

# Kennedy Krieger Institute

Case Study: [Medical Necessity](#)

## Patient Profile

A five year old patient seeking treatment of their spinal cord injury and paralysis due to Transverse Myelitis (TM). The health plan requested an inpatient rehabilitation facility stay at Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI). However, their health plan denied the request because "it did not meet the medical criteria required to establish medical necessity."



Transverse Myelitis (TM) is a disorder caused by inflammation of the spinal cord. It is characterized by symptoms and signs of neurologic dysfunction in motor and sensory tracts on both sides of the spinal cord.

## Results

Pursuant to WAC 284-43-3110(6):

(6) If the determination involves, even in part, medical judgement, the reviewer must be or must consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine encompassing the appellant's condition or disease and make a determination that is within the clinical standard of care for an appellant's disease or condition.

## ERN TRAF Success

On 01/08/2021, ERN sent an enforcement letter to the State citing the aforementioned law and stating that the plan's physician reviewers were not specialists in or have clinical expertise in TM.

On 02/01/2021 (24 days later), ERN received a notice from the health plan stating, "A group level exception has been granted to KKI for inpatient rehabilitation."

On 02/19/2021, the same entity sent a letter stating the "health plan will cover inpatient rehabilitation at KKI for up to 42 days as well as roundtrip in-network air ambulance transportation."

**You fight for them. We fight for you.**

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