

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY



April 11, 2011

BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Maria Ellis

Executive Secretary for MEDCAC

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Coverage and Analysis Group

7500 Security Boulevard C1-09-06

Baltimore, MD 21244

Re: Medicare Program; Meeting of the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee - May 11, 2011

Dear Ms. Ellis:

The American Academy of Audiology, the world's largest professional organization of audiologists, with more than 11,000 members, appreciates the efforts to be undertaken at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) May 11, 2011, Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) public meeting.

As stated in the notice, the MEDCAC panel will review evidence on health outcomes attributable to unilateral and bilateral cochlear implantation for its beneficiaries. Based on the series of questions posted by CMS, of which the MEDCAC panel will deliberate and vote, the attached comments represent the Academy's views on the items slated for discussion.

We look forward to speaking with the MEDCAC on May 11, 2011. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 544-9336, or kthomas@audiology.org, should you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kate Thomas

Senior Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs