

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Bowling</i>	<i>5-9-07</i>

<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>
1. LOG NUMBER  <i>000713</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>Cleaved Spatter, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>5-21-07</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

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

Department of  
Dermatology  
103-B Harth Place  
Summerville • SC 29485

Ph (843) 873-9552  
Fax (843) 821-2668

Hank Kearra, M.D.  
Clinical Assistant Professor

April 30, 2007

DHHS Medical Director  
P.O. Box 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: Jacob N. Lacy  
SS#: 426717623  
Medicaid ID#: 1103393902  
DOB: 03/05/91

Dear Madam/Sir:

I evaluated Jacob for many years, going back to September 2004 for inflammatory cystic acne. He has been on many systemic antibiotics including Minocycline, as well as Doxycycline, and even several months of Accutane. Accutane was used in early 2006, but Jacob could only take it for several months, as he had definite mood changes with the Accutane including agitation, fatigue, and hostility. Therefore, Accutane was stopped immediately.

In spite of very aggressive systemic and topical therapy with many topical agents, Jacob continues to have severe pustular, cystic acne. Being intolerant of Accutane and because of very poor response to other measures, treating his acne is very, very difficult. This has a very significant impact on Jacob psychologically and socially, as his face is severely broken out.

A new treatment has been developed for acne, which has a very significant benefit in that no internal medicines are required. This is photodynamic therapy where a medication (Levulan) is painted on the face and then the patient is exposed to a blue light source. This chemical is absorbed by the sebaceous glands and with the light activation a reaction takes place, which not only causes sebaceous glands to be less active, but the acne germ (P. acnes) is destroyed. The treatment itself usually takes four treatments spaced apart about six to eight weeks. Because the Levulan sticks, which are used to paint on the medication to the patient's face, are quite expensive the treatment itself is somewhat costly. It is my understanding that MUSC in the Department of Dermatology are now able to do the photodynamic therapy and their charge is usually \$400.00 per visit, which includes the application of the medication, the light source exposure, and the nursing time. It is also my understanding that this is not a normal Medicaid covered procedure, but in Jacob's case I would ask you to make an exception. I really have no other way to treat this gentleman and not only is photodynamic therapy very effective, but it avoids any systemic medications and, as noted above, Jacob either has had side effects or is nonresponsive to all oral medications attempted. Because of the significance of his acne, topical therapy alone with standard creams and gels has really not helped him.

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Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Jacob N. Lacy

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In summary, I would ask that this photodynamic therapy be allowed in Jacob's case and that it be reimbursed at a fair and equitable level, as determined by Medicaid. MUSC certainly is willing to perform this therapy for Jacob, but they obviously will need to get reimbursed at some level. If you could please correspond with me and give me some information as to what might be allowed, I feel it would certainly help this young man, which would make a very big impact on his life in general, as his acne is quite severe.

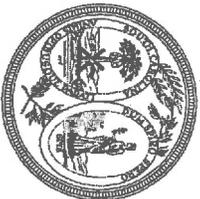
Thank you for your help and assistance with this.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hank Kearse MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Hank Kearse, M. D.

HK/ET:S:ism 0430-003



*State of South Carolina*  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

May 24, 2007

Hank Kearsse, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Department of Dermatology  
103-B Harth Place  
Summerville, South Carolina 29485

Dear Dr. Kearsse:

Thank you for the recent letter regarding coverage of photodynamic therapy for your patient Jacob N. Lacy. We welcome the opportunity to be of assistance.

South Carolina Medicaid policy covers dermatological services, including photodynamic therapy, for an acne diagnosis when the patient is 18 years of age or younger and the acne condition is infected, cystic, or pustular. Based on the information presented, your patient appears to meet these criteria. Support documentation is not required for billing purposes; however, the medical record must clearly document the condition and medical necessity.

We appreciate your taking the time to contact us and for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid program. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Ms. Jennifer Campbell, Team Leader for Physician Services, at (803) 898-2551.

Sincerely,

*Susan B. Bowling*  
Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

SBB/gwd