SAMPLE APPEAL LETTER – VSL#3 POUCHITIS

Insurance Company

# **RE:**

**DOB:**

**ID #**

**Pat Acct #**

DATE

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in reference to my patient, Mr./Ms. Doe, who I follow for ileal pouchitis following total colectomy with ileal pouch anal anastomosis surgery for ulcerative colitis. I am requesting coverage for **Visbiome®**.

The probiotic formula studied in the references below was formerly known as VSL#3, but is now known as ‘De Simone Formulation’ which is sold under the brand Visbiome®.

Due to a history of antibiotic-responsive pouchitis, we have recommended that our patient take Visbiome® for prevention of recurrent pouchitis.  Multiple studies including randomized controlled trials published in high-impact gastroenterology journals have shown that the addition of Visbiome® following a course of antibiotics decreases the recurrence of pouchitis in patients with relapsing pouchitis and antibiotic-dependent pouchitis1,2,3. As prolonged antibiotic courses have been associated with Clostridioides difficile infection, and antibiotics-related side effects (tendinopathy and tendon rupture with fluoroquinolones, and neuropathy and dysgeusia with nitroimidazole antibiotics), using probiotics is a safer and effective approach.

Based on the above data, I urge you to cover **Visbiome®** for the treatment of pouchitis.

Thank you for your attention and prompt approval.  Please do not hesitate to contact our office with questions or concerns regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Dr.

Address

References:

1. Gionchetti P, et al. Oral bacteriotherapy as maintenance treatment in patients with chronic pouchitis: a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Gastroenterology. 2000;119(2):305-9.
2. Mimura et al. Once daily high dose probiotic therapy (VSL #3) for maintaining remission in recurrent or refractory pouchitis.  Gut. 2004;53:108-114.
3. Gionchetti P, Rizzello F, Helwig U, et al. Prophylaxis of pouchitis onset with probiotic therapy: a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Gastroenterology. 2003;124(5):1202-1209. Doi:10.1016/s0016-5085(03)00171-9
4. Nguyen N, Zhang B, Holubar SD, Pardi DS, Singh S. Treatment and prevention of pouchitis after ileal pouch-anal anastomosis for chronic ulcerative colitis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2019;5(5):CD001176. Published 2019 May 28. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD001176.pub4