

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES**  
**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909  
(877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 334-9505

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,  
Appellant  
\_\_\_\_\_ /

Docket No. 2009-14516 HHS  
Case No. ██████████  
Load 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.*, following the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on ██████████. ██████████ (Appellant) appeared and testified on his own behalf.

██████████, represented the Department of Community Health. Also appearing on behalf of the Department was ██████████ Department of Human Services (DHS).

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for Home Help Services?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence presented, I find, as material fact:

1. Appellant is an adult Medicaid beneficiary.
2. On ██████████, ██████████ issued to the Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice, indicating that his request for Home Help Services could not be provided because he failed to supply required medical documentation (the medical needs form).
3. On ██████████, the Appellant filed his request for hearing with the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules.

## **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 Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **Home Help Services (HHS)**

**Payment** related independent living services (HHS) are available if the customer meets HHS eligibility requirements. Customers who may have a need for HHS should be assisted in applying for Medicaid. Refer the customer to an Eligibility Specialist. Cases pending MA determination may be opened to program 9 (ILS).Eligibility

- The customer must be eligible for Medicaid, with an eligibility status of 3, 4, or 7, **and**
- Have a scope of coverage of 1F or 2F, **and**
- The customer must have a need for service, based on Customer choice, **and**
- Comprehensive Assessment indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater in an ADLor **IADL and**
- *Medical Needs (FIA-54A) form signed and dated by a medical professional certifying a medical need for personal care services. (Emphasis added)*  
The medical professional must be an enrolled Medicaid provider and hold one of the following professional licenses:

Physician  
Nurse Practitioner  
Occupational Therapist  
Physical Therapist

ASM 362 1 and 2 of 4 INDEPENDENT LIVING  
SERVICES PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS  
ASB 2004-006 10-1-2004

### **Necessity for Service**

The adult services worker is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for HHS based on:

- Customer choice.
- A complete comprehensive assessment and determination of the customer's need for personal care services.
- *Verification of the customer's medical need by a Medicaid-enrolled medical professional. (Emphasis supplied by ALJ)* The customer is responsible for obtaining the medical certification of need. The Medicaid provider identification number must be entered on the form by the medical provider.
- The Medical Needs form must be signed and dated by one of the following medical professionals:

Physician  
Nurse Practitioner  
Occupational Therapist  
Physical Therapist

The physician is to certify that the customer's need for service is related to an existing medical condition. The physician does not prescribe or authorize personal care services.

If the Medical Needs form has not been returned, the adult services worker should follow-up with the customer and/or medical professional.

If the case is closed and reopened within 90 days with no changes in the customer's condition, a new FIA-54A is not necessary.

*Do **not** authorize HHS prior to the date of the medical professional signature on the FIA-54A. (Emphasis added)*

ASM 363 9 and 10 of 26 INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES  
PROGRAM PROCEDURES ASB 2004-006 10-1-2004

A Medicaid beneficiary bears the burden of proving he or she was denied a medically necessary and appropriate service. See, e.g., *J.K By and Through R.K. v Dillenberg*, 836 F Supp 694, 700 (Ariz, 1993). Whether the Appellant satisfied this burden must be determined in accord with the preponderance of the evidence standard. See, e.g., *Aquilina v General Motors Corp*, 403 Mich 206, 210; 267 NW2d 923 (1978).

Proof by a preponderance of the evidence requires that the fact finder believe that the evidence supporting the existence of the contested fact outweighs the evidence supporting its nonexistence. See, e.g., *Martucci v Detroit Police Comm'r*, 322 Mich 270, 274; 33 NW2d 789 (1948).

Regarding an appeal filed with the State Office of Administrative Hearing and Rules for the Department of Community Health, the Administrative Law Judge is given ultimate discretion to determine the weight and credibility of the evidence presented. *Wiley v Henry Ford Cottage Hosp*, 257 Mich App 488, 491; 668 NW2d 402 (2003); *Zeeland Farm Services, Inc v JBL Enterprises, Inc*, 219 Mich App 190, 195; 555 NW2d 733 (1996) (the fact finder is provided with the unique opportunity to observe or listen to witnesses; and, it is the fact finder's responsibility to determine the credibility and weight of the testimony and other evidence provided).

It is the province of the Administrative Law Judge to adjudge the credibility and weight to be afforded the evidence presented. *Maloy v. Stuttgart Memorial Hosp.*, 316 Ark. 447, 872 S.W.2d 401 (1994).

Current Home Help Service policy prohibits payment from being made prior to the time the FIA 54A form is signed, and only when the Medicaid enrolled medical professional certifies the beneficiary needs assistance with personal care activities.

The Appellant testified he supplied the DHS worker with a signed medical needs form. DHS credibly testified it did not receive the form until [REDACTED], well after its [REDACTED], denial of services.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, I decide that the Department's denial of Home Help Service payments is appropriate.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

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Stephen B. Goldstein  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Janet Olszewski, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Docket No. 2009-14516 HHS  
Decision and Order

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 5/15/2009

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

The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules for the Department of Community Health 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 for the Department of Community Health 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 60 days of the mailing date of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 60 days of the mailing date of the rehearing decision.



