

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Jacobs	11-20-08

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 100274	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <u>12-3-08</u>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <u>Cleared 12/9/08 letter attached</u> 	Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM
SOUTH CAROLINA



290 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5972

UNITED STATES SENATE

November 19, 2008

Ms. Emma Forkner
Director
SC Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

RECEIVED

*Log Jacobs
Approve Sign*

NOV 20 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RE: Mr. George Cooler
SSN: 424-72-2381

Dear Ms. Forkner:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I have received from the above named constituent. I believe you will find it self-explanatory.

Your reviewing this material and providing any assistance or information possible under the governing statutes and regulations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Graham".

Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

LOG/lt

Enclosure

Please reply to: Senator Lindsey Graham
530 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 202
Mt Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

508 HAMPTON STREET
SUITE 202
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 933-0112

401 WEST EVANS STREET
SUITE 226B
FLORENCE, SC 29501
(843) 669-1505

101 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
SUITE 220
GREENVILLE, SC 29601
(864) 250-1417

530 JOHNNIE DODDS BOULEVARD
SUITE 202
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464
(843) 849-3887

140 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 110
ROCK HILL, SC 29730
(803) 395-2828

138 EAGLES NEST DRIVE
SUITE B
SENECA, SC 29678
(864) 888-3330

AUTHORIZATION FORM

I hereby authorize United States Senator Lindsey O. Graham to receive any information from agencies pertaining to my request below. This authorization is in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974.

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT BELOW.)

Name: George H. Cooler Phone: _____
Address: 198 Anna Laurel RD
City: Early Branch State: S.C. Zip: 29916
Social Security Number: 424-72-2381 VA Number: _____

In the space below, briefly describe the problems that you are experiencing and explain exactly what you would like Senator Graham to do on your behalf. Without this information, it will be impossible for Senator Graham to adequately assist you. (If you need more space, please use the back of this form or an additional piece of paper.)

I have a 4.5 and a 4.3^{X3}¹² Lipomas Tumor in the middle of my neck in the back. I need the tumors removed to see if they are causing the symptoms I am experiencing, which are listed below and to see if it is cancer. I am having tingling and numbness in my limbs, weakness, pain in my neck legs, knees, back, ringing in my ears, hard of hearing, high blood pressure, diabetes, sleeping problems, depression, and migraine headaches, which will not easy up, no matter what I take. I would like Senator Graham to see that Dr. Hussong surgically removes the Lipomas Tumors, help me to get insurance, or at least get on disability.
My son Harold, Jr. passed away at the age of twenty nine with Cancer, which started on him at the age of eleven. He had neck and spine mass. Multiple Cervical Surgeries, cancer in his Spinal Cord.
Signature: George H. Cooler Date: Nov. 2, 2008
" Please review all enclosed information" !

Please return form to: U.S. Senator Lindsey O. Graham
530 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Suite 202
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

November 2, 2008

U.S. Senator Lindsey O. Graham
530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Re: George H. Cooler, Sr. - Need Surgery - Need Insurance - Disability
I have tried getting help and No One and I mean No One wants to help.
I have help people all my life and I have given money (contribution) all my life.
Enclosing Copies of Information-1)Retirement Salary 2)Medication List,
3)Bank Stmt - 4)(RR)-SB & T Loan 5)Titk. Payment Draft 6)Newspaper Articles

U.S. Senator Lindsey O. Graham

After working for the Town of Bluffton, Bluffton, S.C. for thirty three years, they retired me after I had open heart surgery. I did not want to retire. The Town of Bluffton give me "no choice", what so ever, they just terminated me. I had to get an attorney to get a retirement. The Town could have kept insurance on me.

I thought the Town of Bluffton should have kept insurance on me or at least given me retirement insurance. I was schedule for surgery to have the tumors removed. The surgeries did not happen because the Town of Bluffton canceled the insurance coverage. I Worked Hard for the Town of Bluffton, All My Life. I have many News-paper articles to back up what I am stating.

The doctors stated I should be on disability and we have been working on that with no success so far.

I receive a retirement check from SCRS at the end of each month in the amount of \$1,567.64, which only pays for four of my main bills, which are my truck payment at the bank and three finance companies. I have no monies left for Light Bill, (Telephone Bill-I could not pay-disconnected - I don't have one), Gas, Groceries, Medicine, Doctors, Hospitals, Taxes, Insurance, Etc..

Hampton Co., Hampton, South Carolina won't give me any assistance at all.

On Sept. 17, 07 my wife, sister and I was traveling on the interstate in Orangeburg Co., Orangeburg, S.C. when a truck driver ran off the road an into the trees. The truck was on fire, the diesel was pouring out of the truck. I was the first person on the scene. I ran across the road, fell down over debris, tree limbs, etc. to try to save this man. My sister stop truck drivers to get extinguishers, so I could get the

fire out. We got under the truck with the man and talk to him until help came to get him out. He was pin-down and debris covered him up. They Life star him out and at the time he was alive. I don't know if he is today or not. I had to ride in the Orangeburg EMS to the Orangeburg Hospital and my sister rode with me. I had several broken ribs from my falling and I inhaled the fire fumes, the diesel fumes, the fire extinguisher power, my throat was burning, it was hard for me to breath, and I thought I was going. This is what we got out of helping to save that man's life, a very hard time being seen at the hospital, a hospital bill and Ambulance EMS bill, and my sister received a six hundred an fifty dollar bill from EMS as well for riding with me. My sister inhaled all that I did. Her throat was hurting her. The lady did not do anything for her, she was working on me the whole time which was only a few minutes. The wreck was five minutes from the hospital.

A state trooper came into the hospital to see me and thanked me for saving that man's life. That I will never forget. It made me feel good even though I was hurting and in a lot of pain. What I went through was worth it. I saved another person Life.

We did not get were we were headed that day. It was and all day process. It took hours to get that man out from under his truck and hours at the hospital. I received bills from that and so did my sister, but we would do it all over again to Save a Life. We are still hoping and praying that he is alive today.

I can't make all my bills go away. I wish I could. The truck I have with payments at the bank, I can't let it go back, my brother in law co-signed for me to get it. I renewed the loan to get the payments lower. I can't sell it. I would not get enough money to pay it off and I need away to travel. All the finance companies have to be paid. All the bills I have are when I was working and making money to pay them which was even hard to do at that time, but I managed. I can't now. I can't make ends meet. I can't afford to get my medicines.

I need help. I need surgery. I need these headaches to stop.

My sister isn't working, she lost her job over a year ago. She is paying the Orangeburg County EMS a little at the time. That account number is 730631.

George H. Cooler
George H. Cooler, Sr.
798 Anna Laurel Road
Early Branch, SC 29916
424-72-2363
843-645-2036 Sister's Phone

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Notice of Action

From: HAMPTON COUNTY DHHS
P. O. Box 693
Hampton SC 29924-0000

Date: 10/20/2008
Worker Name:

ANDREA HARRISON

Telephone: 803 914-0053

BG#: 90328843

HH#: 101201313

To: GEORGE COOLER
798 ANNA LAUREL ROAD
EARLY BRANCH SC 29916

25 ARHAR

Beneficiary Name:
GEORGE COOLER
RUBY COOLER

Beneficiary ID:
4780755588
4780755589

Your application has been denied for: AGED, BLIND, DISABLED (ABD)

Reason for denial:
Your income is more than policy allows.

Denied for the month(s) of: 10/2008

Manual/policy reference supporting this action: 303.01.03

Fair Hearing

If you feel your case has been closed in error, you may ask for a fair hearing before the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

- To ask for a fair hearing, send a request in writing, along with a copy of this letter, within 30 days to your worker.
- You can hire an attorney to help you or you can have someone come to the hearing and speak for you.
- If you request a hearing within 10 days of the date on this letter, you can ask in your request that your coverage continue until a final decision is made by the hearing officer. However, if the hearing officer rules that the decision to close your case was correct, you will be required to pay back any benefits you received while your case was being reviewed.

SURGICAL SPECIALISTS
HILTON HEAD GENERAL & LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY, PA

25 Hospital Center Common, Suite 100
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
843.681.9489 843.681.4502 fax
hhsurgery@hargray.com
www.HHISurgeons.com


Richard L. Hussong, Jr. MD, FACS
Thomas P. Rzezycki MD, FACS
Robert L. Soares, Jr, MD, FACS

George Cooler

Bluffton-Okatie Office

September 29, 2008

HISTORY.

The patient presents today for a lipoma of the posterior neck. It has been present for a couple of years he believes. He also believes that a new one has arisen on the left side of the posterior neck as well. He reports some headaches which he attributes to these. He also says they are slightly uncomfortable to the touch.

I have reviewed his patient history form and review of systems with him. He is allergic to penicillin. His medications include Plavix, aspirin, nexium, lyrica, Hyzaar, lisinopril, metoprolol, Metformin and simvastatin. His only surgeries have been open-heart surgery several times and knee surgery. His past medical history includes asthma, hypertension, coronary artery disease and diabetes.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

General: Well developed and well nourished overweight white male in no acute distress.

Head: The head is atraumatic. The eyes are normal with pupils equal, round and reactive. There is no scleral icterus. The external ears are normal. The nose is normal. The oropharynx reveals normal, tongue with moist mucus membranes.

Neck: The neck is supple. There are no masses, adenopathy or thyromegaly. The trachea is in the midline. There is no tenderness. Posteriorly on the right is a 4.5 x 3 cm subcutaneous mass consistent with lipoma. More superiorly on the left at the hairline is another soft subcutaneous 4.5 x 2 cm mass.

Chest: The chest is symmetric. The respirations are even and unlabored.
Cardiovascular: The heart has a regular rate and rhythm. Carotid and radial pulses are equal and normal bilaterally.

Lymph: There is no palpable adenopathy in the neck.

Extremity: The extremities are without edema. There is no limitation of range of motion.

Skin: The skin is without rash or jaundice.

Neuro: The patient is alert and oriented and without obvious neurological deficit.

ASSESSMENT.

He has bilateral posterior neck lipomas. Given his symptoms I have recommended excision. I discussed with he and his wife that excision may not alleviate his symptoms but I am very optimistic that it will. We discussed the risks which include infection, bleeding and seroma formation. They understand and agree and have consented.

PLAN.

I have my office making arrangements for bilateral posterior neck lipoma excisions at Coastal Carolina Hospital has an outpatient under local Mac anesthesia. We will withhold his aspirin and Plavix for five days beforehand.

Electronically signed by Richard L. Hussong, Jr, MD, FACS 9/29/2008 2:03 PM

CC: Dr. Carl Derrick, Coastal Carolina Same Day Surgery

Board Certified General Surgeons specializing in:

Complete breast care: In office ultrasound, core biopsy, stereotactic biopsy, lumpectomy, sentinel lymph node biopsy, & Mammosite Laparoscopy, Hernia Repair, Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication, Thyroidectomy, Parathyroidectomy, Colorectal and anal surgery, Melanoma and skin cancer surgery, Wound care

Operating at:

Hilton Head Regional Medical Center, Coastal Carolina Medical Center, The Outpatient Surgery Center of Hilton Head, Bluffton-Okatie Outpatient Center

COOLER, GEORGE

Date of visit: 09/17/2008
Date of birth: 02/22/1952
Age: 56 years old
Medical record number: 92763

CURRENT DIAGNOSES

1. Cad With Bypass Graft, 414.04
2. Chest Pain, 786.50
3. Hypertension, 272.4
4. Benign Essential Hypertension, 401.1

ALLERGIES

pcn

MEDICATIONS

1. Albuterol Sulfate 90 mcg/inh, as needed
2. Aspirin Adult Low Strength 81 mg, 1 by mouth daily
3. Clonidine 0.2 mg, Take as Directed
4. Demerol HCl 100 mg, as needed
5. Diazepam 5 mg, Take as Directed
6. Docusate Sodium 100 mg, Take as Directed
7. Hydrochlorothiazide-Lisinopril 25 mg-20 mg, 1 by mouth daily
8. Lyrica 75 mg, Take as Directed
9. Metformin Hydrochloride 500 mg, 1 by mouth twice daily
10. Metoprolol Tartrate 50 mg, 1 by mouth twice daily
11. Multi-vitamin -, 1 by mouth daily
12. Nexium 40 mg, 1 by mouth daily
13. Oxycodone Hydrochloride 5 mg, Take as Directed
14. Plavix 75 mg, 1 by mouth daily
15. Tenaxepam 15 mg, 1 by mouth daily
16. Tylenol 500 mg, as needed
17. Zocor 40 mg, 1 by mouth daily
18. Zolof 25 mg, 2 by mouth daily

CHIEF COMPLAINTS

Followup of Benign Essential Hypertension

HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS

Mr. Cooler is a 56 year-old male with a history of hypertension and hypertensive here for follow-up of his CAD. He is now nearly 2 years post CABG surgery (LIMA to LAD and SVG to OM) at Hilton Head Hospital. He had continuing chest pain with multiple admissions after his surgery and he underwent cardiac cath a year ago that showed closure of his graft to the left circumflex coronary artery. He underwent PCI of the native left circumflex with a Taxus stent and recovered without difficulty. His LV systolic function at the time of cath was normal. He continued to have "sticking" pain at the site of one of his sternal wires, and underwent surgical revision of his sternum, and a surgical plate was placed. He had a repeat stress test in February that showed no ischemia. He continued to have difficulty with chest wall pain and is under the care of a pain specialist.

In April, he had an apparent respiratory arrest at home and was taken to Hampton Hospital. He was transferred to HHRMC where he had a thorough cardiac and neurologic evaluation that showed no evidence of an acute ischemic event. It was felt that his collapse may have been due to overmedication and Dr. Brosman was consulted to evaluate the appropriateness of his pain regimen.

PAST HISTORY

Past Medical Illnesses: anxiety, asthma, arthritis (generalized), GERD, hypertension, migraine headaches, syncope, Past Cardiac Illnesses: chest pain, claudication, Infectious Diseases: childhood illnesses of mumps, measles and chickenpox; Surgical Procedures: appendectomy, arthroscopic rt knee surgery, CABG 12/06: LIMA to LAD, SVG to OM; NYHA Classification: I; Cardiology Procedures-Invasive: 10/07: Taxus stent to ostial LCx; Cardiology Procedures-Noninvasive: echocardiogram December 2006, normal LV fxn, mild aortic sclerosis, no valvular stenosis.; Nuclear stress 2/08: no ischemia; Cardiac Cath Results: 12/06: 80-90% distal left main involving the ostium of the LAD, LCx, and ramus, 40% mid RCA, 10/07: native CAD unchanged, patent LIMA, but SVG to LCX closed (native LCx opened with Taxus stent)

REVIEW OF SYSTEMS

GENERAL

denies recent weight loss, weight gain, fever or chills

INTERMEDENTRADV

Patient: COOLER, GEORGE MRNO: 92763 DOB: 02/22/1952 - Continued

EARS, NOSE, THROAT, MOUTH

denies any hearing loss, epistaxis, hoarseness or difficulty speaking.

RESPIRATORY

denies dyspnea, cough, wheezing or hemoptysis.

CARDIOVASCULAR

please review HPI

ABDOMINAL

denies ulcer disease, hematochezia or melena.

MUSCULOSKELETAL

denies any history of venous insufficiency

NEUROLOGICAL

denies any history of recurrent strokes, TIA, or seizure disorder.

PSYCHIATRIC

denies any history of depression, substance abuse or change in cognitive functions.

ENDOCRINE

denies any history of weight change, heat/cold intolerance, polydipsia, or polyuria

HEMATOLOGICAL/IMMUNOLOGIC

denies any food allergies, seasonal allergies, bleeding disorders.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Vital Signs

Blood Pressure:

140/90 Sitting, Left arm, regular cuff

Pulse: 69/min.

Weight: 278.00 lbs.

Height: 70"

BMI: 40

CONSTITUTIONAL

cooperative, alert and oriented, well developed, well nourished, in no acute distress

SKIN

warm and dry to touch

HEAD

normocephalic, no tenderness

EYES

EOMS intact, PERRL, conjunctivae and lids unremarkable, Funduscopic exam and visual fields not performed

ENT

ears, nose and throat reveal no gross abnormalities, no pallor or cyanosis, dentition good

NECK

JVP normal, no carotid bruit, thyroid not enlarged, carotid pulses are full and equal bilaterally

CHEST

clear to auscultation bilaterally with good inspiratory effort, normal respiratory excursion, No significant chest wall tenderness. Incision is well healing, and sternum is stable.

CARDIAC

regular rhythm, S1 normal, S2 normal, No S3 or S4, Apical impulse not displaced, no murmurs, gallops or rubs detected

ABDOMEN

abdomen soft, bowel sounds normoactive, no masses, no hepatosplenomegaly, non-tender, no bruits

PERIPHERAL PULSES

pulses full and equal in all extremities

EXTREMITIES & BACK

no spinal abnormalities noted, no clubbing, cyanosis or edema

PSYCHIATRIC

no difficulties with speech or language

NEUROLOGICAL

oriented to time, person and place, affect appropriate, no ataxia present

MEDICATIONS UPDATED TODAY

Hydrochlorothiazide-Lisinopril 25 mg-20 mg, 1 by mouth daily, #30 (Thirty)

IMPRESSIONS/PLAN

CAD - continue medical management with Plavix, ASA, metoprolol, lisinopril, and Zocor. He will be 1 year post PCI in October. We discussed the risks and benefits of stopping Plavix at that time. He will consider it and let us know if he wishes to stop it.

Patient: COOLER, GEORGE MRNO: 92763 DOB: 02/22/1952 - Continued
Hyperlipidemia - lipids checked by Dr. Derrick recently, according to pt.

TODAYS ORDERS

Q111

Referring Physician: MACCABE, JONATHAN

Jonathan MacCabe, MD

Electronically signed by Jonathan MacCabe, MD 09/17/2008



Log # 0274
✓

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

December 9, 2008

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
530 Johnnie Dods Boulevard, Suite 202
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for contacting our agency on behalf of Mr. George Cooler, Sr. regarding his healthcare needs.

We provided assistance to Mr. Cooler and gave him our contact information should he have any questions or other concerns. We also mailed him information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in our state with their healthcare needs, prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization costs, and daily living expenses.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/jole



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

December 5, 2008

Mr. George H. Cooler, Sr.
798 Anna Laurel Road
Early Branch, South Carolina 29916

Dear Mr. Cooler:

Senator Lindsey Graham asked the Department of Health and Human Services to assist with your healthcare concerns. Our agency administers the Medicaid program that provides health insurance coverage for some low income and needy residents in our state.

Your recent application for Medicaid's Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) program was denied on October 20, 2008, because your income exceeds the allowable limit. To qualify for ABD, an individual under age 65 must meet the Social Security Administration's (SSA) definition of "disability" and have a monthly income below \$1,167 per couple and a resource limit below \$6,000 per couple. We understand that you applied for disability benefits through the SSA but did not meet their eligibility requirements. In the future, should your disability status and income change, please apply again with our Hampton County Medicaid Office at (803) 914-0053.

In an effort to be of assistance, we contacted the billing department at The Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg about your outstanding hospital bill totaling \$584.56, and they agreed to drop the charges so you do not owe this money. We were also told there is no outstanding bill for your sister. Likewise, we contacted Orangeburg County Emergency Medical Services and were told that all charges relating to the ambulance ride to the hospital on September 17, 2007, were dropped in August of this year.

Enclosed is information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare needs, prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization costs and daily living needs. If you have any questions about the Medicaid program, please contact Denise Epps at (803) 898-2505 or (toll-free) at 1-888-549-0820. We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs
Acting Deputy Director

AJ/ole
Enclosures