STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS 55 FARMINGTON AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06105-3725

2017 Signature Confirmation

Client ID #	
Request #	824358

NOTICE OF DECISION

PARTY



PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On 2017, BeneCare Dental Health Plans ("BeneCare"), administered by the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership ("CTDHP"), sent, (the "Appellant") a Notice of Action ("NOA") denying a request for prior authorization of orthodontia for, her minor child. The NOA stated that the severity of malocclusion did not meet the criteria set in state regulations to approve the proposed treatment.
On 2017, the Appellant requested an administrative hearing to contest the Department's denial of prior authorization of orthodontia.
On 2017, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings ("OLCRAH") issued a notice scheduling the administrative hearing for 2017.
On 2017, in accordance with sections 17b-60, 17-61, and 4-176e to 4-189 inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, OLCRAH held an administrative hearing. The following individuals were presented at the hearing:
the Appellant minor child, the subject of the hearing

Rosario Monteza, CTDHP Grievance & Appeals Representative

Dr. Vincent Fazzino, CTDHP Dental Consultant, via telephone conference call

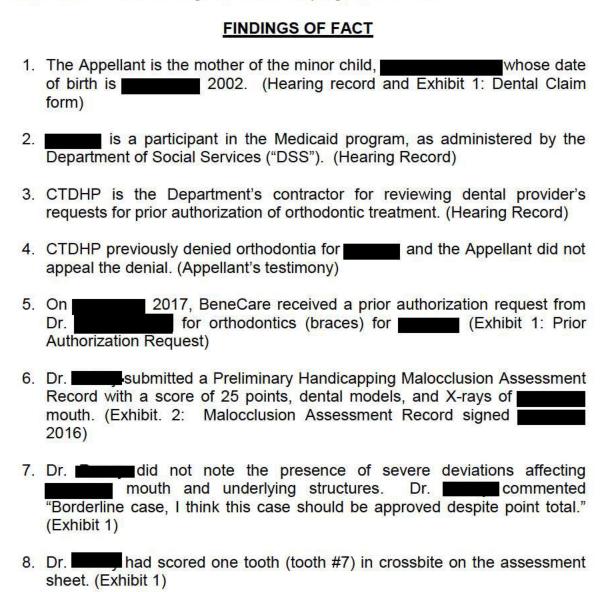
Maureen Foley-Roy, Hearing Officer

9. On

The hearing officer held the hearing record open for the submission of additional evidence. On 2017, the record closed.

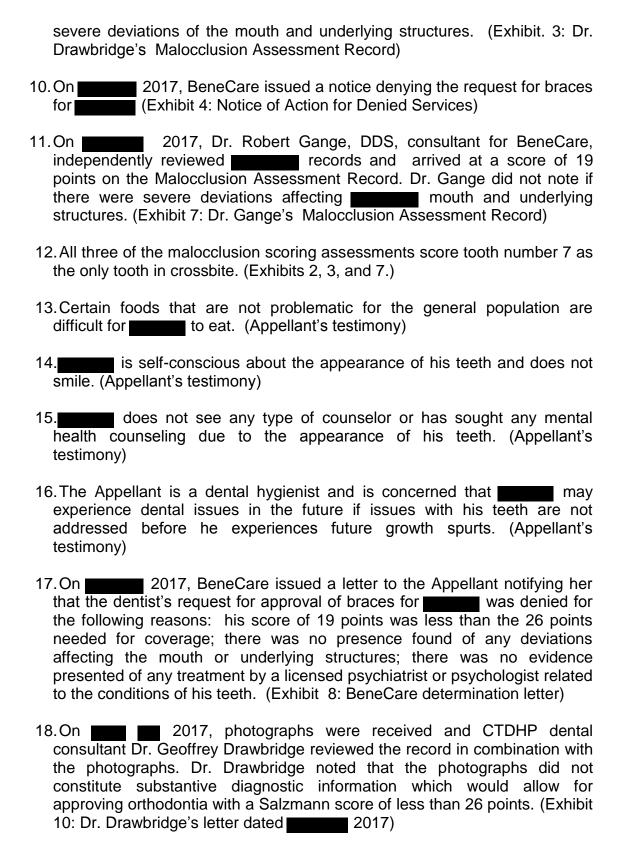
STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue is whether BeneCare's denial of prior authorization for orthodontic services through the Medicaid program was correct.



2017, Dr. Gregory Drawbridge, DDS, BeneCare's orthodontic

consultant, reviewed the X Rays and models submitted by the treating orthodontist and determined that scored 21 points on the Malocclusion Assessment Record. Dr. Drawbridge noted that there were no



CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Section 17b-2(8) of the Connecticut General Statures states that the Department of Social Services is designated as the state agency for the administration of the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act.
- 2. State regulations provide that orthodontic services for services provided for individuals less than 21 years of age will be paid for when provided by a qualified dentist and deemed medically necessary as described in these regulations. [Conn. Agencies Regs. §17-134d-35(a)]
- 3. For the purposes of the administration of the medical assistance programs by the Department, "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. 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. [Sec. 17b-282e of the Supplement to the General Statutes]

- 5. State regulations provide that the study models submitted for prior authorization must clearly show the occlusal deviations and support the total point score of the preliminary assessment. [Conn. Agencies Regs. §17-134d-35(f)]
- 6. BeneCare correctly determined that did not have a deviation of such severity that it would cause irreversible damage to the teeth and underlying structures if left untreated.
- 7. BeneCare was correct when it determined that orthodontia was not medically necessary for and denied the prior authorization for braces.

DISCUSSION

The Appellant testified that	provider was insistent that needed
orthodontia and that she appeal the	CTDHP denial. However, the provider did
not score teeth to the requis	site 26 points and did not offer any evidence
as to why braces should be approved	I in spite of not meeting the level defined in
the law as medically necessary. The	Appellant testified that her dentist referred
to a previous threshold as to why the	• •
case is bound by the law as it exists in	•
	and testified that based on her experience,
•	issues could escalate. Again, the law only
	hey are found to be medically necessary at
this time.	
•	CTDHP had received photographs from
<u> </u>	ts indicated that models and X-Rays had
	eth. Although Dr. Fazzino testified that
. • .	ort the models and Xrays, the undersigned
	ded the photographs as well as the models
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	er position that the pictures were worth a
	ch included the photographs, the result was
the same, braces are not medically no	ecessary for at this time.

DECISION

The Appellant's appeal is **DENIED**.

Maureen Foley-Roy 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 <u>specific</u> 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 Administrative Hearings and Appeals, 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 the Commissioner's 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.