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Michael Interdonato
4600 Cooper Lane
Bethesda, MD 20816

Date: May 23, 2005
Patient Information
Identification #: R13276249
Confirmation #: 0067ND01359
Contract: FEP PPO
Company: Empire BlueCross BlueShield

SERVICE REQUEST: Sub-Myeloablative Allogeneic Cord Blood Stem Cell Transplant

DECISION: NOT APPROVED

Dear Mr. Interdonato:

Thank you for your medical service authorization request. We have reviewed your request and have determined that it will not be approved due to the reason below.

Utilizing nationally recognized guidelines, the reason(s) for non-approval are as follows:

"The request for Sub-Myeloablative Allogeneic Cord Blood Stem Cell Transplant for the treatment of Mitochondrial Neurogastrointestinal Encephalomyopathy (MNGIE) is denied as experimental and/or investigational as a review of the clinical information, as well as a discussion with the treating physician, has not established that this treatment is proven effective in the medical literature or accepted by the medical community as an effective treatment for this disease. The potential toxicity of the proposed treatment, which includes the risk of graft vs. host disease and infection due to immunosuppression, would outweigh the potential benefit. The request is also not a covered treatment for this given diagnosis per the 2005 FEP Service Benefit Plan Brochure, pages 50-55."

If you would like further information regarding the clinical guidelines used to make this decision, please write to the address below.

Financial responsibility

Please be aware that if you proceed with this service, all medical charges will be the member's responsibility.

How to appeal this decision

If you do not agree with this non-approval decision, you, the member or a representative the member designates, may initiate an appeal within 180 calendar days from the date of this letter. To do so, contact Empire's Medical Management Department at (800) 688-1019 or write to the address below.

Mailing Address: Empire BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program
Transplant Department
Mail Drop R/5L
11 Corporate Woods Blvd.
Albany, NY 12211