

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
55 FARMINGTON AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06105

██████████ 2016  
Signature confirmation

Client: ██████████  
Request: 752160

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

**PARTY**

██████████  
Re: ██████████, minor  
██████████  
██████████

**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

On ██████████ 2015, the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (“CTDHP”) issued ██████████ (the “Appellant”) a notice stating that it had denied a request for prior authorization of orthodontic services for ██████████ her minor child.

On ██████████ 2016, the Appellant filed a request for an administrative hearing with the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings (“OLCRAH”) to contest the CTDHP’s denial of prior authorization of orthodontic services.

On ██████████ 2016, the OLCRAH issued a notice to the Appellant scheduling an administrative hearing for ██████████ 2016.

On ██████████ 016, in accordance with sections 17b-60, 17b-61 and 4-176e to 4-189, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, the OLCRAH held a hearing by video and telephone conference. The following individuals attended the proceeding:

██████████, Appellant  
Rosario Monteza, CTDHP’s representative  
Linda Erlinger, D.D.S., CTDHP’s witness (by telephone)  
Eva Tar, Hearing Officer

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

The issue to be decided is whether CTDHP correctly denied prior authorization for payment through the Medicaid program for orthodontic services for ██████████

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. █████ is 12 years old. (Appellant's testimony)
2. █████ has medical coverage through the HUSKY program. (CTDHP's Exhibit 4: *Notice of Action*, █████/15)
3. █████ avoids using her front teeth to chew. (Appellant's testimony)
4. █████ is not receiving treatment or counseling from a mental health professional. (Appellant's testimony)
5. CTDHP is a dental subcontractor for the HUSKY program. (CTDHP's representative's testimony)
6. █████ is █████ orthodontist (the "treating orthodontist"). (CTDHP's Exhibit 1: Prior Authorization Claim Form, █████/15)
7. On █████ 2015, the treating orthodontist scored the severity of █████ malocclusion to equal 28 points on a *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record* as part of a request for prior authorization of treatment. (CTDHP's Exhibit 2: *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*, █████15)
8. CTDHP received a request for prior authorization of orthodontic treatment for █████ from the treating orthodontist. (CTDHP's Exhibit 2)
9. Robert Gange, D.M.D. (the "first dental reviewer") is a CTDHP orthodontic dental consultant. (CTDHP's Exhibit 3: *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*, █████/15)
10. On █████ 2015, the first dental reviewer scored the severity of █████ malocclusion to equal 19 points on a *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*. (CTDHP's Exhibit 3)
11. On █████ 2015, CTDHP denied the treating orthodontist's request for prior authorization for orthodontic services for the reason that the scoring of the severity of █████ malocclusion at 19 points was less than the 26 points needed for coverage and that orthodontic treatment was not medically necessary for █████ (CTDHP's Exhibit 4)
12. Vincent Fazzino, D.M.D., (the "second dental reviewer") is a CTDHP orthodontic dental consultant. (CTDHP's Exhibit 6: *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*, █████16)
13. On █████ 2016, the second dental reviewer scored the severity of █████ malocclusion to equal 21 points on a *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*. (CTDHP's Exhibit 6)

14. On ██████ 2016, CTDHP issued a letter to the Appellant that the severity of ██████ malocclusion of 21 points was less than the 26 points required to approve coverage for orthodontic treatment and that orthodontic treatment was not medically necessary for ██████ (CTDHP's Exhibit 7: Correspondence, ██████/16)
15. Geoffrey Drawbridge, D.D.S., (the "third dental reviewer") is a CTDHP orthodontic dental consultant. (CTDHP's Exhibit 9: *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*, ██████/16)
16. On ██████ 2016, the third dental reviewer scored the severity of ██████ malocclusion to equal 14 points on a *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*. (CTDHP's Exhibit 9)
17. Approval of prior authorization for braces for a child whose severity of malocclusion equals less than 26 points is appropriate when the child's overjet is greater than 9 millimeters. (CTDHP's Exhibit 9)
18. The third dental reviewer marked the box for "Not Approved" on the *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*. (CTDHP's Exhibit 9)

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commissioner of Social Services may make such regulations as are necessary to administer the medical assistance program. Such regulations shall include provisions requiring the Department of Social Services (1) to monitor admissions to nursing home facilities, as defined in section 19a-521, and (2) to prohibit the admission by such facilities of persons with primary psychiatric diagnoses if such admission would jeopardize federal reimbursements. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-262.
2. Orthodontic services provided under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) program. Orthodontic services will be paid for when: (1) provided by a qualified dentist; and (2) deemed medically necessary as described in these regulations. Conn. Agencies Regs. § 17-134d-35 (a).
3. For purposes of the administration of the medical assistance programs by the Department of Social Services, "medically necessary" and "medical necessity" mean those health services required to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate or ameliorate an individual's medical condition, including mental illness, or its effects, in order to attain or maintain the individual's achievable health and independent functioning provided such services are: (1) Consistent with generally-accepted standards of medical practice that are defined as standards that are based on (A) credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, (B) recommendations of a physician-specialty society, (C) the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and (D) any other relevant factors; (2) clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, timing, site, extent and duration and considered effective for the individual's illness, injury or disease; (3) not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the individual's health care provider or other health care providers; (4) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at

least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of the individual's illness, injury or disease; and (5) based on an assessment of the individual and his or her medical condition. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-259b (a).

4. Clinical policies, medical policies, clinical criteria or any other generally accepted clinical practice guidelines used to assist in evaluating the medical necessity of a requested health service shall be used solely as guidelines and shall not be the basis for a final determination of medical necessity. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-259b (b).
5. *Public Act 15-5 (June Special Session)* provides, in relevant part, as follows: "The Department of Social Services shall cover orthodontic services for a Medicaid recipient under twenty-one years of age when the Salzmann Handicapping Malocclusion Index indicates a correctly scored assessment for the recipient of twenty-six points or greater, subject to prior authorization requirements. If a recipient's score on the Salzmann Handicapping Malocclusion Index is less than twenty-six points, the Department of Social Services shall consider additional substantive information when determining the need for orthodontic services, including (1) documentation of the presence of other severe deviations affecting the oral facial structures; and (2) the presence of severe mental, emotional or behavioral problems or disturbances, as defined in the most current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, published by the American Psychiatric Association, that affects the individual's daily functioning."
6. Prior Authorization. Prior authorization is required for the comprehensive diagnostic assessment. The qualified dentist shall submit: (A) the authorization request form; (B) the completed *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*; (C) Preliminary assessment study models of the patient's dentition; and, (D) additional supportive information about the presence of other severe deviations described in Section (e) (if necessary). The study models must clearly show the occlusal deviations and support the total point score of the preliminary assessment. If the qualified dentist receives authorization from the Department he may proceed with the diagnostic assessment. Conn. Agencies Regs. § 17-134d-35 (f)(1).
7. [REDACTED] dental records as submitted for prior authorization by the treating orthodontist to CTDHP do not support the total point score of 26 points or more on a correctly scored *Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record*.
8. [REDACTED] dental records as submitted for prior authorization by the treating orthodontist to CTDHP do not indicate that her overjet is greater than 9 millimeters.
9. [REDACTED] dental records as submitted for prior authorization by the treating orthodontist to CTDHP do not establish that there is a severe deviation affecting the oral facial structures.
10. The Appellant did not establish that [REDACTED] had the presence of severe mental, emotional or behavioral problems or disturbances, as defined in the most current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, published by the American Psychiatric Association, that affects her daily functioning.

11. Orthodontic services are not medically necessary with respect to correcting [REDACTED] malocclusion.
12. CTDHP correctly denied prior authorization for payment through the Medicaid program for orthodontic services for [REDACTED]

**DECISION**

The Appellant's appeal is DENIED.

*Eva Tar-electronic signature*  
Eva Tar  
Hearing Officer

Cc: Diane D'Ambrosio, CTDHP  
Rita LaRosa, CTDHP

### **RIGHT TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION**

The Appellant has the right to file a written reconsideration request within 15 days of the mailing date of the decision on the grounds there was an error of fact or law, new evidence has been discovered or other good cause exists. If the request for reconsideration is granted, the Appellant will be notified within 25 days of the request date. No response within 25 days means that the request for reconsideration has been denied. The right to request a reconsideration is based on § 4-181a (a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Reconsideration requests should include specific grounds for the request: for example, indicate what error of fact or law, what new evidence, or what other good cause exists.

Reconsideration requests should be sent to: Department of Social Services, Director, Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105.

### **RIGHT TO APPEAL**

The Appellant has the right to appeal this decision to Superior Court within 45 days of the mailing of this decision, or 45 days after the agency denies a petition for reconsideration of this decision, provided that the petition for reconsideration was filed timely with the Department. The right to appeal is based on § 4-183 of the Connecticut General Statutes. To appeal, a petition must be filed at Superior Court. A copy of the petition must be served upon the Office of the Attorney General, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106 or the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105. A copy of the petition must also be served on all parties to the hearing.

The 45-day appeal period may be extended in certain instances if there is good cause. The extension request must be filed with the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services in writing no later than 90 days from the mailing of the decision. Good cause circumstances are evaluated by the Commissioner or his designee in accordance with § 17b-61 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Agency's decision to grant an extension is final and is not subject to review or appeal.

The appeal should be filed with the clerk of the Superior Court in the Judicial District of New Britain or the Judicial District in which the Appellant resides.