



FH

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

DECISION

MPA/144285

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed October 03, 2012, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability in regard to Medical Assistance, a hearing was held on October 31, 2012, at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the Department erred in its denial of PA request [REDACTED] for orthodontic work.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Robert Dwyer, DDS (in writing)
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
1 West Wilson Street, Room 272
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53707-0309

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

John P. Tedesco
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a resident of Portage County.

2. Petitioner's provider submitted a prior authorization request for orthodontic work on or around August 27, 2012.
3. Petitioner's Salzman score is 25.
4. The Department denied the PA request by letter to petitioner on August 28, 2012.
5. Petitioner filed a timely appeal.

DISCUSSION

Orthodontia is not an MA-covered service. Wis. Adm. Code, §DHS 107.07(4)(j). However, medical services provided to recipients under age 21 pursuant to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) must be covered if the EPSDT health assessment and evaluation indicates that they are needed. 42 C.F.R. §441.56(c); Wis. Adm. Code, §DHS 107.22(4). Prior authorization is granted when the generic authorization criteria at §DHS 107.02(3) are met. Those criteria include the requirement of medical necessity. The DHCAA has defined medical necessity in its policy document, the Prior Authorization Guidelines Manual, page 125.004.03. The Manual requires a Salzman Index score of 30, or the documentation of unusual circumstances that make the recipient's malocclusion handicapping. See also the MA Providers Handbook, Part B, Appendix B118.

The Salzman score is a rating of the person's dental malocclusion, that is, how far from normal occlusion the person's teeth are. Petitioner's Salzman score, as determined by the DHCAA dental consultant, is 25. Extenuating circumstances could be that, despite a low Salzman, the malocclusion causes the person to have unusual difficulty eating or speaking, or the person has documented psychological problems caused by the abnormal occlusion.

I note that petitioner's mother's request for hearing does touch on certain medical issues that could be extenuating circumstances. But, I also note that petitioner's physician questions the procedure proposed by the provider seeking the PA (see exhibit #3). Petitioner's physician recommends a second opinion with consideration of a different approach than the procedure proposed in this PA. It seems that this physician himself questions the appropriateness of the proposed procedure.

There are essentially two means to determine that a request should be granted when the DHCAA determines a Salzman score to be below 30. One way would be to provide evidence and argue that the Salzman score actually is 30 or above. The other way is to provide evidence of extenuating circumstances.

There is no evidence that the DHCAA's determination of the Salzman score was incorrect. Petitioner does not allege any error in the consultant's determination of the Salzman score. There was no assertion by petitioner that there are any extenuating circumstances. Without any documentation from the provider showing extenuating circumstances or an error by the consultant in determination of the Salzman score, I cannot reverse the DHCAA's denial.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Department did not err in denying the PA based on the documentation submitted

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That this appeal is dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

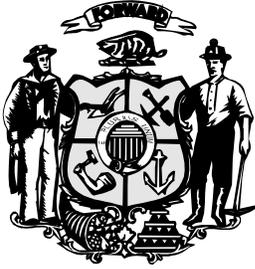
You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 11th day of December, 2012

\sJohn P. Tedesco
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on December 11, 2012.

Division of Health Care Access And Accountability