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I-TEAM 

I-Team investigation: Medical care for a toddler

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 | 7:33 PM

We step in to intercede with a Medicaid provider

A desperate mother turned to the 13abc Action News I-Team after she says her sick child was turned away from surgery. Now, there's good news.

The I-Team started investigating after we got a call from a family friend. She said they were desperate for help for a toddler in need of surgery.

Brexton Daley looks like a normal, happy two-and-a-half-year-old boy. He loves monster trucks, his family and making lots of mischief. But every day, this brave young boy is also fighting a painful disease.

[Story continues below](#)

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Brexton has something called pediatric mastocytosis, a disease of the skin causing children to be extremely allergic to a wide variety of things. He has a special diet without milk or eggs. Children also develop blister-like spots all over their bodies. And they need to stay indoors as much as possible. A simple trip outside is a special treat.

Brexton's mother Brandy says it took doctors months to figure out what was wrong with her baby. And when they did, this mother's life changed for good. She quit her job because she says Brexton needs 24-hour care. They even sleep together, because mom needs to be there

in case Brexton has a deadly allergic reaction.

Brandy lives with her parents and relies on welfare and medicaid. This single mother says there are constant doctor visits. It's been frustrating, she says, because few specialists know how to treat mastocytosis.

Her Medicaid provider wants her to stay in their network, but Brexton needs surgery on his ears and sinuses. Originally, it was scheduled at Toledo Children's Hospital, but doctors cancelled it. They determined they weren't equipped for Brexton's special needs.

That's when the I-Team stepped in. There is a specialist who can help, but he works in Ann Arbor. The family's Medicaid provider has paid for visits there before, but had insisted Brexton's surgery be performed in network -- until we called.

We received a statement from Paramount Advantage regarding the surgery. "In Brexton's case, the request for out-of-network care was received, reviewed and approved in two business days. This is an excellent example of our goal to deliver the right care at the right time in the right place. We wish Brexton and his mother all the best in the future. "

Then we took Brandy and Brexton the news. Brandy said, "The whole surgery thing had me frustrated, and to know that everything's paid for, it's going to help." And it's help for a brave boy who can teach something to all of us. Brandy also told us, "As much as I go through, I wouldn't change it. I would not change it, because in the end, it makes me stronger."

Doctors hope the surgery will relieve some of Brexton's pain. Some children can grow out of his disease by their teens and that's a day we're all pulling for.