UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, d/b/a UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER,

Plaintiff,

v.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, in her official capacity as Secretary, United States Department of Health and Human *Services*,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C11-625RSM

ORDER ON MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Plaintiff University of Washington Medical Center ("UW Medical Center") filed this action for administrative review of a final decision by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services ("Secretary") regarding Medicare reimbursement. Specifically, plaintiff challenges a February 7, 2011, decision by the Medicare Provider Reimbursement Board ("PRRB") that denied jurisdiction over a Medicare cost report appeal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999 ("FYE 6/30/99"). Dkt. # 1. The appeal, Case No. 02-1021, concerned direct and indirect medical education payments ("DGME" and "IME" respectively) received by UW Medical Center from Medicare for graduate education medical activities. *Id.* Such payments are based, in part, on the number of full time equivalent ("FTE") residents and graduate fellows participating in an approved medical education program. *Id.* The PRRB serves as the first level of appeal for hospitals challenging their annual Medicare cost reports, following finalization by an agent of the Secretary referred to as the Fiscal Intermediary ("Intermediary."). *Id.* 

ORDER ON MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - 1

16 17

14

15

18 19

21

22

20

23

24

25 26

27

28

This matter is before the Court for consideration of Plaintiff's motion for reconsideration of the Court'S December 22, 2011 Order denying Plaintiff's motion to supplement the record. Dkt. ## 31, 32. Plaintiff sought to have the record supplemented with two documents: a letter dated August 31, 2010 in which the Intermediary conceded jurisdiction over IME Research FTE's for FYE 6/30/97 and FYE 6/30/98, and portions of a February 3, 2011, jurisdictional response which Plaintiff argued is "related to UWMC's IME resident FTEs for FYE 6/30/99." Motion to Supplement, Dkt. # 15, p. 10. The Court denied the motion, noting that neither document was filed in Case No. 02-1021 or bears that number on the face sheet, and was therefore not made part of the record or considered by the PRRB in Case No. 02-1021. The Court specifically noted that Plaintiff had not demonstrated that supplementation of the record was justified by any of the four factors identified by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals: (1) if admission is necessary to determine whether the agency has considered all relevant factors and has explained its decision; (2) if the agency has relied on documents not in the record; (3) when supplementing the record is necessary to explain technical terms or complex subject matter; or (4) where there has been a strong showing of bad faith or improper behavior on the part of agency decision makers. Lands Council v. Powell, 395 F. 3d 1019, 1030 (9th Cir. 2005) (internal quotations omitted); Animal Defense Counsel v. Hodel, 840 F. 2d 1432, 1436 (9th Cir. 1988).

In moving to supplement the record, Plaintiff argued that these documents go to the issue of whether the agency considered all relevant factors in reaching its decision. Plaintiff takes issue with the Court's finding that it "fails to demonstrate that the PRRB had the documents at issue before it when it made the challenged decision. The Court cannot make a finding that these documents are necessary [for it] to determine whether the agency has considered all relevant factors, when the documents at issue were not actually put before the agency in this case." Plaintiff has provided, with the motion, a delivery receipt for the February 3, 2011 letter demonstrating that it was received by the Board Advisor for UWMC's IME Research group appeal on February 4, 2011, three days before the Board reached its decision in the 02-1021 individual appeal. Declaration of Kelly Thomas, Dkt. # 33. Both the declaration and the receipt demonstrate that the letter was submitted in the group appeal, Case No. 05-1478G.

The motion for reconsideration thus simply renews arguments made in the original motion: that documents submitted in a different appeal (the group appeal) should have been considered in the related individual appeal. The Court rejected this argument in the Order and declines to reconsider it now.

The motion for reconsideration (Dkt. # 32) is accordingly DENIED.

DATED this 23 day of July 2012.

RICARDO S. MARTINEZ

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE