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

2018
Signature confirmation

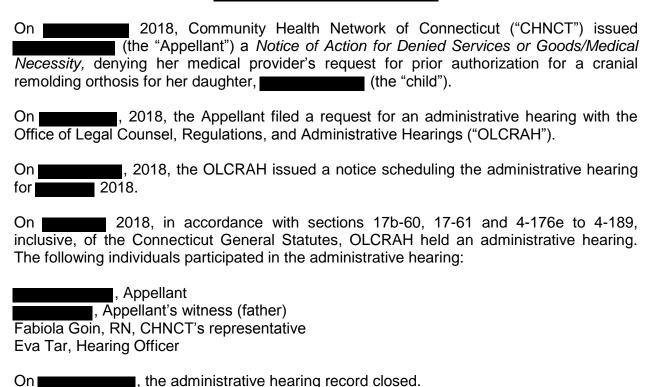
Case	
Client:	
Request:	

NOTICE OF DECISION

PARTY



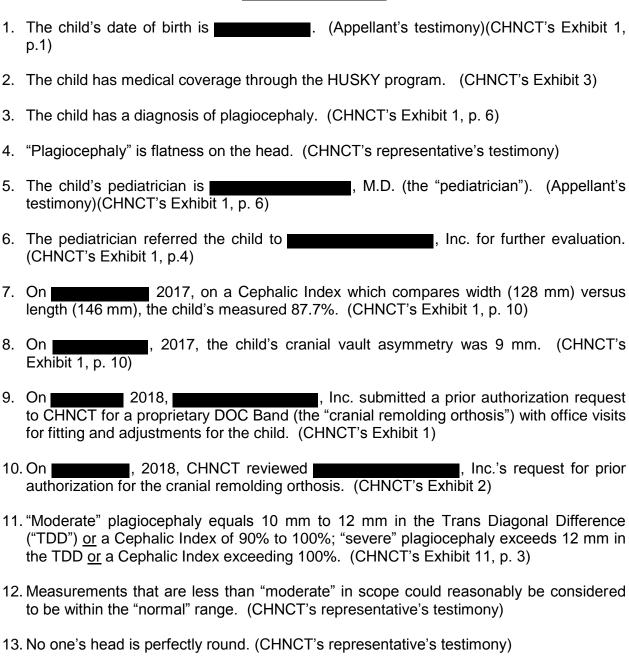
PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND



STATEMENT OF ISSUE

The issue of this hearing is whether CHNCT correctly denied the Appellant's medical provider's request for prior authorization for a cranial remolding orthosis for the child, based on lack of medical necessity.

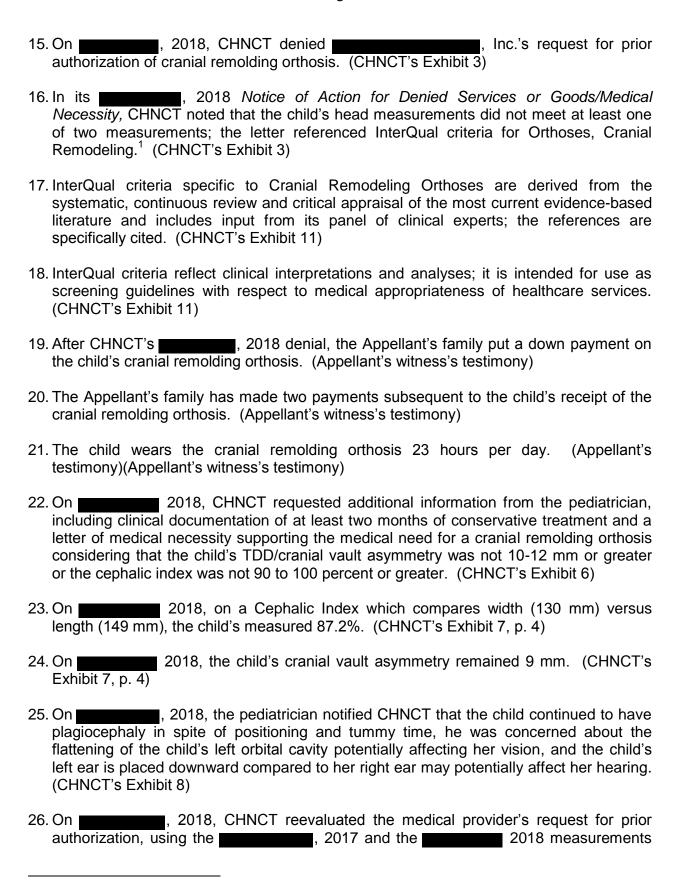
FINDINGS OF FACT



14. The child's Cephalic Index measurement of 87.7% and her TDD of 9 mm as identified in

moderate to severe plagiocephaly. (CHNCT's Exhibit 2)

2018 prior authorization request did not establish that the child had



¹ The terms "cranial remolding" and "cranial remodeling" are used interchangeably in CHNCT's exhibits.

as well as the pediatrician's notes. (CHNCT's Exhibit 10)(CHNCT's representative's testimony)

- 27. Prior to _____, CHNCT was unaware that the child already was using a cranial remolding orthosis. (CHNCT's representative's testimony)
- 28. The Appellant's witness would like the Medicaid program to take over the family's loan payments for the cranial remolding orthosis. (Appellant's witness's testimony)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- Section 17b-2 of the Connecticut General Statutes in part designates the Department of Social Services as the state agency to administer the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act.
- 2. Section 17b-262 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides in part that the Commissioner of Social Services may make such regulations as are necessary to administer the medical assistance program.
- 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).
- The InterQual guidelines regarding cranial remodeling orthosis are consistent with generally accepted standards of medical practice that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community.

- 6. Upon denial of a request for authorization of services based on medical necessity, the individual shall be notified that, upon request, the Department of Social Services shall provide a copy of the specific guideline or criteria, or portion thereof, other than the medical necessity definition provided in subsection (a) of this section, that was considered by the department or an entity acting on behalf of the department in making the determination of medical necessity. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-259b (c).
- 7. The department shall not pay for the following goods or services or goods or services related to the following: (12) Any procedures or services of an unproven, educational, social, research, experimental or cosmetic nature; any diagnostic, therapeutic or treatment services in excess of those deemed medically necessary by the department to treat the client's condition or services not directly related to the client's diagnosis, symptoms or medical history. Conn. Agencies Regs. § 17b-262-342 (12).
- 8. The child's cranial measurements do not support a finding that a cranial remolding orthosis is medically necessary, as the child's cranial measurements do not objectively fall within the clinical determination of "moderate" to "severe" plagiocephaly, as outlined in the InterQual guidelines.
- 9. The shape of the child's left orbital cavity is not affecting her vision.
- 10. The alignment of the child's ears is not affecting her hearing.
- 11. The cranial remolding orthosis is not medically necessary for the child.
- 12. CHNCT correctly denied the Appellant's medical provider's request for prior authorization for a cranial remolding orthosis for the child, based on lack of medical necessity.

DECISION

The Appellant's appeal is DENIED.

<u>Cva Tar-electronic</u> signature Eva Tar Hearing Officer

cc: Fabiola Goin, CHNCT Fatmata Williams, DSS-Central Office

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 <u>what</u> error of fact or law, <u>what</u> new evidence, or <u>what</u> 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.