



May 12, 2014

## MEDIA ALERT

### AFTER FAMILY INSURANCE DENIES COCHLEAR IMPLANT TEEN TURNS TO AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MARKETPLACE TO COVER SURGERY

Cochlear Implant Activation at [Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago](#) / May 16, 2014

**WHO:** Chicago area college freshman Alexandra Falkiewicz, 18, received cochlear implants with insurance provided through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace after her parents' employer plan refused to cover her surgery.

**WHAT:** Alexandra – who plans on attending medical school -- experienced a decline in her hearing during high school and sought cochlear implantation. She had done well with hearing aids but with the decline in her hearing, she struggled every day at school. Her family wanted her to receive cochlear implants before she started college but their insurance plan denied coverage indicating that **hearing is optional**. She has waited over a year to have this much needed surgery. On April 21st, Nancy Young, MD, Medical Director of Audiology and Cochlear Implant Programs at Lurie Children's, performed her surgery.

**WHEN:** Activation of Alexandra's cochlear implants: Friday, May 16 at 12:30PM

**WHERE:** Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
225 East Chicago Avenue

**WHY:** American Cochlear Implant Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to cochlear implantation through research, advocacy and awareness. Cochlear implants provide life-changing opportunities for appropriate children and adults who do not benefit sufficiently from hearing aids. The ACI Alliance is working to ensure that insurance fully covers this cost effective treatment. The Alliance trains advocates and coordinates state and national initiatives to address insurance coverage.

Available for interviews:

- Alexandra Falkiewicz
- Nancy M. Young, MD, also serves on the board of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance.
- ACI Alliance Executive Director Donna Sorkin (a cochlear implant recipient)

**RSVP:** More information and to schedule an interview: [www.acialliance.org](http://www.acialliance.org) and Donna Sorkin, [dsorkin@acialliance.org](mailto:dsorkin@acialliance.org) (cell) 703.585.7336

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