



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
President

March 21, 2012

RE: The SHOWER SHIRT™

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of The SHOWER SHIRT Co. and its application for a HCPCS code and Medicare funding for The SHOWER SHIRT™.

The SHOWER SHIRT™ is water-resistant garment designed to protect breast cancer/mastectomy patients while showering.

In essence, clinicians advise mastectomy patients that they **cannot** shower post-surgery and before post-surgical drains are removed, a process which can take up to three weeks. The clinical basis behind this protocol is if water inhabits the drain sites, there would be a drastic increase in the likelihood of infection to the patient. The fundamental purpose of the shower shirt is to reduce that risk by permitting post-surgery mastectomy patients to take showers during the period in which the drains remain in place.

I view the SHOWER SHIRT™ as an item that supports the standards of good medical practice for breast cancer/mastectomy patients. The ability of a woman to comfortably shower soon after such a traumatic surgery promotes the psychological, if not the physical, aspects of healing. I believe such a product should be deemed medically necessary for all post-mastectomy patients to reduce the chances of severe infection while allowing patients to protect their drain sites.

Before the advent of this product, breast cancer patients were forced to utilize trash bags and plastic wrap in trying to protect themselves, a process that did not work well. With this new product, patients now have the opportunity to shower in comfort, with some type of normalcy, after amputation of the breasts.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of Lisa F. Crites and The SHOWER SHIRT Co. as she seeks both an HCPCS code and Medicare funding of this water-resistant garment; a quality product which helps support both the physical and emotional needs of thousands of breast cancer

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patients in this country required to undergo mastectomies.

Sincerely,



President