



State of West Virginia  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
Office of Inspector General  
Board of Review  
203 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Williamson, WV 25661

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary

February 2, 2011

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Dear -----:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your hearing held January 4, 2011. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' denial of Medicaid authorization for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) test of the foot.

In arriving at a decision, the State Hearing Officer is governed by the Public Welfare Laws of West Virginia and the rules and regulations established by the Department of Health and Human Resources. These same laws and regulations are used in all cases to assure that all persons are treated alike.

Eligibility for Medicaid services is based on current policy and regulations. Some of these regulations state that prior authorization (PA) is required on all outpatient radiological services that include an MRI. Failure to obtain prior authorization will result in denial of the service. The 2008 – Imaging Criteria found on InterQual Smart Sheet is used to determine the medical appropriateness of health care services. If the individual fails to meet the clinical indications criteria during the nurse's review, the request is forwarded to a physician reviewer to determine medical appropriateness. (WVDHHR Medicaid Policy Manual, Chapter 510, and InterQual Smart Sheets 2008 – Imaging Criteria)

The information presented at your hearing reveals that prior authorization for payment of an MRI of the foot was not approved because the information your physician submitted does not meet the InterQual initial clinical indications criteria and there was insufficient documentation for the physician reviewer to determine medical appropriateness.

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the action of the Department to deny Medicaid authorization for an MRI.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Baisden  
State Hearing Officer  
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika Young, Chairman, Board of Review  
Amy Workman, WV Bureau of Medical Service

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES  
BOARD OF REVIEW**

-----,

**Claimant**

**v.**

**Action Number(s): 10-BOR-2213**

**West Virginia Department of  
Health and Human Resources,**

**Respondent**

**DECISION OF STATE HEARING OFFICER**

**I. INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report of the State Hearing Officer resulting from a fair hearing concluded on February 2, 2011 for -----. This hearing was held in accordance with the provisions found in the Common Chapters Manual, Chapter 700 of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. This hearing was held by telephone conference call on January 4, 2011 on a timely appeal filed November 1, 2010.

**II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:**

The 1965 Amendments to the Social Security Act established, under Title XIX, a Federal-State medical assistance program commonly known as Medicaid. The Department of Health and Human Resources administers the Medicaid Program in West Virginia in accordance with Federal Regulations. The Bureau for Medical Services is responsible for development of regulations to implement Federal and State requirements for the program. The Department of Health and Human Resources processes claims for reimbursements to providers participating in the program.

**III. PARTICIPANTS:**

-----, Claimant

Stacy Hanshaw, Bureau for Medical Services, Department's Representative  
Paula McComas, RN, West Virginia Medical Institute, Department's Witness

Presiding at the hearing was Stephen M. Baisden, State Hearing Officer and a member of the State Board of Review.

The Hearing Officer placed all participants under oath at the beginning of the hearing.

#### **IV. QUESTION TO BE DECIDED**

The question to be decided is whether the Department was correct in its decision to deny Medicaid payment for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) examination of Claimant's foot.

#### **V. APPLICABLE POLICY:**

WVDHHR Medicaid Policy Manual, Chapter 510, Chapter 528 and InterQual Smart Sheets 2009 - Imaging Criteria.

#### **VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:**

##### **Department's Exhibits:**

D-1 WV DHHR Medicaid Hospital Services Provider Manual Chapter 528

D-2 InterQual Smart Sheets – 2010 Imaging Criteria

D-3 WVMi Medicaid Imaging Authorization Request form from [REDACTED] DPM, dated October 18, 2010

D-4 Notices of Denial from WV Medical Institute (WVMi) dated October 25, 2010

#### **VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- 1) WV DHHR Medicaid Hospital Services Provider Manual Chapter 512.14 states in part:

Effective 10/01/05, prior authorization will be required on all outpatient radiological services that include Computerized Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Positron Emission Tomography Scans (PET), and Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography (MRCP). Prior authorization requirements governing the provisions of all West Virginia Medicaid services will apply pursuant to Chapter 300 General Provider Participation Requirements, provider manual.

- 2) WV DHHR Medicaid Hospital Services Provider Manual Chapter 528.7 (Exhibit D-1) states in part:

For radiology services requiring prior authorization for medical necessity by the Utilization Management Contractor (UMC), the referring/treating provider must submit the appropriate CPT code with clinical documentation and any other pertinent information to be used for clinical justification of services by the UMC. The information must be provided to the UMC, and the prior authorization granted, prior to services being rendered. Prior authorization requests for radiological services must be submitted within the timeframe required by the UMC.

- 3) WV DHHR Medicaid Hospital Services Provider Manual Chapter 320. 3 states in part:

Various in-state and out-of-state services (for example, but not limited to, hospital inpatient care, nursing facility services, etc.) covered by the WV Medicaid Program must be approved in advance before payment can be made. Pre-service review and prior authorization may be required to initiate treatment or extend treatment beyond the amount, scope, or duration that is routinely allowed or was originally approved. It is the responsibility of the provider of the service to secure prior approval before rendering the service.

...

The provider must submit written documentation demonstrating the medical necessity and appropriateness of the proposed treatment.

- 4) Claimant's podiatrist, [REDACTED] DPM, submitted a Medicaid Authorization Request Form (Exhibit D-3) to the West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) on October 18, 2010, requesting pre-authorization for imaging services, an MRI of the left foot. Item B of the request form, labeled "Imaging Study Requested," asks the medical professional to enter the name and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code for the requested imaging study. The person who completed this form has entered "Left Foot MRI" with CPT code number 73718 and ICD-9-CM code number 726.90. Item D of the request form, labeled "Clinical Reasons for Study" states, "pain – lateral 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal base – pain with resisted eversion – pain sharp hurts most when walking." At Item E, "Previous Relative Diagnostic Studies," it is written, "X-rays, 3 views left foot – negative." At Item F, "Related Medications, Treatments and Therapies," it is written, "Naprosyn – Traumeel injection x 3."
- 5) Based on the information from the physician's Medicaid Authorization Request Form, the WVMI reviewer completed an imaging criteria screening form, known as InterQual Smart Sheets. (Exhibit D-2.) The nurse reviewer found that there was insufficient information to approve the request. Claimant's Pre-Authorization request was forwarded to WVMI's physician reviewer, who denied the request for services.
- 6) WVMI sent Notices of Denial (Exhibit D-4) to the Claimant and her physician on October 25, 2010. The notices state in pertinent part:

Reason for Denial:

The information provided did not meet the clinical indications for the requested study. There was no information provided regarding the duration of the failed trial of conservative treatment with NSAIDs [non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs]. Therefore, Interqual criteria was not met.

- 7) Department's witness testified that there was no documentation on the Pre-Authorization Request for the nurse reviewer to determine which indication the MRI was intended to address. She testified that there was no documentation of a failed trial of conservative treatment with NSAIDs. She added that the Medical Authorization Request form (Exhibit D-3) indicated at Item #F that naprosyn was administered and that naprosyn is an NSAID, but it did not indicate the duration of time the drug was administered, nor did it indicate the results of its use.
- 8) Claimant testified that her problems began when she thought she sprained her foot. She stated that she went to see a podiatrist, who prescribed a series of injections. She stated that during the course of these injections, she went to see her general physician because she pulled a muscle in her back. She stated that she saw the physician's nurse practitioner, who prescribed naprosyn twice per day, and at the time of the MRI request, she had been taking naprosyn about thirty days. Department's witness interjected that this information was not documented and that it could have made a substantial difference in Claimant's MRI request if it would have been noted on the preauthorization form. Claimant testified that the pain in her foot was very intense. She added that she lives on the second floor of an apartment building, and she can barely go up and down the stairs to her residence. She stated that the pain in her foot greatly interferes with her activities of daily living. Claimant provided no substantive rebuttal to the Department's testimony or evidence.

#### **VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

- 1) Policy requires pre-authorization of Medicaid coverage for MRI examinations.
- 2) The nurse reviewer at the WVMI completed InterQual Smart Sheets to evaluate the merits of the request by Claimant's physician for an MRI of the left foot, and determined that there was insufficient medical information for her to approve the MRI. She forwarded the request to WVMI's physician reviewer, who issued a denial of the requested imaging service.
- 3) The physician's pre-authorization request and attached additional information did not provide enough information required for the reviewer to approve the MRI. It did not document the duration of time in which NSAIDs were attempted.
- 4) The medical evidence submitted by the Claimant's physician failed to meet prior authorization criteria; therefore, the Department acted correctly in denying the Claimant's request for Medicaid payment of an MRI examination of the left foot.

#### **IX. DECISION:**

It is the ruling of the State Hearing Officer to **uphold** the Department's decision to deny the request by Claimant's physician for an MRI of the foot.

**X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:**

See Attachment

**XI. ATTACHMENTS:**

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

**ENTERED this 2nd Day of February, 2011.**

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**Stephen M. Baisden  
State Hearing Officer**