



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

January 6, 2012

Via E-mail

Manny Villafañá  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Kips Bay Medical, Inc.  
3405 Annapolis Lane North, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55447

**Re: Kips Bay Medical, Inc.  
Registration Statement on Form S-1  
Filed November 16, 2011  
Letter Submitted December 19, 2011  
File No. 333-178019**

Dear Mr. Villafañá:

We have limited our review of your filing to those issues we have addressed in our comment. In our comment, we may ask you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure.

Please respond to this letter by amending your registration statement and providing the requested information. If you do not believe our comment applies to your facts and circumstances or do not believe an amendment is appropriate, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing any amendment to your registration statement and the information you provide in response to this comment, we may have additional comments.

1. We note your response to prior comment 1. In view of the large number of shares offered by the selling stockholder in relation to the number of outstanding shares of common stock held by non-affiliates of the company, we view the transaction to be a primary offering. Accordingly, you must reduce the size of the offering or it cannot proceed on an at-the-market basis. If you do not reduce the size of the offering, you must set a fixed price for the shares to be offered.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Act of 1933 and all applicable Securities Act rules require. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

Manny Villafaña  
Kips Bay Medical, Inc.  
January 6, 2012  
Page 2

Notwithstanding our comment, in the event you request acceleration of the effective date of the pending registration statement please provide a written statement from the company acknowledging that:

- should the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;
- the action of the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the company from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments and the declaration of effectiveness as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We will consider a written request for acceleration of the effective date of the registration statement as confirmation of the fact that those requesting acceleration are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as they relate to the proposed public offering of the securities specified in the above registration statement. Please allow adequate time for us to review any amendment prior to the requested effective date of the registration statement.

Please contact Mary Beth Breslin at (202) 551-3625 or me at (202) 551-3528 with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda Ravitz

Amanda Ravitz  
Assistant Director

cc (via e-mail): Robert K. Ranum, Esq.