

Provider Services Branch
2195 Yonge Street
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Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G9

Tel: 416-314-7537
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May 12, 1998

Dr. Lee Ann Gallant
Ste 302 - 2797 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario M6B 4B9

Re: Lisa Shore
HN: 3012-212-571 J

Dear Dr. Gallant:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Prior Approval Application for Full Payment of Insured Out-of-Country Health Services which you submitted on behalf of Ms. Lisa Shore.

Full funding was requested for a consultation at the Children's Hospital, in Boston, Massachusetts, regarding reflex sympathetic dystrophy.

Review of the information provided to date indicates that identical or equivalent investigation and treatment as that provided at the Children's Hospital, is totally available in a timely fashion in Ontario. The application indicates under "Proposed treatment and/or procedure for which prior approval is requested" as "see attachments";

1) July 1992 article in The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. This is a report from Children's Hospital, Boston, on the experience with their first 70 patients with reflex sympathetic dystrophy less than 18 years of age.

2) A copy of "A Child's Pain" by Denise Grady that indicates "A Boston Anesthesiologist finds ingenious ways to alleviate youthful suffering by relating to A Child's Pain". This article apparently comes from Time Magazine October 1997.

3) National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke fact sheet concerning reflex sympathetic dystrophy. This article in part indicates that the treatment organization in Bethesda, Maryland, includes - Physicians use a variety of drugs to treat reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, including corticosteroids, vasodilators and alpha - or beta - adrenergic - blocking compounds. Elevation of the extremity and physical therapy are utilized, as well as injections of a local anesthetic such as lidocaine and transcutaneous electrical stimulation (TENS) procedure. Surgical or chemical sympathectomy may be performed if considered necessary to relieve pain.

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De. Lee Ann Gallant

It is presumed that the out-of-country treatment requested for Ms. Lisa Shore is contained in the general material provided to this office.

According to Ontario specialists, Ms. Shore's present diagnosis is of combined psychological and physiological basis. The involved specialists, that is, orthopedic surgeons, anesthetists, rheumatologists and psychiatrists at The Hospital for Sick Children all adhere to the treatment program containing physical therapy and psychiatric assessments as primary issues in the management of this condition. This differs from the treatment protocol understood in the submitted material where the out-of-country facility focuses more on drug management and physical therapy rather than possible psychological factors producing the pain condition.

The Rheumatology Department at The Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto, 416-813-6117, has indicated a willingness to be consulted by yourself to provide a full clinical assessment regarding Ms. Lisa Shore, and indicate/provide the appropriate investigation, diagnosis and treatment of this condition.

In addition, it would appear that it is not necessary for Ms. Shore to travel out of Canada to avoid a delay that would result in death or medically significant irreversible tissue damage. I would also point out that payment of out-of-country health services is conditional on the General Manager giving written approval BEFORE the services for which approval is sought, is rendered. If one chooses/elects to travel out-of-country for elective medical services that are available in Ontario and/or can be planned ahead of time, there is no funding from the Government of Ontario.

In view of the preceding, the request for prior approval of full payment for health services outside of Canada has been denied.

If there is additional information that you and/or the parents of Ms. Lisa Shore have not provided and which you wish to have reviewed, the ministry is prepared to re-assess this application. Supplementary information supporting your request may be submitted to the Director, Provider Services Branch, at the following address: Ministry of Health, P.O. Box 48, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J3.

Should the parents of Ms. Lisa Shore elect to obtain treatment for her outside of Canada without prior ministry funding approval, please be advised that elective out-of-country hospital and/or physician services would not be eligible for reimbursement.

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Dr. Lee Ann Gallant

Under the current out-of-country payment policy, only emergency health services provided in connection with an acute, unexpected condition, illness, disease or injury that arises while the individual is outside Canada, and that requires immediate treatment, may be eligible for reimbursement at limited "unapproved" rates.

The original decision regarding this request may be subject to appeal before the Health Services Appeal Board. Consequently, if there is no additional information which you or the parents of Ms. Lisa Shore wish to submit in support of this application, the parents on behalf of their daughter may wish to have a hearing before the Health Services Appeal Board. The procedure of the Board requires that the parents of Ms. Lisa Shore (within 15 days of receiving this letter) mail or deliver a written request to the Health Services Appeal Board, 151 Bloor Street West, 9th floor, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2T5. At time of mailing, a copy of the letter should be sent to the Director, Provider Services Branch, Ministry of Health, P.O. Box 48, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J3.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Ecclestone" followed by a stylized flourish.

Robert C. Ecclestone, BSc., M.D., CCFP
Medical Consultant
Central Region East - Toronto

c: Mr. & Mrs. Shore