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HMO Help Center  
Department of Managed Health Care  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2725

RE: Independent Medical Review  
Blue Shield of CA  
I.D. -----  
DOB -----

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an otherwise healthy 50 year old, 160 lbs. man diagnosed with severe osteoarthritis of the right hip. In a letter dated -----, Blue Shield of California denied my requested authorization for right hip resurface arthroplasty using the Conserve Plus device manufactured by Wright Medical Technology. The reason for the denial was “...because the device is considered to be investigational or experimental...” . I am requesting an Independent Medical Review (IMR) of the denial.

I understand IMR process can take up to 30 days. However, I request a somewhat quicker review. I am in increasing pain with diminishing mobility, and I understand further delay reduces bone quality resulting in increased risk of a poor outcome.

I believe I have specific issues that warrant consideration. Given my low head/neck ratio, the Conserve Plus device is considered preferable due to it's availability in 2 mm increments, as opposed to other approved devices which are offered in only 4 mm increments resulting in an inferior fit in my case.

Please note the femoral component of the Conserve Plus device is the same as the Conserve Hemiresurfacing implant and was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1995. Similarly, the metal bearing surface on the acetabular side has FDA approval and been in use for several years, both for Wright (the manufacturer of the Conserve Total Hip / Conserve Plus devices) as well as several other orthopedic device manufactures. The device has the advantage of increased stability and range of motion derived from having a larger articulating diameter. This combination was subsequently used to develop the FDA approved Conserve Total Hip big femoral head (BFH) technology, using essentially the same acetabular components with a large femoral head on the total hip stem.