

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES
MEDICARE EVIDENCE DEVELOPMENT & COVERAGE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

May 11, 2011

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland**

Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee

May 11, 2011

Attendees

Chairperson

Clifford Goodman, PhD

Vice-Chairperson

Saty Satya-Murti, MD, FAAN

Executive Secretary

Maria A. Ellis

Voting Member/Patient Advocate

Phyllis Atkinson, RN, MS, GNP-BC

Voting Members

Wayne Chen, MD

Catherine (Eng) Chan, MD

Marie Griffin, MD, MPH

Paula E. Hartman-Stein, PhD

Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM

Ralph Sacco, MD, MS

J. Sanford Schwartz, MD

Elaine M. Scorza, MSN, RN, APRN, CRNC

Robert L. Steinbrook, MD

Industry Representative

G. Gregory Raab, PhD

CMS Liaison

James Rollins, MD

Guest Panel Members

John K. Niparko, MD

Paul R. Rao, PhD, CCC, CPHQ, FACHE

Invited Guest Speakers

Debara L. Tucci, MD

Teresa A. Zwolan, PhD

Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

The Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee met on May 11, 2011, to discuss the evidence, hear presentations and public comment, and make recommendations concerning the currently available evidence regarding the outcomes associated with the use of unilateral and bilateral cochlear implant technology for hearing loss.

The meeting began with a reading of a conflict of interest statement, welcoming remarks, and an introduction of the Committee.

CMS Presentation and Voting Questions. A CMS representative presented the panel and audience with a history of CMS coverage for cochlear implants, and acknowledged the cultural differences regarding the use of cochlear implementation among people with hearing loss. Another CMS representative acknowledged the staff who participated in preparing for this meeting, and read the voting and discussion questions that would be considered by the panel.

Presentations by Invited Guest Speakers. The panel heard presentations from the two invited guest speakers. Dr. Debara Tucci addressed the medical and surgical aspects of cochlear implantation, while Dr. Teresa Zwolan addressed the evaluation of candidates for cochlear implantation and postoperative performance assessment. Following their presentations, the panel had a limited opportunity to pose questions.

Presentation of Technology Assessment. The panel heard a presentation from two members of the Evidence-Based Practice Center at Tufts University concerning their technology assessment performed under contract to AHRQ. Following the presentation, time was allowed for the panelists to question the presenters before moving on to public comments.

Scheduled Public Comments. The panel heard from a total of four scheduled speakers, including clinicians and professional society representatives.

Open Public Comments. The panel heard from four members of the public, including private practitioners and manufacturer representatives.

Questions to Presenters. The panel was given the opportunity to pose questions to the presenters.

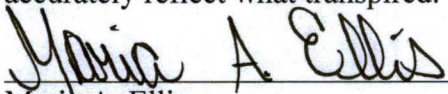
Initial Open Panel Discussion. The panel conducted an extensive discussion on each of the voting questions posed by CMS. The discussion included input from the chair, members of the panel, and presenters as requested by members of the panel.

Formal Remarks and Voting Questions. The panel turned its attention to both the voting and discussion questions, having limited additional discussion before votes on each question. The results of the voting were recorded on electronic devices, announced to the public, and recorded manually. The results of the voting are also found at <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/medcac-meeting-details.aspx?MEDCACId=58&bc=AAAIAAAAAAAAA&>. All discussion is recorded in the transcript of the meeting.

Final Open Panel Discussion. After resolution of the voting questions, the panel discussed significant gaps in evidence. At the conclusion of the meeting, each panelist was allowed and encouraged to give a statement summarizing their perspectives about the body of evidence presented, and if they wanted, to explain their prior votes. That discussion and those statements are included in the transcript of the meeting.

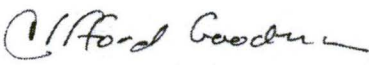
Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

I certify that I attended the meeting
of the Medicare Evidence Development
and Coverage Advisory Committee on
May 11, 2011, and that these minutes
accurately reflect what transpired.



Maria A. Ellis
Executive Secretary, MEDCAC, CMS

I approve the minutes of this meeting
as recorded in this summary.


Clifford Goodman, PhD
Chairperson