

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

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**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████,

**Appellant**

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**Docket No.** 2009-10154 CL  
**Case No.** ██████████

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq.*, upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on ██████████, ██████████, guardian, appeared on behalf of the Appellant. She had no witnesses. ██████████, appeals review officer, represented the Department. Her witness was ██████████, MDCH.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly reduce the Appellant's allotment of Incontinent Wipes?

**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 Appellant is a ██████-year-old female, disabled, Medicaid beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant is afflicted with multiple developmental disabilities. (See Testimony and Appellant's Exhibit #1 - throughout)
3. The Appellant is homebound and "...does not go outside of the home except to visit the doctor." (Appellant's Exhibit #1, p. 6)
4. On ██████████ following an assessment by ██████████ nurse ██████████ the Appellant's allotment of "Wipes" was reduced from two packages a month to one package a month - owing to her bed bound condition. (Department's Exhibit A, p. 8)

5. On ██████████, a prior authorization request for “Wipes” was received by the Department from ██████████ as requested by the Appellant’s physician. (Department’s Exhibit A, p. 7)
6. On ██████████, the Appellant was advised on the denial (reduction in quantity) of the requested Wipes by advance action notice. She was further informed of her right to appeal. (Department’s Exhibit A, p. 7)
7. On ██████████, the instant appeal was received by the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR). (Appellant’s Exhibit #1)

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance Program is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

The Department policy for Pull-on briefs and incontinent wipes coverage is addressed in the Medicaid Provider Manual:

### [ ] Incontinent Supplies

Incontinent supplies are items used to assist individuals with the inability to control excretory functions.

The type of coverage for incontinent supplies may be dependent on the success or failure of a bowel/bladder training program. A bowel/bladder training program is defined as instruction offered to the beneficiary to facilitate:

- Independent care of bodily functions through proper toilet training.
- Appropriate self-catheter care to decrease risk of urinary infections and/or avoid bladder distention.
- Proper techniques related to routine bowel evacuation.

**Diapers, incontinent pants, liners, and belted/unbelted undergarments without sides** are covered for individuals age three or older if both of the following applies:

- A medical condition resulting in incontinence and there is no response to a bowel/bladder training program.

- The medical condition being treated results in incontinence, and beneficiary would not benefit from or has failed a bowel/bladder training program.

**Pull-on briefs** are covered for beneficiaries age 3 through 20 when there is the presence of a medical condition causing bowel/bladder incontinence, and one of the following applies:

- The beneficiary would not benefit from a bowel/bladder program but has the cognitive ability to independently care for his/her toileting needs, or
- The beneficiary is actively participating and demonstrating definitive progress in a bowel/bladder program.

**Pull-on briefs** are covered for beneficiaries age 21 and over when there is the presence of a medical condition causing bowel/bladder incontinence and the beneficiary is able to care for his/her toileting needs independently or with minimal assistance from a caregiver.

Pull-on briefs are considered a short-term transitional product that requires a reassessment every six months. The assessment must detail definitive progress being made in the bowel/bladder training. Pull-on briefs covered as a long-term item require a reassessment once a year. Documentation of the reassessment must be kept in the beneficiary's file.

**Incontinent wipes** are covered when necessary to maintain cleanliness outside of the home.

**Intermittent catheters** are covered when catheterization is required due to severe bladder dysfunction.

**Hydrophilic-coated intermittent catheters** are considered for individuals that have Mitrofanoff stomas, partial stricture or small, tortuous urethras.

**Intermittent catheters with insertion supplies** are covered for beneficiaries who have a chronic urinary dysfunction for which sterile technique is clinically required.

**Disposable underpads** are covered for beneficiaries of all ages with a medical condition resulting in incontinence.

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The Department witness testified that Incontinent Wipes are for use outside of the home. On evaluation, the Appellant was found to present in a totally bedridden state with little community interaction.

The Appellant's representative testified that Appellant needs the product for the wide array of hands-on care required to maintain cleanliness and skin integrity. She requested an exception to policy for use of this product in a non-authorized manner.

On review, the Department witness reviewed the documentation submitted with the Appellant's request for Incontinent Wipes. She denied the request as outside of policy for use outside of the home. Wipes are limited to use outside of the home – at present the Appellant is homebound.

The evidence provided by the Department established that the Appellant does not travel outside of the home. Therefore, the denial (reduction in quantity) of coverage for Incontinent Wipes must be upheld.

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly reduced coverage of Incontinent Wipes.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

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Dale Malewska  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Janet Olszewski, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:  -

Date Mailed: 4/16/2009

**Docket No. 2009-10154**  
**Decision & Order**

**\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\***

The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules may order a rehearing on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules will not order a rehearing on the Department's motion where the final decision or rehearing cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request. The Appellant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt of the rehearing decision.