the public could gain access to the *UB-04 Manual* for free, they would be much less likely to pay the AHA for access to the UB-04 codes and Form.

75. PRA erroneously asserts that the *UB-04 Manual* lost its copyright protection on the theory that it became ““the law”” when federal and state regulations required its use for certain purposes, such as submitting reimbursement claims. Ex. 4, at 2 (citation omitted). That contention conflates privately authored works to which the law *refers* with “the law” *itself*. Private taxonomies of codes “do not ‘become the law’ merely because a statute refers to them” or “requires citizens to consult or use a copyrighted work in the process of fulfilling their obligations.” *Veeck*

v. S. Bldg. Code Cong. Int'l, 293 F.3d 791, 804-05 (5th Cir. 2002) (en banc). Although PRA can freely publish “the law”—the text of the federal and state regulations—a privately authored work’s copyright protection does not vanish just because the government refers to the work or requires consulting it.

76. PRA also incorrectly asserts that the *UB-04 Manual* is uncopyrightable because carries the “‘force of law.’” Ex. 4, at 2. That contention conflates a statute or regulation that imposes legally enforceable obligations (for example, a hypothetical law mandating the use of certain billing codes, on pain of civil penalties) with privately created content (like the *UB-04 Manual*, Form, and codes) that by itself imposes no legal obligations and that a law might direct parties to consult. In any event, “instead of examining whether given material carries ‘the force of law,’” courts applying the Copyright Act’s authorship requirement exclude the work from copyright protection only when “the *author* of the work is a judge or a legislator” acting in a lawmaking capacity. *Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc.*, 590 U.S. 255, 276 (2020) (emphasis added). No government is the author of the *UB-04 Manual*. The AHA is not a judge, a legislator, or any other kind of government official acting in a lawmaking capacity.

77. As such, PRA is liable for copyright infringement under 17 U.S.C. § 106.

78. The AHA has suffered and, on information and belief, will continue to suffer, substantial damage to its business and goodwill, as well as losses in an amount not yet ascertained, but which will be determined according to proof. In addition to the AHA’s actual damages, the AHA is entitled to receive any profits earned by PRA from its wrongful acts or, alternatively, at the AHA’s election, an award of statutory damages up to the maximum amounts as may be proper under 17 U.S.C. § 504, including up to \$150,000 for willful infringement.

79. If PRA continues to infringe the AHA’s copyright (including by making unauthorized copies of the *UB-04 Manual*), then the AHA will be entitled to additional damages in amounts to be proven at trial or, at its election, statutory damages up to the maximum amounts as may be proper under 17 U.S.C. § 504, including up to \$150,000 for willful infringement.

80. This Court also has authority to “prevent * * * infringement of a copyright” by temporarily and permanently enjoining PRA from displaying, distributing, or otherwise facilitating access to the *UB-04 Manual*. 17 U.S.C. § 502(a). Because PRA’s conduct has caused and, on information and belief, will continue to cause irreparable injury to the AHA unless enjoined by this Court, the AHA has no adequate remedy at law. The AHA is therefore entitled to injunctive relief pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502.

81. The factors set forth in *Fogerty v. Fantasy, Inc.*, 510 U.S. 517, 534 n.19 (1994), support an award of attorneys’ fees to the AHA as the prevailing party in this litigation under 17 U.S.C. § 505. In particular, PRA’s position is objectively baseless, improperly motivated, and unreasonable, and an award in this case would advance considerations of compensation and deterrence.

COUNT II
BREACH OF CONTRACT (CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS)

82. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

83. The AHA offers the *UB-04 Manual* for purchase on condition that the purchaser agrees to the license agreement.

84. PRA admits that it “purchased access” to the *UB-04 Manual*. Ex. 4, at 1.

85. PRA could not purchase the *UB-04 Manual* without navigating through the website’s purchase process, which requires all purchasers to accept the terms of the license agreement, or entering a licensee-specific license agreement.

86. Clicking an “agree” button after being presented with a conspicuous display of the license agreement’s terms objectively manifests the purchaser’s intent to be bound by the license agreement.

87. In exchange for accepting the terms of the license agreement, PRA received access to the *UB-04 Manual*.

88. Under the license agreement, the “Licensor” is “Health Forum, LLC, an American Hospital Association company,” plus “its successors and assigns.” Ex. 3, at 1.

89. Under the license agreement, “Content” encompasses “the products, data and other material” within the *UB-04 Manual* that PRA purchased. Ex. 3, § 1.

90. When accepting the license agreement’s terms, PRA agreed that it “may not share, broadcast, distribute, sell, lease, loan, transfer, reverse engineer, disassemble, modify, create derivative works of or translate the Content and may not use the Content in any service bureau or other commercial activity for use by third parties,” and “may not copy the Content, except for making one copy for back-up or archival purposes.” Ex. 3, § 1.

91. When accepting the license agreement’s terms, PRA also “agree[d] to keep the Content confidential, disclose the Content only to those of Your employees that have a need to know such information, and shall not disclose the Content to any third party or allow any third party to have access to the Content.” Ex. 3, § 4.

92. PRA’s threat to “make the *Manual* freely available online to the public at large,” if carried out, would violate Sections 1 and 4 of the license agreement. Ex. 4, at 1.

93. PRA's actual and/or threatened breach of Sections 1 and 4 has damaged and will continue to damage the AHA's ability to sell the *UB-04 Manual*, to license the underlying content, to enforce its intellectual-property rights against other potential infringers, and thus to be compensated for the costs of production, which includes expenses for creative authors and support staff who refine and update the *UB-04 Manual*. This harm would occur immediately and become irreparable upon publication online because PRA would not be able to control downloaded copies of the *UB-04 Manual*.

94. The AHA has no adequate remedy at law for the wrongful acts in connection with breach of the license agreement.

95. The AHA has sustained injury, damage, and loss based on defendants' breach of the license agreement.

COUNT III
ANTICIPATORY BREACH OF CONTRACT (NO-CONTEST PROVISION)

96. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

97. The AHA offers the *UB-04 Manual* for purchase on condition that the purchaser agreed to the license agreement.

98. PRA admits that it "purchased access" to the *UB-04 Manual*. Ex. 4, at 1.

99. PRA could not purchase the *UB-04 Manual* without navigating through the website's purchase process, which requires all purchasers to accept the terms of the license agreement, or entering a licensee-specific license agreement.

100. Clicking an "agree" button after being presented with a conspicuous display of the license agreement's terms objectively manifests the purchaser's intent to be bound by the license agreement.

101. In exchange for accepting the terms of the license agreement, PRA received access to the *UB-04 Manual*.

102. Under the license agreement, the “Licensor” is “Health Forum, LLC, an American Hospital Association company,” plus “its successors and assigns.” Ex. 3, at 1.

103. When accepting the license agreement’s terms, PRA “acknowledge[d] and agree[d] that all Content is the proprietary and confidential information of Licensor and its licensors, and that Licensor and its licensors own all copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets and other proprietary rights in and to the Content.” Ex. 3, § 4.

104. When accepting the license agreement, PRA also “agree[d] that [it] will not challenge Licensor’s and its licensors’ proprietary rights in and ownership of the Content.” Ex. 3, § 4.

105. This no-contest provision is enforceable, at a minimum, in the context of a copyright license agreement. *Saturday Evening Post Co. v. Rumbleseat Press, Inc.*, 816 F.2d 1191, 1199-1201 (7th Cir. 1987).

106. PRA’s November 13, 2025, letter makes clear, however, that it does intend to challenge the AHA’s proprietary rights in the *UB-04 Manual*, including its copyrights, and threatens to commence litigation unless the AHA promptly forswears enforcement of its legal rights.

107. Any attempt by PRA to challenge the copyright protection for the *UB-04 Manual* in litigation, which it has threatened to do, would violate Section 4 of the license agreement.

108. Any attempt by PRA to file an action elsewhere seeking a declaration that the *UB-04 Manual* lacks copyright protection would also violate Section 4 of the license agreement.

109. PRA’s threatened, imminent conduct would cause injury, damage, and loss to the AHA. For example, any attempts to contest the *UB-04 Manual*’s copyright protection would force the AHA to incur legal fees and other costs—the very harm that Section 4 was designed to prevent.

110. The AHA has no adequate remedy at law for the wrongful acts in connection with PRA's breach of the license agreement.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiffs respectfully ask for entry of judgment in their favor and against Defendant, along with appropriate relief including (but not limited to) the following:

- A. an award of any profits earned by Defendant and any actual damages suffered by Plaintiffs in such amount as may be found for any copyright infringement; alternatively, at the AHA's election, for maximum statutory damages; or for such other amounts as may be proper pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c);
- B. an award of damages for any breach of the license agreement;
- C. an injunction permanently enjoining Defendant, its officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all those in active concert with it or participation with it, from publishing to third parties all or part of any copyrighted version of the *UB-04 Manual*;
- D. a declaration that Defendant's publication of the *UB-04 Manual* to third parties would violate the Copyright Act;
- E. a declaration that Defendant's publication of the *UB-04 Manual* to third parties would violate the license agreement;
- F. a declaration that any attempt by Defendant to challenge the *UB-04 Manual*'s copyright protection would violate the license agreement;
- G. an award of Plaintiffs' reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and interest; and
- H. any other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: December 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Elizabeth P. Papez

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EXHIBIT 1

Registration Number
TX 9-525-886
Effective Date of Registration:
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Title _____

Title of Work: Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual 2026

Completion/Publication _____

Year of Completion: 2025
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Nation of 1st Publication: United States

Author _____

- **Author:** American Hospital Association
Author Created: text
Work made for hire: Yes
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Copyright Claimant _____

Copyright Claimant: American Hospital Association
155 N Wacker, Chicago, Illinois, 60606, United States

Limitation of copyright claim _____

Previous registration and year: TX0009290903, 2024
TX0009410285, 2025

Rights and Permissions _____

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EXHIBIT 2

Registration Number
TX 7-577-264

Effective date of
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September 24, 2012

Title

Title of Work: National Uniform Billing Committee Official UB-04 Data Specification Manual - 2007 Edition

Completion/Publication

Year of Completion: 2006

Date of 1st Publication: September 1, 2006

Nation of 1st Publication: United States

Author

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Author Created: text

Work made for hire: Yes

Domiciled in: United States

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Registration Number
TX 7-128-304

Effective date of
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Title

Title of Work: National Uniform Billing Committee - Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual - 2010 Edition

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Title ---

Title of Work: National Uniform Billing Committee - Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual - 2011 Edition

Completion/Publication ---

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Title

Title of Work: National Uniform Billing Committee - Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual -
2012 Edition

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Nation of 1st Publication: United States

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Work made for hire: Yes

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Title of Work: National Uniform Billing Committee - Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual - 2013 Edition

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Title of Work: Official UB -04 Data Specifications Manual 2014

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Title of Work: Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual 2015

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Copyright Claimant _____

Copyright Claimant: American Hospital Association
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Limitation of copyright claim _____

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New material included in claim: new and revised text

Rights and Permissions _____

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TX 8-768-742
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Registration Decision Date:
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Nation of 1st Publication: United States

Author _____

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Work made for hire: Yes
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Author _____

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Rights and Permissions _____

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Certification _____

Name: Ralonda Wright
Date: July 01, 2024

EXHIBIT 3

End User License Agreement

PLEASE READ THIS AGREEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THE CONTENT. BY USING RECEIVING AND/OR USING THE CONTENT, YOU ARE AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, YOU MUST NOTIFY LICENSOR IN WRITING AND RETURN THE CONTENT TO LICENSOR WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS OF YOUR PURCHASE OF THE CONTENT. The following terms (the “Agreement”) constitute a legally binding agreement between (i) an individual and/or the organization on behalf of which an individual is making purchase hereunder (collectively, “You”/“Your”) and Health Forum, LLC, an American Hospital Association company (together with its successors and assigns, “Licensor”).

1. License Grant; Restrictions on Use. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, Licensor hereby grants to You a non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable license to access the products, data and other material You purchased from Licensor including all updates thereto provided by Licensor (collectively, the “Content”). Your license is for a single user within Your organization unless and until You purchase and pay for additional user licenses from Licensor, in which case Your use is limited solely to the number of user licenses You have purchased. You may use the Content for Your internal business purposes only. You may not share, broadcast, distribute, sell, lease, loan, transfer, reverse engineer, disassemble, modify, create derivative works of or translate the Content and may not use the Content in any service bureau or other commercial activity for use by third parties. You may not copy the Content, except for making one copy for back-up or archival purposes. For the avoidance of doubt, the grant of license provided herein does not permit for use of data that underlies the Content. For example, a license to the AHA Educator Resources does not permit changes to the Educator Slide deck or test bank unless You have a separate valid license granting permission to change AHA Educator resources. You further agree that You will not: (a) use the Content in any manner for training or development of artificial intelligence technologies or tools or machine learning language models; or (b) use the Content in connection with artificial intelligence technologies or tools or machine learning language models to generate any data or content and/or to synthesize or combine the Content or any portion thereof with any other data or content for use or distribution to any person or entity.

2. Term, Termination. Unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Section 2, the term of this Agreement shall be one (1) year from the date of purchase of the Content. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year periods unless either party terminates this Agreement by providing the other party with written notice prior to the end of the then-current term. Either party may terminate this Agreement upon ten (10) business days' notice if the other party breaches this Agreement and fails to cure such breach within such ten (10) day period. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, You must return the Content to Licensor or destroy all copies of the Content in Your possession or control. Upon request, You shall certify to Licensor that You have done so.

3. Payment Terms. Licensor reserves the right to require payment prior to delivering the Content or additional licenses to You. With respect to all other invoices, You shall pay the invoices at time of purchase unless otherwise specified in Licensor's applicable order form or other approved payment term. All renewal terms and license expansions are subject to Licensor's then current rates.

4. Ownership; Confidentiality. You acknowledge and agree that all Content is the proprietary and confidential information of Licensor and its licensors, and that Licensor and its licensors own all copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets and other proprietary rights in and to the Content. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to grant You any ownership interests or rights in or to the Content. You hereby agree that You will not challenge Licensor's and its licensors' proprietary rights in and ownership of the Content. You agree to keep the Content confidential, disclose the Content only to those of Your employees that have a need to know such information, and shall not disclose the Content to any third party or allow any third party to have access to the Content.

5. Disclaimer; Limitation of Liability. THE CONTENT IS PROVIDED "AS IS" AND LICENSOR EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE WARRANTIES OF NON-INFRINGEMENT, TITLE, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. LICENSOR DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OR RELIABILITY OF THE CONTENT. YOUR USE OF THE CONTENT IS AT YOUR OWN RISK. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL LICENSOR OR ITS LICENSORS BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF DATA, COST OF

PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS, DAMAGES RESULTING FROM DELAY OR INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE, VIRUSES, DELETION OF FILES OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS, OR ERRORS, OMISSIONS OR OTHER INACCURACIES IN THE CONTENT, WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS NEGLIGENCE BY LICENSOR OR ITS LICENSORS. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AGGREGATE LIABILITY OF LICENSOR AND ITS LICENSORS TO YOU UNDER ANY CAUSE OF ACTION (WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE) OR OTHERWISE) EXCEED THE FEES PAID BY YOU TO LICENSOR FOR THE APPLICABLE CONTENT DURING THE THEN CURRENT TERM.

6. Representations, Warranties, and Covenants. Each individual executing this Agreement on behalf of an organization represents and warrants that they have the full power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to bind such organization to all terms and conditions in this Agreement. You represent, warrant, and covenant that You are authorized to enter into this Agreement and that You will, now and in the future, use the Content for Your internal business purposes only and not use the Content for any commercial purposes.

7. Governing Law; Venue. This Agreement shall be governed in all respects and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to its conflict of laws principles. All disputes arising out of this Agreement shall be exclusively brought in the state and federal courts in and near Chicago, Illinois, and You irrevocably submit to the personal jurisdiction of such courts.

8. Miscellaneous. You may not assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of Licensor. The waiver by either party of a breach or violation of any provision of this Agreement shall not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other provision hereof. In the event any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, and the invalid provision will be restated so as to be enforceable to the maximum extent permissible under law consistent with the original intent of the parties. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between You and Licensor with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all previous negotiations, understandings and agreements between the parties. Sections 4-8 shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

EXHIBIT 4



1600 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 700
Arlington, VA
703.243.9423
www.consovoymccarthy.com

November 13, 2025

Via Federal Express and Electronic Mail

Chad Golder
General Counsel
American Hospital Association
2 City Center, Suite 400
800 10th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
cgolder@aha.org

Re: ***Request to acknowledge PRA's right to disclose the Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual, 2026 Edition***

Dear Mr. Golder:

I write on behalf of PatientRightsAdvocate.org (PRA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting healthcare price transparency. In line with its mission, PRA has purchased access to the *Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual, 2026 Edition (Manual)*, and plans to make the *Manual* freely available online to the public at large. On behalf of PRA, I hereby request that the American Hospital Association (AHA) confirm that it will take no legal action against PRA for doing so.

The Federal Government and at least 30 States require hospitals by law to use the *Manual* to obtain reimbursement for healthcare treatments. *See, e.g.*, 42 CFR §§136.504, 410.172, 410.173, 424.32. Indeed, at least six States have expressly incorporated the *Manual* into regulations carrying the force of law.¹ This widespread and mandatory use of the *Manual* makes access to it essential for patients, plan sponsors, and auditors to understand hospital billing. Open

¹ See 7 Alaska Admin. Code §§27.660, 150.250; Fla. Admin. Code §§69L-7.100, 69L-7.501, 69L-8.072, 69L-8.074; Mich Admin. Code §§418.10107, 418.10921, 418.10925; Minn. Admin. Code §5221.0405; N.H. Admin. Code Ins. §4202.03; N.H. Admin. Code. He-C §1503.03; Or. Admin. Code §436-009-0004.

access to the *Manual* is also necessary for the public at large to know and understand the laws which incorporate the *Manual*.

Despite the public's urgent need to access the *Manual*, AHA has cut off access to all individuals and institutions unwilling to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for the privilege. The copyright notice AHA has included within the *Manual* would prevent even nonprofit organizations like PRA from sharing the *Manual*'s contents for educational, research, and informational purposes. This position is contrary to law.

To begin with, the *Manual* is not a copyrightable work because it has been incorporated by reference into legally binding regulations. “[N]o one can own the law.” *Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc.*, 590 U.S. 255, 265 (2020). Whatever is produced by “officials … generally empowered to make and interpret law … must be ‘free for publication to all.’” *Id.* at 266. “And all material that has been validly incorporated by reference carries the force of law and is treated as having been published” by the issuing agency. *Am. Soc'y for Testing & Materials v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc. (ASTM II)*, 82 F.4th 1262, 1269 (D.C. Cir. 2023); *see also Canadian Standards Ass'n v. P.S. Knight Co., Ltd.*, 112 F.4th 298, 305 (5th Cir. 2024) (material “adopted by reference into law by a governmental entity” is “not protected under the Copyright Act”). AHA therefore cannot claim the *Manual* as its intellectual property. Indeed, any other conclusion would raise “a serious constitutional concern” under the First Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. *Am. Soc'y for Testing & Materials v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc. (ASTM I)*, 896 F.3d 437, 446–47 (D.C. Cir. 2018); *id.* at 459 (Katsas, J., concurring).

At minimum, the fair use doctrine permits PRA to make the *Manual* available to the general public. The Copyright Act enumerates four factors to consider to determine whether the use of a copyrighted work is fair: (1) the purpose and character of the use, (2) the nature of the copyrighted work, (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion of the work used, and (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for the copyrighted work. 17 U.S.C. §107. As the D.C. Circuit has recognized, these factors establish that “the non-commercial dissemination” of “technical standards for an industry,” “as incorporated by reference into law, constitutes fair use.” *ASTM II*, 82 F.4th at 1265.

First, rather than seek a profit or to duplicate the *Manual*'s purpose of standardizing billing practices, PRA intends “to provide the public with a free and comprehensive repository of the law.” *Id.* at 1267–68. This aim “tips the scales in favor of fair use.” *Id.* at 1267 (quoting *Google v. Oracle Am.*, 593 U.S. 1, 32 (2021)). *Second*, the nature of the work “weighs heavily in favor of fair use,” because standards “incorporated into law” lie “at best, at the outer edge of copyright's protective purposes.” *Id.* at 1268. *Third*, the disclosure of the entire

Manual is “reasonable in relation to the purpose of the copying,” because PRA seeks to make public only those “standards that government agencies have incorporated into law—no more and no less.” *Id.* at 1269. *Finally*, any monetary losses that AHA might conceivably incur cannot outweigh “the substantial public benefits of free and easy access to the law.” *Id.* at 1271. Even if the *Manual* were a copyrightable work, it would be fair use for PRA to disclose it to the public.

Accordingly, I request on behalf of PRA that AHA confirm **by December 15, 2025** that it will take no legal action against PRA for making the *Manual* publicly available online. If AHA fails to do so, PRA will consider litigation to confirm PRA’s legal rights regarding this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey Harris
Jeffrey Harris

The ILND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (See instructions on next page of this form.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

American Hospital Association and Health Forum LLC

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff **Cook (IL)**
(Except in U.S. plaintiff cases)

(c) Attorneys (firm name, address, and telephone number)

Elizabeth Papez, Gibson Dunn, 1700 M Street, N.W., \

DEFENDANTS

PatientRightsAdvocate.org, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant **Middlesex (MA)**(In U.S. plaintiff cases only)
Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Check one box, only.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government not a party.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity
(Indicate citizenship of parties in Item III.) |

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (For Diversity Cases Only.)(Check one box, only for plaintiff and one box for defendant.)

	PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF	
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Check one box, only.)

CONTRACT	TORTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	LABOR	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyright <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (DTSA)
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA)
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	BANKRUPTCY	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	SOCIAL SECURITY
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/ Disabilities- Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/ Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
		IMMIGRATION		FEDERAL TAXES
		<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee (Prisoner Petition) <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions		<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609

V. ORIGIN (Check one box, only.)

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File (specify) |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Enter U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause.)

17 U.S.C. § 501, threat to infringe copyright

VIII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if this is a class action under Rule 23, F.R.C.V.P.	Demand \$	CHECK Yes only if demanded in complaint:
--------------------------------------	--	------------------	---

Jury Demand: Yes No**IX. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY** (See instructions):

Judge

Case Number

X. Is this a previously dismissed or remanded case? Yes No If yes, Case #

Name of Judge

Date: Dec 12, 2025

Signature of Attorney of Record Elizabeth Papez

VII. PREVIOUS BANKRUPTCY MATTERS (For nature of suit 422 and 423, enter the case number and judge for any associated bankruptcy matter previously adjudicated by a judge of this Court. Use a separate attachment if necessary.)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44**Authority For Civil Cover Sheet**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
- United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.