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 # 829824

NOTICE OF DECISION PARTY



PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On 2017, BeneCare Dental Health Plans ("BeneCare de Care (the "Appellant") a Notice of Action ("NOA") denying a authorization of orthodontia for the Appellant's child, informed the Appellant that orthodontia for was not rebecause the severity of malocclusion did not meet state statute and regulations for medical necessity.	request for prior The NOA nedically necessary
On 2017, the Appellant requested an administrative the Department's denial of prior authorization of orthodontia.	
On 2017, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulation Hearings ("OLCRAH") issued a notice scheduling the admit 2017.	

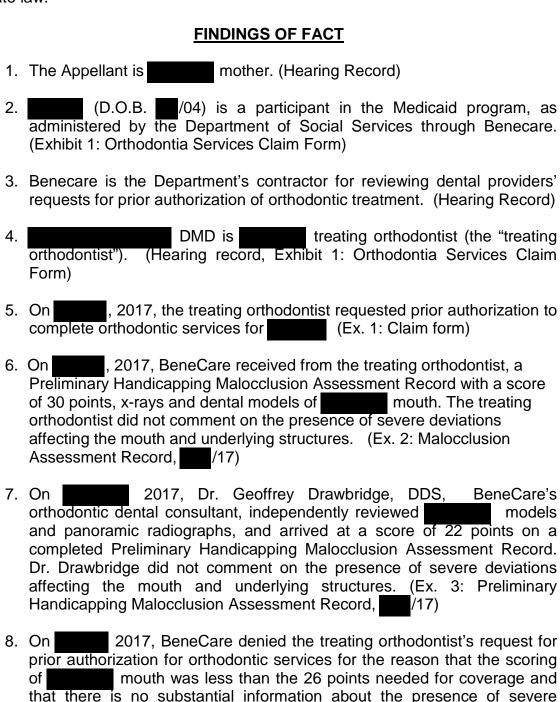
On 2017, in accordance with sections 17b-60, 17b-61 and 4-176e to 4-189, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, OLCRAH held an administrative hearing.

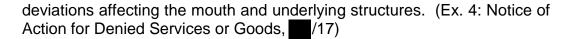
The following individuals were present at the hearing:

, Appellant , for the Appellant Rosario Monteza, BeneCare's Representative Dr. Greg Johnson, BeneCare's Clinical Consultant Thomas Monahan, Hearing Officer

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue is whether BeneCare's denial of prior authorization through the Medicaid program for orthodontic services was in accordance with state law.





- 9. On the denial of braces for (Ex. 5: Hearing request)
- 10. On 2017, Dr. Robert Gange, DDS, a Benecare dental consultant, reviewed models and panoramic radiographs and arrived at a score of 23 points on a completed Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record. Dr. Gange did not comment on the presence of severe deviations affecting the mouth and underlying structures. (Ex. 6: Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record, 17)
- 11. On ______, 2017, BeneCare notified the Appellant that _____ score of 23 points did not meet the criteria for orthodontic treatment. (Ex. 7: Letter Regarding Orthodontic Services, _____/17)
- 12. On 2017, Dr. Vincent Fazzino, DMD, a Benecare dental consultant, reviewed 2017, models, panoramic radiographs and photographs and arrived at a score of 23 points on a completed Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record. Dr. Fazzino found no presence of severe deviations affecting the mouth and underlying structures. (Ex. 6: Preliminary Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment Record, 2017)
- 13. is not being treated by a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist for related mental emotional or behavior problems, disturbances or dysfunctions. (Appellant's testimony)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. State statute provides that the Department may make such regulations as are necessary to administer the medical assistance program. [Conn. Gen. Stat. §17b-262]
- 2. State regulations provide that orthodontic 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)]
- Conn. Gen. Stat.§ 17b-259b provides (a) 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.

- 4. Section 17b-282e of the Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes states that "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."
- 5. State regulations provides, in relevant part as follows; the Department shall consider additional information of a substantial nature about the presence of severe mental, emotional, and/or behavior problems, disturbances or dysfunctions, as defined in the most current edition of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association, and which may be caused by the recipient's daily functioning. The Department will only consider cases where a diagnostic evaluation has been performed by a licensed psychiatrist or licensed psychologist who has accordingly limited his practice to child psychiatry or child psychology. The evaluation must clearly and substantially document how the dentofacial deformity is related to the

child's mental, emotional, and/or behavior problems, and the orthodontic treatment is necessary, and, in this case, will significantly ameliorate the problems. [Conn. Agencies Regs. §17-134d-35(e)(2)]

- 6. 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)]
- 7. In case the study models submitted for prior authorization do not meet the requirement of a 26 point score on the preliminary assessment. There is no presence of severe deviations affecting the mouth and underlying structures.
- 8. In case, a licensed psychiatrist or licensed psychologist who has limited his or her practice to child psychiatry or child psychology has not recommended that the child receive orthodontic treatment to significantly ameliorate her child's mental, emotional, and or behavior problems, disturbances or dysfunctions.
- 9. BeneCare was correct to deny prior authorization because does not meet the medical necessity criteria for orthodontic services, in accordance with state statutes and regulations.

DECISION

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

Thomas Monahan
Thomas Monahan
Hearing Officer

Pc: Diane D'Ambrosio, Connecticut Dental Health Partnership Rita LaRosa, Connecticut Dental Health Partnership

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 060105-3725.

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 06105-3725. 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.