

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1617-0616

The appellant appealed that the appellant was denied the appellant's request for <medical condition removed> physiotherapy.

The program representative stated that they received a letter from the appellant's doctor dated <date removed> along with a letter from <name removed> Clinic stating that the appellant was referred there by the appellant's doctor to be assessed and treated for <medical condition removed>. The program denied the request and sent a letter to the appellant on <date removed> advising that the Department does not cover the cost of physiotherapy services provided by private clinics. After consulting with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the program specialist, the program made an exception on <date removed> and four private physiotherapy sessions at <name removed> Physiotherapy were approved. The program felt four sessions should be sufficient stating they do not regard <health condition removed> physiotherapy as a basic and essential health service. The program only provides for medical needs that are covered through Manitoba Health. The appellant receives the additional disability allowance which provides additional funds to cover costs related to a person's disability that are not covered by the program, and was advised to use those funds towards the appellant's treatments.

The appellant attended the hearing with the appellant's parent. The parent advised that only two of the four treatments provided were direct <health condition removed> physiotherapy which is an <text removed>. The first two sessions were assessments and a physical exam. In a letter dated <date removed> the doctor advised that with only two actual treatments it is far too early to notice any changes. The program wanted a guarantee that this form of treatment will be successful for the appellant, in order to consider covering it. The appellant stated that as with any form of medical treatment, there are no guarantees; however the doctor is very optimistic that this is the best treatment plan for the appellant. The appellant's surgeon will not proceed with the proposed surgical correction without this therapy.

The appellant advised that the appellant suffers from <health condition removed>. <Text removed> have completely <text removed> and the appellant has <text removed>. The appellant had to purchase an appliance required to support the treatments that were provided. The appellant's doctors advised there was no benefit for the appellant to purchase this appliance for only four treatments with no hope of further physiotherapy treatments.

The appellant has had several past surgeries which were unsuccessful as the physiotherapy treatments were not done prior to the surgery. The appellant's doctor recommends <health condition removed> physiotherapy which requires very

specialized, experienced physiotherapists using the Tens electronic therapy. The appellant stated that these conditions affect the appellant's daily health and well being as the appellant experiences chronic pain, discomfort, <text removed> on a regular basis which is causing the appellant to become increasingly depressed and anxious. The appellant also shared that the appellant is afraid to leave home and to go out in public.

After carefully considering all the written and verbal information the Board was convinced that the letters from the appellant's doctor, which the Board found to be very thorough, outline the appellant's conditions, history and treatment plan required. The program approved up to a maximum of four sessions and determined that should be sufficient. The doctor stated that it seems to be quite arbitrary to decide to fund only four sessions, which is completely inadequate for this specialised treatment which is medically needed and urgent for the appellant. In accordance with Schedule A Division 3 of The Manitoba Assistance Regulations, Section 9 - Health Care, the Board believes the Director has the authority to grant <health condition removed> physiotherapy as remedial care and treatment as long as required.

- 9(e) :
- e) such other remedial care, treatment and attention including physiotherapy as may be prescribed by a duly qualified medical practitioner;

Finally, while physiotherapy is an insured service under Manitoba Health, the provision of <health condition removed> physiotherapy is not an option in Manitoba hospitals because it is not covered by Manitoba Health. Therefore the Board has rescinded the decision of the Director and orders the program to authorize coverage of specialized <health condition removed> physiotherapy two times a week for six months and reassessed every eight weeks as recommended by the doctor.

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