

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 64566
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55164-0566

Customer Service: 1-800-531-6674

(612) 456-5290
Hearing Impaired TTY Line
(612) 456-8700

February 17, 1999

[REDACTED]

Subscriber:
Identification Number:
Group Number:

[REDACTED]

Subject: Appeal of Uppertone System - Exercise Equipment

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am writing in response to your request for reconsideration of benefits, for the equipment referenced above, which was forwarded to us for review by Lynn R Gruber, President of Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA).

The Medical Director for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSM), as the Writing Carrier of the MCHA contract, reviewed the documentation, submitted for reconsideration. Based on this information, the original decision was overturned and the following rationale was provided:

The patient's diagnosis of quadriplegia requires a special consideration to provide for , devices to assist in maintaining his functional capacity and independence. This approval should not be construed as a "blanket" approval for this type of device for anyone desiring upper body strengthening.

After further review, in light of the fact that this system is considered to be exercise equipment, there appears to be a specified patient population that could benefit from a device of this type. Therefore, reimbursement should be considered on a case by case basis, if eligible under the patient, member contract.

On an appeal basis, BCBSM has determined that the Uppertone System is eligible for an individual subscriber, with the needs identified for [REDACTED]. While BCBSM may reimburse this item on an appeal basis, payment of any item or service on an appeal basis cannot be said to set precedence for BCBSM and is contingent upon the subscriber's medical benefit contract.

All claims submitted are subject to all other provisions and limitations of [REDACTED] policy which includes an annual \$500.00 deductible and a 20 percent coinsurance until a \$3,000.00 out-of-pocket maximum has been satisfied. The contract must be in effect at the time service is rendered.

To assist with processing the claim, enclose a copy of this letter, along with the invoice for the Uppertone System and forward them both to the following address:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
Attn: Medical Case Manager, RN D9, Rte R4-72
PO Box 64560
St Paul MN 55164-0560

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact Cindy Miller, MCHA's Account Managed Care Coordinator, BCBSM Medical Affairs Department, at (651) 456-8371.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. alters, RN, PAHM
Account Managed Care Coordinator, for Cindy Miller, RN

Cc: Mike Hatch, Attorney General
Charles V. Ferguson, Supervisor, Consumer Services Attorney General's Office
Lynn Gruber, President of MCHA
David M. Jennings, Insurance Commissioner