

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

[REDACTED], 2018
Signature Confirmation

Case ID # [REDACTED]
Client ID # [REDACTED]
Request # [REDACTED]

NOTICE OF DISMISSAL

[REDACTED]

On [REDACTED], 2017, the Department of Social Services, (the "Department") through its medical Administrative Services Organization, Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc. ("CHNCT"), sent [REDACTED] (the "Appellant") a Notice of Action ("NOA") denying the prior authorization request for bilateral brachioplasty.

On [REDACTED] 2017, the Appellant requested an administrative hearing to contest the Department's decision to deny such benefit.

On [REDACTED] 2017, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings ("OLCRAH") issued a notice scheduling the administrative hearing for [REDACTED], 2017.

The Appellant requested that the administrative hearing be rescheduled. On [REDACTED] 2017, OLCRAH issued a notice rescheduling the administrative hearing for [REDACTED], 2017.

On [REDACTED], 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:

[REDACTED], Appellant
Robin Goss, CHNCT Representative
Carla Hardy, Hearing Officer

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue to be decided is whether CHNCT's decision to deny the Appellant's prior authorization request for bilateral brachioplasty was in accordance with state and federal law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On [REDACTED], 2017, the Department denied the Appellant's authorization request for bilateral brachioplasty. The denial was based upon lack of medical necessity. (Exhibit 4: Notice of Action dated [REDACTED] 17)
2. On [REDACTED] 2017, the Appellant requested an administrative hearing to contest the Department's decision to deny coverage of services. (Exhibit 5: Administrative Hearing Request dated [REDACTED]/17)
3. On [REDACTED] 2017, CHNCT sent the appeal for Medical Review. (Exhibit 18 : Medical Review Request)
4. On [REDACTED] 2018, the Medical Review was completed.
5. As a result of the Medical Review, CHNCT approved the bilateral brachioplasty and the denial was overturned. CHNCT's decision to approve the Appellant's means there has been no "action" taken to deny covered under the HUSKY program. (Hearing Record; Exhibit 21: Appeal Review, dated [REDACTED] 18)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Section 17b-2 & 17b-262 of the Connecticut General Statutes designates that the Department is the state agency for the administration of the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and may make such regulations as are necessary to administer the medical assistance program.
2. Uniform Policy Manual ("UPM") § 1570.25 (c)(2)(k) provides that the Fair Hearing Official renders a Fair Hearing decision in the name of the Department, in accordance with the Department's policies and regulations. The Fair Hearing decision is intended to resolve the dispute.

UPM § 1570.25(F)(1) provides that the Department must consider several types of issues at an administrative hearing, including the following:

- a. eligibility for benefits in both initial and subsequent determinations

The Department has approved the Appellant's request for bilateral brachioplasty. Thus, the Appellant has not experienced any loss of benefits.

The Appellant's hearing issue has been resolved, therefore, there is no issue on which to rule. "When the actions of the parties themselves cause a settling of their differences, a case becomes moot." McDonnell v. Maher, 3 Conn. App. 336 (Conn. App. 1985), citing, Heitmuller v. Stokes, 256 U.S. 359, 362-3, 41 S.Ct. 522, 523-24, 65 L.Ed. 990 (1921). The service which the Appellant had originally requested has been approved; there is no practical relief that can be afforded through an administrative hearing.

DECISION

The Appellant's appeal is Dismissed as moot.


Carla Hardy
Hearing Officer

cc: CHNCT

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 Administrative Hearings and Appeals, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105-3725.

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. 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.