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Happy and Healthy, Once Again

Growing up is challenging, but it’s something we all must do. It’s especially difficult when it happens at a faster rate than usual. But that’s what was happening to Cindy. At an early age, she experienced a condition called precocious puberty. This early onset of development made her parents worried for her health. The condition could result in short stature later in life, since her bones and body matured faster than they were supposed to. They were also concerned for her mental health—being forced to adapt emotionally as she grew much faster than her peers.

Medication... and concerns

Cindy’s doctor recommended an injectable medication to treat her condition. It would suppress her hormone development until she was a little older, helping her grow at a more normal rate for her age. Cindy received the medication at the doctor’s office, and each injection was \$500. The costs of Cindy’s treatments were starting to add up. Her parents were worried about how they would continue to afford the care their little girl needed to be healthy.

Support... and savings

Through their health care benefits plan administered by Meritain Health, the family worked with Meritain Health Medical Management for support with Cindy’s condition. They also had access to the CARE program through Meritain Health Pharmacy Solutions, as part of their health care benefits. The CARE program is designed to help members get the most appropriate and affordable medication for their health needs. A Medical Management nurse reviewed Cindy’s case and contacted a CARE specialist to help develop a plan to support the family.

The specialist had to work quickly, in time for Cindy’s next appointment for her injection. Working with Cindy’s doctor, and reviewing the family’s plan coverage and drug formulary, the specialist was able to coordinate coverage through a specialty pharmacy. The cost of the medication would be reduced from \$500 per injection to just \$10 per injection. And it would continue to be delivered directly to Cindy’s doctor, so her parents would still get help administering it.

Good news!

The specialist contacted Cindy’s parents for approval of this new plan—and they were overjoyed! This new option would help them afford their daughter’s much-needed treatment. Cindy’s new medication would be delivered in time for her next appointment, and for each one after that.

Today, Cindy’s health is already improving. Her rate of maturity has slowed to one that’s more appropriate for her age. Her parents are thankful for the support and guidance they received as part of their health care benefits. But most of all, they’re happy Cindy will be able to grow up happy and healthy—both inside and out!

This story is based on an actual member experience. Names and information have been changed to protect the member’s privacy.

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