

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Mjers</i>	DATE <i>4-4-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000511	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Checked 9/5/08, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>4-15-08</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



RECEIVED

APR 04 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

ALLERGY PARTNERS
of Anderson

Allergy, Asthma, and Sinus Specialists

Katherine Liddle, M.D.

400 North Pant Street
Unit E
Anderson, SC 29621
864.224.8883
Fax 864.231.7146

O. Marian Burton, M.D.
Medicaid Director
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

Leg. Myers
Appro Sign.

RE: Deanna Talley
DOB: 02-11-1996
Medicaid No.: 304-6531701

RE: Breanna Talley
DOB: 03-10-1999
Medicaid No.: 304-6531707

Dear Dr. Burton:

Deanna and Breanna Talley are 12-year-old and 8-year-old African American asthmatics respectively. Both have been on multiple bursts of oral steroids, inhaled corticosteroids, Leukotriene antagonists, short-acting Beta agonists, and nasal steroids. Breanna was hospitalized in April 2007 for status asthmaticus and respiratory distress. I have tried numerous combinations of inhaled corticosteroids without stabilization of their asthma. When this occurred, I did ask their mother to begin Advair, an inhaled corticosteroid and lava combination. We are currently explaining to parents the black box indication for Advair as well as other combination drugs, and, because of the increased deaths in African Americans, their mother has refused for them to take this particular medication. Although Symbicort does have a black box warning, their mother does not have strong negativism toward this product because it was not involved in the Smart Study.

I have previously tried to get Breanna approved for Symbicort with prior authorization. I have met with strong resistance because Advair has not been tried first. I have tried to explain to the pre-authorization people that I cannot force the mothers to give medications to their children that they are not comfortable with. I could be less than honest and have her fill Advair and then report that the drug did not work, but that would be unethical. The older sister, Deanna, has recently had multiple episodes of asthma flares and has now been given samples of Symbicort due to repeated bursts of steroids. I have been able to provide samples at the present time; however, one never knows if there will be delays in shipment or backorders. It is not my understanding there is a possibility this particular drug will be reviewed by Medicaid in May. I would appreciate consideration for these two young ladies being pre-authorized for Symbicort at this time.

As a parent, I do not feel I can force another parent to use a drug they are uncomfortable with even if they are on assistance from the state. I feel that prior authorization for Symbicort is less costly than hospitalization or even considering Xolair.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Please feel free to contact me at 864-231-6936 should you have further questions in regards to this matter.

Sincerely,
K. Liddle

Kathy J. Liddle, M.D.

KJL:rlh



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

May 5, 2008

Log # 511
✓

Kathy J. Liddle, MD
Allergy Partners of Anderson
400 North Fant Street, Unit E
Anderson, SC 29621

Re: Deanna and Breanna Talley

Dear Dr. Liddle:

Thank you for corresponding regarding these patients. I have held several discussions with our pharmacy professional colleagues at the South Carolina Medicaid Agency (DHHS). We are all in agreement that a one-time exception to the coverage guidelines can be permitted in this case. You have given a very detailed explanation as to why it is clinically appropriate in this case to prescribe Symbicort as opposed to Advair. Please proceed to have this family get these prescriptions filled at their chosen pharmacy. If there are any problems, please have the pharmacy call Mr. Mike Blakely at 803-898-2872.

Please note, however, that I could not determine that the two drug combination differed from a clinical perspective. Both have very similar ingredients. We are granting this exception to promote compliance for these children in regards to their asthma therapy.

Thank you again for your very thorough explanation of why this substitution is reasonable in this unique circumstance. Thank you for your advocacy regarding these patients and for caring for South Carolina Medicaid beneficiaries. If I can be of further assistance, please call me at 803-898-2500 or 803-255-3400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Marion Burton".

O. Marion Burton, MD
Medical Director

OMB/k