

Office of Medicaid BOARD OF HEARINGS

Appellant Name and Address:



Appeal Decision:	Dismissed	Appeal Number:	2300256
Decision Date:	3/7/2023	Hearing Date:	02/13/2023
Hearing Officer:	Alexis Demirjian	Record Open to:	03/06/2023

Appearance for Appellant:



Appearance for MassHealth:

Dr. Harold Kaplan



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
Board of Hearings
100 Hancock Street, Quincy, Massachusetts 02171*

APPEAL DECISION

Appeal Decision:	Dismissed	Issue:	Prior Authorization-Orthodontics
Decision Date:	3/7/2023	Hearing Date:	02/13/2023
MassHealth's Rep.:	Dr. Kaplan	Appellant's Rep.:	
Hearing Location:	Quincy Harbor South 2	Aid Pending:	No

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 118E, Chapter 30A, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The issue on appeal involved a denial of the appellant's prior authorization for orthodontics. The appellant's mother testified that the appellant was receiving speech and language services and that orthodontic treatment is a medical necessity. The appellant's mother requested a record open period to submit documentation in support of her argument.

On Friday, March 3, 2023, the appellant's mother submitted a letter from the appellant's supervising speech-language pathologist who is responsible for the appellant's weekly therapeutic intervention to treat speech delay and communication delay. The speech pathologist opined in her professional opinion comprehensive orthodontic treatment is medically necessary to treat the appellant's handicapping malocclusion due to the appellant's diagnosis of speech/articulation delay and communication delay, decreased oral motor strength and range of motion, significantly high palatal vault/arch with decreased intraoral pressure, decreased diadochokinetic rate, decreased lingual strength, lateralization and elevation, decreased facial muscle strength and range of motion, and significant malocclusion.

Dr. Kaplan promptly reviewed the documentation and notified the Hearing Officer and DentaQuest that he had evaluated the letter submitted by the appellant's speech pathologist and was overturning the denial. Dr. Kaplan based his decision to overturn the denial on the professional opinion of the speech pathologist who opined that comprehensive orthodontic treatment would help the appellant derive maximum impact from speech and language therapy.

As the issue of the denial of prior authorization for orthodontics has been resolved, the appeal is dismissed.

The appellant should wait to start treatment until he receives a new notice approving the orthodontic treatment.

Alexis Demirjian
Hearing Officer
Board of Hearings

cc:

MassHealth Representative: DentaQuest 1, MA