

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF: [REDACTED],
Claimant

Reg. No: 2008-30362
Issue No: 2026
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
July 22, 2009
Muskegon County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Suzanne L. Keegstra

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on July 22, 2009. The claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUE

Did the department properly budget the claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) benefits beginning in September, 2008?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The claimant was a Medicaid Program P recipient when her case became due for a redetermination.
2. The claimant's RSDI income had increased to \$894.00 monthly. The department ran an MA-P budget for the claimant with the RSDI amount. There is a protected income level

of \$350.00 and health insurance premiums of \$96.40, so the total needs for the claimant is \$446.40. This left the claimant with excess income or a deductible of \$427.00. (Department Exhibit 1 – 4)

3. The claimant was mailed a notice on August 15, 2008, indicating that she now had active Medicaid coverage with a monthly deductible of \$427.00. (Department Exhibit 5).

4. The claimant submitted a hearing request on August 29, 2008.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Department policy states:

**RETIREMENT, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY
INSURANCE (RSDI) (AKA SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS)**

All Programs

RSDI is available to retired and disabled persons, their dependents, and survivors of deceased workers.

Count the gross benefit amount as unearned income. PEM, Item 500, p. 29.

The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. Medicaid is also known as Medical Assistance (MA). PEM 105.

The State of Michigan has set guidelines for income, which determine if an MA group is eligible. Income eligibility exists for the calendar month tested when:

- . There is no excess income, **or**
- . Allowable medical expenses equal or exceed the excess income (under the Deductible Guidelines). PEM 545.

Net income (countable income minus allowable income deductions) must be at or below a certain income limit for eligibility to exist. PEM 105. Income eligibility exists when net income does **not** exceed the Group 2 needs in PEM 544. PEM 166. The protected income level is a set allowance for non-medical need items such as shelter, food and incidental expenses. PRT 240 lists the Group 2 MA protected income levels based on shelter area and fiscal group size. PEM 544. An eligible Medical Assistance group (Group 2 MA) has income the same as or less than the “protected income level” as set forth in the policy contained in the Program Reference Table (PRT).

An individual or MA group whose income is in excess of the monthly protected income level is ineligible to receive MA. However, a MA group may become eligible for assistance under the deductible program. The deductible program is a process, which allows a client with excess income to be eligible for MA, if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred. Each calendar month is a separate deductible period. The fiscal group’s monthly excess income is called the deductible amount. Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month. The MA group must report expenses by the last day of the third month following the month it wants medical coverage. PEM 545; 42 CFR 435.831.

In this case, the claimant’s protected income level is \$350.00. Adding in the health insurance premiums of \$96.40, brings the claimant’s total needs to \$446.40. The claimant’s net

income (from RSDI) is \$874.00, thus, she has excess income in the amount of \$427.00, which is her monthly deductible amount. The department properly computed her MA budget.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department properly budgeted the claimant's MA benefits beginning September, 2008.

Accordingly, the department's actions are UPHELD. SO ORDERED.

/s/ _____
Suzanne L. Keegstra
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: September 29, 2009

Date Mailed: October 5, 2009

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

SLK 

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