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03 JUL 31 PM 3:03

LOBBYING REPORT

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Section 5) - All Filers Are Required to Complete This Page

1. Registrant Name Baker Healthcare Consulting, Inc.			
2. Address: <input type="checkbox"/> Check if different than previously reported One American Square, Suite 2000, Box 82058			
3. Principal Place of Business (if different from line 2) Indianapolis Indiana 46282 City: State/zip (or Country)			
4. Contact Name Dale E. Baker	Telephone (317) 631-3613	E-mail (optional) BakerHealthcare@yahoo.com	5. Senate ID # 5164
7. Client Name <input type="checkbox"/> Self Middletown Regional Hospital			6. House ID # 33560

TYPE OF REPORT 8. Year 2003 Midyear (January 1-June 30) OR Year End (July 1-December 31)

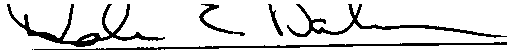
9. Check if this filing amends a previously filed version of this report

10. Check if this is a Termination Report ⇨ Termination Date _____

11. No Lobbying Activities

INCOME OR EXPENSES Complete Either Line 12 OR Line 13

<p align="center">12. Lobbying Firms</p> <p>INCOME relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period was:</p> <p>Less than \$10,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>\$10,000 or more <input type="checkbox"/> ⇨ \$ _____ Income (nearest \$20,000)</p> <p>Provide a good faith estimate, rounded to the nearest \$20,000, of all lobbying related income from the client (including all payments to the registrant by any other entity for lobbying activities on behalf of the client).</p>	<p align="center">13. Organizations</p> <p>EXPENSES relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period were:</p> <p>Less than \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>\$10,000 or more <input type="checkbox"/> ⇨ \$ _____ Expenses (nearest \$20,000)</p> <p>14. REPORTING METHOD. Check box to indicate reporting method. See instructions for description of method.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Method A. Reporting amounts using LDA definition</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Method B. Reporting amounts under section 602 Internal Revenue Code</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Method C. Reporting amounts under section 162 Internal Revenue Code</p>
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Signature  Date **July 23, 2003**

Printed Name and Title Dale E. Baker, President

LD-2 (REV. 4/03)

PAGE 1

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Registrant Name Baker Healthcare Consulting, Inc. Client Name Middletown Regional Hospital

LOBBYING ACTIVITY. Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which t engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each c information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code MMM (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues

See Attached

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted Check if None

Senate
House of Representatives

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area

Name	Covered Official Position (if applicable)
Dale E. Baker	

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above Check if None

Signature Dale E. Baker Date July 23, 2003

Signature _____

Printed Name and Title Dale E. Baker, President

Form LD-2 (Rev. 4/03)

Page _____

COUNTYWIDE RECLASSIFICATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1989 Congress established the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board specifically instructed the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide for countywide reclassifications. CMS promulgated regulations limiting counties eligible for these reclassifications to a county included in a PPS that is a part of a CMSA (a short list of counties adjacent to large urban areas such as Chicago, New York City and Los Angeles. Accordingly, CMS established criteria to demonstrate that countywide costs are "comparable" to the area to which the county seeks redesignation. CMS chose to develop formulas comparing countywide costs per discharge to the Prospective Payment System (PPS) rates that hospitals were paid in both the home geographic area and secondly rate they would be paid if the hospitals were reclassified. If the countywide cost per case exceeded the base rate plus 75% of the difference between the base rate and the reclassified rate - then the county hospitals met this criteria for reclassification. CMS used *rates as a proxy* for costs.

In FFY 1995 twenty-three counties were granted countywide reclassifications. Starting in 1996, the number of countywide reclassifications began to plummet because the relationship of costs to rates has changed over time. The site of care has shifted to outpatient for many services and hospitals have greatly expanded the outpatient units. Also, many hospitals have opened post acute care units (SNF, psych, rehab, home health) and now allocate fixed overhead costs to these newer units instead of the fixed costs being fully absorbed by the inpatient PPS unit. The result of this is that counties are denied reclassification simply because of the change in how medicine is practiced in the twenty-first century compared to earlier years.

In 1999, Congress granted two-year reclassifications in Section 152 of the BBRA to four counties (Lake County, Indiana; Butler County, Ohio; Brazoria County, Texas; and Orange County, New York) that could no longer meet the countywide criteria. Through administrative action CMS extended these reclassifications through September 30, 2003.

These "Section 152 hospitals" are seeking either a permanent reclassification or a renewal of the earlier reclassifications.

In the alternative, we request that Congress or the Administration change the criteria to equal the individual hospital reclassification and allow countywide wage index reclassification if the countywide group meets the 85% of average hourly wage criteria without requiring the restrictive cost per case criteria to be met.

