



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

April 11, 2011

Maria Ellis
Executive Secretary for MEDCAC
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Clinical Standards and Quality
Coverage and Analysis Group
S3-02-01
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Re: MEDCAC Meeting on Cochlear Implants

Dear Ms. Ellis,

Attached to this letter is testimony submitted on behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) health outcomes meeting on May 11 concerning cochlear implants. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the professional and scientific association representing over 140,000 audiologists, speech-language pathologists and speech, language and hearing scientists.

ASHA testimony will be presented at the May meeting by Richard S. Tyler, Ph.D., an audiologist who is Director of Audiology and Professor in both the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa. Dr. Tyler was trained as an audiologist at The University of Western Ontario and then as a psychoacoustician at The University of Iowa. He worked initially at the Institute of Hearing Research in Nottingham, England. Dr. Tyler has been involved in cochlear implant research for almost 30 years, and has published numerous articles and chapters on cochlear implants, and is the editor of, *Cochlear Implants: Audiological Foundations* (Tyler, 1993). Dr. Tyler is also the co-principal investigator of a 20-year National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study of cochlear implants.

This testimony will provide evidence as to how bilateral cochlear implants, as compared to unilateral cochlear implants, improve health outcomes for individuals. It will also provide evidence on patient characteristics of patients with successful bilateral cochlear implants.

Please contact me at kromanow@asha.org or 301-296-5671 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Romanow".

Kate Romanow

Director of Health Care Regulatory Advocacy