

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909  
(877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 373-4147

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Docket No.** 2013-20197 QHP  
**Case No.** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED],

**Appellant**

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**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq.*, upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Appellant appeared without representation. She had no witnesses. [REDACTED], Medicaid manager, represented the Medicaid Health Plan (MHP) Priority Health. He had no witnesses.

**ISSUE**

Did the Medicaid Health Plan properly deny Appellant's request for Enbrel Sure Click Injections?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The Appellant is a [REDACTED]-year-old Medicaid beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant is afflicted with plaque psoriasis. (See Testimony and Respondent's Exhibit A, - throughout and Appellant's Exhibit #1)
3. Her physician, [REDACTED], on [REDACTED], sought approval for Enbrel SureClick 50mg/mL (0.98 mL) Sub-Q Pen Injector. The request was reviewed by the MHP Pharmacist and denied. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pp. 3, 8- 15)
4. The request was denied for lack of meeting the MHP's drug coverage criteria which, for the treatment of plaque psoriasis, requires documentation of therapeutic try-fail systemic therapies; azathioprine, Neoral, Methotrexate, cyclosporine and Soriatane. The PA did not demonstrate such a try-fail course. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pp. 3, 10)

5. A representative from the Appellant's physician's office told the MHP reviewers that [their] "...patient is of child bearing age and wants to have another child and will not take birth control pills while on teratogenic product. I explained that the US Box warning is: Use of Methotrexate [sic] is contraindicated for the treatment of psoriasis or RA in pregnant women. Pregnancy should be excluded prior to therapy in women of child bearing potential. Pregnancy should be avoided for greater than or equal to 3 months... and for greater or equal to 1 ovulatory cycle in female patients..." (Respondent's Exhibit A, p. 9)
6. The Appellant and her physician were notified of the denial on [REDACTED]. Her further appeal rights were explained therein. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pp. 3, 17-19)
7. The Respondent MHP witness explained the try-fail requirement – including its exception policy. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pp. 29-32)
8. The Appellant's position was that she did not want to go on birth control because Methotrexate is contraindicated for treatment of psoriasis in pregnant women. (See Testimony, Respondent's Exhibit A, p. 9 and Appellant's Exhibit #1)
9. The instant request for hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System on [REDACTED]. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance Program is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

On May 30, 1997, the Department received approval from the Health Care Financing Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, allowing Michigan to restrict Medicaid beneficiaries' choice to obtain medical services only from specified Medicaid Health Plans.

The Respondent Health Plan of Michigan is one of those Medicaid Health Plans.

The covered services that the Contractor has available for enrollees must include, at a minimum, the covered services listed below. The Contractor may limit services to those which are medically necessary and appropriate, and which conform to professionally accepted standards of care. The Contractor must operate consistent with all applicable

Medicaid provider manuals and publications for coverages and limitations. If new services are added to the Michigan Medicaid Program, or if services are expanded, eliminated, or otherwise changed, the Contractor must implement the changes consistent with State direction in accordance with the provisions of Contract Section 2.024.

Although the Contractor must provide the full range of covered services listed below they may choose to provide services over and above those specified. The covered services provided to enrollees under this Contract include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ambulance and other emergency medical transportation
- Blood lead testing in accordance with Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) policy
- Certified nurse midwife services
- Certified pediatric and family nurse practitioner services
- Chiropractic services
- Diagnostic lab, x-ray and other imaging services
- Durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies
- Emergency services
- End Stage Renal Disease services
- Family planning services (e.g., examination, sterilization procedures, limited infertility screening, and diagnosis)
- Health education
- Hearing and speech services
- Hearing aids
- Home Health services
- Hospice services (if requested by the enrollee)
- Immunizations
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services
- Intermittent or short-term restorative or rehabilitative services (in a nursing facility), up to 45 days
- Restorative or rehabilitative services (in a place of service other than a nursing facility)
- Medically necessary weight reduction services
- Mental health care – maximum of 20 outpatient visits per calendar year
- Out-of-state services authorized by the Contractor
- Outreach for included services, especially pregnancy-related and Well child care

- Parenting and birthing classes
- Pharmacy services
- Podiatry services
- Practitioners' services (such as those provided by physicians, optometrists and dentists enrolled as a Medicaid Provider Type 10)
- Prosthetics and orthotics
- Tobacco cessation treatment including pharmaceutical and behavioral support
- Therapies (speech, language, physical, occupational) excluding services provided to persons with development disabilities which are billed through Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) providers or Intermediate School Districts.
- Transplant services
- Transportation for medically necessary covered services
- Treatment for sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- Vision services
- Well child/EPSTD for persons under age 21

Article 1.020 Scope of [Services],  
at §1.022 E (1) contract, 2010, p. 22.

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#### Utilization Management

(1) The major components of the Contractor's utilization management (UM) program must encompass, at a minimum, the following:

- Written policies with review decision criteria and procedures that conform to managed health care industry standards and processes.
- A formal utilization review committee directed by the Contractor's medical director to oversee the utilization review process.
- Sufficient resources to regularly review the effectiveness of the utilization review process and to make changes to the process as needed.
- An annual review and reporting of utilization review activities and outcomes/interventions from the review.
- The UM activities of the Contractor must be integrated with the Contractor's QAPI program.

- (2) Prior Approval Policy and Procedure  
The Contractor must establish and use a written prior approval policy and procedure for UM purposes. The Contractor may not use such policies and procedures to avoid providing medically necessary services within the coverages established under the Contract. The policy must ensure that the review criteria for authorization decisions are applied consistently and require that the reviewer consult with the requesting provider when appropriate. The policy must also require that UM decisions be made by a health care professional who has appropriate clinical expertise regarding the service under review.

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Contract, *Supra*, at page 49.

The MHP witness [REDACTED] testified that the Appellant failed to meet plan requirements for approval of the requested drug – Enbrel SureClick - for lack of completing a try-fail program of alternative therapies.

Respondent's witness testified that the MHP would reconsider its denial of Enbrel SureClick once a try-fail of systemic therapy has failed.

The Appellant testified that that she did not want to go on birth control medication<sup>1</sup> and that she has tried "everything else." She said she wants the chance to have a baby.

The Appellant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of evidence that the requested medication was both medically necessary – and that she completed or gave good effort at meeting the health plan's try-fail requirement.

The MHP established in its PA review and testimony that Appellant did not demonstrate completion of try-fail of alternative medications.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Respondent health plan properly denied the Appellant's request for Enbrel SureClick injection therapy – absent completion of a try-fail systemic therapy.

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<sup>1</sup> See Finding of Fact #5. The Appellant should seek the advice of her PCP for alternate methods of contraception and timing of psoriasis treatment.

