



September 11, 2017

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-1678-P
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Re: 2018 Hospital Payment for Magnetic Resonance guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS) for Treating Essential Tremor (procedure code 0398T)

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Peter Muller. I serve as Executive Director for HopeNET- a guiding light for individuals affected by Essential Tremor. You see, for over 30 years, I suffered with Essential Tremor. The tremor affected my hands, my voice, my ability to hear, my chin and even swallowing. To give others like me some hope, I decided to establish HopeNET (www.thehopenet.org).

I took metoprolol & then gabapentin for a number of years. They had no affect on my tremor at all. My doctor had offered me additional treatment options. One of which, required drilling holes into my head and placing hardware into my brain, which to say the least, I was incredibly apprehensive to undergo. Fortunately I was found suitable for the non-invasive MRgFUS treatment for my essential tremor and I underwent the procedure on Wednesday, August 24th, 2016.

Lying on the MRI bed, I could see my hand tremor gradually improving. It was like going back in time to the way I was decades ago. I was thinking about all my fellow HopeNet volunteers and I couldn't wait to see the final result - to share the experience with them.

I applaud Medicare for setting a hospital payment for 2017, and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule for 2018. Now that this technology has been offered commercially for the last year, Medicare should continue to review its data to ensure that hospitals are reimbursed appropriately for the procedure. As a Medicare beneficiary, I strongly urge Medicare to consider increasing the hospital payment for 2018 for this ground breaking technology that can help so many other people with essential tremor, who like myself are apprehensive to go through invasive surgery. This new technology provides the non-invasive option that so many patients are looking for. Without an appropriate hospital payment, many hospitals will not invest in the advancement and many patients who desparately seek less invasive options will not have access.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Peter Muller
Executive Director