



Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201

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12

Dear

This response is written on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS). Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) in response to your July 14, 2004, Request for Correction of Information filed under the HHS and OPUS "Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated to the Public." Your request challenges the listing of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) organizations and Web sites on www.healthfinder.gov and requests the inclusion of three organizations that you name. We also have received copies of your letter from July 7 to Dr. Cristina Beato and your ongoing email correspondence with David Baker, former project manager for the National Health Information Center (NHIC), concerning the same issues that you raise in the July 14 letter. Dr. Beato has already replied in writing to your July 7 letter, and Mr. Baker will reply by email to your other concerns.

The HHS and OPUS Guidelines apply to substantive information dissemination activities that are initiated or sponsored by HHS and OPHS. Further, the healthfinder Web site disclaimer states that "Agencies or organizations listed on healthfinder® are included for informational use only, and inclusion does not imply endorsement by healthfinder or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services." Therefore, the Information Quality Guidelines are not the appropriate mechanism for articulating or responding to the issues you raise. However, as stated above, we plan to respond to your concerns in our on-going communication with you.

You may appeal the decision on your complaint either in writing or electronically within 30 days of receiving this response. Your request should state the reasons for your appeal. It should include a copy of your original request and this response and be marked clearly

with the words "Information Quality Appeal." The request may be sent electronically to jjarmanC-osophs.dhhs.gov or by hard copy to Executive Officer, Office of Public Health and Science, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201.

Sincerely,

Penelope S. Royall, P.T., M.S.W.
CAPT, USPHS
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health
(Disease Prevention and Health Promotion)