



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

DECISION

HMO/154395

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed December 20, 2013, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5)(a), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03, to review a decision by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability in regard to Medical Assistance, a hearing was held on February 06, 2014, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the agency properly denied Petitioner’s prior authorization (PA) request for orthodontia.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]

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Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Meri DeGarmo, Nurse Consultant
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
Madison, WI

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Debra Bursinger
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. Petitioner is 12 years old.

3. On January 8, 2014, the agency reviewed dental records and x-rays of the Petitioner and assessed the Petitioner using the Salzman Evaluation Index. A score of 27 was assessed.
4. On January 9, 2014, the agency informed the Petitioner of the denial.
5. The Petitioner filed an appeal with the Division of Hearings and Appeals.

DISCUSSION

Medical assistance covers orthodontia if the recipient obtains prior authorization. To receive authorization, a service must be medically necessary rather than merely socially desirable or cosmetic. Wis. Admin. Code, § DHS 107.02(3)(e). The Division of Health Care Access and Accountability uses the Salzman Index, which measures the crookedness of teeth (referred to as a malocclusion), as the first step in determining whether orthodontia is medically necessary. It automatically approves requests where the score is 30 or greater; if the score falls below 30, it denies the request unless it contains documentation of extenuating circumstances. See MA Provider Handbook, p. B5.2-070.

The Petitioner's mother testified on her behalf at the hearing. She stated that the Petitioner has a tooth that has grown in sideways and her teeth are crowded and overlapping. She notes that the Petitioner's mouth bleeds often when brushing and that her teeth rub on the inside of the Petitioner's mouth. She stated that the Petitioner does not require any pain killers and does not have any difficulty with eating.

I conclude that there is no evidence of extenuating circumstances that demonstrate the services are medically necessary at this time. This decision does not prohibit the Petitioner from making a new request if circumstances change. Based on the evidence presented at this time, the agency properly denied the request based on a Salzman score of 27.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The agency properly denied the request based on a Salzman score of 27.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the Petitioner's 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, Room 651, 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 Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 28th day of March, 2014

\sDebra Bursinger
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 March 28, 2014.

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability