



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care  
Financing Administration

Refer to: DPO-222

Region IX  
100 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco CA 94102

JAN 13 1989

Craig Wilson, President  
General Cardiac Technology, Inc.  
Post Office Box 4581  
Mountain View, California 94040

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We are responding to your November 9, 1988 letter requesting Medicare and Medicaid recognition for the HEART HUGGER sternum support harness.

We were recently informed by our headquarters staff in Baltimore, Maryland that the support harness is a Medicare-covered device when either prescribed by a physician or furnished incident to a physician's service. The harness is covered under Section 2133 of the Medicare Carriers Manual (HCFA Publication 14-3) within the definition of a brace. For Medicare purposes, a brace includes either a rigid or semi-rigid device, and is used for supporting a weak or deformed body member and restricts or eliminates motion in a diseased or injured part of the body.

Sincerely,

Wayne Moon  
Chief Medicare Operations Branch  
Division of Program Operations