



JUL 8 1998

Refer to: C8FOIA9341D

Ms. Elizabeth B. Carder
Reed, Smith, Shaw & McClay, LLP
1301 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1100 - East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005-3317

Dear Ms. Carder:

I am responding to your March 27, 1998 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request addressed to Rosario Cirrincione, Director, FOI/Privacy Acts Division, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Washington, D.C., for documents concerning Medicare coverage for certain items of durable medical equipment. Specifically, you requested documentation which was used to establish coverage policy for Augmentative Communication Devices and Communicators (ACD&C). You also requested information regarding the scope and timing of the DHHS review of the policies and identification of the specific augmentative communication devices and communicators which were reviewed, and their specification. The portion of your request pertaining to coverage policy for ACD&C, was forwarded to me because of my responsibilities for administering the FOIA for the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

After a careful search of the files of HCFA), i.e., a search reasonably calculated to locate records responsive to your request (ACD&C) and employing reasonable search standards, we were unable to locate any records responsive to your request.

You have the right to appeal this decision. To do so, you must put your appeal in writing and send it within 30 days to: The Deputy Administrator, HCFA, Room C5-16-03, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. Please mark your envelope containing your letter of appeal "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" and enclose a copy of this letter with your appeal.

EXHIBIT

TABBLES

The portion of your request concerning the scope and timing of the DHHS review of policies and identification of the specific ACD&C's, which were reviewed, and their specifications, will be responded to by Mr. Rosario Cirrincione.

Sincerely,



Phillip Brown
Director
Division of Freedom of Information and Privacy